Kids Talk

Doyou know this person?



He was famous as an astronaut, but he considered himself primarily a physicist — specializing in laser physics. He was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1978 and completed his training a year later. He served as a mission specialist on Space Shuttle Mission 41-B in 1984. He died in the Challenger space disaster in 1986.

He is Ronald E. McNair.

Arbor Day activity

A number of public, private and special education schools in the District of Columbia will participate in activities culminating Arbor Week during the last week of April.

This year, twenty schools took part in a city-wide poster contest, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of the District of Columbia using as their theme "Washington, DC., Loves Each Tree" and "Save the Trees."



Ronald Randolph, a fifth grader at Garfield Elementary, will receive the first place cash award. Second place award will be presented to Kesi Chestnut, a student at Benning Elementary. The third place award will be received by Gary Brown, a student at Davis Elementary.

The purpose of Arbor Day is to encourage our young people to recognize the beauty that trees contribute to their environment. It also encourages young people to have an awareness of their natural resources and take an active part in helping to improve their surroundings.

Love a tree!

The first Arbor Day was observed for planting trees on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska. It was the outgrowth of a resolution adopted by the Nebraska Board of Agriculture on the motion of J. Sterling Morton, a board member.

Since Nebraska at that time did not have many trees, Mr. Morton believed that they would be useful as wind-breakers incutting off the warm, dry chinook and that they would aid in conserving the soil's moisture.

On the first Arbor Day the citizens of Nebraska planted 1,000,000 trees. Twenty years later some thousands of acres of wasteland had been converted into woodlands through their efforts. Since 1885 the state has observed Arbor Day on April 22, the anniversary of Mr. Morton's birth, and has declared it a legal holiday.

A number of trees are preserved as monuments marking scenes of historic value; but others have perished as a result of disease or of man's disregard of their worth. Some of the most noted trees are:

THE WASHINGTON ELM: It is the tree under which George Washington took command of the Continental army, in Cambridge, Mass., July 3, 1775. While being trimmed by workmen, this tree fell on Oct. 26, 1923.

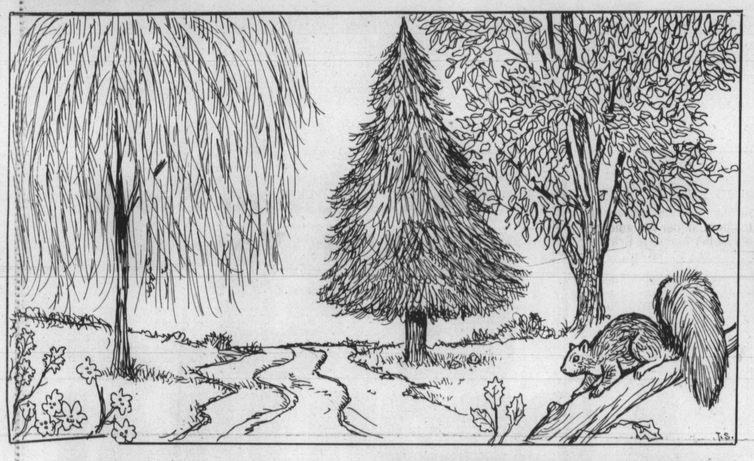
OLD MOSES: It is one of the largest trees in the world. It is in a grove near Tule River, in California. Though the top has broken off, it is 240 feet high, and the diameter of the tree where it has been broken is twelve feet. It is calculated to be over 4,850 years old.

MATHER'S WILLOW: The weeping willow over the grave of Cotton Mather in Cop's burying ground near Bunker Hill. It is a tree that shaded the grave of Napoleon at St. Helena.

OLD LIBERTY ELM: A famous tree on Boston Common, which stood near the foot of Flagstaff Hill. It was a tree of unknown age, believed to have stood before the settlement of the town in 1630 and already decrepit by 1755. It was blown down in the winter of 1876. An iron fence surrounds the spot where it stood.

See the Educator's Association's Volume Library for other interesting facts.

Color Me



Kids calendar

Spring Fling

The Good Luck Community Center, located at 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, Md, is having a "Spring Fling" craft show on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is free. Crafts will be on exhibit and for sale. For information call (301) 551-1093.

Elementary Fun Nite

Elementary Fun Nite for grades 1-6 takes place every Friday at Temple Hills Community Center, 5300 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, Md. The fee is $1 per activity and the following programs will be offered: cooking for kids, 6-7 p.m.; crafts for kids, 7-8 p.m.; rollerskating 7:30-9:30 p.m. and a movie from 8-10 p.m. For information call 894-6616.

Spring Celebration

The Prince George's Plaza Community Center, 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, Md., is presenting a Spring Celebration on May 13, from noon to 4 p.m. The entire family is invited to join in an afternoon filled with games, entertainment, costumed characters and good food. For further information call 864-1611.

Accident Prevention

The Children's Hospital National Medical Center, 111 Michigan Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., will sponsor a course on childhood accident prevention from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., May 6 and 13. Parents, grandparents, day care providers and teachers are welcome to attend. Call 942-4471 for further information regarding enrollment and registration fees.

Children's Concerts

Performers Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer present a folk music experience at the Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Rd., Hyattsville, Md. Children's matinees are on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. and noon. They will sing songs from their award-winning children's albums in a one-hour show. Tickets are $2. Call 277-1710 for advance purchase.

Wrong places to play

Unauthorized play spaces contain hazards that can cause serious injury or death to trespassers. Don't play in or around these areas:

*railroads, including tracks, trestles and freight yards
*mines or caves
*construction sites
*waterfronts
*electrical stations
*quarries
*dumps or junkyards

Puzzling???

TREES

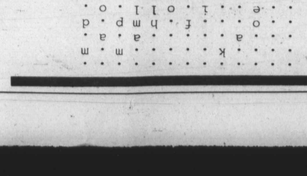
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FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS

IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

birch	cedar
mahogany	maple
pine	poplar
elm	fir
oak	palm
redwood	sequoia

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:





ATTENDANCE HONOREES — Pictured standing (from left) John Washington (teacher); Pat Marshall (McDonald's operations manager); Dr. Rosella M. Bardley (principal); Bob Boyd (Ward IV school board member). On stage — students in winning homeroom class #9203.

Eliot JHS honored by McDonald's

McDonald's family restaurants and the Attendance Branch of District of Columbia Public Schools recently honored Eliot Junior High School for achieving the Most Improved Attendance for the first semester, school year 1988-89.

An awards ceremony was held at Eliot Junior High School on April 6, Thursday, to announce both Eliot's overall attendance improvement and the homeroom with the most improved attendance.

John Washington was awarded as the teacher for the homeroom with the most improved attendance. The winning homeroom was class #9203. Eliot Junior High School has improved attendance to 88.07 per cent for the first semester of the 1988-89 school year from 77 per cent in school year 1987-88.

McDonald's family restaurants of Washington, D.C., presented Eliot with a $500 educational gift of their choice, in this case a color film strip projector with sound, a curriculum packet filled with instructional tools and a permanent banner announcing their Most Improved Attendance award.

McDonald's has an ongoing public-private partnership with the Attendance Branch of the District of Columbia Public Schools to encourage improved attendance at the junior high school-level. Each semester this unique partnership honors and provides gifts for the junior high school with the most improved attendance rate.

In addition, McDonald's sponsors an annual Perfect Attendance Ceremony honoring students from Washington, D.C. public schools who have exhibited perfect attendance.

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by Sherri Milner

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School of the Week

The Paquin School

Providing Options In Educatlon

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

When we look at teenage mothers, we often look upon them with pathos in our hearts.

We think of the mountainous statistics stacked against young mothers and their children and we usually assess the situation as desperate and unpromising.

The problem of teenage pregnancy is a prodigious one, with many variables to consider, but the immediate problem is what do we do to help young mothers and young mothers to be?

What can we do to create every option available for teenage mothers and their children so that they may rise above the perceived hopelessness of their condition?

The Laurence G. Paquin School, located at 2200 Sinclair Lane has been providing options for young mothers since 1966.

According to the school's mission statement, the role of Paquin is "to provide expectant teenagers the opportunity to continue or complete their education in an institution that is designed to meet their needs."

"We deal with every aspect of parenting for girls," declares Dr. Rosetta Stith, assistant principal of the Paquin School from 1974-1980, and principal since 1980.

Stith has become an invaluable resource in helping the young women who attend her school, cope with the complete realm of teenage motherhood.

With great insight, Stith discussed with the AFRO almost every imaginable implication of teen pregnancy, including the correlation between it and poverty and the roles of the school system and the home in combating the problem.

"This school should be called 'futures,' because it can begin or end here," says Stith.

The attractive, two-story Paquin School provides outstanding facilities and excellent instruction so that its students can secure a positive future, however the school is only one component of a complex equation aimed at fulfilling that goal.

"The home is supposed to be the generating force for aspirations," states Stith. "We only have them, (the students) for six hours, the home and community have them for 18," she continued.

And in many cases the homes and the communities in which the young women live, are not conducive to their positive growth and development.



Shawnta Ross plays with her son Joshua Ross.

Dr. Stith has accepted negative environments as a given in general, but she won't allow herself, her staff, or her students to use a poor home situation or an economically depressed neighborhood as an excuse for failure.

"I make it clear to my young women, that contrary to what your environment will support, even if it's just sitting at home watching soap operas, you have the power to control your situation," explains Stith.

"Sometimes you only get one chance to make a difference in the lives of these girls, we have an obligation to make it happen. Human potential is lost if you don't assist," says Dr. Stith.

The Paquin School is the only school in Baltimore that is specifically designed to accommodate the needs of expectant adolescents and adolescent mothers.

One of the most important features of the facility is the infant-toddler parent center.

Not only does the center provide essential childcare for the young mothers while they are in their classes, but it also provides perfect conditions for mother and child interaction.

The center also instructs the teenage mothers in effective parenting techniques and provides stimulation for the babies' cognitive development.

Additionally, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Health and Counseling Suite plays a major role at Paquin.

The school's nurse, Victoria Knighton is specially trained to deal with young mothers post partum and prenatal conditions.

A perfect example of Knighton's expertise and the effectiveness of the Paquin programs became vividly clear, as one young woman went into labor as Dr. Stith stood outside of the health suite.

The student was so nonchalant that Stith assumed that her back was just hurting.

She very calmly approached Stith and informed her of the situation and the proper procedures were implemented with no real hassle.

"She was calm and in control, because she was well informed of her condition," explained Dr. Stith.

The Paquin school also fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship through, "Young Sensations," a fashion line for infants and toddlers, under the guidance of teacher Marjorie Bratcher and her assistant, Alva Elliott.

The Paquin students design and create the fashions according to clothing industry standards.

The items are sold around the city to provide financing for the program. The program also provides viable options for the students in the work force.

While academics are a major part of the Paquin experience, the real emphasis is placed on the comprehensive prenatal and parenting programs.

Rosetta Stith and her staff are up against big odds - the deterioration of the family structure, lack of parenting, ambivalence, etc.

"The system has to be rehabilitated. The school is 23 years old and the same problems still exist," says Dr. Stith.

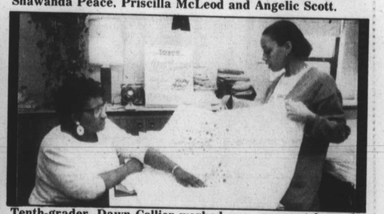
According to Stith, the only salvation we have in dealing with this dilemma, is if changes are made.

"Progress is made when everyone moves in the same direction. Paquin is part of the possible solution," claims Stith.

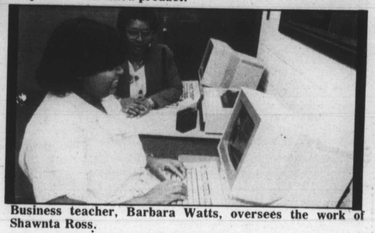
AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene



Family Life and Parenting teacher, Annie Mountain, instructs Shawanda Peace, Priscilla McLeod and Angelic Scott.



Tenth-grader, Dawn Collier worked on a garment from the "Young Sensation" fashion line. Instructor Marjorie Bratcher inspects the finished product.



Business teacher, Barbara Watts, oversees the work of Shawnta Ross.



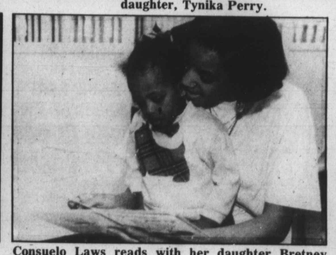
Paquin nurse, Victoria Knighton counsels with Arnetta Jackson and Jennifer.



Kewana Richardson and her daughter, Tynika Perry.



Dr. Rosetta Stith, principal of the Laurence G. Paquin School.



Consuelo Laws reads with her daughter Bretney McClain.

JOIN NOW!

AFRO Clean Block
55th Year
1934-1989



1. The captain must try to get all persons in the block to sign up and and send their names to the AFRO-AMERICAN.
2. He or she must call a meeting of all adults and children and elect a president who will act as an advisor.
3. Have a secretary, who will write down what is done at each meeting and send reports to the AFRO-AMERICAN.
4. Elect a marshal, who will call out the clean-up brigade at a definite time each day, so that by all working together at the same time, the block will soon improve in appearance.
5. Do not paint trees or curbs.

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Call 728-8200
Ext. 291

Lynette Locke
Director

Keva Jones
Secretary

AFRO Clean Block
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Yes, I want to be Captain of my block ( )

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____