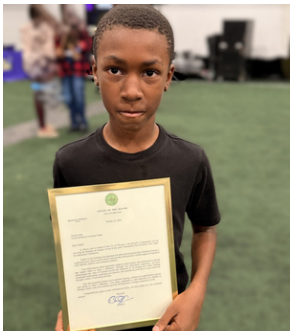
October 2026 Newsletter

Youth Development Program

Empowering young minds. Building stronger futures. Growing together.

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHT



LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL
A PROJECT OF THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE

The Department of Family Support Services for the City of Chicago hosted a Lights On After-School event at the Rauner YMCA. This is a National initiative shining a light on the importance of afterschool programs in Chicago and across the nation. Youth from CRCL attended and enjoyed soccer, bag toss, connecting with kids from across the city, and food from Chicago-based Home Run Inn Pizza. Students received swag bags with fun toys and giveaways. Terrell Allen and Gianna Martinez received the Kindness Award for leadership, positive contributions, and accomplishments. Their awards were signed by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHT: CIVICS IN ACTION

Students in grades 4–8 engaged in Civics in Action (CIA), connected to the current election season. Students learned about the election process, civic engagement, the federal government, and media literacy, including how to spot misinformation online. In the final week, students reviewed real 2026 Illinois midterm candidates in a primary election and will discuss real election-day results.

The lessons helped students connect to bigger issues and understand how their voice can be a form of power to create change even if they aren't yet able to vote.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Each month we will celebrate a student who demonstrates kindness, leadership, hard work, and/or support to peers or instructors.

Gianna "Gigi" consistently demonstrates kindness, leadership, and compassion. She helps others, encourages peers, leads by example, and makes sure others feel supported and included. She is a thoughtful role model and brings warmth to the classroom.

Gigi is an awesome helper and an amazing friend!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2 & 3 —
School Day Out: Programming 8am–6pm
Check email for registration form

November 11th —
Center Closed

November 23, 24, & 25 — Thanksgiving Break Camp
(email with registration coming soon)

11/23 & 11/24*: 8am–6pm
11/25: 8am–3pm —
EARLY CLOSURE AT 3PM
*Special trips for older students

OCTOBER 2026

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

50 YEARS | CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER for Learning | 1976-2026

SAFETY FIRST

Safety is very important to us. Students walk or ride a bus to get to our programs, and we need your support in talking to your child about the importance of following the rules and listening to staff. In general, students should walk calmly, respect personal space and belongings, use respectful language, follow directions, and stay with the group.

WALKING

Always stay with your group, follow staff instructions, use sidewalks and crosswalks, and walk calmly without pushing or playing.

SCHOOL BUS

Wait in the assigned area, speak quietly, and remain seated until dismissed.

REMINDERS

Absence: If your child will be absent, arrive late, or have an early dismissal from the program on any day, please complete our Absence Form by 12pm on the day of the expected absence.

Check your email or contact your manager if you need access to the absence form.

FALL FEST GUIDELINES — FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

We have a variety of fun fall activities planned for the last week of October. We recognize that schools and families have a variety of traditions related to the a few guidelines to ensure everyone has fun and remains safe especially on October 30th:

- No outside candy or treats in the classroom. Keep treats in your bookbag.
- No face coverings or masks.
- Costumes must be age appropriate.
- No excessive gore, violence, or toy weapons.

LOCATION

- 2929 W 19th St — Little Village: Kim Polk & Hector Barragan
- S101 N. Kimball Ave — Albany Park: Benjamin Vazquez
- KIPP Ascend Primary, LCA and Herzl North Landwale: Hector Barragan
- Maria Saucedo Academy — Little Village: Kim Polk
- Peterson Elementary — Albany: Benjamin Vazquez

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IS...

Every day students experience fun programs that promote healthy development through project-based and hands-on learning in three main areas: Academic Growth, including math, literacy, and homework help; Social-Emotional Development, including relationship-building and conflict-management skills; and Enrichment Activities focused on STEAM, civic engagement, and leadership development.

SIGN UP AND GET ON WAITLIST

youthdevelopment@carolerobertsoncenter.org

or Scan here