

Joseph Littles - NGUZO SABA Charter School



WALKATHON



For African-Centered Education

July 15 - August 12, 2009

www.jlnscs.org

Joseph Littles-NGUZO SABA Charter School WALKATHON for African-Centered Education Fact Sheet

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**Joseph Littles- NGUZO SABA Charter School
WALKATHON for African-Centered Education**

Fact Sheet

African-Centered Education

The goal of this walk is to emphasize the critical importance of African-centered education (ACE) for the proper development and growth of children of African descent. This walk, which will originate at our school site in West Palm Beach, Florida and include stops and presentations at the U.S. Department of Education and the White House in Washington, DC, is intended to highlight for the nation and world to see, that there are indeed African-descended adults willing and determined to accept responsibility for guiding Black children along the path to responsible and successful maturation.

Purpose

This 1,000 mile “trek” from West Palm Beach, Florida to the nation’s capital has a three-fold purpose:

1. To challenge consciously responsible Black adults to *demonstrate* willingness to *revive* their sense of responsibility to *restore* our children’s inalienable right to a childhood;
2. To raise the level of awareness among the caring public to the critical need for, and elevate the credibility of African-centered education as the most effective means of restoring “*an adequate, realistic self-image*” to Black children who have too long been under mental and emotional siege; and
3. To raise an unprecedented amount of money via sponsorships and pledges, to elevate Joseph Littles-NGUZO SABA Charter School to the long-sought after status of self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and fiscal independence and autonomy.

Fundraising

Money pledged by supporters for every mile walked by this writer and other walkers will secure the future of our school and enable it to achieve its initial purpose: “...*To provide a nurturing and caring environment where children at-risk of failure in traditional schools and classrooms can learn and be successful through a program of strong academics, high expectations, values, and character-building skills that are based on African traditions and cultures.*”

Co-Chairpersons (unconfirmed)

We are asking esteemed scholars in the field of education, and a local celebrity who supports the education of Black children, to serve as Honorary Co-Chairpersons of this Walkathon, and ACE Elevation Day, at the end of the Walkathon on August 12, 2009 in Malcolm X Park, Washington, DC:

- Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor of Afrikan Studies, CA State University – Long Beach
- Dr. Molefi Asante, Professor, Dept of African American Studies at Temple University
- Dr. Na’im Akbar, Clinical Psychologist, Florida State University
- Dr. Haki R. Madhubuti, Professor Chicago State University
- Dr. Janice E. Hale, ISAAC founding director
- Dwayne Wade, NBA Basketball All Star

Participants and Supporters

At 69-years-young, success for Geuka's trek will be measured by having a reasonable number of walkers to accompany him along the 1,011 mile route, and others demonstrating their support by pledging to contribute an amount of money for each mile "Baba" Geuka completes. Geuka and surrogate walkers plan to average 33 to 35 miles per day, requiring 10 to 12 hours.

Associate Walkers will also collect pledges of donations for every mile walked by him and dozens of expected collaborators along the route. The plan is for volunteers to accompany Geuka for at least the length of walk through the county in which they live.

- A. **"Associate" Walkers:** Those who will volunteer to participate in the walk in specified locations and distances. See attached counties through which the Walkathon will be going.
- B. **"Surrogate" Walkers:** Those who will officially walk "in lieu of" Baba Geuka to assure that we cover the number of miles per day necessary to complete our walk within the allotted time frame (July 15th to Aug. 12th). See attached counties through which the Walkathon will be going.
- C. **"Convergence" Walks & Walkers:** Walks in support of our Main effort, which would embark from various cities and be timed to 'converge' on DC on the same day as our main body of walkers accompanying Baba Geuka. For example, there may be African-centered education practitioners and advocates in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Newark, Pittsburgh, etc., who may want to organize corresponding walks from their respective cities. This could even extend to cities like Detroit, Columbus, Atlanta, and Cincinnati where we have a NATIONALIST Black Leadership Coalition (NBLC) and "Bring Back Black" presence.
- D. **"Unity" Walkers:** These walkers will demonstrate the first principal of NGUZO SABA by hosting a walk in their local communities in support of the ACE Trek, and secure pledges from sponsors.

ACEED (AFRICAN-CENTERED EDUCATION ELEVATION DAY)

Our plan is that Amefika Geuka will arrive in DC on Wednesday, August 12, 2009. We have designated Thursday, August 13th as "AFRICAN-CENTERED EDUCATION ELEVATION DAY" (ACEED). A victory celebration is planned. Also, plans are being made for us to walk from Malcolm X Park to the White House, and from there to the U.S. Department of Education. At both stops we will read declarations calling for the acknowledgement that African-Centered Education is the most logical approach to effectively educate children of African descent.

ATTACHMENT 1

Calling the VILLAGE to Account!

The Joseph Littles-NGUZO SABA Charter School (JL-NSCS) is the only African-centered public school in the State of Florida. Chartered on December 8, 1998, JL-NSCS commenced operation on January 20, 1999 in temporary space courtesy of the Urban League of Palm Beach County. The school celebrated its 10th anniversary on January 20, 2009 – the same day Barack Obama was inaugurated the 44th President of the United States. JL-NSCS targets students who are severely at risk of failure in traditional public schools, and too often that description is synonymous with children of African descent.

Discussions abound referring to the so-called “achievement gap” between Black students and their white, Latino, and Asian counterparts, always with Blacks being depicted as the deficient or inferior group. Little if any inquiry has been made into the possible effects this denigration has had and is having on children of African descent as they attempt to navigate their way through an education system which accepts as a given that they are of innately inferior stock.

Dr. Maxwell Maltz, in his celebrated work “**Psycho Cybernetics**” contended that:

“The ‘self-image’ is the key to human personality and human behavior. Change the self-image and you change the personality and the behavior.”

“But more than this. The ‘self-image’ sets the boundaries of individual accomplishment. It defines what you can and cannot do. Expand the self-image and you expand the ‘area of the possible.’ The development of an adequate, realistic self-image will seem to imbue the individual with new capabilities, new talents and literally turn failure into success.”

If we accept Dr. Maltz’ contention, what is to be said about the effect having their already fragile self-image trampled upon has had and is having on America’s children of African descent? Who or what is to blame if they believe they are not “smart” or able to think and learn on a par with children of other races? Moreover, who is responsible for *correcting* this horrendous situation? In this writer’s opinion the answer is unequivocal, *WE Black ADULTS are directly responsible!* It does not much matter who *caused* the problem, it is OURS to *solve*!!

On the African savannah, antelope, cape buffalo, and zebras do not leave the preparation of their young for life, to leopards, lions or hyenas. Why? Because leopards, lions, and hyenas *EAT* antelope, buffalo, and zebras! The responsibility of adult prey species is to teach their young how to survive in the midst of predators that prey upon them. Survival depends on the young learning how to out-maneuver, out-run, and/or *out-think* predators, and to learn such skills and instincts *early* in their development! The earlier the better!!

Jews and Catholics understand this basic fact only too well, and Jews seldom allow their children to be taught or influenced by non-Jews during their “formative” years, which correspond to the first eight years of formal schooling. Catholics on the other hand, have Catholic-centered schooling from nursery school to university level. Correspondingly, African-Americans push their children into the clutches of non-Black people at the earliest opportunity they are allowed to do so. Then we wonder why, as Butch Grimes and Erik Slaughter assert: “...*Our Children Hate Us.*” Moreover, they hate everyone and everything black!

“The noblest emotions of the heart are called forth by helpless infancy.”

Must all Black adults become Freemasons and Eastern Stars in order to learn and embrace the foregoing quote from the Masonic ritual? When, where, why, and how did we lose the sense of noble protectiveness of our helpless children inferred by this quote? More importantly, how do we **regain** it, and who will lead the way? Again, in this writer’s opinion, the answer is clear, and I call upon all consciously responsible Black adults within reach of this appeal to respond immediately and with resolve. ***“A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.”*** Are you, the hearer or the listener ready to “step to it” and show our children that you refuse to stand or sit idly by as they are destroyed after already being divested of their childhood? Will the real Black men and women please stand up... and **WALK** to help **“Call the Village to Account!”**

Ours is not a walk to ask or beg either the President of the United States, or his Secretary of Education to give money to our school or to African-centered education initiatives in general; rather, it is to petition those two public servants to **acknowledge** that Children of African descent have as much if not a greater need as do Jewish and Catholic children to have their formal education rooted in their own heritage, history, and culture. Beyond that African-centered education and educators should be entitled to no less a right to share in the public financial support of education as any other groups or segments of the citizenry.

This walkathon to elevate African-centered education has the potential to revive the spirit of the Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Black Liberation movements of the 1960s; that of the Million Man March in October, 1995; and the youthful zeal and enthusiasm of the “Jena Six” Support initiative of more recent times. We expect hundreds to participate as as walkers along the route, and thousands to join the victory celebration to follow our presentations at the U.S. Department of Education and White House.

Will you join us???

Amefika D. Geuka
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ATTACHMENT 2

The Walkathon Route – Major Cities



- A** West Palm Beach, FL
- B** Jacksonville, FL
- C** Savannah, Georgia
- D** Walterboro, SC
- E** Florence, SC
- F** Fayetteville, NC
- G** Rocky Mount, NC
- H** Richmond, VA
- I** Washington, DC

Following is a list of the States and Counties we will be walking through on our trek to Washington, DC:

Florida:

Palm Beach
Martin
St. Lucie
Indian River
Brevard
Volusia
Flagler
St. John's
Duval
Nassau

North Carolina

Robeson
Cumberland
Sampson
Johnston
Wilson
Edgecomb
Halifax
Northampton

Georgia

Camden
Glynn
McIntosh
Liberty
Bryan
Chatham
Effington

Virginia

Greensville
Sussex
Dinwiddie
Chesterfield
Henrico
Hanover
Caroline
Stafford
Prince William
Fairfax

South Carolina

Jasper
Colleton
Dorchester
Orangeburg
Clarendon
Sumter
Florence
Dillon

Date	Origin	Destination	Miles	Cumulative Miles
July 15, 2009	West Palm Beach	Port St. Lucie, FL	45	45
July 16, 2009	Port St. Lucie, FL	Sebastian, FL	40	85
July 17, 2009	Sebastian Fl	Cocoa, FL	46	131
July 18, 2009	Cocoa, FL	Oak Hill, FL	37	168
July 19, 2009	Oak Hill, FL	Daytona Beach, FL	28	196
July 20, 2009	Daytona Beach, FL	St. Augustine, FL	56	252
July 21, 2009	St. Augustine, FL	Jacksonville, FL	36	288
July 22, 2009	Jacksonville, FL	Kingsland, GA	36	324
July 23, 2009	Kingsland, GA	Brunswick, GA	41	365
July 24, 2009	Brunswick, GA	South Newport, GA	36	401
July 25, 2009	South Newport, GA	Savannah, GA	42	443
July 26, 2009	Savannah, GA	Ridgeland, SC	35	478
July 27, 2009	Ridgeland, SC	Walterboro, SC	38	516
July 28, 2009	Walterboro, SC	Summerville, SC	31	547
July 29, 2009	Summerville, SC	Greeleyville, SC	48	595
July 30, 2009	Greeleyville, SC	Florence, SC	52	647
July 31, 2009	Florence, SC	Dillon, SC	33	680
August 1, 2009	Dillon, SC	Lumberton, NC	27	707
August 2, 2009	Lumberton, NC	Fayetteville, NC	32	739
August 3, 2009	Fayetteville, NC	Benson, NC	32	771
August 4, 2009	Benson, NC	Wilson, NC	45	816
August 5, 2009	Wilson, NC	Rocky Mount, NC	20	836
August 6, 2009	Rocky Mount, NC	Garysburg, NC	40	876
August 7, 2009	Garysburg, NC	Emporia, VA	18	894
August 8, 2009	Emporia, VA	Petersburg, VA	40	934
August 9, 2009	Petersburg VA	Richmond, VA	24	958
August 10, 2009	Richmond, VA	Ladysmith, VA	34	992
August 11, 2009	Ladysmith, VA	Aquia, VA	31	1,023
August 12, 2009	Aquia, VA	Malcolm X Park Washington, DC	46	1,069

ATTACHMENT 3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - ALL MEDIA

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Charter School's Founder Leads "WALKATHON" For African-Centered Education

West Palm Beach, FL June 26, 2009 -- Florida's only African-centered public school today announced that its co-founder and current Board Chairman, Amefika D. Geuka will walk from the school in West Palm Beach, FL to Washington, DC to dramatize the urgent need for African-centered education for children of African descent. Geuka and his colleagues have dubbed this venture a "Trek for African-Centered Education," to be conducted from July 15th through August 15, 2009. In addition to gaining credibility for African-centered education, the walk is expected to raise money to close the funding gap for Geuka's Joseph Littles-NGUZU SABA Charter School which completed ten years of continuous operation on January 20th of this year. Overall coordination and planning for the walkathon has been contracted to iZania, LLC based in Columbus, Ohio.

This 1,000 mile "trek" from West Palm Beach, Florida to the nation's capital has a three-fold purpose:

1. To challenge consciously responsible Black adults to *demonstrate* willingness to *revive* their sense of responsibility to *restore* our children's inalienable right to a childhood;
2. To raise the level of awareness among the caring public to the critical need for, and elevate the credibility of African-centered education as the most effective means of restoring "*an adequate, realistic self-image*" to Black children who have too long been under mental and emotional siege; and
3. To raise an unprecedented amount of money via sponsorships and pledges, to elevate Joseph Littles-NGUZU SABA Charter School to the long-sought after status of self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and fiscal independence and autonomy.

In so doing, we intend to prove by example that the African-American community can and will take on the responsibility of becoming the primary source of funding for the effective education and development of our own children – *just as our Jewish and Catholic counterparts have long done.*

Both President Barack Obama and his Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan have spoken strongly in favor of public charter schools, which are designed to explore creative and innovative approaches to educating students who do not fare well in traditional public schools. The African-centered approach to providing a strong cultural foundation for children of African descent is being adopted across the country by school districts, public schools, private schools, and charter schools. The supporters of African-Centered Education draw parallels between the 'ACE' approach and the generally accepted contention by Jews and Catholics that their respective students learn best when their formal education is rooted in study and appreciation of their own heritage, history, and culture.

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