

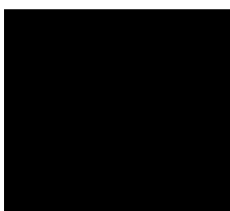
Hip Hop Comes to the OALC

On January 25th students at the OALC had the opportunity to learn some hip hop dance moves from Jason Noer, one of the oldest competing B-boys in Minnesota. Through the use of videoconferencing and interactive web technology, Mr. Noer was able to explain and demonstrate some of his moves, teach students about the historical and cultural significance of hip hop, as well as answer questions. Several students (and some staff) had a great time dancing, learning, and experiencing a great new technology.

Teacher Alicia Fischer, LMS Melissa Glavas and The Minnesota Schubert Performing Arts and Education Center collaborated to help bring Mr. Noer to our students. When complete, the Minnesota Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center will be the flagship for dance in Minnesota providing a performance, rehearsal, and administrative



home to Minnesota arts organizations and educational resources statewide. It will also be the Minneapolis venue for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. If you'd like more information about the Shubert go to www.minnesotashubert.org.



Congratulations Barbara Ohnmacht!

Please help us congratulate our very own English teacher, Barbara Ohnmacht, for being a candidate for the 2008 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. She is one of 115 teachers selected from around the state to participate in the event.

The 2008 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced May 4 at The Northland Inn and Conference Center in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Over the coming months, a 25-member panel of community leaders will name a group of semi-finalists, and then finalists. Good luck, Barbara!

Shane Saunders Represents!

The Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) is joining the Citizens League on a project called, "Students Speak Out Goes Alternative." This project is an effort to better engage alternative and charter school students in Minnesota's education policy process.

The OALC's own Shane Saunders was chosen to be one of seven students from around the state to represent alternative school students in an effort to bring a better

understanding of "alternative students" and to challenge the notion that those students are academically inferior to mainstream school students. The seven student representatives may eventually ask for policy changes that will benefit "at-risk" students.

Shane says, "People need to understand that we're not stupid. We just need a different way of learning. A lot of people leave mainstream schools because of the drama, or they dislike the way

things are taught, or they don't like the attitude of other students there, or even the teachers... There are so many reasons people leave mainstream schools that have nothing to do with how smart we are."

If you'd like to help Shane and the rest of the Students Speak Out group to get the word out about alternative school students, please go to www.studentsspeakout.org.

