



FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL

STEELER Nation News

LIVE BLUE AND GOLD
Spring 2022

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The First Annual Poetry / Flowetry Luncheon for Black History Month at FHS was a huge success. We spoke to Mrs. Latzoo, Student Council Advisor to ask for the event feedback. Here is what she said:

What was the objective of this event and/or why is it important to our academic community? The objective was to celebrate Black History Month while promoting reading and writing. It's important that we identify and promote different forms and genres of language art so that we become stronger readers and more critical thinkers. **Who/What inspired the idea to host this event at our school?** I was "jealous" that the Farrell Elementary students regularly celebrate Black Literature through their participation in the National African American Read In program. So I went to the website (<https://ncte.org/get-involved/african-american-read-in/>) that hosts the event to find ideas for older students, so that we, too, could participate in this national celebration.

What are some pieces that were read / who were the readers? I shared the idea of the "Poetry

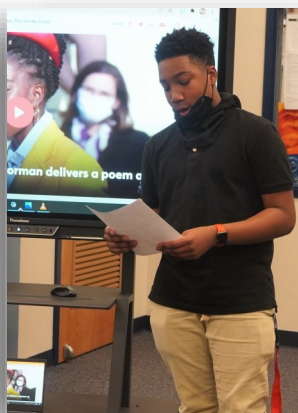
thor, Rene Philombe, in both French and English. We also listened to Amanda Gorman perform her poem "The Hill we Climb," from President Joe Biden's inauguration via recording. Farrell '04 graduate, Monique Samuels, shared her work entitled "Under Construction."

How many were in attendance? There were approximately forty students (7th - 12th) attending this event and most were invited by their Language Arts teachers.

What were some takeaways from the event for you? For the audience? Our Farrell students are talented young people with varied interests and deep thoughts. I hope students see poetry, and writing in general, as entertaining and a good way to express one's emotions.

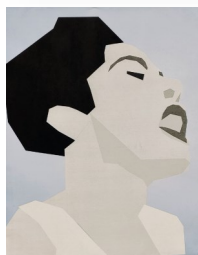
Is this an event that FHS StuCo will be hosting in the future? If so, what, if any, are some future plans for the event? We, Mrs. Tota and StuCo, definitely plan to host this next year. We may have two sessions (middle school and high school) or a combined event in a larger venue, perhaps the auditorium.

Anything that you'd like to add that I haven't touched on? I really enjoyed the Luncheon and I think many students really liked it as well. Mrs. Tota and I are very excited for next year. I'm proud of the **active** Student Council Members. They are reliable and great to work with.



Luncheon" with my Biology II class and found that Jere Edwards and Ariana Blanchard had written poems, so they each shared an original piece. French II student, Jashaun Lowe, read, "The Man that Looks Like You," by Cameroonian au-

DIGITAL ART PROJECTS DEPICT AFRICAN AMERICAN HEROES



Billie Holiday by Tyreese Thompson



Muhammed Ali by Deandre Odem



Kobe Bryant by Jaylie Green



Barack Obama by Tamera Slater



Marie Daly by Kennedy Johnson



Serena Williams by Nikasha Marcella



Michael Jordan by Gabby King

SCHOLAR ATHLETES SIGN TO HIGHER ED

Congratulations to Omar Stewart Jr. who signed to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Anthony Stallworth, who signed to Akron University, Preston Williams to Thaddeus Stevens, Anthony Jackson to Westminster, and Taidon Strickland, who also signed to IUP (all pictured right). We wish these scholar athletes the best of luck on, and off the field in their future pursuits!



‘Taco bout’ Achieving Success!

The following FHS students that achieved Highest, High or Honorable Mention were treated to a Taco Bar lunch and Basketball in the gymnasium as a reward for their hard work and formidable outcomes.

High Honor Roll: Sanaa Brodie, Demariah, Burns, Jaylie Gree, Lavar Hightower, Trian Holden, Allen Mycheal, Jackson, Diamond Lewis, Julain Scarbrough, Anthony Stallworth, D'Eryah, Stewart, Taidon Strickland, Jada Williams, Robert Zieminick, Gabrielle King, Nikasha, Marcella, Amari Roye, Tamera Slater, Tyleigh Stinedurf, Mckenzie Ulan, Amir Graham, Maria Harrison, Neveah Husband, Jaxson Jones, Ryan Stewart

Honor Roll: Landen Felix, Mercedes Hall, Cyncere Harden-Man, Omar Stewart, Azaria, Talbert, Jasean Boatwright, Tymere Evans, Tahj'mere Gibson, Ti'Marr La-Camera, Nasir, O'Kane, Malachi Shepherd, Zaire Thomas, Alan Wilder, Kylon Wilson, Ja'Laija Gregory, Kennedy Johnson, Jonathan Singh, Kabron Smith

Honorable Mention: Arianna Blanchard, D'Angela Gilbert, Makayla Hall, Jaiman, Holden, D'mario Norris, Nick Smith, Tyreese Thompson, Chyna Butler, Bryan Phillips, Ismaiah Harvey, Marion Norris, Khaliya Venable



Farrell Elementary Tradition of African American Read-In Continues to Inspire

BY Zoe Mishata & Raelen Phillips



Mrs. Tracy Hughes reads to Ms. Rush's Kindergarten Class.

On Friday, February 25, 2022, Farrell Area Elementary School held an African American Read in, in which volunteers came in to read to the students. The event occurs once a year, and seems to be known amongst many. However, when asked about the inspiration behind the annual African American Read in, that takes place at Farrell Area Schools, we found out what was important.

The event was started in 1990, a group of students and a teacher at Westminster College decided to collaborate with Farrell Area Elementary school for the event. Additionally, similar events take place all over the country, in coffee shops, schools, libraries, and all types of places. Awareness was brought to the event when they realized African American culture wasn't being talked about enough, and that the history of it was unknown to many. During the event, students and community members come in to read an appropriately themed book to the requested grades. The books are chosen by the Farrell Elementary Title One Teachers, Ms.

Wright, and the professors at Westminster College.

The chosen books must be written by an African American author, and must fall under certain categories. This year the inspiration goes along with the college students' assignments, however in the past years they have done Sheroes (female heroes), Black Educators, and more.

"The students that sit in on the read-in seem to really enjoy the interaction and experience they receive from the event," states Mrs. Lombardi, Title Teacher and Read-In Coordinator. Elementary Principal, Ms. Wright added, "The event also seems to teach both teachers and students about the true history between commonly known people and times. During this event, students also learn about heroes that aren't known to many, unlike the commonly known ones, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks."

With further research and observation on the event, we began to see how much the students enjoyed the event. They seemed to be very intrigued about learning more about Black people in the community and the history of the Black community. The students also began to learn more with an activity after the chosen book was finished. The activities ranged from coloring pag-



Reverend Dr. Adams-King opens the Read-In event in the EJ Gym announcing what to expect for the day's events.



Students listen in as Representative Mark Longietti read to and addressed Mrs. Morrison's Fifth Grade Class.

gan to learn more with an activity after the chosen book was finished. The activities ranged from coloring pag-

African American Read-In Continued on next page

African American Read-In continued from page 3

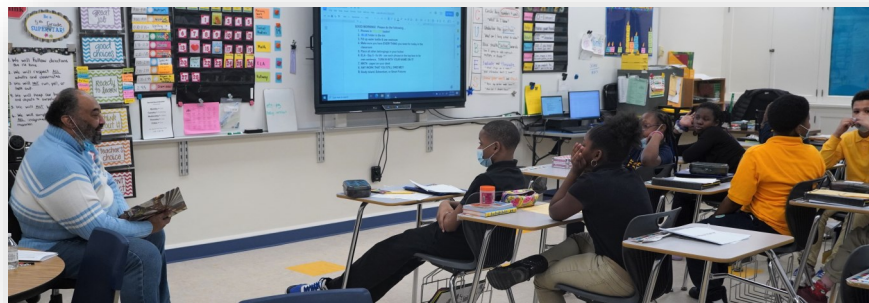
es, to mini projects that the students seemed to enjoy. Not only did the activities keep them entertained, but they also generated more interest in the books for the students, and they started to have fun as the activities went on. Not only did the students enjoy the Read-In, but the teachers and staff also seemed to enjoy the event as well as putting together the activities.



During the event, there were many community members who volunteered to read. There were also many college students from Westminster who wanted to come, but sadly weren't able to make it due to poor weather conditions. Even though the college students couldn't make it, they still seemed to have a good turn out, which involved many community members, and some were even family members of the young students.

Each grade was assigned a specific book, which was read to them by either the guest or the classroom teacher.

As listed, the following books were read to selected grades, "**I Am Enough**," by **Grace Byers**, was read to the pre-k and kindergarten classes. "**Charlotte and the Nutcracker: The True Story of a Girl Who Made Ballet History**," by **Charlotte Nebres**, was read to First and Second Grade students. Third and Fourth Grade students had the opportunity to listen to "**Stacey's Extraordinary Words**," which was written by **Stacey Abrams**. The book, "**The Five O'Clock Band**," written by **Troy Andrews**, was read to the Fifth grade. Lastly, a book written by **Floyd Cooper** titled, "**Juneteenth For Mazie**" was read to the Sixth Grade.



Dr. Erin Houston reads to a Grade 6 Class, Reverend Allen Harrison reads (above), Reverend Tiffany Holden (right) reads to Third Grade in the EJ Gymnasium.



Elementary students commented on the event:

1st Grade:

Destiny Johnson- "I like that she practiced a lot."

Katalina Bradford- "I like the ballerina because she wrote her own story."

3rd Grade:

J'Mon Wells- "I liked when she competed"

Laila Pegues- "I liked when she was a good sport and got an A"

6th Grade:

Kadejah Reddick- "I liked the history in the book"

Arra Clark- "It was quite nice my favorite part was the history"

Dallas Pickard- "I liked it because it was interesting learning about the history and the other cultures."

A special thank you to Guest Readers:

Dr. Lora Adams-King
Miss Margaret Orchard
Mrs. Tracy Hughes
Mayor Ron Viglio
Ms. Sharon James
Ms. Chardenee Freeman
Rev. Tiffany Holden
Representative Mark Longietti
Rev. Allen Harrison
Mr. Gary Satterwhite
Commissioner Tim McGonigle
Dr. Erin Houston
Ms. Christal Graham-Jones

FASD African American Educators Spotlight

BY Aaliyah Stallworth



Ashley McGill

How long have you been employed as a teacher?

14 full time years

How many different school subjects have you taught throughout your life?

I've taught in some capacity every grade k-6 including learning support and Title I, high school reassignment and high school learning support chemistry.

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator?

Sometimes being one of only a few African American Educators in the building can be lonely. Don't get me wrong, I've made great friends here, some that I will keep with me for the rest of my life. There are times though that things going on in the world make you feel uncomfortable. I don't have a problem with defending myself, but sometimes I don't want to have to speak for the entirety of the population. I've gone to conferences and have been the only one who looks like me. I'm often told how articulate I am, and how valuable my opinions are. To me that's not a compliment. Is it a shock because of my skin color? I was raised well. It has nothing to do with being one race or another. How do I overcome? Growing up my dad

always told me I could do anything that I put my mind to because I was a Smoot. Not a Black Smoot, just a Smoot. Annd I believed him, still do. I have self control, I can get my point across without fists or inappropriate words. I keep going no matter what someone else thinks I can't do. My mind is already made up that the only one that can stop me from accomplishing whatever I want to accomplish is me! So every day I wake up with the plan to be the best educator I can be. It's not the best African-American Educator to the African American kids, it's the best educator to all kids. It's my gift to the world!

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History?

I always let my students know that the "history" we talk about isn't so long ago. They need to know that we must stay informed and diligent in what is going on around us so that "history" doesn't repeat itself. Which unfortunately right now is a day to day fight. I also let them know that they can create, conquer, or change the world with their ideas, dreams and concerns about the world we live in. I'm my ancestors' wildest dreams realized and they can be too!

What influenced you to become an educator?

I had great teachers here. Mr. Podobnick, Mr. Cardamon, Mrs. Rose Johnson, Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Weston just to name a few. To be honest though, being a teacher wasn't on my radar. I went to school to be a psychologist. I did 2 ½ years of my psychology degree, and decided that although I wanted to help kids, I wanted to be the one they talked to before they made major mistakes. So after working with Neighborhood Based Family Intervention Center in college my Freshman and Sophomore years, I changed it up. I changed majors and graduated with a dual major. Being here daily, working with kids, seeing their light bulbs turn on does bring me joy. Although there are a lot of other forces that make teaching difficult and undesirable, when I'm in my room and learning is taking place, I'm truly happy.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students?

If I had the chance to talk to students today in your age group, I would tell them that this is just the beginning of your life. What you do today will totally affect your tomorrow. Be responsible for you, and don't believe the social media hype. That doesn't make you special or cool. Harming or demeaning others in actions or words doesn't make you special or cool. Our ancestors did not fight big battles, get their families torn apart and endure all that they did for you to act any way other than the kings and queens you were designed to be. So stand up and be the best version of yourself you can be. The world needs you!



Leslie Harrison

How long have you been employed as a teacher? I've been a Teacher's Aide for 5 years

How many different school subjects have you taught throughout your life? Life Skills aide

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator? I Don't have one, however, encouraging African American children to love themselves and to appreciate their history is a challenge.

What is your approach/how did you overcome the struggle? My approach is encouragement.

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History? Learn

FASD African American Educators Spotlight

as much as you can about Black History, you need to know where you come from to know where you are going, and you will be more appreciative of your success.

What influenced you to become an educator? I love learning, therefore I love helping others learn.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students? Always do your best, everyone has a purpose, figure out what you like to do, and learn as much as you can about it. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something.

Juliana Ferguson



How long have you been employed as a teacher?

I have been employed for 8 years as a substitute teacher and teacher's Aide in Special Education.

How many different school subjects have you taught through your life?

Before working at FASD, I worked in different school settings for 14 years as a Behavioral Specialist in Farrell, Sharon, Hermitage, West Middlesex and Reynolds. Here at Farrell, I have been assisting Kindergarten through second grade in Learning Support with Reading/Math and other activities. Currently, I'm assisting students in Kindergarten in Ms. Rush's classroom. I'm also involved

with the R.E.A.D program which is STEM based and it's through United Way of Mercer County.

How long have you been an educator at FASD?

I've been employed for 8 years as an educator and have been assisting students with their reading and math in small and large groups.

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator? What is your approach/ how did you overcome the struggle?

My biggest struggle as an African American educator from an African country was communicating my ideas using my accent. I'm able to work on this struggle being around my family and others. I was able to familiarize myself with the American language and adjust with others using my accent.

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History?

I would tell them to always be proud of their Black History. They should not let any obstacle of color get them off track. They should be aware of their Black History and what their ancestors have contributed to our country. They should stay focused and never give up.

What influenced you to become an educator?

I was always passionate about teaching children to learn and to do their best.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students?

I will tell them to always think the best of themselves and never let their color keep them from achieving their goals. Just because you are African American you should never give up on your dreams.

Tracy Hood

How long have you been employed as a teacher? I have been a teacher here in Farrell for twenty-two years.

How many different school subjects have you taught throughout your life? I have held many positions here in the district. I first began my career here as an Alternative Education Teacher many years ago. I have taught 9th and



11th grade English, Keystone Prep, I was the librarian in the high school, I was an administrator for several years, and I am currently the elementary librarian.

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator? My biggest struggle as an African American educator is to see that so many of our students do not read for pleasure.

Lol. I'm the librarian and I think that is a universal struggle that most teachers face. However, my biggest struggle is that too many of our students do not know African American history, and that will surely hinder their future.

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History?

Black History isn't a month that we celebrate once a year, Black History occurs daily and we must celebrate the contributions of African Americans. As the poet James Baldwin once said, "History is not the past, it is the present. We carry our history with us. We are our history."

What influenced you to become an educator? I was influenced to become a teacher by my 4th grade teacher.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students? Yes, always put forth your best effort and do your best in everything that you do. Strive for excellence!

FASD African American Educators Spotlight

Chardenee Freeman

How long have you been employed as a



teacher? I'm actually a "one on one" aid for a brilliant, kindergarten boy. I've been working with him for several weeks.

How many different school subjects have you taught throughout your life? In college, I taught a theater workshop for the youth in the Farrell area.

How long have you been an educator at FASD? I've been at FASD for about 2 months.

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator? A struggle is knowing that issues can not be fixed with a "snap of a finger". My approach to overcoming the struggle is pulling a child that is having a hard time to the side, and asking them what is wrong or even telling them how valuable they are and have them repeat a few affirmations. It changes their demeanor almost immediately.

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History? I would tell students about the African Americans that are from here in the area.

What influenced you to become an educator? Education has always been in my blood. I choose to educate through story telling or writing children books.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students? That you can absolutely do anything you put your magnificent minds to! You are the best parts of your parents and you can and will change the world for the better!



Joann Sharper

How long have you been employed as a teacher? 29 yrs

How many different school subjects have you taught throughout your life? Mostly math but have help to assist in reading and currently science.

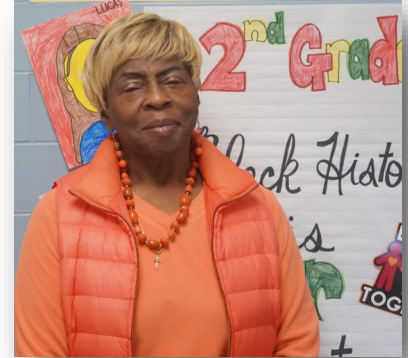
How long have you been an educator at FASD? 29 yrs

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator? The biggest struggle is the disrespect that is given to adults and the lack of knowledge that they know.

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History? Learn your history

What influenced you to become an educator? Connie Langley (retired educator) influenced me a lot in education. I volunteered in her classroom when my child was in her room, and I enjoyed the interaction that was given, and her compassion for the students. I want to see every student be successful.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students? Be involved in things in and out of school. Travel if you can. There is life outside of Farrell.



Karen F. Weston

How long have you been employed as a teacher?

54 years (31 years as an elementary teacher 23 years as a substitute teacher)

How many different school subjects have you taught throughout your life?

Reading, math, science, social studies, handwriting

How long have you been an educator at FASD?

54 years

What is your biggest struggle being an African American educator?

Having my students understand the challenges experienced being a black educator. My approach was to work hard and remain focused on my goals. I overcame the challenges that came to me with hard work and dedication.

What are some things you would tell your students about Black History?

To learn about all the sacrifices our ancestors made to improve our quality of life.

What influenced you to become an educator?

I was inspired by my Kindergarten teacher as she approached every day with enthusiasm and excitement towards her students which made an impact on my life and made me want to do the same for my students.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to your students?

I would tell my students to always do their best and don't let their skin color be a barrier to their success.

Student Spotlight: Omar Stewart Jr.

BY Bryan Phillips

Omar Stewart Jr. was chosen as this month's student spotlight because he is a scholar athlete and just signed to IUP on a full ride, half academics and half athletics. Omar played wide receiver and linebacker for the Farrell Steelers and currently plays center for the Farrell Basketball Team.

After graduation, Omar will be attending IUP with a Major in Graphic Design. He plans on playing wide receiver for the football team. He earned this opportunity from working hard on and off the field. He uses his motivation to carry on his family legacy, which drives him to work harder and constantly get better. Omar wants the Stewart name to be talked about years from now. Omar grew up with two great football inspirations, his father, Coach Omar, and the former, FHS Head Football Coach, Coach Jarret Samuels. He was very observant of these two role models. They taught him what hard work means and how to achieve his goals.

It took a lot of hard work to get where he is today. Starting for 4 years at Farrell High School isn't easy. He worked hard during



all 5 off-seasons to get to where he's at now. He made sure to listen to his coaches and has always made it a point to reflect on what they say. His dad, Coach Omar, played high school and college ball, so he guided Omar in making the right decisions. Omar has true heart as a football player. He recalls one of his greatest challenges as the time when, after losing his late grandmother, Omar still came to practice and played that following game. In that game, he ended up winning the Bob Greenburg Player of the Game.

Omar cites one of his main inspirations when it comes to working hard to be his grandfather. At 91 years old, his grandfather still worked and walked around as if he were young. Family is everything to Omar. When he is not working on school or sports he loves to hang out with his family and also loves playing video games.

Some advice that Omar would like to give to underclassmen athletes is that without self motivation you won't be able to make it as far as you want. "When times get tough, push yourself to be a better you and let no one bring you down or tell you, you can't do it."

Packed full of HITS: Superbowl and Half-time Show please crowds

BY Allen Mychael Jackson

The Super Bowl was February 13, 2022, located outside of Los Angeles, in Inglewood California, at the Sofi Stadium. This is the Rams home stadium. The contenders for Super Bowl XLVI (56th) were the Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals. This is the Rams 4th time in the Super Bowl and for the Bengals, this will be their third year competing in the Super Bowl.

Both Super Bowl LVI contenders have star players and veterans that either played at the same college or played together in college. For instance, the Bengals quarterback played for Louisiana State University and also played with his star wide receiver for the Bengals, Ja'marr Chase, at LSU. They won a national championship together and also are contending for a NFL Championship as teammates together. Rams' wide receiver, Odell Beckham Jr., also went to LSU but years before Ja'marr Chase and Joe Burrow. Another coincidence is that another Bengals receiver, Tyler Boyd, went to Claritin High School and went to play college football at Pitt University. Rams defensive tackle, Aaron Donald, went to Penn Hills High School, which is located in Pittsburgh, and also went to Pitt University to play football. It is a very special opportunity to play against an opponent with whom you attended the same school with or just went to the same school in general. The same is true for those who went to the same college and on the next level together.

With all the greatness that's going on with the players and the competition, another great thing that goes along with the Super Bowl is the halftime performance. Dr Dre, along with Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, Eminem, 50 Cent, and Kendrick Lamar, performed the Super Bowl Halftime Show. Combined, they have 44 Grammys. This was a great way to celebrate Black History Month. Everything that was performed on stage was Dr. Dre's work, from him rapping to his production of the other 5 performers' music. The halftime show was a collaborative idea between the NFL and Roc Nation, which is Jay-Z's

entertainment company.

Considering the current racial conflicts in the world and the NFL, the organization thought to present African American rap artists in the Super Bowl, which represented rap culture in a big and positive way. Dr. Dre opened up the performance behind a mock mixing board, a nod to the root of his celebrity: the ability to mastermind sound. For the next 12 minutes, vivid and thumping hits followed, including "The Next Episode," a collaboration between Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, wearing a blue bandanna-themed sweatsuit "California Love." Eminem sang "Lose Yourself." Lamar performed his most famous hit record, "Alright". Mary J. Blige, the only female singer, sang two songs. 50 Cent came with an unexpected performance hanging upside down from the ceiling performing his breakout hit "in da club," also produced by Dr. Dre. It was an epic and crowd pleasing performance.

Although it was a tough battle between the Rams and the Bengals, the Rams came out with the victory to become the Superbowl XLVI champions and end a 22 year championship drought. It was a tough defensive game. Between Odell Beckham and Cooper Kupp, they combined for 144 yards out of 283 yards thrown from Matt Stafford. Bengals Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins combined 189 yards out of 263 yards thrown by Joe Burrow. Although those are great stats, defense definitely carried the game, which led the Rams to the victory. With 1 minute and 25 seconds left in the 4th quarter, the Rams scored with a 1 yard touchdown pass at the goal line to make the score 23-20. Then, the Rams defense prevented the Bengals from tying the game or reclaiming the lead with a 4th and 1 quarterback sack from Aaron Donald. Aaron Donald also ended the game with four tackles, three QB hits and two game changing sacks, alongside outside Linebacker Von Miller who had two sacks, three QB hits and one pass deflection. All of this led to a great win to make history, ending a 22 year championship losing streak.

Deep Dive with Coach Jaylan and his coaching philosophy

BY Raelen Phillips

Coach Jaylan Sharper is the beloved swimming coach at Farrell Area High School and has been since for about five years. Coach Jaylan knew when he was younger that he wanted to be a swim coach. It had always been a dream of his to coach one day and his coaches from his early ages had a big influence on his decision. When Coach Jaylan was in high school he swam competitively and he thinks that when it comes to swimming it could affect a student's behavior because the frustration of a poor performance at a practice or swim meet could affect a student's behavior at home or at school. Coach Jaylan enjoys many aspects of swimming, including the competition and learning the four main strokes and styles of swimming. Coach Jaylan believes that the swim team should be recognized and celebrated like any other sport at Farrell High School, Coach Jaylan states, "My swimmers are top tier athletes and their talents should be recognized just like every other sport at Farrell."

Coach Jaylan was asked how good a student has to be to join the team or if they come without knowing how to swim at all would they still be able to join the team. He answered, "I would still recommend everyone to join the swim team. It doesn't matter about skill level. I have taught and coached students of all levels and had success doing that. I feel that as long as the students have patience with themselves. The sky's the limit for them." The biggest weaknesses for the swim team are that the team needs improvement with having confidence with themselves before practice and swim meets. Their strengths would be that they are loyal to the sport and coaches and do want to become better swimmers every year. The training philosophy for the swim team would be to train as hard as you can each day and have fun while doing it. A good attitude will have a very positive impact on a swimmer and their performance.

Coach Jaylan was asked about his experience when it

comes to coaching swimmers and he has a good amount of experience when it comes to coaching because of his knowledge of the sport and having experience with building rapport with his students and swimmers. Coach Jaylan plans to keep coaching for about two to three more years.

In the past he was a lifeguard for many years at the Buhl Club, Buhl Park, Farrell pool and a pool in Youngstown, Ohio, and this is where most of his experience comes from. Some goals set for the future of the team are to participate in District and State Championship swim meets and for his swimmers to get scholarships in the sport of swimming. While trying to reach goals set for the team Coach Jaylan struggles with juggling and trying to prepare two teams for competition on a daily basis. Coach Jaylan is not married and has no kids but he does have a girlfriend and a dog named Pluto that he and his girlfriend adopted back in June of 2021. In his spare time, he enjoys music, playing board games and watching tv with friends and family.

According to Coach Jaylan, the most difficult swim style to teach and learn is definitely the 'Butterfly Stroke'; this stroke requires a lot of patience and focus. Something that Coach Jaylan wants more people to know about the swim team is that his swimmers are great athletes and their talents should be recognized. They work hard everyday in practice and perform well during swim meets. The most important safety measures taken at practice and swim meets to ensure the safety of swimmers are making sure that anyone that is not able to swim, stays far away from the pool until they have completed swim lessons or training. Coach Jaylan wants everyone to know how much he enjoys coaching at Farrell Area School District and wouldn't trade the fun and memories over the time of him coaching here for anything.



Pictured left is the 2022 Swim Team, (from left) Coach Jaylan Sharper, Ernest Latzoo, Cheyenne Felix, Landen Felix, MacKenzie Ulan, Jaden Howell, and Assistant Coach Jenna Weiser. Seniors, Landen Felix and Jaden Howell are pictured in above article.



(Above) Boys' Basketball Team , cheerleaders and coaches pose after the D10 win over Jamestown at Kennedy Catholic. (Right) Girls Basketball Team and coaches pose in support of Sanaa Brodie's 1,000 point milestone. Congratulations to both groups of FHS Athletes! (Below) Winter sports' Senior Night photos, (left) Jaylie Green, Demariah Burns, Sanaa Brodie, Cyncere Harden-Mann and D'Eryah Stewart represent Girls' Basketball, while Lavar Hightower, Demario Norris, and Jada Williams represent the FHS Band and lastly, Boys' Basketball Seniors are Allen-Mychael Jackson and Omar Stewart Jr.



Upward Bound Program: GREAT but underutilized opportunity

BY Jada Williams

Going into high school, knowing about college, trades, armed services, and various other future opportunities, becomes a main focus for many students. Unfortunately, like myself, many students do not know much about future options, colleges, or even how to explore their own personal interests. Many of us, myself included, know to focus on earning good grades and so that is what I did. Thanks to a free program called Upward Bound, I was able to better understand and inform myself of my options which has, in turn, completely shaped my future plans and goals.

Upward Bound is a TRIO program, one of three programs that was enacted due to the Reauthorization of The Higher Education Act. These programs help students from low income families and potential first generation students develop skills and motivation needed for future success in college. This program helps students by giving them multiple opportunities to tour campuses, live and experience campus life, take college-like classes, and give them opportunities to experience many other things. They also give monetary checks to students that have good grades and participate in program activities.

This program is always on the lookout to help give their students new experiences. They take tours to universities such as Akron, Cleveland State, YSU, IUP, Slippery Rock, and many more. Upward Bound also has a summer program that allows you to stay on Clarion University campus for a whole month. During that time, you stay in a dorm and have all of your meals paid for. You also take classes to help you with the next school year.

Throughout the summer program, they will have trips packed in there so you will never be bored and there is also one big trip where you will spend three days somewhere outside of Pennsylvania. During my time at the summer program, they had trips planned on Fridays. We went hiking, canoeing, went to see plays, took a trip to Erie, and one of our big trips was to Cleveland, Ohio. This program was especially useful to me because I learned about college, scholarships, and dorm life. I had experiences that I thought that I would never have and it also helped prepare me for the next school year.

The regular UB program throughout the school year involves a weekly meeting and a campus day. Meetings usually last about an hour where financial aid, grades, and career choices are discussed. At this time, students may also bring up and discuss anything else that they may be having trouble with. This is a time where you can get some really good advice and learn more about things that can help you in the future. Campus days are usually once a month on a Saturday and take place on Clarion University campus. Transportation is provided for all of their trips and campus days. This is a time where people from a bunch of other schools that also participate in the program get together for educational purposes and team building exercises. Upward bound gives \$30 stipends to students, each month, who have above a 2.5 GPA,



UB students visit the Center of Science Innovation in Columbus, Ohio, during the Trio Summer Program.

went to the meetings, and took part in the campus days. This might not seem like much but this was a lot to me back when I was too young to get a job and didn't get any allowance.

In my opinion, this is the best program that Farrell has to offer, but sadly, if the program doesn't get at least three people to sign up by next year, we will unfortunately lose this program. So, if this program interests you, you can talk to me or Ms. Titus for further information on how to get involved. There are no special requirements, all you have to do is sign up.

SO much to CHECK OUT!

If you haven't been in the FHS Library lately, what are you waiting for?!? In addition to cool activities for Read Across America Day, an interesting *BookFlix* Bulletin Board and great new reading displays, our Librarian, Mrs. Tota, just won a financial grant for even more new book purchases! The Math inspired book monies are sure to yield some fun new titles. Integrating Math and Literacy can be especially great for those students who traditionally struggle to connect with Mathematics content.



FHS StuCo Hosts 1st Annual *Soul Week*



(Left) Traditional African Attire participants, Braylon Harrison, Je'Mya Jackson, Advisor, Mrs. Latzoo, Ja'siah Williams, Jimarion Husband, Senora Torres, Nikasha Marcella, Keyonna Lockhart, and Sanaa Brodie. (Left, below) Nia Allen, Nevaeh Husband, Activist Dress Day (Right, below) Shalea' LaCamera, Sydney Peterson, Leena Weidner, Mrs. Latzoo, Alaysia Kirby, and Khole Summers



In 8th Grade Family Consumer Sciences, Zaniyah Thomas and Damien Gordon prepare tacos (above), along with classmates, Daniel Odem, Darnell LaCamera, and Amir Pinkins (right). Franklyn Dulin (above) shows off his Farrell Bear and Irovi Elerby (right, top) poses with her twin bed cover quilt.



We caught up with Senior, Tyree Odem, showing off his African headwear during Soul Week.