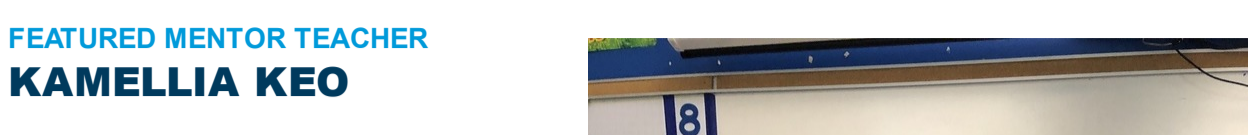


GW Teach

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019



FEATURED MENTOR TEACHER

KAMELLIA KEO

Kamellia Keo, better known as Ms. Keo, is a legend in the GWTeach community. As a Mentor Teacher, Ms. Keo has been supporting GWTeach students for 4 years; many return from their Step 2 observations in awe of Ms. Keo's rapport with her 8th Grade Science students at McKinley Technology Middle School in Washington, DC.

Ms. Keo just celebrated her 10th year of teaching, but she had not always intended to be a teacher.

"I studied biology and chemistry as an undergraduate with a focus on pre-medical studies," Keo recalls. So how did she find out about teaching?

"During my sophomore year, I started tutoring and running review sessions for my professors in biology and chemistry as a work-study," describes Keo. "Senior year, I was not convinced I was ready for medical school yet and under the advice of a friend, applied for a program called Teach for America."

Under Teach for America, Ms. Keo was placed in Washington, DC, where she began her two-year commitment and earned her Master's in Teaching. She was hooked.

"I fell in love with students and families," Keo exclaims. "It gives me great joy to continue to see my students succeed and continue to let me be a part of their journey as a mentor."

Ms. Keo continues to serve as an influential force in her students' lives.

"My goal is to create a generation of science-literate students who can go forth and really make a difference in the science field," beams Keo. "This year, my first set of students graduated from college and I got to attend their graduations!"

By offering her classroom to GWTeach students, Ms. Keo enriches college students regardless of their career aspirations.

"I love sharing my experiences as a classroom teacher with other prospective teachers, especially those who love science as much as I do. I've been involved with the program for several years and I believe teaching in a classroom can enrich anyone's lives," states Keo. "Whether the college students decide to become a teacher or not, being able to teach a classroom full of middle school students is a challenge that requires many skills that can transcend to other fields."

For Ms. Keo, hosting GWTeach students in her classroom serves as both a teaching and learning experience. Sometimes, Ms. Keo will use lessons written by GWTeach students in her other classes.

"As an educator, I am always finding new ways to innovate and elevate the content in my classroom. Science and technology has advanced quite a bit in the last 10 years since I was in college," Keo states. "I love seeing the fresh ideas from the GWTeach students and the enthusiasm that it brings. My lessons are always evolving and I love incorporating parts of the lessons I see from the lessons I observe."

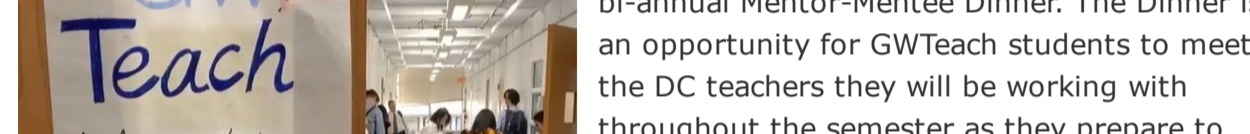
As a Mentor Teacher with GWTeach, Ms. Keo ultimately aims to inspire college students to pursue a career in teaching.

"I think as long as we continue to share positive experiences as a classroom teacher, my hope is that many prospective science enthusiasts, like myself, will reevaluate and appreciate the power and impact of being a science teacher," Keo states. "Unfortunately, education is not as highly valued in America as a career choice compared to other careers such as being a doctor, engineer, lawyer, or business owner, to name a few. I participate in this program to show how valuable and powerful educators can be and that education is a viable and respectable career option comparable to any other career out there."

Ms. Keo has succeeded in this regard. "A GWTeach student in the program last year mentioned that she wasn't sure what sort of career she wanted to pursue and wasn't sure education was a stable and sustainable route, and it was not accepted by her parents," recalls Keo.

"By sharing my story and my experiences (and maybe a few inspirational words), my mentee approached me at end of her 3 Teach lesson sequence to express that she really enjoyed teaching and is going to explore the same route I took as an educator."

Many thanks to Ms. Keo and all of our amazing mentors for the work you do to support our students, in addition to your own!



GWTEACH SIGNATURE EVENT

MENTOR TEACHER DINNER

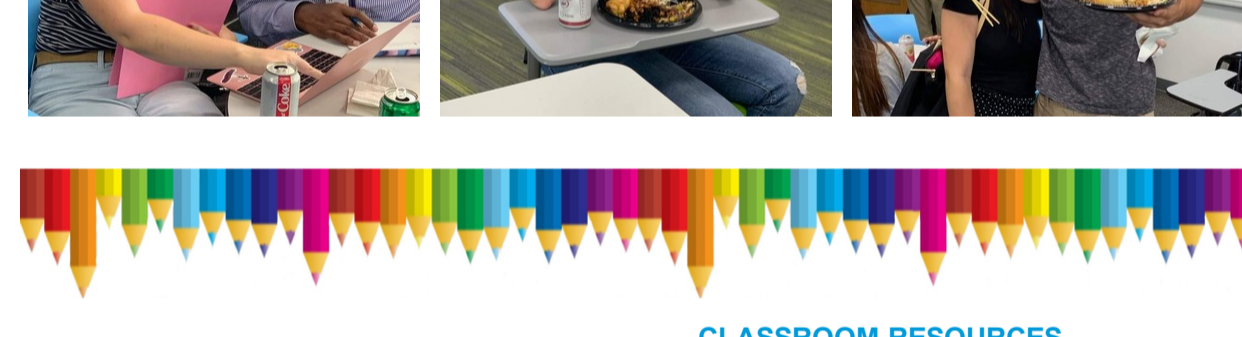
On Monday, September 16th, GWTeach held its bi-annual Mentor-Mentee Dinner. The Dinner is an opportunity for GWTeach students to meet the DC teachers they will be working with throughout the semester as they prepare to observe and teach in classrooms throughout the District.

This year, many GWTeach students and DC teachers dined on P.F. Chang's while discussing their plans for the upcoming semester. Additionally, many GWTeach students who are not currently enrolled in field courses also participated in the festivities.

"Although I'm not in a field course this semester, I have the opportunity to be a Peer Mentor for our Step 1 students," states Sophia Chan, a GWTeach student taking GTCH 3101: Knowing and Learning. "As they begin their journey in the program, I'm so excited to be giving them feedback and advice as they go through the same thing I did a year ago. I loved seeing my previous Mentor Teacher at the Dinner, now working with my Step 1 students!"

For GWTeach students, the Dinner signals the official kick-off of the semester.

"The Mentor-Mentee Dinner was a great welcome back event for our new and current students," concludes Jordan Bower, an active GWTeach student.



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

A MIGHTY GIRL

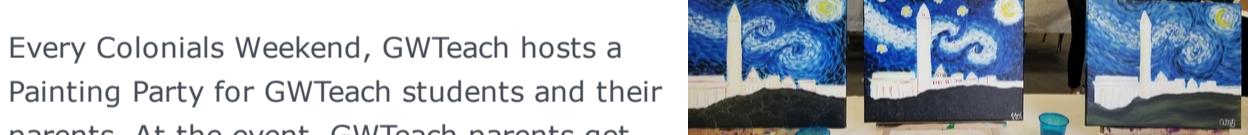
According to the Smithsonian, women comprised only 24.7% of computer professionals and 15.1% of engineering professionals in 2015. How can we encourage girls to engage in our science classes so that they one day become

leading women in STEM?

One way is to provide our girls with inclusionary media. A Mighty Girl provides affordable book, movie, and music recommendations to those looking for women-made or women-representative material. It is often used by educators to supplement equity practices and to normalize the presence of women in STEM to young girls.

Looking to take things a step further? Start an after-school book club for students to discuss their thoughts on the readings provided by A Mighty Girl! This was previously done by GWTeach student, Soemi Photavath.

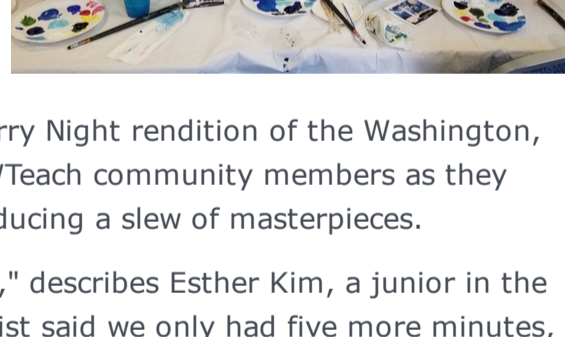
"The elementary school students I worked with were always excited to take some time out of their day to talk about the powerful women in their lives," remembers Photavath. "They often compared their mothers to the likes of Dolores Huerta or Amelia Earhart."



COLONIALS WEEKEND WITH GWTEACH

PAINTING PARTY

Every Colonials Weekend, GWTeach hosts a Painting Party for GWTeach students and their parents. At the event, GWTeach parents get to meet program faculty and other students in the GWTeach community.



This year, attendees of the event painted a Starry Night rendition of the Washington, DC skyline. A professional artist guided the GWTeach community members as they stepped into Van Gogh's shoes, ultimately producing a slew of masterpieces.

"We were all doing really well with the painting," describes Esther Kim, a junior in the GWTeach program. "But all of a sudden the artist said we only had five more minutes, then we all panicked!!"

"It was really fun though," states Kim. "It's nice to see how everyone's painting turned out since they weren't all exactly the same."

Upset you couldn't make it to the Painting Party with GWTeach? Follow us on social media (linked below) to stay updated on GWTeach community events.



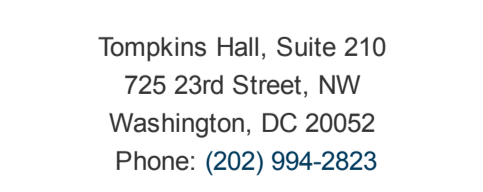
BHAPPY BIRTHDAY OCTOBER FOLKS!

GWTEACH BIRTHDAYS

- Olivia Issa: 10/3
- Sonali Prillman: 10/20
- Riley Abashian: 10/23
- Sasha Caruthers: 10/26
- Liam Searcy: 10/31



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Tompkins Hall, Suite 210
725 23rd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20052
Phone: (202) 994-2823

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