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Four years of
4th grade news



FEBRUARY EDITION



For Legends.
By Legends.
We are Legends.

Royal and Mahiri Team Up For Black History Month 2023

Black History Month is here! Let's talk about how Black History Month started, why Black History is important and some important people we celebrate during Black History Month.

Carter G. Woodson proposed the creation of Negro History Week. In 1970, Black History Month was first celebrated in Ohio. Black History Month became national in 1976. It is in February because two famous people who supported African Americans, Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass, have birthdays this month.

Black History Month is important because it celebrates Black American men and women who fought for freedom. It reminds us about the past difficulties, struggles and aspirations of African American men and women in history. It teaches us about the problems of suffering because of the look of someone's skin.

Black History is important to us at NHCS because we honor everyone in our community and the differences we each have. We celebrate to show respect in our community. We shouldn't be talking about someone's differences. We shouldn't be disrespectful because of the outside of our bodies. We should respect how we're similar. Let's talk about famous African Americans in history.

One person from Black History we really admire is Bill Russell. Bill Russell was a legend on and off the basketball court. Not only did he have 11 NBA Championships rings, he was part of the Civil Rights Movement and inspired other NBA players, like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, to become activists. In 1961, he refused to play a game in Kentucky because his black teammates couldn't eat at a coffee shop because of segregation. In 1963, he marched with Martin Luther King Jr on the March on Washington. Also in 1963, he led a march from Roxbury to Boston Common to support MLK's work in Birmingham, Alabama. It was the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of Boston at that time with a total of 10,000 marchers. In 2011 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama for his lifelong work against racism.

Another person from Black History we really admire is Jackie Robinson. Jackie Robinson was the first Black person to ever play in Major League Baseball. When he first joined the League many White players did not want to play with him. Many White baseball fans didn't like the idea of Black players and White players on the same team. People were so angry they threatened him!

Jackie Robinson stood up for himself by proving people wrong and by becoming one of the greatest baseball players of all time. He showed that everyone can play baseball together. He showed that the color of your skin does not matter.

Jeremiah Jumps Back to Lunar New Year

Last month was the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year has been celebrated for over 3,500 years. The Lunar New Year might have originated long ago in China during the Shang Dynasty (1600 - 1046 BC) to honor gods and ancestors.

There are many symbols that connect to the Lunar New Year including a red envelope. A red envelope is given because it represents good luck, prosperity, and happiness in the new year.

Some foods people eat during the Lunar New Year include longevity noodles, whole steamed fish for abundance, and sticky rice balls for togetherness. There are good luck foods like dumplings and rice cakes.

For some, the Lunar New Year is the Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year filled with hope. For others, the symbols and celebrations of the Lunar New Year are different.

Please continue to read on as Royal explains his experience with a different cultural aspect of the Lunar New Year.



A Royal Look at the Vietnamese Lunar New Year

The Vietnamese Lunar New Year is around the world. I, as a Vietnamese, will tell you how we celebrate and how it came to be!

It first started when Vietnam was part of China. When China created Chinese New Year it transcended generations to become Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

When we celebrate Lunar New Year we make foods like fish that give us good luck, and noodles which give us long life. We decorate with red and yellow for good fortune. We put candles around the pictures of our ancestors.

An outside activity during Vietnamese Lunar New Year is the dragon and lion dance parade to scare off evil spirits. It's a fun time of entertainment for the Lunar New Year all over Asia! We celebrate Lunar New Year every year to honor household and heavenly deities and ancestors.

On Lunar New Year we give red envelopes called Li Xi in Vietnamese. It's the time of the year to give someone good luck money. It shows respect, kindness, and wishes them good fortune.

I celebrate Lunar New Year because it tells about the memory of our lost ones around the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, people in my family's village were not protected by the government. People who were innocent had bombs land on their villages. Our village disappeared. About two million civilians on both sides of the Vietnam War died. It was a sad time for Vietnamese civilians, but the joy came back when the victory of the Vietnam War was celebrated. Our victory was like another Lunar New Year came along. This is why we celebrate.

The Lunar New Year is a time for me to honor our people who sacrificed their lives for their country. We celebrate it to enjoy with our family and friends.

Have you ever celebrated a holiday from a different culture?

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of The 4th Grade Monthly.
Our fourth year covering NHCS news, our world, and much, much more.

Grab your pencils! Solve these puzzles! Ready, set, challenge!

Can you guess who this is?



Unscramble the name to see if you are right!

encashjimalock

A Hink Pink (sometimes called a "rhyming pair") is a pair of rhyming words that matches a silly definition.

example: a black bird that does not fly fast = *slow crow*

Can you find rhyming pairs for these clues?

1. paperback thief

2. lengthy tune

3. light red beverage

4. rabbit that tells jokes

5. fast elevator

Meghan Makes a Mountain

Have you ever made a volcano? This is something you can make in your backyard if you are ever bored at home and have nothing to do. Go outside, get some air and make a volcano with your friends, parents, and family! This is fun and exciting because you get to watch it erupt into the sky!

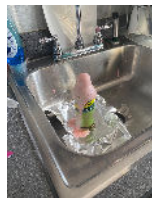
Ask one of your family members to take you to the grocery store and get the following: white vinegar, baking soda, red food coloring (or other color you would like). You will also need foil, dish soap, a spoon, and some sand. You also need an empty bottle, like a big soda bottle.

Step one - place an empty plastic bottle in a mound of sand outside. Make sure to wash the bottle first!

Step two - use a funnel to add a mix of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking soda and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water into the bottle. This should first be mixed as a slurry before putting it inside.

Step three - mix some food coloring and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of vinegar together. Pour this mixture inside the bottle.

Step four - STAND BACK and watch your volcano erupt!



Italee Finds An Outlet In Books

Hi! It's Italee and today I will be reviewing an amazing book called JUNIE B. JONES AND THE STUPID SMELLY BUS!!

I am going to start off by rating it. I would give this book a 10/10 not only because it's a funny book, but it has a lot of interesting moments.

I know that "stupid" is not a very nice word, but Junie B. can be a little crazy. In this book, Junie calls the bus stupid because it wasn't like her Dad's car at all. The seats did not have any cloth!

Junia also walks into her classroom when her teacher was decorating the room with letters. Junie knows the letters. She can sing them. Then, Junie B. notices the teacher's hands. I won't tell you what happens next.

This book is part of a series. I have read many other Junie B. Jones books. You would enjoy this book and others because the books are very funny, entertaining and they make reading fun!

Jahelyssa Expects the Environment to be Excellent

According to Google, The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection defines litter as: whether intentional or unintentional, a form of pollution resulting from improperly handled waste. Littering endangers our environment and our wildlife. Plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose. Littering hurts animals in the sea like turtles and whales who eat a lot of plastic.

Stop littering so they can survive.

In Boston, there is litter everywhere on highways, in parks, on sidewalks, hiking trails and beaches. I think people litter because they want to hurt the environment or they are just lazy.

It is wrong to litter in Boston or anywhere because it can hurt us! Stop littering so we can stay safe. We should put paper and plastic into the recycling. This is best for the environment. Stop littering.

Littering around NHCS is not committing to the common good. Out on the playground I have found paper, plastic cups, food wrappers, markers, crayons and pencils. We need to take care of our school and not hurt it. We can be much better to our own environment than throwing food wrappers on the ground.

We can make the world cleaner and our school cleaner by not littering. Why are we hurting the world?

People should be upset and sad about littering. Our environment is important. It is the only environment that we have. Pollution and littering is weakening and killing the environment.

Without a clean environment we will have no world.

ACIRE INTRODUCES US TO MR. T. . . HE'S OUR A-TEAM!

The following interview took place between Acire and Mr. Tiblanc at Queen Street.

Why did you decide to work at NHCS?

I like to support kids. I like to help students learn and support them in their lives so they can grow.

What is something you like to do in your free time?

I like to travel. I play golf and go to the gym. I enjoy reading and writing. I like listening to music. I also play basketball.

Where is your favorite place to travel?

New Orleans. I love New Orleans..

Do you have a favorite song?

My favorite song is by Sam Cooke. It's called A Change is Gonna Come.

Do you speak any languages?

I do. I speak Haitian Creole.

Do you like sweet or salty foods?

I have to admit, I do have a sweet tooth.

So, if you were an ice cream flavor what would you be?

Chocolate. Always chocolate.

Do you have a comfort food?

There is nothing more comforting to me than a bowl of chili.

Any other favorite foods?

Yes. My favorites are pizza, Haitian black rice, fried chicken, mac 'n cheese and I love legumes...beans.

What is your favorite movie?

I have two. Coming to America and Enemy of the State.

If you could turn into any animal what would it be?

I would love to be an eagle!

If you had a superpower?

I would like to be able to slow down time. That would be a great power to have.

I have one final question. If you wrote a book about yourself what would it be called?

I think the title of my book would be "Look At Me Now". That'd be a good title.



"Mr. T. demonstrates what it looks like to be rooted in love. He actively listens before he supports scholars and staff. He gives specific praise to scholars as they use their strategies. He becomes excited with a smile on his face when he sees growth in our scholars. Thank you for all you do each day!" ~ Ms. Freeman



Joking Around

3rd Grade Folktales

Eli Believes in the Beautiful Game with the other Jadiel Featuring Andrew!

Do you want to learn about the world cup that recently took place in Qatar?

Qatar is a country that's located in the Middle East. The World Cup was played in Qatar. It is an event that millions of people around the world come to see and to watch. The World Cup is played every 4 years. Hundreds of famous football/soccer players come to battle it out on the field to win the rare World Cup trophy.

Two of my most favorite football/soccer players are Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi. Kylian is known for his speed, good finishing and dribbling. He was born on December 20, 1998 in Paris. His parents are Fayza Lamari and Wilfried. His father is from Cameroon and his mother, from Algeria, is a former handball player. He is a professional French football player for Paris St. Germain. Kylian Mbappe was the first player to score a hat trick in the World Cup finals since Geoff Hurst back in 1966. Kylian Mbappe scored 2 goals during the game and another was a penalty kick.

Lionel Messi was born on June 24, 1987 in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina. He is the third child out of four of Jorge Messi and Celia Cuccitini. Lionel Messi is known as one of the greatest football players. He has won a total of 7 Ballon d'Or Awards. After Messi's grandmother died he was deeply affected. Every time he scores a goal he looks up in the sky and points at it to honor her.

My favorite part of the World Cup was the final because I personally like the penalty shoot out. The game lasted 120 minutes. There was a 3-3 draw, or tie, at the end of the game. The penalty shoot out ended with a score of 4-2 and Argentina winning. The goalkeeper that saved the game for Argentina was Emiliano Martinez. He made a huge, last minute save that could have led to Argentina losing.

The next World Cup is in 2026 in North America. There will be games in Boston! See you there!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Owl.

Owl, hoo.

1. What is a pig's favorite fighting move?

2. What did the pirate say when he reached the age of 80?

3. What is a little bear with no teeth called?

4. What do you call a noodle that's fake?

...and this one because it's funny!...

5. Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?

Answers on page 4

Long long ago in Japan in 1499 there was a boy named Yoshi. He worked at the homeless shelter.

One day he was working when a beckoning cat walked in. He thought the cat was homeless so he gave the cat food and water.

His dad was sick and needed medicine. When he got home he made soup for his dad. Suddenly the dad started to get more sick!

"I wish I had medicine for my dad."

Soon the beckoning cat gave luck to the boy.

He bought a scooter and the boy got the medicine he needed for his dad, but it did not work.

He bought more medicine for his dad. It worked! Then they went to the homeless shelter and used the medicine for sick people at the homeless shelter.

The end.



Pictured (l to r) above is the staff of this month's The Fourth Grade Monthly: (top) Mahiri, Jadiel C., Meghan, Royal, Italee, and Jahelyssa. (bottom) Jeremiah, Acire, Violet, Alex, Eli, and Jadiel V.

A Different Jadiel Settles Into Life as a Legend...

My name is Jadiel V. and this is my first year at this school. I am in the 4th grade at NHCS. The full name of my school is Neighborhood House Charter School.

The school was founded in 1995. Some of NHCS' values are to seek knowledge, embrace effort, act thoughtfully, and commit to the common good. These values are important because when you grow up you will be a better person and the earth won't be so dirty because we are learning to care for our community.

Neighborhood House offers many programs for students to participate in. Some programs are an after-school program and a music kids program where kids learn to play instruments. Some of the athletic programs are boy's and girl's soccer, boy's and girl's basketball, flag and tackle football, and girl's volleyball.

The teachers at NHCS are super skilled at math, ELA, science, and more. For example, if you ask a college math problem to your math teacher they will solve it quickly. Mr. Levine and Ms. MacNamara are important to the NHCS community and to me. These teachers help the fourth grade every day to become professional writers and mathematicians. Mr. Levine and Ms. MacNamara welcomed me and made me feel comfortable as a new student at NHCS.

I also spoke with Ms. Scott.

Why do you think Neighborhood House is such an important place?

I think Neighborhood House is a caring community and helps kids get a great education.

Why did you join the NHCS community?

I joined so I could be a fourth grade teacher.

Why did you decide to be the Executive Director?

I wanted to help NHCS grow and become an amazing K-12 school.

What advice would you give to students?

Be kind, stay curious, take risks, and work hard.

Why did you choose this school out of any other school?

When I walked through the doors of NHCS I could tell it was a loving place full of amazing scholars and fantastic teachers. I didn't have that experience in other places.

...while Violet Updates Us From The Fourth Floor

The 4th grade has finished reading A Long Walk To Water. The book is about Sudan, Salva and Nya.. A Long Walk To Water is two stories that are combined into one. Both stories gave information about life in Sudan and their problems with water sources and wars. The story talks a lot about hope. It told us that when someone tells you that you should "keep going", you should listen to them because you will always get to your destination if you do. Salva's message was to always have hope, so I hope you do, too.

Now we have started learning about Mexico. Fun fact - there are lots of pyramids there. We are reading about Mexico because we started a new book called Esperanza Rising, which takes place in Mexico. I wonder what it's about dont you? Hey, why don't you come see for yourself one day!

Did you know that a lot of the 4th graders have joined a step group? I have heard that it's not boring and has a lot of moving parts. I can't wait to see.

In science we are learning about light waves. Did you know light can travel forever?

The 4th Grade Monthly February Staff

Reporters

Acire, Alex, Eli, Italee, Jadiel C., Jadiel V., Jahelyssa, Jeremiah, Italee, Mahiri, Meghan and Violet

Editor

Mr. Levine with help from Ms. Brophy

Special Guest Contributor

Andrew

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Alex Is A Fact Not Fiction

Did you know Mars has the biggest mountain in the solar system? Mars' biggest Mountain is called Olympus Mons.

Did you know that avocados are a fruit and not a vegetable?

Did you know that flamingos eat with their head upside down?

Did you know that some snails have over 20,000 teeth?

Did you know that Dolphins sleep with one eye open?

Dolphins alternate half of the brain during sleeping. They get rest without losing consciousness. When sleeping dolphins rest motionless on the surface of the water. The opposite eye will be open as the other eye is closed while sleeping. That means dolphins sleep with one eye open. (www.bluewaveadventure.com)



Joke answers: 1. pork chop, 2. I'm eighty, 3. a gummy bear, 4. an im-pasta, 5. He was going through a stage.

