

THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 24 • FEBRUARY 2023



COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



ST. LOUIS SPORTS LEGENDS SHARE BLACK HISTORY AT HIGHLAND

Olympic gold medalist Dawn Harper-Nelson and collegiate basketball and sportswriting Hall of Famer Earl Austin Jr. visited Highland Elementary School on Thursday, Feb. 23 for a Black History Month presentation.

Harper-Nelson is an East St. Louis native who earned gold medal glory in the 100m hurdles at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. She also won a silver medal in the 100m hurdles at the 2012 Olympics Games in London.

Austin is the sports editor for the St. Louis American newspaper and a play-by-play commentator for the Saint Louis Billikens men's basketball team. Austin was inducted into the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame as a sportswriter and the Lindenwood Hall of Fame as a basketball player.

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RIVERVIEW GARDENS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/28 - SAB MEETING | 7:30PM
- 3/3 - SPECIAL OLYMPICS | 9:00AM
RGHS
- 3/6 - PAC MEETING | 6:00 PM
GIBSON ELEMENTARY
- 3/10 - DISTRICTWIDE SCIENCE FAIR
WESTVIEW MIDDLE | 10:00 AM
- 3/14 - SAB MEETING | 7:00 PM
- 3/15 - FAMILY NIGHT | 6:00 PM
KOCH ELEMENTARY

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Harper-Nelson spoke with the fourth- and fifth-grade girls about her journey from East St. Louis to international track star and Olympic champion. Austin spoke to the fourth- and fifth-grade boys about his journey from a star athlete to an award-winning sports journalist. Both answered questions about their careers.

Later during the event, Harper-Nelson and Austin came together in the gymnasium with all the fourth- and fifth-grade scholars. Austin interviewed Harper-Nelson about her historic track and field career and her amazing accomplishments in front of eager and enlightened scholars.

Austin also provided copies of the St. Louis American to the classes that attended the event.



The Riverview Gardens School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining a workplace and educational environment that is free from illegal discrimination, harassment and retaliation in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, activities and facilities. In accordance with law, the district strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment against employees, students or others on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. The Riverview Gardens School District is an equal opportunity employer.

COMMUNITY TURNS OUT FOR DESE PUBLIC HEARING

Riverview Gardens School District welcomed more than 100 parents, scholars, staff, community members and elected officials to the DESE Public Hearing on Thursday, Feb. 9.

At the event, Special Administrative Board President Veronica Morrow-Reel welcomed the guests. Superintendent Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams presented a condensed version of her State of the District presentation, including key data on the District.

Attendees were then invited to share

their thoughts, suggestions, concerns and commitment during a community engagement activity.

Lisa Sireno, the assistant commissioner for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other DESE members were also present at the meeting. [View the live stream archive here.](#)



SCENES FROM BLACK HISTORY EVENTS IN RGSD



Attorneys Chalana Scales-Ferguson and Ken D. Goins, members of the Mound City Bar Association, visited with **Riverview Gardens High School** scholars to discuss Black history and law.



Scholars performed as hip-hop icons at **Moline Elementary** at its Black history celebration entitled: Moving Through Music. The packed event featured songs from Notorious B.I.G., Salt-N-Pepa and more.



Westview Middle School scholars performed at the school's Black history program: I Had a Dream: A Celebration of Unsung Heroes. The event included musical, dance, step and acting performances.



Scholars at **Lewis & Clark Elementary** presented Moments in Black History. The event included poetry, a choral reading, lyrical dance and *Protesting Through Time*.



A MONOPOLY ON FINANCIAL LITERACY AT GIBSON

"Did you know, "The poverty rate for African American women is 28.6 percent? In comparison, the poverty rate of white, non-Hispanic women is 10.8 percent" (Fact Sheet: The State of African American Women in the United States, Nov 7, 2013).

Gibson is working to prevent its girls from facing poverty and financial hardship and burden. Every Thursday after school, the third-grade girls learn about the purpose and value of money through playing Monopoly. The scholars are exposed to financial literacy concepts, business principles and math techniques, such as using number sentences. These techniques can boost their MAP scores.

The theme: To empower girls to understand financial literacy and inspire entrepreneurship.

On Friday, March 3, the Gibson girls will sell popcorn for an authentic learning experience. They will understand key concepts and vocabulary such as product, sales, profit, gains, customer, etc.

Commit to Creating a New View on the Horizon



Join a committee!



RGSD MISSION:

The Riverview Gardens School District, along with families and the community, nurtures academic excellence in all students, preparing them to be college and career ready in an ever-changing society.

RGSD VISION:

The Riverview Gardens School District creates a community of learners equipped to be competitors in a global society and leaders demonstrating social and civic responsibility.

BULLETIN BOARD

CAREER & HIRING FAIR



- Teachers
- Facilities Supervisor
- Guidance Counselor
- MTSS Coordinator
- Plumber
- Painter
- Electrician
- Master Scheduler
- Support Staff & More

MARCH 9
APRIL 13, 27
MAY 11, 25
JUNE 8, 22
JULY 13, 27

4:00 – 7:00 PM
 1370 NORTHUMBERLAND DR
 ST. LOUIS, MO 63137



A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

FAMILY MATTERS

Podcast

THE OFFICIAL PODCAST OF RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT







YONDR POUCH



COMING SOON



Riverview Gardens High School

MARCH 6, 2023
 6PM TO 7PM
 PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) PRESENTS:
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Q & A with Superintendent Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams & Family Engagement Specialist Te'Ara Arman



LOCATION
 Gibson Elementary
 9926 Fonda Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63137

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT ABOUT WAYS TO INCREASE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

DISCUSSION TOPIC

- INCREASING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- SEEKING RESOLUTIONS
- IF YOU ARE A RGSD PARENT, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF PAC!

Snacks will be provided

Raffle for 2-\$25 Amazon Gift Card

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM AND THE CONVERSATION STARTS PROMPTLY AT 6PM

rgsd.k12.mo.us

STIFEL Fabric of Society NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



AWARDING \$2,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO 75 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NATIONWIDE.

E-mail submissions to: fabricofsociety@stifel.com

Or mail submission to:
 Fabric of Society/Stifel
 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 2150
 Los Angeles, California 90067

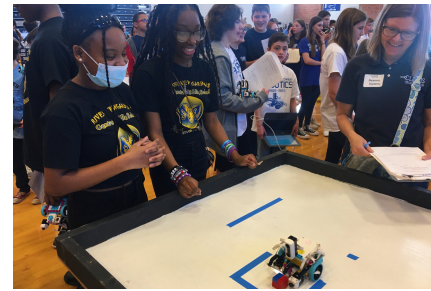
We invite participants to write an original and creative essay based on the quote above. Contestants must be in good academic standing and on track to graduate in 2023. Essays are to be no fewer than 600 words and no more than 800 words in length. One entry per student please. Essays must be received or postmarked no later than Friday, March 17, 2023. For complete contest rules, entry forms, and further information, please inquire at www.facebook.com/FabricofSocietyScholarship.

CENTRAL MIDDLE ROBOTICS TEAM EARNS PLATINUM AWARD

The Central Middle School Robotics Team participated in the Clavius Project Jamboree on January 21, 2023. This annual robotics competition was held at St. Louis University High School.

The Robotics Team received Platinum Level honors, representing the highest level of performance. They also were among the finalists of the Janet Knobbe - Viox Judges Award, which is awarded to the school that exhibits a high level of Spirit, Engagement, Sportsmanship and Performance.

Congratulations to the team! Jordan Mosby, Isaiah Watson, Tamia Kennedy, Alyssa Austell, Kevin Portwood, Vito Baker, Daniel Clark, Christopher Mabry, Obadiah Carter, Rayshon Montgomery, Makell Green, Liala Robinson, Khloe Davis, Marnice Eason and Damonie Motley.



A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent

Recently, I sat at home on a weekend night, exhausted from the previous week of work. Endless meetings, planning, tasks, strategy sessions, presentations, audit reviews, emergency response, discipline issues, parent complaints, staffing challenges, and political uncertainty danced in my head. There is a mountain of work to be done for Riverview Gardens School District to reach the New View on the Horizon. For a moment, I wondered if the mountaintop was too difficult to climb.

The universe has a strange way of sending encouragement at the right time. Just as I was winding down for the evening, a text message popped up from a trusted colleague. It was a video of a Ted Talk. It was a video I had seen before, but not in many years.

How to fix a broken school? Lead fearlessly, love hard

Linda Cliatt-Wayman spent 20 years as a Special Education teacher before becoming a principal in Philadelphia. Her leadership was the catalyst to success for two low-performing urban high schools.

Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion High School was on the federal Persistently Dangerous Schools List for five years in a row until Cliatt-Wayman's arrival. After her first year, the school was removed from the Persistently Dangerous Schools List. The school's scholars also saw drastically-improved test scores and increased college admissions.

Her Ted Talk is a must watch for all those committed to being leaders and believers that Riverview Gardens School District can, and will, achieve our goals. Please take 15 minutes to watch the attached video. Watching it again helped to reinvigorate my spirit and reminded me that failure is not an option. Together, we will lead fearlessly and love hard. Most importantly, we will succeed!

