

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and Aurora Academy's volunteer coordinator, Mrs. Hughes, is arranging for a collection of activities and displays to help our school celebrate.

As we did last year, each morning announcement during the month will feature a brief bio of a prominent African American shared by a student, staff member, or parent volunteer reader.

Posters of important individuals or events will be placed around the building, providing our kids opportunities to learn about these parts of history.

This year we are also launching the practice of having a focus country, paying particular attention to one African nation. This year's country is Ethiopia. We have several Ethiopian families as part of our community. These parents are coming together to share various parts of their culture and heritage.

Mrs. Cvar is preparing large maps of Africa and the United States, and we will be marking countries of origin for many of our families ...where their people are from on the African continent, or as far back as they can trace their heritage in the US, and where they are now in the USA. We will post the information we receive; all families with heritage traced back to Africa are invited to share, just let Mrs. Hughes know.

The school will again present a culminating assembly on February 23rd. The program will include a dynamic guest speaker and other celebrations of the rich contributions African Americans have made to our country. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

Congratulations to boys basketball for 2nd place in the SMAC tournament!

CSAP Testing Information

Grade 3 Reading: Tues. & Weds. Feb. 28-29

All other tests grades 3-8: Tues.-Thurs. Mar. 6, 7, 8; & 13, 14, 15

For most students, two tests each day; 8:00-9:15 am and 1:15-2:25 pm (This is a change from previous testing schedules.)

These tests are important individually for your child and collectively for our school. Following a few simple guidelines will greatly improve the chances of attaining the best outcomes for all our students.

- Please be sure to be on time on test days. Kids cannot enter the classroom after the test has started.
- No early releases during testing. Students cannot be pulled from the classroom during a test session as it disrupts the testing environment
- Please, make no medical appointments that interfere with testing. All students must take all required tests

Dress of Choice Changes

March 21 will be Dress of Choice Day, NOT March 14.

For March only, that's the 3rd Weds. Dress of Choice changes the atmosphere among the children. To give our kids the best shot at making their best effort on CSAP tests, we want to eliminate any unnecessary distractions. The fun of Dress of Choice shifts attention enough to warrant this adjustment.

PTA Chocolate Dress of Choice Day will be Friday, March 2.

This is for kids who qualify for this DOC by selling their box of chocolate bars. All DOC guidelines apply; there's no alternative day if a child is absent March 2.

Imagination Makers & *The Bard*

(from I.M. press release)

[*The Merchant of Venice* was rewritten by elementary level kids from Boulder and Gilpin County schools.]

Is it possible to expose your child to the world of Shakespeare in a way that they can understand and enjoy? Aye, it is! Imagination Makers Theater Company's play, "Give It Up", does just that. This version has been rewritten by kids!

The students' writing breathes new life into the story while maintaining the original plot and flavor of the language. The play presents one of the classics in a unique and delightful way that will inspire your child to do their own writing!

While including lots of humor and fun, "Give It Up" also provides your child with a model for making the difficult choice to end the cycle of revenge with a friend. It can be a powerful catalyst for illuminating discussions between you and your child.

Exposing your child to cultural events can be expensive. Thanks to funds from our school and a grant from the Arapahoe County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) this professional theater company is performing the play at our school at no cost to you. Thou art warmly invited to join us for this performance right here at school!

Weds. Feb. 22nd at 2:00 pm; AACs gymnasium

Alas, if you are unable to attend, feel free to visit Imagination Makers Theater Company's website (www.imaginationmakers.org) to see a short clip of the play or to download a free copy of the "Give It Up" Parent Activity and Discussion Guide.

