Kids Talk

Do you know this person?

He was selected to establish a new school in Tuskegee, Ala., a mission that he described as "an experiment — that of testing whether or not it was possible for Negroes (blacks) to build up and control the affairs of a large educational institution." His autobiography, Up From Slavery, includes the philosophy for the way he developed the Tuskegee Institute.

He is Booker Talliaferro Washington.

Camp Happy Lungs for asthmetic children

Children laughing and whooping, flipping and bouncing up and down, or skipping and playing ball are children who attend Camp Happy Lungs.

Children solemnly straddling ponies led by colorful clowns and deeply engrossed in rhythmic breathing and physical exercises are children who attend Camp Happy Lungs.

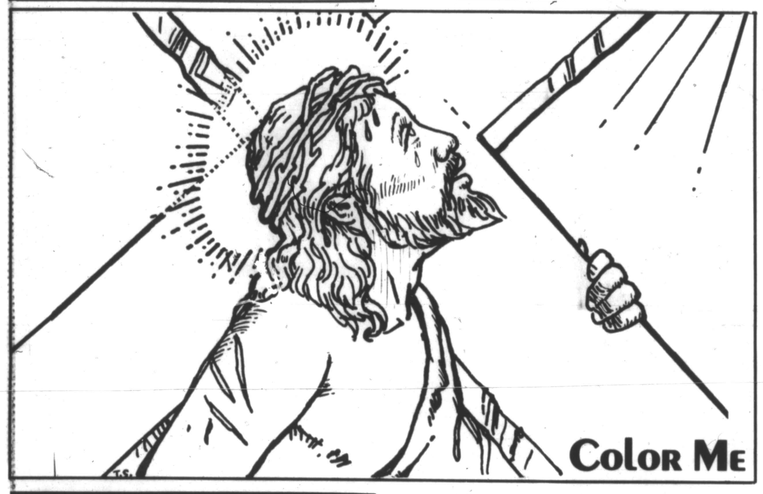
Children giving life to their innermost thoughts through paper and crayons and attentively listening to the doctor's words are children who attend Camp Happy Lungs.

Camp Happy Lungs is a free community service sponsored by the American Lung Association of DC, for boys and girls ages 7 to 10 with asthma in the District of Columbia and their parents. Doctors, nurses, therapists, counselors and volunteers give their professional expertise, talent and time to help enrollees and their families learn about what triggers asthma, how to avoid it, how to handle it, how to work with the doctor to control it, and how to relax and breathe better.

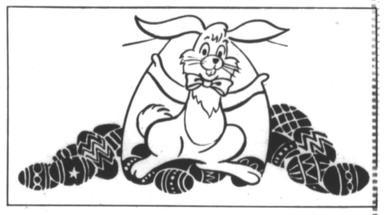
It is estimated that there are as many as 20,000 children with asthma in the District. ALADC wants to give these children a chance to enjoy a happy and normal childhood and the opportunity to look forward to a productive adult life.

This year's camp will be held Saturday, June 24, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the University of the District of Columbia. Washington's First Lady Effi Barry is the Honorary Chairperson. She told parents, "A more optimistic outlook on asthma can be achieved with better knowledge and understanding. Camp Happy Lungs will teach you and your child the importance of controlling the disease and the fear associated with the illness."

To receive registration materials contact Veronica Brown, Director, Pediatric Lung Disease Programs, American Lung Association of D.C., 475 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 (202)682-5864.



Color Me



Easter celebration

Easter, March 26, 1989, is the festival for Christians who celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sent to Earth long ago in the form of a man to be an example of love for human beings and to save us all from eternal punishment for our sins.

Because he was misunderstood by many he was crucified. People nailed his hands and his feet to a wooden cross and allowed Him to hang there until He died. He was buried in a tomb on a Friday. Sunday morning His body was no longer in the tomb. The Holy Bible says that He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with His Father. This is what is celebrated on Easter.

A popular pastime connected with Easter is coloring and hunting Easter eggs. The egg symbolizes the new birth into a new life for Christ and for Christians who follow His tenets. The new clothes that many people wear on Easter symbolize the new birth as well.

Have a Happy Easter!

Puzzling???

Happy Easter

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P r e s u r r e c t i o n
S V S O W O W D b F B h S
K r X M F R M u G J c c r
K e R A Q M n L T r r e y
N b Y A O n Z B u u t a X
X i B J y V L h c s d E R
U r C W B J c i a i A B A
T t Z S e U f E I J K U L
d h R s I i E o R S X A I
e U u R e U h M M J C e N
i s N d Z Y B Z S L q X E
r A y r a v l a C g A F Q
u T C h r i s t s J J E T
b K X V J H T W A M Z W M
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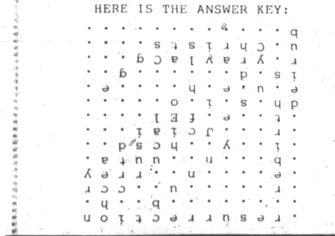
FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

Calvary, bunny, eggs, Christ, buried, holiday, Easter, church, rebirth, Jesus, crucified, resurrection

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:



Earn wings at Kings Dominion

KINGS DOMINION has the most fun for kids. Get a hug from Scooby Doo and his friends, explore the ball crawls in Scooby's Play Park, try the rides in the Happy Land of Hanna Barbera, and enjoy live shows.

Imagine this: You are strapped in the cockpit of your own aerospace machine. You are flying 60 feet into the air and begin to revolve around a tower at 10 revolutions per minute. You are still just a kid, but today, you are in control. You maneuver the control stick and make the cockpit dip, soar and roll.

The excitement does not have to stay in your imagination. The excitement is for real at Kings Dominion as the park opens for its fifteenth season on Saturday, March 25, when guest get the chance to earn their wings on the new Sky Pilot thrill ride.

Sky Pilot will be located in the Candy Apple Grove section of the Park and represents the eighth major attraction since 1982 to be introduced at Kings Dominion. Last year Kings Dominion introduced the "Avalanche Bobsled" ride. In total, Kings Dominion offers 44 rides.

Also debuting at the Park this year is the new Broadway-style revue, "Those Magnificent Movies." The splendor of the silver screen comes live in this elaborate musical salute to your all-time favorite movies.

Popular shows returning from previous seasons include the Park's country music show, performed on the Country Crossroads Stage; "The Backyard Circus," a children's participatory show in which kids are the main event; and "Moby's Seaside Revue" a dolphin and sea lion show.

Kings Dominion's child-pleasing Hanna-Barbera and Smurf characters, plus the Park's talented troupe of roving performers will also be on hand to entertain.

Kings Dominion will be open weekends from March 25 through May 28, plus March 27 and May 29. Park is closed May 7. Open daily June 1 through Sept. 4. Open weekends from Sept. 10 through Oct. 14. Kings Dominion is located 20 miles north of Richmond, Va. and 75 miles south of Washington, DC on Interstate 95.

Kids Calendar

Easter Egg Hunt

Hunt Easter eggs for free if you are 12 years old or under at Crittenden Street Park, 4913 Crittenden Street, Edmonston, Md., March 25, 2 p.m. Call 301-464-3726.

Easter Extravaganza

Pre-school and elementary school kids can get a picture with the Easter Bunny for only $1 per person March 27 from noon until 2 p.m. at the Columbia Park/Kentland Community Center, 2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, Md.Other activities include an Easter play, an egg hunt, treats and prizes. The general fee for activities is 50 cent per person. For information call 301-386-2278.

Easter Day Camp

Crafts, special events, trips, sports and games are available for kids ages six to 11 at the Stephen Decatur Community Center, 8200 Pinewood Drive, Clinton, Md. The fee is $45 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.; $55 from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Information may be obtained at 301-297-4648.

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School of the Week

George W.F. McMechen Jr./Sr. High School

Making A Difference In Baltimore

By Delfield S. Yoes III
AFRO Staff Writer

The first image that you encounter when you enter George W.F. McMechen Junior/Senior High School is a huge bright red banner with white letters that reads, "The School That Makes the Difference."

Banners like this one, with inspirational slogans emblazed upon them hang from the walls of many schools around the city. These messages may evoke a certain measure of pride in some schools, but for the staff and students of school 177, "The School That Makes the Difference," serves as a functional mandate.

McMechen High School, located at 4411 Garrison Blvd., is a special level five school, which means it is a school that caters to the unique needs of young people who have multiple handicaps, (emotional, physical, etc.). The students ages range from 11 to 21.

Fulfilling the needs of these students requires a very special faculty and administration. School 177 possesses both.

The school's principal is Paula D. Cottrell, who for seven years was the Department Head of the McMechen School.

Over the last two years that Cottrell has served as principal, she has identified specific goals and a direction which does not confine McMechen School students to stagnant, feeble existences.

For pupils who have exceptionally restraining handicaps, the goal is to make these students more independent; helping them to do for themselves, rather than relying on others.

For the other students, the goal is to get them into the work force competing for jobs.

Achieving these goals would be impossible without the full participation of parents. The McMechen School functions as an extension of the home, like the other "regular" schools in the system should.

"Parent involvement is a must, they are key players. The parents of these kids are in on the education process every step of the way," said Paula Cottrell.

The McMechen School curriculum is specifically tailored for the individual needs of the students.

There are several enclaves within the massive open space, in the middle of the school, which teach the students domestic skills.

There is a space called the supermarket, which is just that. There are real products on the shelves, shopping carts and cash registers.

The students not only learn how to shop for food, but they learn skills that may enable them to obtain a job in a supermarket environment.

In another section called the apartment, the youngsters cook meals, do laundry and clean the apartment top to bottom. Recently, some of the McMechen students made a full course breakfast. Principal Cottrell sampled the food and she said, "The food was fantastic."

The McMechen School also has the only shoe repair workshop in the city school system. The students repair the shoes of many of the faculty members and several students have obtained jobs in shoe repair shops around the city.

Of course the conventional disciplines like reading and math are a big part of the curriculum as well.

Other activities like sports and music are heavily stressed. The young women and men have been extremely successful in both of these areas.

The McMechen basketball team recently brought home the gold from the Special Olympics competition and the school choir is scheduled to perform before the Baltimore City Board of Education.

Principal Cottrell is always enthusiastic about the triumphs and accomplishments of her young women and men, however she was especially jubilant over the basketball team's victory, "because it was something that the team wanted so badly and they went out and did it."

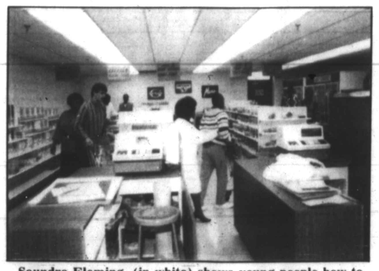
Cottrell continued, "They, (the students) help me grow as a person. I feel good about my job, I come to work with a smile and I leave with a smile."

The words, dedication and patience, are characteristics attributed to superior teachers and administrators. Obviously, teachers who work with special education students must possess these qualities in abundance.

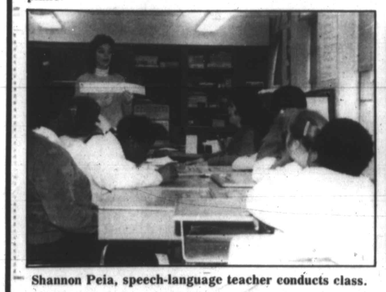
The faculty and administration at The McMechen School redefine these terms and bring them to a higher plane.

Principal of George W. F. McMechen Junior/Senior High School, Paula D. Cottell.

Music instructor, Catherine Carter leads students in a song.



Saundra Fleming, (in white) shows young people how to shop for food and other products.



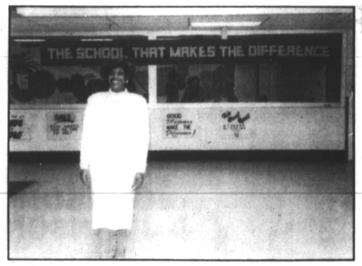
Shannon Peia, speech-language teacher conducts class.

Teaching assistant, Reggie Jordan works with students in the shoe repair shop.

"The McMechen School functions as an extension of the home, like the other "regular" schools in the system should."

McMechen School Teacher of the Month, Joyce Williams.

Teacher Veronica Grimes instructs 13 year old Antonio Moore.



Principal Cottrell stands in front of the banner in the main corridor.

Working in the kitchen of the McMechen School apartment are from L to R Jermaine Gwynn, Titorian Goodwin and April Reeves.

Photos by Ricardo Gray