

FOREST FORUM 3/4/10

Black History Month...

Black History Month was celebrated here at Forest Road throughout the month of February, a time of year when we shine a particular light on the important contributions and achievements of Black Americans. These celebrations, as well as the ongoing incorporation of diversity in our curriculum areas throughout the school year, support our student's understanding of the diverse world in which we live. Some of the teaching highlights focusing in on this important topic included a Unit of Study of Langston Hughes by Mr. Lesser's class and Read Alouds featuring inspirational African American Olympians such as Wilma Rudolph and Jesse Owens in our Fifth Grade classes. Ms. Blankshine's class listened to a story about Jackie Robinson via the computer and then participated in an interactive Whiteboard activity culminating in the creation of class essays. Our Kindergarten teachers took the opportunity to combine classes to discuss the influence of several Black Americans who have helped our world become a better place. Multiple literary choices were presented and the children worked in partnerships to write about what they had learned. These are just a few of the meaningful experiences that occurred and we expect to have activities continuing into the month of March, as February was an abbreviated month. We also look forward to giving you a recap of learning activities at the end of March as they relate to Women's History Month.

News From the Music Room

Good news to share—The 5th grade "Constitution Rap" and the 6th grade "Egypt Rap" projects have been posted on www.kistermusic.com. Take a listen to how the students interpreted a text I gave them to make their own original raps! Feel free to leave us a comment if you like what you hear, just make sure to leave your name in the "Comments" box on the website. Many more projects are currently under way and we'll make sure to let you know when they are finished and posted! Enjoy our creations! - Emilia Kister

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was Ms. Lopera's class, not Ms. Spina's, who participated in the 100th Day Parade. My apologies!!

BLT Update

One issue the BLT is charged with is addressing issues regarding the safety of our children. Many complaints have been coming in due to the consistent lack of caution demonstrated on Jasmine Lane during arrival and drop-off. As of this week, the **NO PARKING** signs have been installed and as soon as weather permits, the yellow paint will be extended as an additional cue to drivers as to parking regulations. You **MAY NOT** use Jasmine on the school side of the street as a parking spot. If you wish to escort your child to the door or remain in the playground area, please park on the far side of Jasmine (away from the school) or after the No Parking signs. Please be aware that this is no longer a request from the school, it is now a Town of Hempstead traffic regulation and a violation of this regulation carries a fine. Additionally, **NO U TURN** signs are posted on both Jasmine Lane and Forest Road. Unfortunately, many drivers have not been adhering to this traffic rule and we have had a few instances of near miss traffic accidents. It is of the utmost importance that you work with us in rectifying this situation. So to recap...

- Other than for early morning clubs, all students are to enter the building through the playground doors, not the Forest Road entrance.
- No Parking rules from the Town of Hempstead are in effect on Jasmine Lane and must be strictly followed to alleviate traffic congestion and ensure safety.
- No U Turns are permitted on Forest Road or Jasmine Lane. Doing so is illegal and causes potentially dangerous situations.

Thank you to Councilman Darcy's office for their assistance in creating a safer environment for our children.