

MARCH 2022

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Benchley-Weinberger Elementary



2ND GRADE BIOGRAPHIES

Amina researched Michaela De Prince, one of the first Black ballerinas. Read more about Michaela's inspiring journey below. Excellent writing Amina!



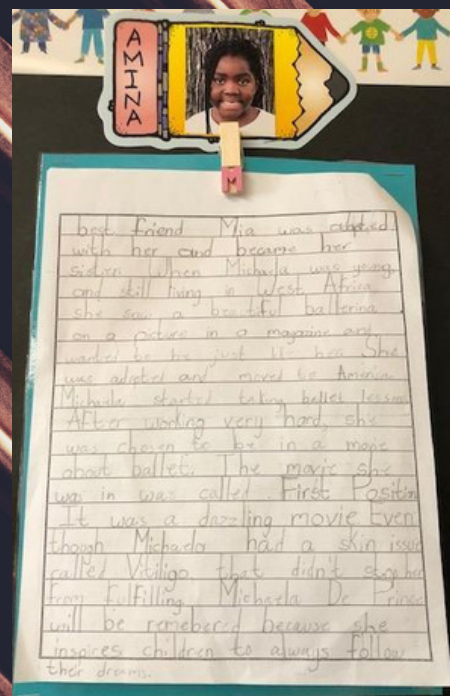
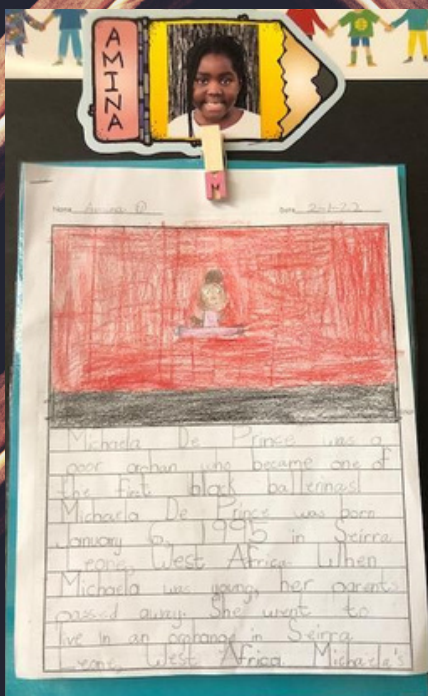
MINDY AHRENS
PRINCIPAL

mahrens@sandi.net

Save
THE
Date

Check the BW website for more details

- March 8
PTA meeting on campus @ 8am
- March 9
Rubio's Dine Out
- March 11
Movie Night-Encanto
- March 18
DJ Dev Dance Lunch Recess
- March 23-25
Early Dismissal Days
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 25
DJ Dev Dance AM Recess
- March 26 - April 3
Spring Break



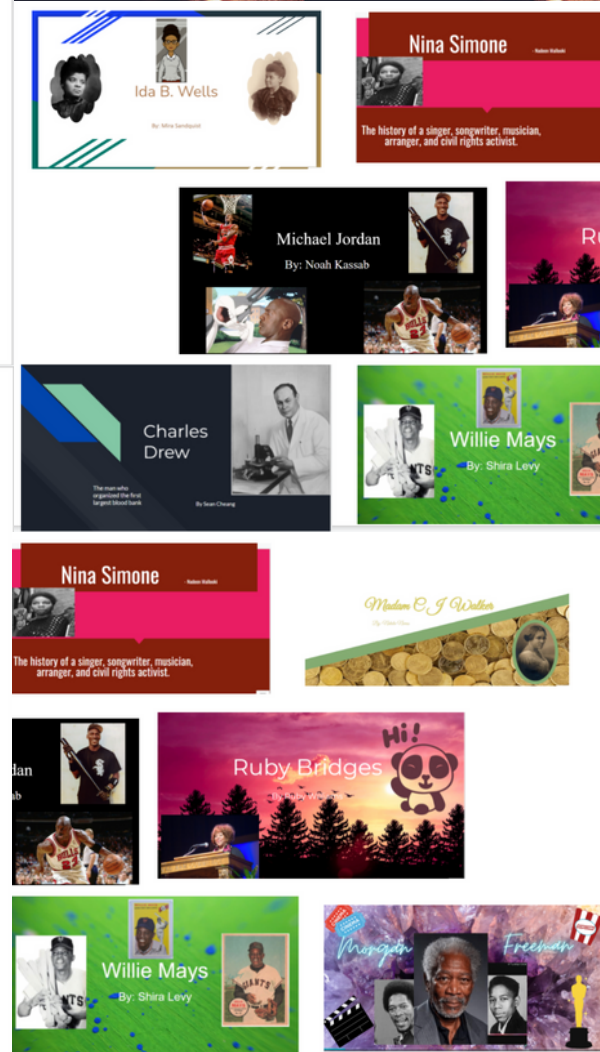
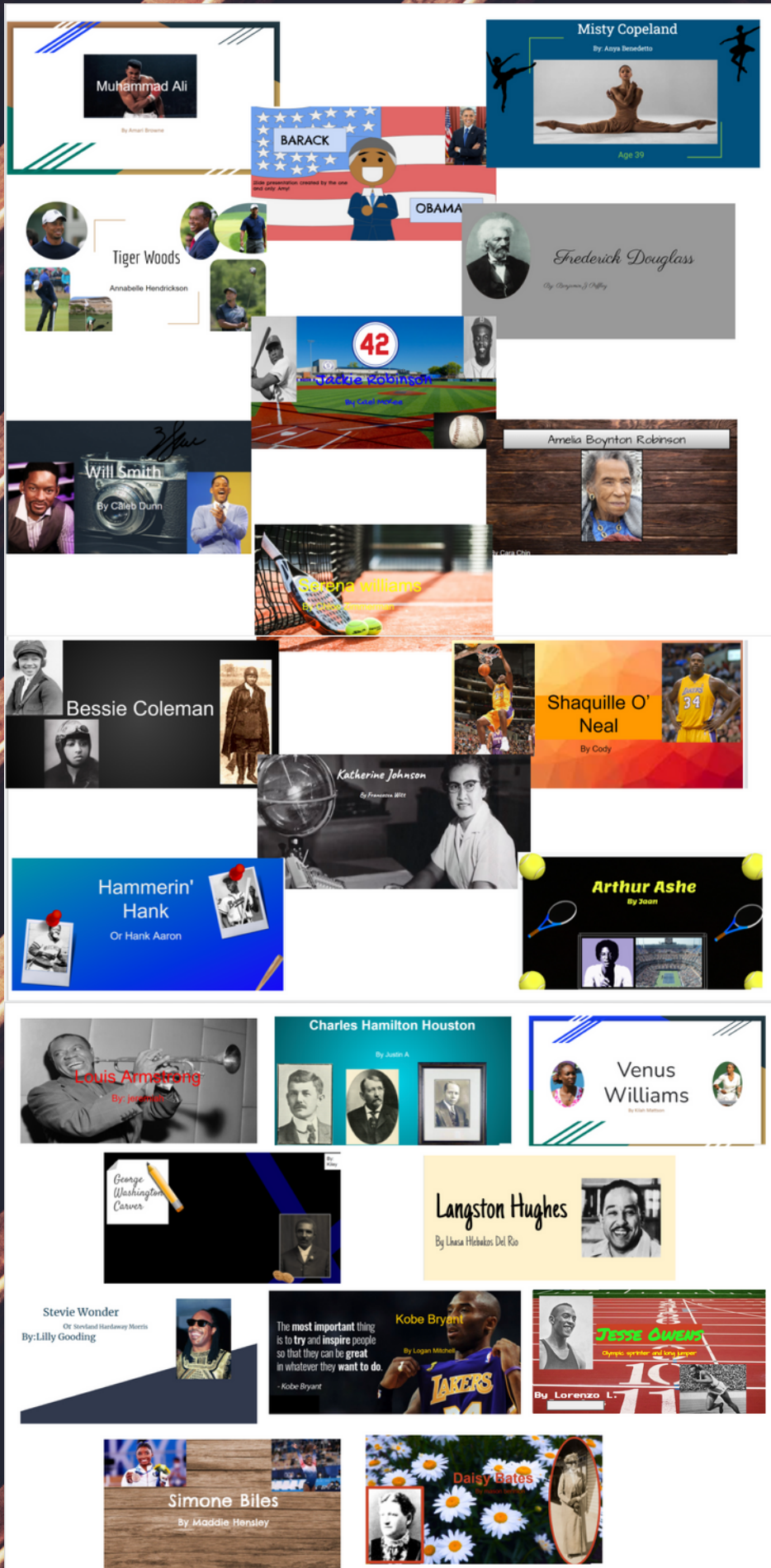
LIBRARY READ ALOUDS

Check out these great books that have been read recently to classes during library time. Our Parent Equity Team is working to add more diverse books to both our school and classroom libraries. If you'd like to help with this mission, consider donating a book from the library [wish list \(click here\)](#)

*The wish list includes Equity Team suggested books along with student suggested books. Please be patient as you scroll through the very LONG list of chapter book favorites like A-Z Mysteries.

BIOGRAPHIES IN B-2

The 5th graders in Mrs. Armstrong's room have been researching the lives of Black Americans. Take a look at their report covers below. There's likely names you don't know and may want to find out more about.



5TH GRADE DEEP DIVE INTO CIVIL RIGHTS

For B8, the study of Black History started in the fall but intensified with Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. For 20 days we explored and wrote our thoughts about a different African American and their contribution towards the Civil Rights Movement in a slideshow. We learned about Malcolm X. to Rosa Parks.

Reading *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* was our next big adventure. The book introduced us to an African American family living in Flint, Michigan and saw through their eyes the racism and segregation they endured on their trip south to Birmingham, Alabama. After the book we were able to watch the movie and compare the two. We found that there were many similarities as well as differences.

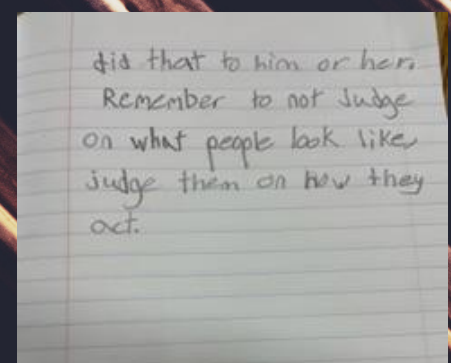
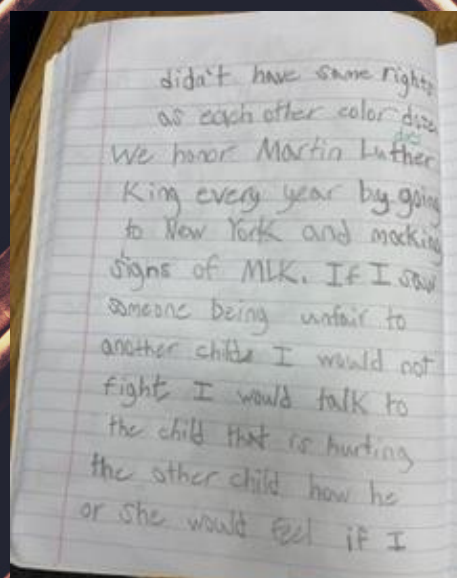
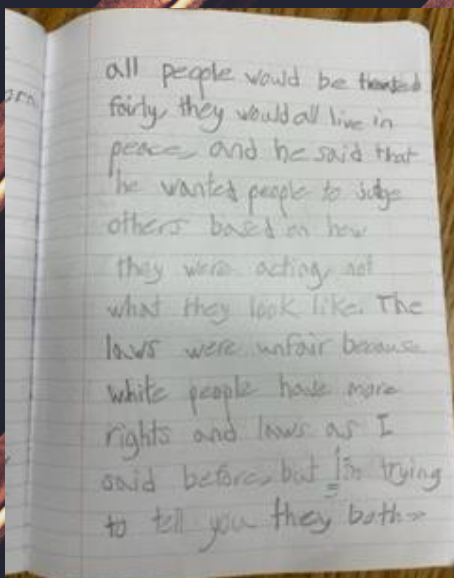
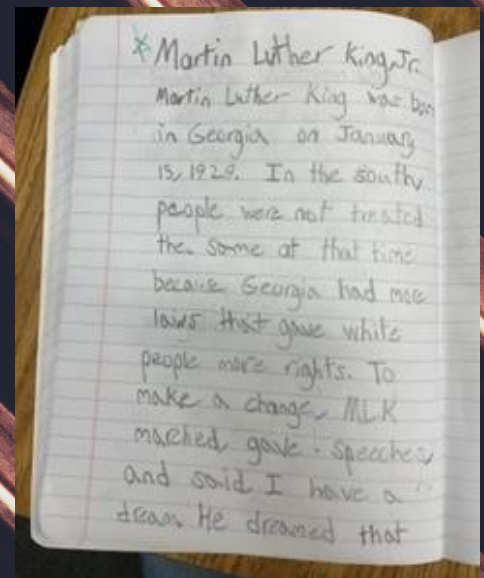
We have taken on the task of exploring and creating a presentation focused on the Kentucky Derby and the role racism played in it. We have been reading about the history, racism, and the jockeys, as well as exploring timelines of events in African American history and how those events may or may not have had an impact on the race. We will be presenting our findings to adults on our campus.

We will also be delving into the Voters Rights Act through articles from Benchmark, by watching the movie "Selma Lord Selma", and exploring what life was like during the Civil Rights movement as well as the struggle for African Americans to vote, and have equal rights!!

-By Addison, Corrigan, Peyton

BIOGRAPHIES IN B-2

Elise, a second grader did a fantastic job summarizing her learning about Martin Luther King Jr. in her journal. She also added how his life made an impact on hers. Great connections Elise!



BLACK LEADERSHIP

Thank you Isaac from Mrs. Manis' class for sharing what you learned about Medgar Evers. Find out more about this courageous Black leader below.

Medgar Evers



Early Life

Medgar Evers was born on July 2, 1925. His parents were Jessie and James Evers. Medgar was the 3rd of 5 kids. The Evers family owned a small farm, and as a kid, Medgar had to walk 12 miles a day to attend segregated schools. He served in the army from 1943 to 1945. He went to college at Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1948. In 1951, he got married to Myrlie Beasley, and later had 3 children. These are some of the things that happened in Medgar Evers early life.



Medgar Evers playing football in college

Important Accomplishments

Medgar Evers was an activist, and he had a lot of important accomplishments in that time. Medgar Evers became the first field secretary for the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)*. Some of the things that Evers did in this job were that he organized voter registration drives and economic boycotts. He also tried to recruit members to join the NAACP. Medgar Evers applied to the University of Mississippi Law School and was denied because of his race. He later used this as a case against them when he was with the NAACP. He had a big part in desegregating the University of Mississippi. These are some of Medgar Evers' important accomplishments.



Medgar Evers doing work for the NAACP



IN FIRST GRADE...

In first grade, students have listened to several books about inspiring Black champions and storybooks with diverse characters. Our Staff Equity Team is working to build a list of book recommendations for grade levels to consider purchasing for their classroom libraries. We know that when students see themselves in the books they read, they become more confident and feel more included at school.

If you have books to suggest, please email the titles to Mrs. Sibbet at ssibbet@sandi.net

A STUDY OF CHARACTER TRAITS IN 3RD GRADE

Jackie persevered a lot in baseball and out of baseball. He also helped Black rights in baseball. When people called him names, he cared but he did not fight back. Jackie is important to history because he was a great baseball player. He helped Black people get their rights. He was MVP and got into the Hall of Fame for baseball. Like Jackie, I use perseverance in soccer because I used to kick the ball low and now I can kick it higher and into the goal. I kept trying and didn't give up.

-By Jack Rm 10