Inner-City Community News & Opinions   **COLUMBUS SERIES**
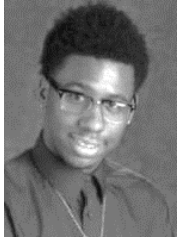
High Spirits before the Panther's Baseball Season

LMSA - Mr. Anthony Walton

It was one beautiful Friday evening, and the Linden McKinley STEM Academy Varsity Baseball Team was just starting practice right after school when the Head Coach had a surprise for them. As the players pushed through the gym doors ready to get started, the Ohio State University Baseball Club team was there ready to work with the Panthers by giving them pointers for their positions. Many players felt excited and motivated because a college team was there to help them excel. Throughout the practice, the OSU players worked with the Panthers catching, throwing and fielding drills.

After the practice, when Head Coach Brewer gathered the Panthers together to talk about what they had learned, the players said, "how to work hard and put in work at the same time." The Panthers also said that they loved how the Ohio State Baseball Club team worked together as a team rather than yelling at each other when someone messed up on a play.

For the Ohio State Baseball Club team, coaching the Panthers was a way to help out and give back so that the winning OSU baseball program could pass on their skills to the Linden McKinley's practice. The Panthers are looking to compete in every game and make it deep into the playoffs with a strong group of senior leaders.

The OSU players will visit one more time in April to check-up on the Panthers to see how far they have come since the beginning of the season.

Ohio State University Baseball Club giving the Linden McKinley Baseball Team pointers for their positions.

Front Row (Left to Right) - Eddie Lewis, Tyonday Galloway, Bobby Bell, Vaquez Ligans, Willard Judd, Henry Garner, Ethan Griffin, **Middle Row (Left to Right)** - Head Coach KC Brewer, Imez Teague, Caleb Joyce, Tre Sanders, Fasil Minilik, Travon Moorer, Dajohn Kelley, Assistant Coach Billy Hollis, **Back Row (Left to Right)** - Jordan Mallow, Jeff Watkins, Mr. Anthony Walton, Nelson Vargas, Maurice Fountain, Lamar Moorer

Minecraft Video Game helps kids with Autism

Many individuals love to play the Minecraft game for the fun and challenge that it brings to their lives. But a group of Teachers and Parents in Sydney, Australia found it to be useful for children with Autism.

Autism is a Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a diagnosis that covers a broad range of difficulties with Social Interactions, Communication and Repetitive Behavior.

The makers of Minecraft, Mojang, which is now owned by Microsoft, first released the immensely popular game in 2009, has now found a dedicated fan base of teachers, parents and kids living with ASD.

The game is built around Mining Resources, like Ores and Timber, and then using those items to craft tools, machines and buildings. It's also very logical since players need to gather these tools, so they can build structures.

Minecraft gives students "a much more understandable version of the actual world, because it presents ideas in a straightforward and visual way. With those characteristics, the Sydney teachers are able to create lessons around Minecraft on subjects ranging from English and Science to Geography and Art.

For more information and resources regarding Autism, please visit the Autism of Central Ohio website. http://www.autismcentralohio.org/