

Schools celebrate black history

By Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

Schools across the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district are recognizing Black History Month with read-ins, discussions and more.

At all district schools, black community leaders, students, teachers and others read to classes as part of a nationwide read-in on Monday.

“That’s sort of one unifying event,” said Stephanie Knott, assistant superintendent for community relations with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

At Carrboro Elementary School, Mildred Council – more commonly known as Mama Dip – read to second graders, while Rev. David Henderson read to fifth graders. Other guests – including former teachers, school board members and district office staff – read to each of the school’s classes throughout the day.

The school also held a read-in Tuesday evening, with guest readers, a pizza dinner and door prizes.

According to Knott, the district will also host a community dialog for middle and high school students, their parents and other community members to facilitate discussion of the film *The Great Debaters*. The movie recounts the true story of the 1930s Wiley College debate team, which was one of the first to break the color barrier by debating teams from white colleges.

The event will be held on February 24, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Smith Middle School. Those planning on attending should go see the movie before the event, as it will not be shown at the dialog.



PHOTO BY CARRBORO ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AMANDA CRISP  
Voncille Fearrington, former teacher assistant at Carrboro Elementary, reads to Ms. Williams’ kindergarten class at Carrboro Elementary School.

“We have also produced a thinking guide with some questions about the movie itself,” Knott said, adding that the dialog was modeled after a Chapel Hill Public Library Foundation program in which individuals read books and came together for community discussion.

In addition to read-ins and other school events, the district has developed lesson plans and frameworks for teachers to help deepen students’ understanding of cultural groups.

Lunch Menus

FEB. 8-14

Every meal is served with a choice of milk. Breakfast is served daily.

ELEMENTARY

Friday — Pork Egg Roll w/ Rice; Turkey & Cheese Wrap; Tossed Salad w/ Dressing; Chilled Apricots; Chocolate Pudding

Monday — Chicken Nuggets w/ BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Beef Tace w/ Salsa; Steamed Carrots; Apples Halves

Tuesday — Chicken Fajita w/ Salsa; Hot Dog on a Bun; “Fun on the Run”; Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Pears

Wednesday — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Broccoli Cuts; Apricots

Thursday — O’Muffin; Oven Baked Chicken w/ Wheat Roll; Grilled Cheese Sandwich; “Fun on the Run”; Green Beans; Fresh Banana

MIDDLE & HIGH

Friday — Chicken Nuggets w/ BBQ Sauce and Wheat Roll; Double Cheeseburger w/ Lettuce & Tomato; Sweet Yellow Corn; Baked Beans; Fresh Apples

Monday — Cheese Ravioli w/ Garlic Bread; Steak & Cheese Sandwich; Green Beans; Tossed Salad w/ Dressing; Fresh Orange

Tuesday — Fishwich; Beef Taco w/ Salsa; Sweet Yellow Corn; Chilled Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday — Chicken Nuggets w/ BBQ Sauce and Wheat Roll; Hot Dog on a Bun; Broccoli Cuts; Chilled Pears

Thursday — Beef Chili w/ Crackers; Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Mixed Vegetables; Fresh Apple

School Briefs

Energy All Around Us!

The UNC Department of physics and astronomy will hold the 8th Annual Physics Demo Show, Energy All Around Us! On March 1 at 2 p.m.

The show will address questions such as: Why do we need energy? Where can we find energy? How can we conserve energy? Physics professors and graduate students will perform fun physics demonstrations.

The event is fun and educational and is suited for all ages. The show will be held in Room 215 of Phillips Hall on the UNC campus and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dan Burke at dburke@physics.unc.edu. Seating is limited to 150 people, and groups of 10 or more should contact Burke ahead of time.

Flower power

The Triangle United Way organized volunteers to redo flowerbeds at Seawell Elementary School and observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Volunteers included:

- Seawell Elementary representatives Jill, Colin, Graham, Benjamin and Truman Austin; David Wilson; Kathy and Elise Matera; Julie, Gabi and Mikayla Brenman; Deborah, Adina and Avital Hirsch; James, Haley and Emily Easthom; Shilpa and Vatsal Pearkh; Celeste Mayer; and Anita Hawks;

- Blue Ribbon Youth Leadership Institute representatives Joyce Toomer; Ebony Tart; Christy Ogu; Deandre Coward; David Cunningham; Jonathan Smith; and Brandon Walker;

- New Comers Club of Greater Chapel Hill representatives Charlotte and Stan Henshaw; Lilli Lee; Richard Glover; and John Kent; and

- Beth Popelka of Hidden Voices and AmeriCorps.

Teachers awarded grants

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation recently awarded grants to 12 local teachers for the renewal of their national certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

The teachers received substantive grants toward the \$1,150 renewal fee. More than 200 teachers in the district have obtained the national certification.

National certification is voluntary, while state certification is required. In North Carolina, teachers who apply to obtain national certification for the first time have their fees paid for by the state, but certification renewal is not covered.

Carrboro open house

Carrboro Elementary School will host an open house tonight (Thursday) for families of students who were redistricted to the school for next year.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education approved a redistricting plan for elementary school students last spring to prepare for the opening of Morris Grove Elementary School this fall.

The open house will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Carrboro Elementary auditorium with a presentation and reception.

Drug awareness workshops

The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Team and the Chapel Hill Police Department will sponsor a series of workshops on parent education awareness of teen alcohol and drug issues.

CHPD crisis counselor Matt Sullivan will lead the workshops, which will provide information on how to keep teens safe from the harmful consequences of substance use. All sessions will be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- Feb. 11, Phillips Middle School;
- Feb. 20, McDougle Middle School;
- Mar. 6, Carrboro High School; and
- Mar. 11, Smith Middle School.

All sessions will contain the same material, so parents should pick the date and location that is most convenient for them. The workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, call 942-3300 or email dalepratt-wilson@nc.rr.com.

Glenwood awarded grants

Teachers at Glenwood Elementary School recently received a small grant from the Chapel

Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation and the Orange County Arts Council for classes in Chinese calligraphy.

Art teacher Deborah Hallam and the intermediate grades dual-language program teachers were awarded the grant. Artist Jinxiu Alice Zhao, who led the classes, will complete a six-week residency at the school on Friday.

Middle schools awarded grants

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation has awarded four grants to fund projects at Phillips and Smith middle schools.

With a matching grant from the Orange County Arts Commission, the foundation funded the revival of the literary magazine Skywriting at Phillips Middle School. The publication features poetry, short stories and artwork from Phillips students and will be published this spring.

In addition, the foundation awarded three grants from the Marianna Goodwin Fund to projects at Smith Middle School. Two teams received grants that will enable a student from each team to participate in an extensive field trip experience.

The fund also provided a grant for three band percussion kits for students who are unable to rent or buy one. The kits would be loaned to students for one to three years.

The Marianna Goodwin Fund was established in the memory of a former student at Smith who died unexpectedly in the summer of 2006.

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