

The Learning Curve

This page was written and designed by Education First in cooperation with the Bibb County Board of Education, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, and The Telegraph.



Your weekly guide to students, schools, teachers and triumphs in Bibb County's Public Schools

African-American History Month in the Bibb County Public Schools

BARDEN ELEMENTARY

The theme for the month at Barden is 'Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions.' Each class has been participating in African-American Inventors Bingo, with weekly winners receiving a popcorn party, and each student participates in daily Trivia, with winners receiving a Popsicle and a pencil. Classes will also decorate their doors with an African-American theme, as well as make a Kente Scarf/Stole in the Math Lab.

Teachers will select a girl to learn an African American dance to perform at the month's Program, as well as a student to be featured as a famous African-American for the Wax Museum display at the end of the month.

Two days of the month, faculty and students will have a chance to dress up. On the 23rd, they will wear clothes in the African colors - red, black, and green - or traditional African garb. The 28th is Fraternal/Sorority/College Day, where they will be allowed to wear jeans and a shirt highlighting their group or institution.

BROOKDALE ELEMENTARY



Staff and students will dress up in traditional African attire or as famous African Americans for the school's African-American History Parade. This month, Principal Vicki Williams chose for her Book of the Month *I Like My Hair Day*, which features a young African-American girl and promotes self-esteem. To celebrate reading this book, they will study Madame CJ Walker, who invented products to straighten curly hair. Throughout the school this month, students and teachers have decorated bulletin boards featuring historical moments and figures.

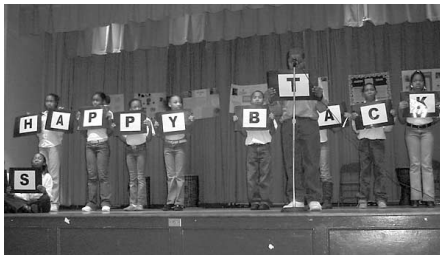
BURGHARD ELEMENTARY

The theme for the celebrations this month has been "Celebrating the Past/Embracing the Future." Each grade level selected a famous African-American to focus their study on, and each class participated in

a Door Decorating Contest. Carolyn Rainey's class won the Kindergarten through 3rd grades and Kathy Epps' class won from the 4th through 6th grades.

On the Burghard Bear News, the students will be honoring different African Americans. The Southwest Philharmonic Society performed for the students, and the Embracing the Future Assembly will feature Dr. Jamey L. Colts, Sr., Pastor of the Greater Bellevue Baptist Church, as a speaker.

RICE ELEMENTARY



At this month's Parent-Teacher Organization meeting, 5th and 6th grade students performed a program highlighting historical African-Americans. The PTO was also treated to performances from The Haiya Dance Group.

SKYVIEW ELEMENTARY

Daily, students participate in an African-American Treasure Hunt: a question is posed to them on the morning news broadcast and they turn in their answers in the Treasure Chest in the Media Center. The next morning, three winners are randomly drawn from the box (they must have the correct answer), and they will get to participate in the W.R.A.P. (Writers, Readers, Artists, and Poets) Café at the end of the month. Here, they will share their creative works, have refreshments, and listen to guest speaker Judge William C. Randall.

UNION ELEMENTARY

To celebrate, the school will host an African American History Play and Parade at the end of the month. Students will dress as influential African Americans and will be judged by the parents.

VINEVILLE ACADEMY

Students in the music classes will be studying the blues - its history, selected musicians, and various styles - and "learning how to write their own twelve-bar blues progression, complete with improvised

melodies, a rhythm section, a three-chord progression on xylophones and metallophones," says Media Specialist Cassandra Hicks-Wilson. "In our "Creative Expressions" class, students are writing lyrics for their songs. As a culminating activity, classes will perform their blues songs for each other."

Each 4th grader created a 'Book Report in a Bag' on a famous African American. These bags will be decorated like the cover of the book and contain a puppet representing the person and three items from the story.

An Inventor's Display Table has been set up to highlight items we use everyday that were invented by African-Americans, including the traffic signal light, the ironing board, and the letter drop mailbox.

APPLING MIDDLE



A lesson was conducted around *Brother*, an excerpt from Maya Angelou's first autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Students then watched a video of Oprah talking about her longtime friendship with Angelou and her admiration and appreciation of African-American literature. Expanding beyond literature, they discussed several art pieces by the artists Jonathan Green, especially 'Boy by the Sea' which illustrates Bailey, Angelou's older brother in her autobiography.

Media Specialist Dr. Deborah Touchton made a tapestry which hangs in the media center and is a replica of the African-American Kinta Cloth.

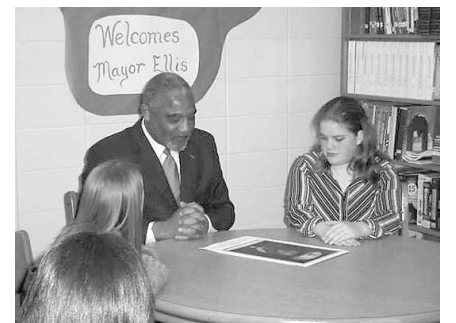
RUTLAND MIDDLE

With a theme of 'Celebrating Diversity,' Rutland has packed their month with a wide variety of opportunities. "It teaches the students to recognize the contributions and achievements of prominent African Americans," says 6th grade Social Studies teacher and chairperson of the events Sarah Bemby.

A Soul Food Day was hosted to introduce the students and teachers to traditional African-American

dishes. Also, throughout the months, there will be activities offering a more participatory approach to the learning. Each day on the morning broadcast news, there will be a 'Spotlight on African Americans' segment which will use a talk show format to portray celebrities of the past and present. Students will be creating 'trading cards,' portraying different historical figures with information about them.

Mayor C. Jack Ellis came by the school early in the month and was interviewed by two students in front of an audience of about 8 others. Recorded by the School News Team, Mayor Ellis answered questions about his positive role models, his life as a child (hobbies growing up on a farm, schools attended, segregation in the schools), his education, his aspirations, his goals as Mayor, and the importance of not giving up on your dreams.



NORTHEAST HIGH

City Councilwoman Anita Ponder will speak at Northeast's African American History Program, themed 'Believe, Achieve, SUCCEED!' and will include performances from the students. A Black History Choir was formed for this, and there were performances of an African Dance Presentation, STEP, and poetry readings.

Contests will be run throughout the school ranging from essays to poetry to posters. Studies will focus on influences in math, science, technology, and the military as well as famous African-Americans from Georgia. The Quiz Bowl team will face off against each other (Juniors vs Seniors and Freshmen vs. Sophomores) using a set of African-American History themed questions.

TEEN PARENT CENTER

Organized by two of the teachers, the Teen Parent Center will hold a special program and luncheon at the end of the month.

March in the Bibb County Public Schools

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Parent Workshop: Test Taking Skills-How to Help from Home, Morgan Elementary, 9:00a.m. 2 nd Annual Career Day, Rutland Middle, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30p.m.	2 Literacy Day, Jones Elementary, 9:30 - 11:30a.m.	3 Young Artists' Month Proclamation Signing, Central Office Reception Area, 9:30a.m.	4
5	6	7 Family Fun Night: Hands-On Science, Morgan Elementary, 7:00p.m. American Mathematics Association Competition	8	9 Morgan Elementary School Council Meeting, 4:00p.m. Neighborhood Watch Meeting, Morgan Elementary, 6:00p.m. Cherry Blossom Children's Choir rehearsal, Central High, 4:00 - 5:30p.m. Parent-Teacher Organization meeting, 7:00p.m.	10	11
12	13 End of the 3 rd Nine Weeks Cherry Blossom Children's Choir rehearsal, Central High, 4:00 - 5:30p.m.	14 Kindergarten Registration, Morgan Elementary, 6:00p.m. Cherry Blossom Children's Choir rehearsal, Central High, 4:00 - 6:00p.m.	15	16 2007 Georgia Teacher of the Year Banquet, Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, 7:00p.m. Half Day for students, dismissed early	17	18
19	20 Cherry Blossom Children's Concert, Macon City Auditorium, 7:00p.m. at the Macon City Auditorium.	21	22 Report Cards go home, Porter Elementary	23 Parent Teacher Organization Executive Board Meeting, Porter Elementary, 3:15 p.m.	24	25
26	27 Holiday for Students	28	29	30	31 Macon State College "Young Author's Conference," Morgan Elementary, morning	