

## *Robert L. Merritt Junior High School*

### **THE MERRITT GAZETTE**

*Glen Newson, Principal*  
*Timothy Holmes, Assistant Principal*  
*Amanda Bowman, Academic Coach*  
*Latoshia Lewis, Counselor*

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**March 2022**

**"Equitable Education for Every Student"**

### **Principal's Message**

We are ending the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this school year and we are extremely excited about the growth of our students. Currently, we are doing bi-weekly assessments to ensure that our students and our school as a whole will be successful on State Assessments on April 26, 2022. Our students and teachers are working hard every day to be overachievers in the classroom. We will continue to provide solid instructions to students for the remainder of this year. Please continue to assist us in making sure that your child/children have the resources they need for school, be on their very best behavior, and strive to perform to their highest potential. Attendance plays a major role in educating our students, so please try to get students to school. With these things in mind, there is no doubt about whether or not we will be a successful school. As always, we thank you for your continued support and for making Robert L. Merritt your child's place of education.

### **Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray**

Let's continue to practice safety and social distancing as we enter a new year. Please continue to wear your mask and wash and sanitize your hands regularly. Remember, we have different ways you can be involved in your child's education. Such as: Active Parents, School Status, and Canvas. You may reach me through e-mail at [gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us). My hours are: Monday-Friday from 7:00 A.M.- 3:30 P. M. However, I will adjust my schedule to accommodate you.

### **Timothy Holmes, Assistant Principal**

As we are approaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks Benchmark Assessments, the students and teachers at Merritt are working diligently to ensure that everything is in place to continue being a successful school. The administrative team is putting things in place to make sure the students and teachers are comfortable during the testing week. On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, we celebrated Fat Tuesday in our cafeteria by providing the students and staff with King Cakes and beads so our students can get the Mardi Gras experience. I have to say thanks to Mr. Woodson and his team for making this event a success. We are also proud to say that one of our students won the District Spelling Bee. In addition to those things, we also had our annual Black History Program where our students modeled and displayed a variety of fashions through clothing and speech. We are doing great things here at Merritt, and after Spring Break, we will continue to pursue our ultimate goal of being a successful school.

### **Coming to America came to Merritt**



## *Attendance Officer's Information*

### **“Every Day Counts!”**

Antoinette Thornton , School Attendance  
Officer for:  
East Sunflower Elementary  
A.W. James Elementary  
Ruleville Central Elementary  
Drew Hunter Middle  
Ruleville Central Middle  
Thomas E. Edwards, Sr. High  
**Tel (662) 887-8107| Fax (662) 887-7306**

Antoinette Thornton, School Attendance Officer  
for:  
Inverness Elementary  
Lockard Elementary  
Carver Elementary  
Moorhead Central  
Robert L. Merritt Junior High  
Gentry High  
**Tel (662) 887-8107| Fax (662) 887-7306**

If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please feel free to call or fax the Attendance Officer assigned to your child/children school.

**The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for Homeless students. For more information please visit our MDE website at:**

## *District Spelling Bee Winner, Tyler Young 8<sup>th</sup> Grader*



*He will participate at the state level spelling bee in Columbus, Mississippi at MUW campus on March 12, 2022 at 10:00 a. m.*

## Media Center, Dr. Jessica James

If you did not visit the Library for the month of February, you missed a treat. Books written by Black Authors and Books on Black Americans have been and still are on display for your Reading pleasure. The First Black President Barack Obama is also on display. Books that he has written along with memorabilia from his campaign are located throughout the library.



For your viewing pleasure, please find the story board that gives tribute the Fine Arts featuring theatre and musicians.



*I am reading the following book which empowers women. What will you be reading for Women's History and National Poetry Month?*



## NCNW Covid-19 Contest Winners



**Darriyan Graves, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Covid-19 has impacted everyone's families and friends. Covid-19 has also impacted my life and my family's life and here's how: **How It Affected My Life:**

In August 2021, me and my brother had Covid-19 and had to quarantine for about three weeks. Not only did it affect me and my brother, but it also affected my older sister and my mother. We all had to stay stuck in our house for three weeks. The result of that was: My mother having to stay home and take care of me and my brother and miss work, because nobody wanted my mother, even herself, to come home from work, take care of us, leave for work the next day, and everyone gets sick at her, job including herself and the same with my sister. I thank God that me and my brother had Covid-19 without the symptoms. That meant me and my brother could still taste and smell things. It's not good to have a deadly disease, but it is good that I didn't die from it nor my brother.

### **How I Think It Affected Others-**

For all the people whose families had Covid-19 and they died from it, I am so sorry and I will forever feel pain for you. I find it crazy that we have masks and dividers to protect us from infecting each other and yet people still refuse to wear said masks and be behind the dividers. Saying that they have their American Rights and that they have papers that say that they don't have to wear them, but the rest of us do. The rest of us want to be safe, and you're out here sneezing and coughing on everyone and everybody all because you don't want to wear a mask. I've done my research and here's what the internet has to say about it: **Do I Still Have to Wear a Mask Every time I Leave the House? Answer: You should be wearing a mask outside if:** <sup>[[[</sup>SEP]• It is difficult to maintain the recommended 6-foot social distancing from others (such as going to the grocery store or

pharmacy or walking on a busy street or in a crowded neighborhood).<sup>[1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>• If required to by law. Many areas now have mandatory masking regulations when in published in April 2020.

Wearing a mask doesn't only help you but it also helps others. By you wearing a mask you're telling us that you are protecting this world. Myself and many others have experienced Covid-19 and survived from it. Others have experienced Covid-19 and died from it. You're showing us that you care about your family and other's families by wearing your mask. And if you don't wear your mask then you're showing us that you would rather get everyone sick than keep them healthy, including yourself.

We need to keep our planet not only clean but also healthy. If we succeed and get our vaccines and help one another then we will have our dream planet. So, by all means, wear your masks, cover your mouth when you cough, get a tissue and sneeze in it, wipe your table when you get ready to leave that classroom so that students won't get sick from your touch. Then we will all survive this pandemic, together.



### Video

**Please view our Facebook page for the video (Robert L. Merritt with the Ram Head)**

**Myi'Jade Purnell, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



***Madisyn Thomas, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 1<sup>st</sup> Place***

Life was always fast-paced, we never slowed down,  
Until everything stopped when Corona came to town.

Now all is quiet and there's peace all around,  
We've looked in our hearts and kindness we've found.

We learn now with mum, this is a new feature,

But we can't wait to get back to our teacher.

I miss Merritt, school, my friends and my dad,

I miss sharing the fun times and that makes me sad.

We've had social distancing picnics, social distancing walks,

Social distancing hugs and social distancing talks.

I'm looking forward to getting away,

The beach, the hotel and a perfect holiday.

When it is? I'll throw my arms open wide,

And shout to the world, WE CAN ALL GO OUTSIDE!

Don't give up hope, the end is in sight,

If we all stick together, we'll all win this fight