

Upcoming Events

Professional Development	Feb. 18
Spring Break	Mar. 25 – 29

Martha Gaskins Mission Statement

The mission of Martha Gaskins Middle School is to provide a learning environment in which students are motivated both academically and socially to become model citizens prepared to compete in a global community.

The Titan Times

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2013

Martha Gaskins' Reading Fair

By Te'Yvion Powell, Cameron Kinnion, Kaylin Roscoe, and Keiuna Ford

For Te'Yvion Powell, the Reading Fair experience at Martha Gaskins Middle School was fun and educational. "Winning first place in the Reading Fair was exciting! I was astonished when they called my name. I did my project on the book, The Mission From Mount Yoda. It was

written by Paul and Hollace Davids, who are brothers. The book was about a group of people that wanted to keep an alien's planet from being destroyed. The main characters were Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and Grand Moff Hissa. I really enjoyed participating in the Reading Fair."

Cameron Kinnion went on to explain his experience: "My project was very fun to do. I also got a little help from dad. The book I did for my project was a very good book called Basketball's Greatest Dynasties: The Lakers. It was written by Jack Clary."

Cameron went on to say, "My dad and I had to cut wood out for the basketball goals used on my project board. After I set up the artifact for my project, I put all the other infor-



Students display their projects for the Martha Gaskins' Reading Fair.

mation on the board to complete everything. Overall, I had a lot of fun while working hard. When I heard them call my name, I was very happy because I got first place for my grade level."

Kaylin Roscoe, the first place winner for 8th grade told about her experience with the Reading Fair. "When it was announced that the Reading Fair was coming up, I was very excited! I chose to read the book Notes From a Liar and Her Dog by Gennifer Choldenko. The book was mainly about a girl named Antonia MacPherson who struggles with lying and with her parents not trusting her. Her sisters, Elizabeth and Kate, are very rude to her, too."

"The climax of the story was

when Antonia took her dog, Pistachio, to the zoo when she was not supposed to be at the zoo. Pistachio got away from Antonia and ended up in the lion's cage!" Kaylin described.

Keiuna Ford went on to describe her experience with the Reading Fair. "The Dark Hills

Divide by Patrick Carmen was about a girl named Alexa coming to live with her father for the summer. She really does not want to go, but she has no choice because her mother and father are divorced. She does not have any friends where her father lives until she meets Warvold. A week after meeting Warvold, he dies unexpectedly. Soon after Warvold's death, Alexa meets Grayson at the local library. She visits him often and meets a man named Pervis Kotcher, who ends up not being what he seems."

"This book taught me that everyone cannot be trusted. It was a great mystery, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in that type of book."

Learning About the Tuskegee Airmen

by Lawrence Gunn, Alexis O'Hara, and Tori Tookes

On January 25, 2013, the Boys' and Girls' Mentoring Groups took a field trip to Moton Field in Tuskegee, Alabama to visit the place the Tuskegee Airmen trained to fight during World War II. During the time they visited, the students toured the grounds, read about the methods used to train the pilots, and see the actual equipment used during training sessions. Several students expressed their excitement at being able to visit a place with such historical importance.

When speaking on his experience, Lawrence Gunn said, "The field trip to Tuskegee was amazing! We had so much fun! We got to learn about all new things about the Tuskegee Airmen from the pre-training to the actual fighting that took place. They did things in World War II that no other black men were doing. Because of their bravery in the air and on the ground, they left an outstanding legacy."

Lawrence went on to say, "On the way there and back, we saw several colleges. We saw Alabama State University (ASU), which is Dr. Carpenter's alma mater, Tuskegee University, and Montevallo. This experience was so great!"

Alexis O'Hara talked about what she learned on the field trip. "I learned a lot about the Tuskegee Airmen on this field trip. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces. They fought bravely during World War II against Germany. The Tuskegee Airmen were also known as 'Red Tails' or 'Red-Tail Angels.' I learned that all African American pilots had to train at Tuskegee, here in Alabama."

Alexis continued, "I had a great time on the field trip and learned a lot

of new things. If we were to go again, I would most definitely go. I highly recommend this experience to anyone who wants to learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen."

"The field trip was fun!" expressed Tori Tookes. "I learned a lot about the Tuskegee Airmen. I learned that two of the airmen are still alive today. We were shown how parachutes were folded before the pilots took a flight. We also saw their supply room, business

room, and tea room, where they ate most of their meals. We also got to see two of the planes that flew! One of them was small. We learned that Tuskegee was very important because it was the only place that black people could train to fly. This

trip was great and very educational."

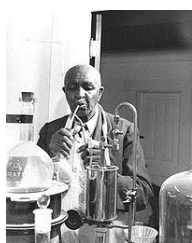


Eight Tuskegee Airmen in front of a P-40 fighter aircraft

George Washington Carver

By Mrs. Corrie Weiss

George Washington Carver was an African American scientist who helped many farmers through his hard work



Carver in his lab.

and research. Born into slavery in 1864 or 1865, Carver grew up in and around the state of Kansas. He received his early education from his former owners, who taught him how to read and write. When George grew older, he decided to go to a black school about 10 miles away from the

town he lived in so he could further his education.

After earning his diploma at Minneapolis High School in Minneapolis, Kansas, George went on to attend college at Iowa State Agricultural College in Ames, Iowa. There, he earned a B.S. and a master's degree in Botany. While earning his degrees, George began to get recognition for his research in botany.

Just before the turn of the 20th century, Carver was offered a teaching position at Tuskegee Institute. It was here that much of his research for agriculture and various crops was done. In

the south, many farmers grew cotton as their only cash crop. Because cotton had been planted for many years, many farmers had depleted cotton crops since the nitrogen in the soil had been depleted from so many repeated plantings. Carver taught many of the farmers about crop rotation so that the nitrogen that is so vital for cotton growth would be replenished by growing other plants. These plants, such as peanuts and sweet potatoes, were used as cash crops.

Even after all these years, it is still evident the importance of George Washington Carver's work. Without his research, many farmers would not have survived.