



# Bulldog

BULLETIN

February-March 2022

## Celebrating

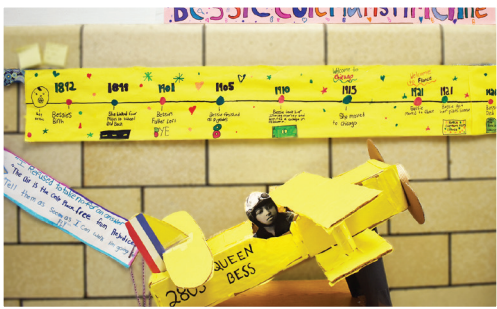
## Black History



*The Beacon City School District celebrated Black History Month with unique projects, events and lessons. Please enjoy what we have highlighted.*

### South Ave ES 4<sup>th</sup> grade Stirred by Bravery

Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman pilot, was the focus of a project by students in Lisa Biersack's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class where they produced a plane, pictures and a time-line of Coleman's extraordinary life.



"They were inspired by her," Biersack said of her students. "They thought she was brave."

### Glenham Students' Creative Reflections

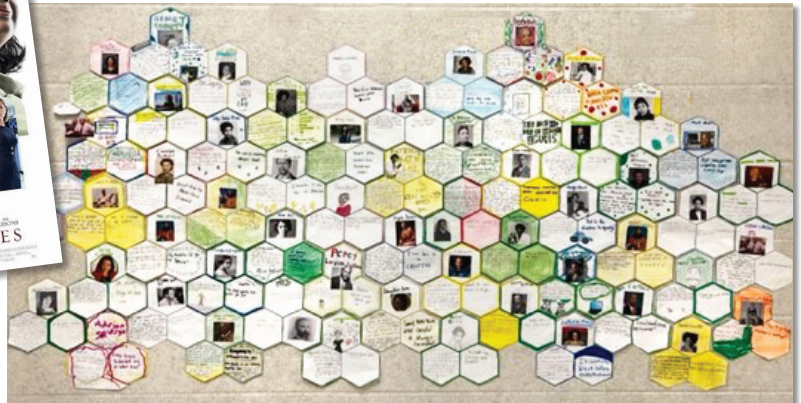
Fourth graders in Joe Lopez's class read about Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, answered comprehensive questions about the reading and his accomplishments. Students created posters featuring symbols and poems about King. "It's reflecting what they learned in that book," Lopez explained.



### Uncovering Hidden Figures in STEM at Rombout MS



As an extension activity from the grade level



showing of "Hidden Figures," students in Ms. Benson's 6<sup>th</sup> grade science class researched Black Americans who have contributed to the STEM field. Their images were displayed in the hall outside the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classrooms.

### Beacon HS - Notable History & the Black Student Union Club: Advocacy, Hope, and Change for the Future



The BSU club helped to celebrate diversity and made Black History Month (BHM) announcements. The students work to create a safe space and support each other while providing a way for student

voices to be heard. Club members are looking into increasing representation in the National Honor Society and AP courses. Students are exploring what they can do to bring more peer mediation services to the school and district. The club is also working on fundraising ideas.

In honor of BHM, Ms. Clemmens conducted discussions about prominent leaders of the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1800's and early 1900's, the formation of the NAACP, and the treachery that occurred, at that time, when black people were first able to achieve political prominence. She also spoke of major inventors and entrepreneurs of the time. Students learned about the music, art and poetry of the Harlem Renaissance.





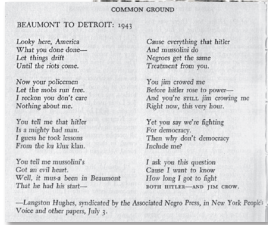
## Rombout 8<sup>th</sup> graders Explore Alternative Resolutions



After reading Langston Hughes' "Beaumont to Detroit," and about the 1943 summer riots highlighted in the poem, students in Kondor's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class participated

in an activity which had them reflect on the difficult choices of that time period.

"Students attempted to resolve the issue without turning to retaliation as they reflected on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's famous quote addressing the issue of riots," Kondor said.



## JV Forrestal 1<sup>st</sup> graders Get a Glimpse of Bath's Vision



LouAnn Joyce's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class studied Dr. Patricia Bath, an African American ophthalmologist, who invented the surgical tool Laserphaco Probe. "She felt like eye care was a right," Joyce said. "Everybody had a right to sight." Joyce's student Matthew wrote, "The other doctors didn't think she could do it. She also made a place where black and white people could get good eye care."

## Sargent ES Students Read Keats



Jane Cervone's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class read books by Ezra Jack Keats, the first author to include African American characters in a children's book.

"A lot of the stories take place in the city streets where he grew up," Cervone

said. "They're awesome books." While it can be difficult for students to grasp the complexities of civil rights, it became clearer when Cervone asked them to imagine their class without its diverse population.

"That hit them a little bit hard," Cervone said.

## South Ave ES Commissions Clock Makers

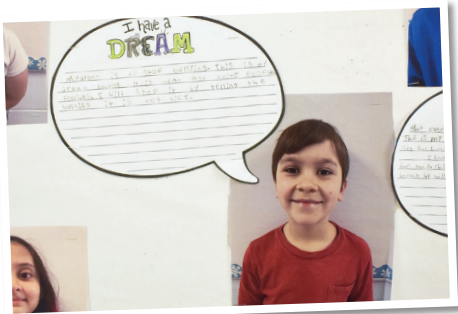
Kindergarten teacher Laura Fabia and her students read about mathematician Benjamin Banneker.



They created a clock in honor of a wooden timepiece that took him two

years to build. Banneker worked for over 50 years. Students were impressed by his perseverance. "They said he was patient and inventive," Fabia said.

## Glenham ES Share their Dreams for a Better Tomorrow



*"My dream is to stop bullying. This is my dream because it is mean and hurts people's feelings. I will stop it by telling the bullies it is not nice."*

Elaine Morgan's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students read about King and his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech. They were charged with writing out their own dreams for a better tomorrow.



## King's Speech Inspires Sargent 4<sup>th</sup> graders to Dream On

Fourth grade teacher Danielle Wokanick's students listened to King's speech and then wrote out their dreams for the future, such as finding a cure for cancer. "I tried to make it a big thing," Wokanick said. "I said, 'Don't make a goal that's just about yourself.'"

