

# Bennie Dover Jackson

## Middle School

JUNE 2008

### PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

As the year winds down and thoughts turn to summer fun I would like to remind you of your time here at BDJMS. The year has gone quickly with many changes along the way. Students and staff have grown and developed skills that will enhance their future. Everyone has a memory from Kindergarten and now they will have a memory from middle school.

I encourage you to continue to strive for academic success. Read often, write daily and inquire about the unknown. The growth that you have made this year will pale in comparison to all that the future will hold. Please keep in touch with the staff and we hope to read great things about you in the future. Remember that all that is important in life you learned here at BDJMS.

Mrs. Wilson, Principal

### SCHOOL WIDE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

School Wide Students of the month:

January-6th grade-**Trevor Chapman** and **Joel Rodriguez**, 7th grade-**Anthony Hamlin**, 8th grade-**Akta Patel**

February-6th grade-**Jake Sherman-Watson**, 7th grade-**Liam Greene**, 8th grade-**Jasmine Snell**

March-6th grade-**Elissa Lantigua** and **Adbel Rodriguez**, 7th grade-**Thaidisbeth Lopez**, 8th grade-**Jaecer Mendoza**

April-6th grade-**Shalaya Johnson**, 7th grade-**Ideizha Johnson**, 8th grade-**Ava McPhail**

May-6th grade-**Nathanial Rios**, 7th grade-**Sebastian Alonso**, 8th grade-**Randy Polanco**

June-6th grade-**Chayanne Carrisquillo** and **Brandon Mateo**, 7th grade-**Ronnie Rogers**, 8th grade-**Michael Torres**

### GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Green Team recently adopted a Panda for Earth Day and attended the Science Expo in Hartford which included interactive activities and dozens of tables with different activities for the students. The Green Team Students of the Month for April were **Connor Donley**, **Eric Leuze** and **Mackenzie Viveiros**.

In social studies students finished a unit on the "Constitution and Government of the United States", which included an in depth analysis of the Constitution and an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens. The next unit was "Expansion and Division of the United States". Students created Lewis and Clarke Exploration journals, wrote persuasive essays about going on the Oregon Trail and completed several activities which incorporated the use of primary sources and document analysis.

Several students went to the state Science Fair and they included **Anyssa Dhaouadi**, **Yanashley Bures** and **Franchesca Alcantara**. Student recently completed their Famous Scientist reports and worked side by side with language arts to complete some concrete poems. Students also learned about bones and joints and completed a working joint model as the final project.

In Mrs. Brown's class, students are writing poems and creating a poem book.

In language arts students have been working on concrete poems and recently watch the movie "An Inconvenient Truth", which went along with a unit on Earth Awareness.

Math students designed and created scale models of their room at home, practiced budgeting and writing checks, and worked hard to understand deduction; all of which are very practical applications of math.

**Wishing you a safe summer!!**

Parents: We are collecting Box Tops for Education which you find on cereal boxes, snack bars, etc. Please clip the labels and have your child return them to their homeroom teacher. The school receives money for each label redeemed.



## **BennieDover Jackson Middle School**



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## RED TEAM

The Red Team, in conjunction with the Blue Team, visited Connecticut College on Thursday, April 24, for a Teen Life Conference and picnic. The conference was made possible by the combined efforts of The Drop-In Learning Center and the college. There were performances by the Looking in Theater, Co., a program of the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and the Capitol Region Education Council, directed by Jonathan Gilman. Keynote speaker for this event was one of the fastest rising stars in the entertainment business, Chrystee Pharris, who has appeared in four feature films. Ms. Pharris is a member of S.E.A.P. and Save Our Youth. She spoke to the students about teen issues and goal setting. Students were given a historical timeline that traced the history of our school's namesake Bennie Dover Jackson. The event was truly worthy of attending!

In Mrs. Williams's English classes students recently wrote original plays. The students, though reticent initially, dove in with both feet (and you thought hyperbole was dead). Some plays expanded into several acts, noteworthy characters, and themes. The plays were performed by peers. What a fantastic assignment! Popular demand will certainly warrant another go at this assignment in the future.

## ALL STAR TEAM

Students finished a real world "Industrial Design Shoe Project" in math which reinforced concepts learned about metric measures. The object of the project was to design a shoe for production in China with specifications included for the developers. Students had been presented with specific criteria that had to be met before beginning in order to enable success. The project will culminate with a real time video conference with a real world expert shoe design specialist. In addition, students continue to work diligently and are learning about formulas for perimeter and area of geometric shapes and will be studying angle measures shortly.

In science students are culminating a project after studying about the characteristics of viruses, bacteria and fungi and their impact on food preservation and safety. The project involves in an engaging scenario that students are placed in where are asked to produce and design a germ with distinct symptoms along with a specific cure for the ailment.

Social studies classes are studying medieval times and the challenges this period of time presented to all those who lived within this era. Castles, knights and tales of dragons with damsels in distress come to light as the curriculum unfolds. Students are captivated with curiosity and amazement.

## ENRICH NEWS

ENRICH students participated in a field trip to a special exhibit held at the Wadsworth Atheneum in March entitled Impressionists by the Sea. Students were able to view paintings by artists such as Renoir, Monet, Manet Courbet, Corot, Whistler, Boudin and John Singer Sargeant. This was a great opportunity to expand their knowledge of fine art. Students are currently busy working on a variety of projects such as building sugar cube pyramids, constructing homes based on their own plans, and constructing towers that they have designed to hold the most marbles. All ENRICH students are also involved in a trial involving Hansel and Gretel who have been accused of various crimes by the witch, Malvinia Crueller. Some ENRICH students also participated in the CAMPY math workshops held at the Coast Guard Academy.

## COMPUTER EDUCATION

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders worked in Microsoft PowerPoint. Sixth graders were introduced to the software by making a short slide show, complete with sound effects. The seventh and eighth graders worked on more elaborate slide shows.

The eighth graders in Mrs. Santovasi and Mrs. Miller's classes were treated to a guest speaker from Chelsea Groton Bank. Mrs. Pam Luketich came several times and spoke on the importance of budgeting and the correct way to write and endorse checks as well as how to fill out a check register. We thank her very much for her time.