



JFK Weekly Newsletter

Friday, February 2, 2024 Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

February is Black History Month

Carter G. Woodson was a prominent historian, author of several notable books on Black Americans, teacher, and school principal. He was the second Black American to obtain a PH. D. from Harvard, after which he joined the faculty at Howard University and eventually became the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences there.

He was dedicated to celebrating the historic contributions of Black people and his work led to the creation of Black History Month. It started as a single week in 1926. Dr. Woodson chose the second week in February in 1926 to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The week progressed into Black History month in 1976.

If you are wondering how you can engage your students during Black History Month, here are some ideas:

1. Read books about Black history and culture

There are many books that highlight Black main characters or share the stories of famous figures in American history. Some examples include:

- [“African Proverbs for All Ages”](#) by Johnnetta Betsch Cole; illustrated by Nelda LaTeef (Ages 4-8).
- [“My Hair My Crown”](#) board book by Tonya Abari; illustrated by [Tabitha Brown](#) (Ages 0-5 years).
- [“28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World”](#) by Charles R. Smith Jr. Illustrated by Shawn E. Evans (Ages 6-10).
- [“What the Road Said”](#) by Cleo Wade; illustrated by Lucie de Moyencourt (Ages 6-10).
- [“Rosa”](#) by Nikki Giovanni; illustrated by Bryan Collier (Ages 4-8).
- [“The Awakening of Malcolm X”](#) by Ilyasah Shabazz and Tiffany D. Jackson (Ages 12-18).

2. Watch a movie about real Black lives and achievements

- [“March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World”](#) (Ages 4+) A story that shares Martin Luther King Jr.’s March on Washington for equal citizenship rights.
- [“The Journey of Henry Box Brown”](#) (Ages 5+) The true story of a former slave who mailed himself in a box for a chance for freedom.

- **“Ruby Bridges”** (Ages 8+) The story of a 6-year-old girl, who was amongst the first to integrate a public school.
- **“Hidden Figures”** (Ages 10+) The story of the Black women mathematicians who contributed to NASA space missions. 3. Imitate the style of a famous African American artist

3. Create a multi-sensory project to honor inventor Garrett Morgan

Even very young children recognize the three colors of a traffic light, but many don't know much about the African American man behind the invention. TikTok influencer mom [Celena Kinsey](#) used rice, food coloring and hand sanitizer to create a multisensory project for her toddler to honor [Garrett Morgan](#) and his invention of the traffic light. You can try this at home too.

4. Piece together a puzzle

[Puzzles of Color](#) feature the work of living African American artists to promote interactive artmaking for children and families and support Black visual artists. We have some of these puzzles in classrooms and they are stunning.

Where to buy: [Puzzles of Color “Dream of Venus in Spring II” Puzzle + Magic Mug Gift Set](#) (\$38, [PuzzlesofColor.com](#))

5. Take a Virtual Field Trip

- [Virtual Harlem](#) – Explore New York City's Harlem during the days of the Harlem Renaissance with a virtual look at the Jazz Age. This free field trip includes famous musicians like Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday, as well as a host of different Black painters and sculptors.
- [Slavery and Making of America Museum](#) – This is a virtual museum created with donations from a number of members of the Association of African-American Museums. The free “field trip” includes resources for kids to make their own virtual museum exhibits.
- New York Public Library – One of America's biggest libraries offers virtual exhibits from the [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#) in Harlem. They are free to browse and introduce kids to historic figures from Nat Turner to Emmett Till.

6. Read books aloud that feature Black Protagonists

- [I Am Enough by Grace Byers](#) – This beautiful story from Grace Byers is all about loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to each other.
- [Skin Like Mine by Latashia M. Perry](#) – Latashia gives us a heartfelt story about appreciating everyone regardless of their skin color. This is a lighthearted way of breaking down the barrier when talking about different skin tones and loving the body you were given!
- [Teammates by Peter Golenbock](#) – Peter Golenbock brings us the moving story about Jackie Robinson and part of his journey on becoming the first Black Major League baseball player.
- [The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson](#) – Jacqueline tells us a story of two young girls – one black and one white – who, despite the barrier of a fence and the ‘grown-ups’, manage to develop a strong friendship.

Big Change Round Up

Here are the current standing for our Big Change Roundup contest. Keep sending in that change!



6th Place



4th Place

Trolls School Tour - Angela Moulton, Casey Hogan, Stephanie Beland, Andrew Schlatter, Lisa Niquette, Mia Kosel, Jess Smith, Conor Macias, Erin Hurley
Total Raised: \$7.08



3rd Place

Bluey - Lisa Bushey, Caroline Bell, Jess Riley, Courtney Bryan, Sarah Forbes, Emma Walsh, Amanda Rosselli
Total Raised: \$63.41

5th Place
The Mystery Inc. Gang - Savanna Bechard, Peter Lindholm, Max Mirabile, Amanda Babcock, Grace Holcomb, Sarah Murphy, Adriana Roehmholdt

Total Raised: \$9.03

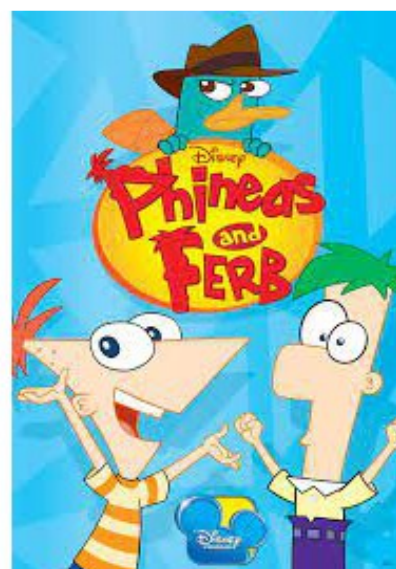


2nd Place

The Gamers - Mary Carleton, Tiffany Demore, Kari Bohlen, Bev Couture, Alexa Pughe, Rebecca Viens, Elizabeth Wood, Alyssa Crow
Total Raised: \$97.29

4th Grade Flying Wizards - Brian Beadle, Meghan Dieterle, Pirawan Ratanapratum, Kim Hirshberg, Amy Racicot, Jesse Halverson, Lisa Goodrich, and Anne Dinklage

Total Raised: \$29.51



1st Place

Phineas and Ferb - Kendra Spector and Jesse Halverson
Total Raised: \$97.41

Calendar

Friday, February 2, 2024

Veggie Van Go

Friday, February 16, 2024

Veggie Van Go

February 22 & 23, 2024

11:00 Early Release for all students

MHS Parent Teacher Conferences

February 26 - March 5, 2024

No School

March 8, 2024

Report Cards sent home

March 14, 2024

12:15 Early Release for all students

JFK Elementary



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