Peace and Blessings from Dr. Mama: Keep Your Eyes On the Prize!

All over the country, people celebrate February as Black History Month. Of course you know we celebrate our heritage every single day of the year. Nevertheless, February remains really special at Sankofa. It is special because we know that half of the year is gone and we have one more half to help the children reach those goals that were fought for so hard in the Civil Rights Movement. It is special because it is during the month of February that we have our staff retreat, where our staff reflect on how to do a better job of staying true to the dreams and sacrifice of our ancestors. It is special because we find ourselves with more opportunities to share with others what we are learning about our history and culture because the rest of the country is more receptive in February. It is special because we get reminded by others how important it is to continue to do what we are trying to do, which is empower the next generation to continue the legacy of those who came before us.

This February, 2015, let us celebrate our great history of love, struggle, and resilience by making sure we stay focused on accomplishing our goals as an educational family. My favorite Civil Rights DVD is “Eyes on the Prize”. If you have seen Selma but haven’t seen Eyes on the Prize, then you should take some time to see this wonderful documentary series. In the title alone we are reminded of how important it is to not lose sight of our goals. Our goal at Sankofa is to make sure that your child is able to read, write, think, and speak for themselves in the Spirit of Kujichagulia and based on the example of people like Fannie Lou Hamer, Kwame Ture, Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells.

Our goal at Sankofa is to make sure that our students come to love knowledge and will thirst for it in the Spirit of Nia and based on the example of people like W.E.B. Du Bois, Carter G. Woodson, John Henrik Clarke, Anna Julia Cooper, Sadie Alexander, and Ella Baker.

Our goal at Sankofa is to make sure that our students come to believe that they are their brothers and sisters keepers and must try always to make the world a better place in the Spirit of Ujima and based on the example of people like Mary church Terrell, Mary McLeod Bethune, Howard Thurman, Daisy Bates, Frances E. W. Harper and of course Dr. Martin Luther King.

This February, Let’s make sure we honor our history by making a commitment to staying focused on our goals of helping ourselves and our children be successful. Let’s start with little things like making sure homework is done every night, that elders in our families are respected, and the young among us are lovingly nurtured. Let’s keep our eyes on the prize of preparing our children to build a better world. Happy Black History Month!

Sankofa: Read, Read, Read, Read, Read!!!!!!

The best way for us to help our children achieve their goals is to encourage them to READ, READ, READ, READ, READ. If we want to produce readers we must become readers ourselves. Please make sure that your children have lots of materials to read that are on their instructional level. Please cut off the television and the video games and create quiet time for your scholar to read. Please find ways to either read to your scholar or if your child is in high school, purchase the novel they are reading and read it with them so you can engage them in conversation. Most importantly, find a book that you are really into reading and show your children how very important reading is to you. If we want our FREEDOM we have to get our READ-ON! Join the Sankofa Reading Campaign. Be on the lookout for more information about how you can be a part of some of the activities that are being planned by our unit leaders.
A Glimpse into Servant Leadership

MLK Day 2015 a day of service at SFA

The wise elder, Shirley Chisholm, is quoted as saying “Service is the rent that we pay for living on earth”, and on January 19th, the Servant leaders, facilitators, friends and administrators of Sankofa made a payment of service. From the main campus on Paul Street to the Annex on Penn Street, the dream of Dr. King was evident. The day began with the 29th Annual MLK Day Breakfast, which is organized by the Frankford Coalition of Neighbors, and ended with the Black Activism 2015 Civil Rights Teach-Ins, organized by PCOL. One of the highlights of the day was the Ujima Drive, which was hosted by the Sankofa students in Nubia II and Kemet II, but supported by the students of the Dagara Nation. The Ujima drive was a service project to benefit the Center for Returning Citizen. The servant leaders collected business attire, clothes and non-perishable food items for those in need. It was a great day at Sankofa and it’s only the beginning. From the Ujima drive, the servant leaders are preparing to organize a food pantry for those in need and it’s not too late to make a donation!!
Nubia 2 Visits
The African American History Museum

During the months of December and January, the 10th grade Nubia 2 scholars were engaged in the reading of the book, *Somebody Knows my Name*, by Lawrence Hill. Through the reading of this text, scholars were engaged in activities and discussions revolving around the enslavement of Africans in American history. Within this unit, scholars read the aforementioned text, which describes the journey of an African woman that is stolen from her home in West Africa and experiences the horrors of the slave trade, also known as the "Maafa", meaning Great Disaster. On December 15th, 10th grade scholars made a visit to the African American History Museum to view an exhibit entitled "Cash Crop". Experiencing this visit, scholars were able to make connections with the abolitionists of Philadelphia, by recording and taking notes as they visited the Audacious Freedom exhibit first. However, as we traveled through the museum to view the featured exhibit of "Cash Crop", it was clear that this exhibit would make a lasting impression upon the scholars in attendance. The young artist, Stephen Hayes, created this exhibit as his Master’s Thesis at the Savannah School of the Arts and Design. The basis of the exhibit is an authentic life size homage to our ancestors that survived the middle passage. Using his craft as a welder and designer, this young artist created life size body art molds of the human body, symbolically connecting them to slave ships and, essentially, made a direct connection to our ancestors’ work as enslaved plantation workers to the “cash crop” of human labor and "slave labor", on which the American prison system is based. This off site learning experience made direct connections to our high school SBA to Heka project, which will investigate the impact of the prison system upon the health and wellness of our communities today.

*Left and Top Left:* The core sculptures in the exhibit are inspired by the infamous diagram of The Brooks Slave Ship.

*Top Center:* The cornerstone of the exhibition is a life sized installation, comprised of 15 chained forms that represent the 15 million men, women and children who endured the Middle Passage.

*Top Right:* Student, Velyneda Prunier, silently reflects on the pain endured by our ancestors.
Sankofa FACS and Carson Valley Children’s Aid have partnered for several years to provide an after school and summer program for the middle school students. The 21st Century program provides academic support and enrichment opportunities during after school (3 p.m.-6 p.m.) and summer hours (8 a.m.-3 p.m.). The mission of the 21st Century after school program at Sankofa FACS is to introduce and promote educational and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) enrichment activities through hands-on experiences and projects.

To increase students interest in STEM related careers, our 21st Century program invited Dr. Darryl Lee Baynes of Interactive Science Programs to present his all-star "Science Connections" presentation. Dr. Baynes held the students’ attention from beginning to end with his awesome mix of experiments that captivated their minds. From the movement of gases and their densities to learning about the triangle of fire, we hope the students will be inspired to pursue careers beyond their wildest imagination. We hope to have Dr. Baynes visit us again and encourage our youth to explore careers in science and math! Dr. Baynes ended by reminding us that careers in science & math=Money in the Future! We look forward to your child joining our afterschool program.

Call Iaisha Thomas @ 215-225-2649 x:131 for questions about enrollment.

STEMcerely,

Iaisha Thomas, Program Coordinator
Young scientists learn about different ecosystems and challenge you to:

NAME THAT BIOME!

**Freedom**

Freedom Freedom Freedom
Where is Freedom?
What is freedom?
Freedom for me
Freedom for you
Freedom for me is to believe
and let everything express me
I'm a dream chaser
Chasing chasing my dreams
that's free for me
By Ayana Whiten

Freedom is to be free
People to this day treat us like slaves
but that's not good to you and me
I wish they can see what we feel
it's so much
that we have to heal
By Jaidah Peterson

This is the largest biome, made of saltwater, and only 10% has been explored by humans.
A._____________________________ This biome has lots of trees, has 4 seasons and the temperature is moderate.
B._____________________________

It rains a lot in this biome and over 80% of the world's biodiversity is found there.
C._____________________________ This biome is cold and has a short growing season
D._____________________________
Thank you for visiting KINDER CORNER!

The Yoruba Garden scholars used Ujima to Count by fives (Issoumali Silla, Skyla-Rae Joyner, Kimya Hawkins, and Yasiyah Yisrael).

In science, the Yoruba Nation learned about the "Stages of a Butterfly" and then used their Kuumba to create a model.

K-2

The Yoruba Nation is celebrating and learning about "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." by recording a fact about his life and creating his portrait.
Greetings SFA Family!

WELCOME TO THE READING CORNER!

Note

I am so excited to work with the entire Sankofa village to promote literacy! They ask you to sign off their daily reading log. You ask, “What do you read?”

The students tell you the wrong answer! They don’t know the right questions to ask to assess their understanding of the text. Now you have insight into how you can help your child, and can tell them to answer the question, it is probably because they did not understand what they read. Now you have insight into how you can help your child, and can tell them to go back and reread!

As busy parents, it is very difficult to read every story, even if your child has fines, please fill out the application! Children materials no longer carry a fine. Just return what you have, let us know! The scholars have spoken! The lower school would like to recognize the first ever, student selected, teacher of the month. Every student from kindergarten to fourth grade voted, and our winner is...Brother Ayinde. He is a charismatic, and caring facilitator. This brother does anything that is asked of him. Brother Ayinde is a wonderful and reliant member of the lower school. He is one of pieces that makes the lower school run smoothly. We appreciate you!

-Brother Maurice

**Lower School Students of the Month**

K1 Jermani Burroughs
K2 Janiyah Apollon
1A Jadan Steedley
1B Sydney Campbell
2A Taylor Stith
2A Samba Gakou
2B Donraye Francis
2B London Williams
3A Vaughn Fleming
3B Jazmyn Simpson
4A Isaiah Copeland
4B Shaidiya Giddings
4C Aries Coles

Sis Dasha- Ivori Douglas
Bro Ayinde- London Williams
Mekhi Millien
Bro Greg- Brianna Mitchell
Bro Maurice- Tristan Lee

**Lower School Leader**

I want to recognize the lower school leader, Tristan Lee. This brother has grown tremendously since he first started at Sankofa. He has matured as a young man and as a scholar. He can be counted on to be an example to his peers and role model to younger students. I appreciate who he has become, and the wonderful things he brings to Sankofa.

-Brother Maurice

**Teacher of the Month**

The scholars have spoken! The lower school would like to recognize the first ever, student selected, teacher of the month. Every student from kindergarten to fourth grade voted, and our winner is...Brother Ayinde. He is a charismatic, and caring facilitator. This brother does anything that is asked of him. Brother Ayinde is a wonderful and reliant member of the lower school. He is one of pieces that makes the lower school run smoothly. We appreciate you!

-Brother Maurice
I Have a Recognition!

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU and congratulations to those students who have been consistently Reading. The following students have reached 100% of their Accelerated Reading Goals for 2nd marking period!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4A</th>
<th>3B</th>
<th>2b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okeem Stallings</td>
<td>Jazmyn Simpson</td>
<td>Tavion Dennisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mecca Girdy</td>
<td>Zahiya Smith</td>
<td>Naji Bey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iyanna Price</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dasha Apollon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makiy Trader</td>
<td></td>
<td>George Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Bowens</td>
<td>Donraye Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chrston Brown</td>
<td>Nathanael Pascal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Creating a Legend!

This month, both Fourth Grade classes studied the history of Legends through the eyes of Native Americans. A legend is a tale that attempts to explain how something in nature came to be. Here are some legends created by 4a scholars:

How Stars Came To Be in the Sky

One night, a slave was running on a journey to freedom. All of a sudden the slave found a bag. When she opened the bag, sparkles scattered out of it. Each one turned white and slowly formed into the shape of a star. The woman hopped the brightest star. A big wind came and blew her and all the other stars up high...into the sky! There she rode the north star to freedom. Ever since, the sky has been filled with bright stars.

-By Kaleah Peterson 4A

Top Pick for 4th grade Reading......

“SeedFolks”

The book “SeedFolks” focuses on the building of unity between the main character, Kim, and the neighborhood folks. Until Kim started to take an interest in the lot, it was vacant and filled with garbage and rats. There was a woman name Ana who was very nosey. She saw Kim planting Lima Beans and took an interest too. Anna told others, including her friend Wendell. Wendell was a man who thought there was not a lot in his life he could change, but he could change his life by working in the garden. Once everyone in the neighborhood used Umjoa and Ujima, they were able to make a change for their community.

- By Ryan Johnson 4A
WELCOME TO THE READING CORNER!

SPOTLIGHT ON INFORMATIONAL TEXT

With recent shifts in the Common Core and the adoption of these standards to form the PA Core Standards, it has become increasingly important that our scholars build their capacity to read and understand Informational Text (also known as Nonfiction). One of the tenants of the Common Core is that we prepare students for college. Most of the material that is read in college falls under the informational text category. Most home and classroom libraries are filled with books that fall into the fiction category, such as fairy tales, myths, legends, realistic fiction, etc. Thus, it is now time for us to turn our attention to the reading of text that provides us with information! On this page, you will find some helpful tips and a graphic organizer that can be used at home to help your scholar comprehend informational text.

**Tips for Reading Informational Text**

**Before Reading Strategies**

- Think about what you already know on this topic
- Preview the text before reading. Look at illustrations, charts, headings, and bold words
- Think of questions about the topic

**During Reading Strategies**

- While reading, think about what is important
- Read ALL charts, maps, graphs, and illustrations
- When you find challenging words, use what you know about reading:
  - Use the pictures
  - Ask yourself, “Does that make sense?”
  - Chunk the word.
- Make connections while reading
- When you don’t understand, stop and reread.

**After Reading Strategies**

- Think about what you have read, and ask yourself:
  - What was most important?
  - Were there any confusing areas you should re read?
  - Are there any parts of the test you should mark as being important?


Submission by: Sis. Katina Mackey-Green, Reading Specialist
The lower school parents’ meeting on November 12 was a success! We enjoyed a very informative financial presentation by Sis. Aisha Blackshear, and Sis. Katherine Chappelle informed us about some helpful resources available at The Free Library of Philadelphia. Baba Ras Angola was also available to address questions about our Special Ed. Program. Parents and students enjoyed a pizza dinner, and four lucky parents went home with Shop Rite gift cards. The Wazuri officer elections will be rescheduled for a future meeting. Please check the school announcements, and the Sankofa Parents Facebook page for updates.

We would love for more of our parents to take advantage of everything that is offered at the monthly Meetings. Mark your calendar for the Kwanzaa Extravangazaa, which will take place on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at the Sankofa Annex. You don’t want to miss this event!

KULU MELE  AFRICAN DANCE

I learned the Cinte dance, which is from Guinea, West Africa. Cinte is a woman celebration dance. I loved learning about African culture. Each of the dance motions had different meanings. It was kind of hard to learn the dance, but our teachers, Mama Ama and Baba Omar came every Monday to teach us. The beat was easy, but sticking to it was hard. I felt happy when we performed. I think our classmates liked it because everyone cheered for us!

By Nykyah Watson

HIP HOP DANCE AND KULU MELE

I felt like I had butterflies in my stomach when it was time to perform. When Brother Kenny taught us how to perform, he taught us with good spirit. Its good to express yourself and you don’t have to worry what other people think.

By Benjamin Reid
Parents’ Corner

Family Events you Don’t Want to Miss!!

Gymnasium of the Community College of Philadelphia
17th & Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA.

The event is free and opened to the public.

Authors and illustrators will make presentations from their books; also games, prizes, promotional give-aways and reading resources will be available. A wide selection of African American books to purchase will be featured at the event.

For more information call (215) 878-BOOK

The Philadelphia Museum of Art

Represent:
200 Years of African American Art
January 10, 2015 - April 5, 2015
Explore the creative achievements of African American artists and examine the expression of personal and collective identities in a nation marked by a history of racial inequality.

African American Museum

As We See It:
Selected Works from the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art.

On Display:
Feb. 5, 2015 - March 21, 2015

Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School is a college preparatory community based freedom school that strives to increase literacy and numeracy levels throughout the community, promote respect for scholarship, servant leadership, conflict resolution, personal, social, and environmental responsibility.

Sankofa Freedom Academy offers rolling admission for Philadelphia students in grades K-12.

STILL in need of Volunteers

Parent volunteers are needed. If you would like to help sell pretzels sponsor Pretzel Friday, please contact Sister Dione at the Main Building.

The next Wazuri meeting will take place on February 10th @ 6:00 p.m.
Building Intergenerational Communities of Scholarship, Culture, and Activism

Upcoming Events: Calendar

Feb. 10 Parents' Home & School Meeting—6:00 p.m.  
Feb. 11 100th Day of School Celebration  
Feb. 12-13 School Closed –Staff Development Retreat  
Feb. 16 School Closed –Presidents’ Day  
Feb. 18 Early Dismissal—1:00 p.m.  
Feb. 18 Report Card Conferences 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Feb. 19 Report Card Conferences 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 27 Black History Month Door Decorating Contest and Class Presentations (Lower School)

Sankofa Freedom Academy Board of Trustees Meetings 2014—2015

Board Meetings are held every third Monday at 6:00 pm. Meeting dates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February, 2014</th>
<th>March, 2015</th>
<th>April, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>July 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ashe’ - Spotlight on Frances E.W. Harper

Poet and orator, Frances E.W. Harper, the child of two free black parents, publicly advocated for abolition and education through speeches and publications.

Synopsis

Frances E.W. Harper was born in 1825 in Baltimore, Maryland. She was able to attend school as the daughter of free black parents. Her first poem collection, Forest Leaves, was published around 1845. The delivery of her public speech, “Education and the Elevation of the Colored Race,” resulted in a two-year lecture tour for the Anti-Slavery Society. She died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1911.

Early Life

Born Frances Ellen Watkins on September 24, 1825, in Baltimore, Maryland, Frances E.W. Harper was a leading African-American poet and writer. She was also an ardent activist in the abolitionist and women’s rights movements. After losing her mother at a young age, Harper was raised by an aunt. She also attended a school for African-American children run by her uncle, Reverend William Watkins.

Bright and talented, Harper started writing poetry in her youth. She kept on writing while working for a Quaker family after finishing school. In 1845, Harper published her first collection of poetry, titled Forest Leaves. She moved to Ohio five years later to teach domestic skills, such as sewing, at Union Seminary. The school was run by leading abolitionist John Brown. Harper became dedicated to the abolitionist cause a few years later after her home state of Maryland passed a fugitive slave law. This law allowed even free blacks, such as Harper, to be arrested and sold into slavery.

Writer and Activist

In 1854, Harper published Poems of Miscellaneous Subjects, which featured one of her most famous works, "Bury Me in a Free Land." She also became an in-demand lecturer on behalf of the abolitionist movement, appearing with the likes of Frederick Douglass, William Garrison, Lucretia Mott and Lucy Stone.

Harper made literary history in 1859 with the publication of "Two Offers." With this work, she became the first African-American female writer to publish a short story. The following year, she married Fenton Harper, who had several children from a previous marriage. Harper retreated from public life, choosing to live with her husband and children in Ohio. In 1862, she gave birth to a daughter, Mary.

In 1864, Harper returned to the lecture circuit after the death of her husband. She also produced several long-form poems a short while later, including Moses: A Story of the Nile (1869) and Sketches of Southern Life (1872), which explored her experiences during the reconstruction.

Harper published her most famous novel Iola Leroy in 1892. Four years later, she cofounded the National Association of Colored Women with Ida Wells-Barnett, Harriet Tubman and several others. The organization sought to improve the lives and advance the rights of African-American women.