

*Robert L. Merritt Junior High School*

**THE MERRITT GAZETTE**

*Glen Newson, Principal  
Timothy Holmes, Assistant Principal  
Julia Harrington, Academic Coach  
Maomi Fant-Ivory, Counselor*

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*January 2023*

"Equitable Education for Every Student"

### **Principal's Message**

Greetings Parents!

We hope that each one of you have enjoyed the holidays and stayed safe throughout the season. We are ready to continue strengthening our students' academic performance for the second half of this school year. As always, we ask that you help us by ensuring that your child or children are at school daily, on time, and stay the entire day. This step will tremendously help with attendance and the overall performance of our students. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Benchmark Assessment, we are still **#THE EXCEPTION** As we enter a new calendar year, expectations are still high for all stakeholders. We encourage everyone to make teaching and learning a **priority** each day at Robert L. Merritt. Let's continue working together to make this a successful year. Thank you for choosing Merritt!

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

Happy New Year! 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' education. Such as: Active Parents, School Status, and Canvas. You may reach me through e-mail at [gray@sunflower.org](mailto:gray@sunflower.org). My hours are: **Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.** However, I will adjust my schedule to accommodate you.

## **#The Exception**

### **Assistant Principal's Message**

Welcome Back!! I am so excited to begin the second semester with you at Robert L. Merritt Junior High. We are entering a new calendar year; however, expectations are still high for all stakeholders. We encourage everyone to make teaching and learning a priority each day at Robert L. Merritt Junior High Not only do we promote the importance of a quality education, we expect our students to be respectful and well-disciplined. By revisiting our vision and mission, schoolwide goals, and positive behavior plan, we are anticipating a successful second semester! As we strive to create proficient readers, writers, mathematicians, problem solvers, critical thinkers, and productive citizens in the New Year, remember that if better is possible, then good is not enough. Let's work together to make 2023 a better year with new possibilities.

#### **The McKinney-Vento Act**

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the affected children, 1) student attendance decreases and 2. financial situations destroy students' interest in school. The SCCSD recognizes the importance of education for all children and has adopted the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act that addresses the needs of homeless children. This policy aids with homeless students so that they can continue to be educated despite the challenges they face. If you know of families with children who are homeless, please contact the Homeless Liaison at RLMJH, Geraldine Ray at (662) 884-1270 ext. 317. Your call could be of great assistance to a family in need. For more information visit Website: <http://www.serve.org/nche> or E-mail [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)

## Collaborations Outside the Box BY JESSICA FITZPATRICK

Often when people think of collaborations with the school library, English and Social Studies are the first subjects to come to mind. So much of the English and Social Studies curriculum is based around literature and research making the school library a haven of resources and knowledge on these subjects. Science and math will also utilize the school library throughout for research, just not as frequently as English and Social Studies. I love to think outside the box for collaborations to bring teachers to not only reach more learners but also more teachers.

Nina Laden Author of the Month for January, 2023

“Everything is important and you never know where the seed of an idea will come from – so I do journal everything – writing, drawing, I paste things in my journals, and I never tear out the pages.” Nina Laden was born in New York City, to parents Frieda Savitz-Laden and Bob Laden, both artists. In her youth, she babysat for jazz bass player Bill Crow’s son, and worked as a ski instructor. She began playing guitar at age eight, and wrote her first songs at thirteen (she also learned to play the spoons and the ukulele). She graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University with a degree in illustration, and took English literature classes with novelist Tobias Wolff. After college, she lived in Atlanta, where she worked as a freelance graphic designer and opened the city’s first espresso bar. Nina has published over twenty-five books, selling over a million copies. As an author and illustrator, she creates picture and novelty board books, graphic essays, and cartoons. All her books begin in her journals-she’s on her forty-second journal.

### 2023 Scripps Spelling Bee Dates and Deadlines

January 13, 2023 All School-Level Bees must be completed

January 26 - February 13, 2023 Window for District Spelling Bee/Regional Qualifier Bee at Central Office Auditorium Indianola, March 4, 2023 Regional Spelling Bee in Columbus MS

### Counselor and Library Advisory Committee Brunch Meeting

The annual meeting was held on December 29, 2022 in the library. Various persons from the school community, and students were present. The purpose of the meeting are as follows:

- Providing real and virtual access to appropriate, high-quality resources (print/non-print and digital formats) and services that support and enhance teaching, literacy, and learning during and outside the school day.
- Participating in curriculum development and design of learning activities.
- Facilitating professional development for the learning community.
- Incorporating Reading Challenges for students and staff.

If you would like to participate in the next meeting, please contact Dr. J. James at 662-884-1270 at Robert L. Merritt Jr. High School.

**Dr. Jessica James, Library Media Specialist**

## Counselor's Corner, Naomi Fant-Ivory

Character word of the Month: **Respect-Act** of thoughtfulness a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

### “Every Day Counts!”

<b><u>Pamelia Foster, School Attendance Officer</u></b> A.W. James Elementary Ruleville Central Elementary Drew Hunter Middle Ruleville Central Middle Thomas E. Edwards, Sr. High	<b><u>Pamelia Foster, School Attendance Officer</u></b> Lockard Elementary Carver Elementary Moorhead Central Robert L. Merritt Junior High Gentry High Rosser Early Learning Center
Tel (662) 887-8107 Fax (662) 887-7306	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.



**“We come to Work, to WORK”**