



## Tennis, anyone?

### Court lessons get city kids read-y to succeed

By Eva Wolchover, Herald Staff | July 31, 2007

Deleon Fuller is learning how to serve aces on the tennis court while sharpening his reading skills so he can ace his classes this coming school year.

Fuller, 11, is among the 4,000 or so Boston kids, ages 7 to 15, who are taking part in Tenacity's two-month Summer Tennis and Reading Program.

In partnership with the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, Tenacity teaches kids the fun-damentals of tennis and reading.

These future grand-slayers can be found serving up a storm on 30 courts across the city – from Boston Common, to Constitution Beach, to Malcolm X Park in Roxbury.

In addition to each 2½ hour lesson, the kids spend 30 minutes reading aloud with staff members. Books of varying subjects and reading levels are provided by ReadBoston, a division of the mayor's office.

Come mid-August, the kids will compete for the citywide Mayor's Cup Tournament.

Move over, Mr. Federer.



*Angela Rowlings*

Tenia Harrington, 11, of Dorchester, takes a tennis lesson as part of the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcom X Park, Thursday, July 26, 2007. Tenacity provides free tennis lessons and reading time for about 4,000 youths, ages 7 to 15 over the c[. . .]



*Angela Rowlings*

Nekeda Rice, 11, of Dorchester, works on her swing during the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcom X Park, Thursday, July 26, 2007. Tenacity provides free tennis lessons and reading time for about 4,000 youths, ages 7 to 15 over the course of the [ . . . ]



*Angela Rowlings*

Daeon Johnson, 8, takes a tennis lesson as part of the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcolm X Park.



*Angela Rowlings*

Daeon Johnson, 8, cleans up balls during a tennis lesson as part of the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcolm X Park.



*Angela Rowlings*

Junior instructor Robert Nadal, 16, gives Daeon Johnson, 8, a tennis lesson as part of the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcolm X Park.



*Angela Rowlings*

Deleon Fuller, 11, of Boston listens during a tennis lesson as part of the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcolm X Park.



*Angela Rowlings*

Reading Coordinator Matt Melaugh reads from "Freedom Writers Diaries" to kids as part of the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcolm X Park.



*Angela Rowlings*

Yasmine Jama, 10, of Roxbury, collects tennis balls during the Tenacity tennis and reading program at Malcolm X Park.