

The District Digest



Volume 2, Issue 6

FEBRUARY 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fort Jackson School Board Meeting

March 1 @ 4:00 pm
CCP

Fort Stewart School Board Meeting

March 22 @ 4:00 pm
KES

Laurel Bay School Board Meeting

March 8 @ 4:00 pm
EES

Bolden Parent Activity:

Bingo for Books
Paris Island Community Center
March 28 @ 6:00 pm

Brittin Parent Activity:

Second Grade Musical
March 5 @ 6:00 pm

Diamond Parent Activity:

Read Across America
Flash Mob
March 7 @ 1:30 pm

Elliott Parent Activity:

Family Night
March 20 @ 6:00 pm

Galer Parent Activity:

MCEC Parent Workshop
Bullying
March 23 @ 8:00 am

Kessler Parent Activity:

MCEC Parent Workshop
Learning Styles
March 9 @ 9:00 am

Pierce Terrace Parent Activity:

PTO Meeting
March 23 @ 2:00

Pinckney Parent Activity:

Patriot of the Month Ceremony
March 30 @ 8:15

The View from Here: Notes from the Superintendent's Desk

February is designated as National African American History Month. Throughout this month, the students in our district have had many opportunities to learn, honor, and celebrate the achievements that black men and women have made throughout history.

As a district, we remain committed to continuous improvement to ensure that we are providing the absolute best service to our military children and families. As parents, you can foster that same motivation and desire in your child to help them perform their very best.

By supporting, reinforcing, and valuing education at home and in school, you play a vital role in our mission of promoting highest student achievement for all students. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education." As your superintendent, it is my sincere belief that by working together as a team, we can reach the goal of providing a true education for the students in the SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District.

Samantha J. Ingram, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Elliot Elementary School Honors Dr. Martin Luther King

Elliott Elementary School's Family Night was a celebration of peace in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. Students listened to stories, role played resolving conflicts, and created badges to wear in support of peace.



DoDEA Proudly Announces the Upcoming Launch of the “My Data Button” Initiative



The “My Data Button” initiative will provide parents with a web-based “button” linked to the Aspen Student Information System Parent Portal by School Year 2012-2013. The portal will provide families with access to their child’s electronic academic records, such as transcripts and student performance data, and will include a simple download capability which provides access to their children’s school information in a user-friendly format that is available any time and any place.

DoDEA hopes that providing parents with this access will allow them to better plan for and manage their children’s educational needs, particularly during transitions. This project is a reflection of our belief that providing parents access to their children’s educational information contributes to better engagement in school matters, and ultimately, better educational outcomes for students.

If you have questions with regard to this initiative, please direct them to the principal at your child’s school.

Children, Poetry and Black History Month: A Perfect Fit

Poetry is a wonderful way experience the joy of reading with children. Whether at home or in the classroom, poems can often teach children to relate to words and feelings more quickly than stories. The rhymes, rhythm and language of poetry are tools that will enhance your child’s reading and writing skills. Black History Month is the perfect opportunity to introduce your child to the world of poetry. Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes and Dorthea Smartt all write both fun and thought provoking poetry for adults and children. *I Love the Look of Words* by Maya Angelou, included below, is just one example of a great poem to share and discuss with children.

I Love the Look of Words

By Maya Angelou

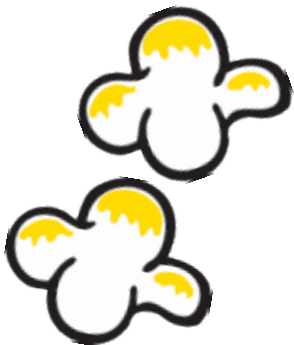
Popcorn leaps, popping from the floor
of a hot black skillet
and into my mouth.
black words leap,
snapping from the white
page. Rushing into my eyes. Sliding
into my brain which gobbles them
the way my tongue and teeth
chomp the buttered popcorn.

When I have stopped reading,
ideas from the words stay stuck
in my mind, like the sweet
smell of butter perfuming my
fingers long after the popcorn
is finished.

I love the book and the look of words
the weight of ideas that popped into my mind
I love the tracks

<http://poetryforchildren.blogspot.com/2007/04/happy-birthday-maya-angelou.html>

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Congratulations, Ms. Lynette Morgan!

The SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District is proud to announce that Ms. Lynette Morgan, the Food Service Manager for the Fort Stewart Schools, has successfully completed requirements for becoming a Certified ServSafe® Instructor and Registered ServSafe® Examination Proctor.



Kessler celebrates Bully– Proofing Our School February 6-23, 2012

While in Ms. Polino's art class, Kessler Elementary School students met each week of February with School Liaison Officer Sergeant Rachel Kovalchik ("Sgt. K") and Counselor Mr. Michael Minutelli. Each week, two traits of the Character Counts program were discussed and related to teaching the children how to prevent bullying. After each discussion, Ms. Polino guided the students in an art activity of personalizing each of the day's character words. These decorated words will become 'bully-proofing quilts' that will hang on the walls of KES for all to see and be reminded of the critical importance of possessing good character in order to prevent bullying.



African American Heroes Representing the United States Army



President Barack H. Obama is our country's first African-American president and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Emily Perez was the first Black/Hispanic woman to serve as Corps Commander Sergeant Major at West Point. She graduated in the top 10 percent of her class. She was the highest-ranking minority woman cadet in the school's history. Prior to shipping out to Iraq with the 204 Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, she even flew cross-country to be a bone marrow donor for a stranger who happened to be a match.



Margaret E. Bailey became the first black nurse promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Army Nurse Corps and would later become the first black colonel.

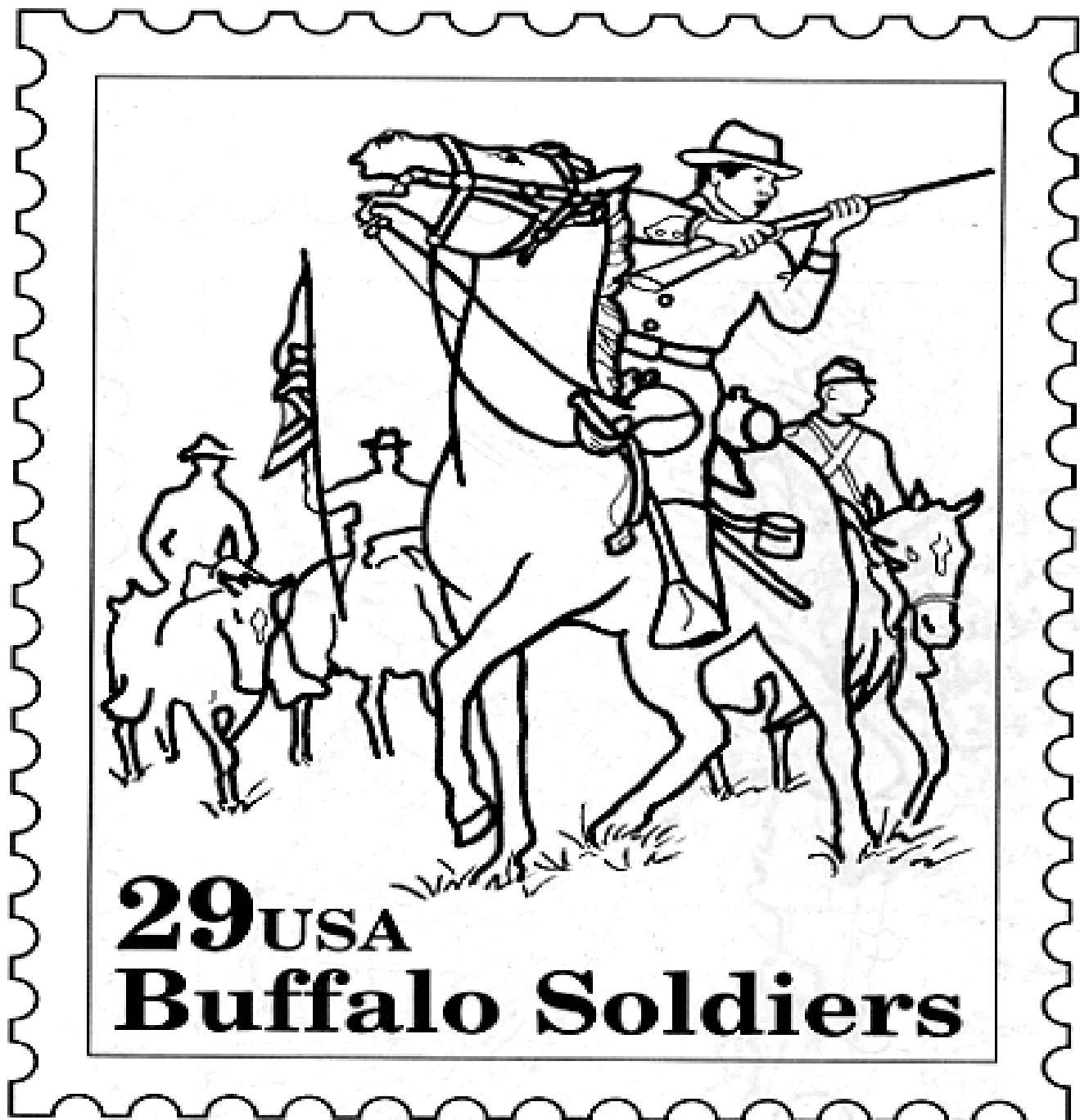
During World War II, the 761st Tank Battalion was integrated with black and white soldiers. The battalion was activated 1 April 1942 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. The most famous member of the 761st was Second Lieutenant Jackie Robinson, who became famous for the desegregation of professional baseball.



Benjamin O. Davis Sr. became the first African American to serve as a general officer in the U.S. Army.

Color the Buffalo Soldiers Stamp.

In 1869-1943, the United States government created four all black military units within the United States Army. They were known as the U.S. Colored Troops or the Buffalo Soldiers. Also, these units served in the Spanish American War and in the World War II. These units are remembered for their legendary courage and valor.



Bolden Elementary Family Math Night was a “Measurable” Success

Bolden Elementary School students and their families recently gathered in the school cafeteria to participate in a Family Math Night. Families were greeted at the door by Principal Wendy Randle and given a raffle ticket and a Tootsie Pop. They were then asked to predict “how many licks it takes to get to the center.” Other activities included Geometry Jeopardy, giving parents an opportunity to see first-hand how SMART technology is being incorporated into the classroom. Families were also invited to participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activity involved construction of the tallest marshmallow and toothpick possible with limited supplies. Other math topics represented in the 19 activity centers included measuring dry ingredients of a recipe to take home and bake, using the 4-Step Problem Solving Strategy to estimate the number of pretzels in a jar and using Geoboards and Protractors to create spider webs with various angle measures. “It was a great chance to have fun with math and your family!” said 4th grader Billy Kohmuench. The event brought out family participants, PTO volunteers, teachers, staff members and middle school students as facilitators. It truly was a community effort to create a successful event!



SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District Prepares to Celebrate Youth Art Month in March

Education in the Arts is more than the creation of products; it is an essential part of educating a child. Research has shown us that the arts help students develop proficiency in critical thinking, problem solving, and aesthetic judgment.

In studying a variety of works, students come to appreciate the efforts of others and value cultural diversity. By providing our young people with meaningful artistic experiences in school, we help them develop a means of healthy self-expression that will serve them throughout their lives.

Here at Ft. Stewart our schools’ efforts to promote literacy include the concept that Literacy is more than merely reading and writing. In today’s world, it must be multisensory. Education in the arts can provide our students with skills needed to make informed decisions and arrive at creative solutions to life situations.

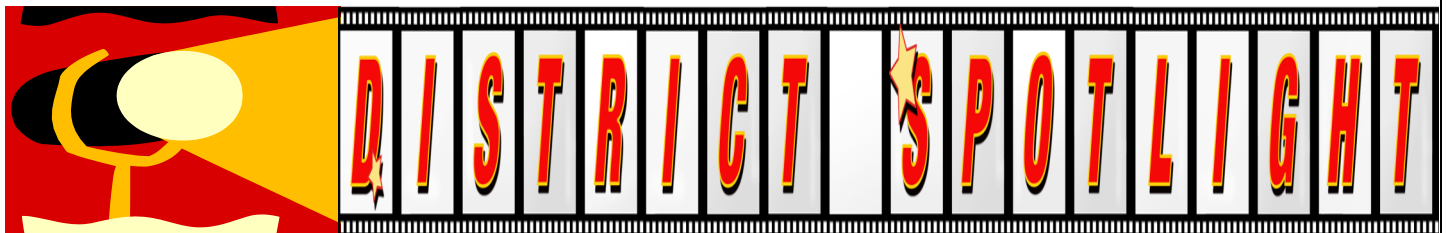
Not limited to only this month, the Arts are an integral part of our students’ classes every day. Creative curricular connections are evident throughout our schools.

Check with your child’s school to find out when the next opportunity will occur for you to see “the Arts in Action” on our campuses.



The following SC/FS/DoDDS Cuba School District staff members have been recognized by their peers during the month of February 2012 for their outstanding commitment to the district and for representing the District's Core Values!

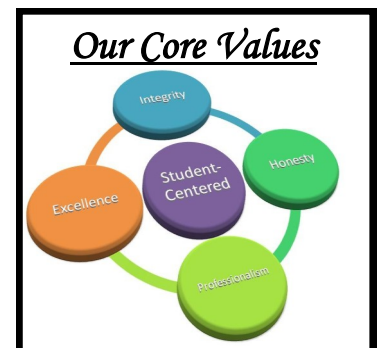
<p>Sherri Edwards Administrative Support Specialist District Superintendent Office</p>	<p>Ms. Edwards exemplifies the core value of professionalism for assisting employees throughout the district with issues related to pay, leave, time, and attendance. She does all this with a smile on her face. Her helpfulness does not go unnoticed!</p>
<p>Lynette Morgan Food Service Manager District Superintendent Office</p>	<p>Ms. Morgan exemplifies the core value of excellence by clearly demonstrating that the education of our students is the responsibility of our entire community. Without being asked, Ms. Morgan supported the development of a math lesson plan by securing several real-world objects so that the learning could come alive for students.</p>
<p>Jerri Rogers Nurse Diamond Elementary School</p>	<p>Ms. Rogers exemplifies the core value of a professionalism on a daily basis as she cares for students at Diamond Elementary School. On February 1, 2012, Nurse Rodgers had two emergencies occur almost simultaneously during the school day. She managed both situations calmly and with great skill. Nurse Rodgers also worked very well with MP's and EMS personnel as they arrived to assist.</p>



Have you seen or interacted with someone in our district who goes above and beyond the call of duty? We would like to recognize these special people in our District Digest each month and celebrate how they are representing our Core Values.

If you have someone who you would like to nominate for our District Spotlight, please submit the following information via email to merilee.cox@am.dodea.edu.

- Name of the employee that you would like to nominate
- Location where the employee works
- At least one example of how this employee demonstrates one of the Core Values of the district (professionalism, excellence, integrity, and honesty)



Please submit your nomination no later than the 15th of each month.