Kids Talk

Do you know this person?

She was the first black licensed airplane pilot in the world. Born in 1893 to sharecropper parents, she knew she wanted to be a pilot after her first plane ride, but racism and sexism barred her entry into the established American flying schools. She learned French and learned to fly in Paris. She returned to the U.S. as a star. She died in a plane crash in 1926.

She is Bessie Coleman.

Mysteries of the deep unfold at Sea World

The sea's mystery and wonder await discovery at Sea World of Florida, one of the world's largest marine life parks. Its undisputed star remains Shamu, the killer whale, the most magnificent and awesome of the ocean's creatures.

A LEGEND IN HIS TIME — This awesome creature is Shamu the killer whale. In the sea, he commands respect and fear. At Sea World he demonstrates a playful nature and acceptance of man.

The entire killer whale family, including Baby Shamu, born at Sea World of Florida's Shamu Stadium, is featured in "The Legend of Shamu." This living documentary fosters an appreciation and understanding of "the great blackfish," and pays tribute to a mammal held in reverence by the Killer Whale Clan of the Alaskan Tlingit Indians.

He has been called "the wolf of the sea." He is the ultimate predator, killing and devouring anything that swims near. Indian legends speak of his prowess as a hunter: the speed of a hawk, the strength of a bear, the eyesight of an eagle. He is the killer whale — a creature who, for centuries, has been respected and feared.

At Sea World, over the course of 25 years, a new dimension of this fierce creature has surfaced. With care and patience the relationship with man evolves into one of sharing, playfulness and acceptance. Even a newborn whale is entrusted to human companions.

Nestled between the Sea Lion and Otter and the Whale and Dolphin Stadiums is the five-acre site of the $13 million Penguin Encounter, the largest exhibit of its kind in the world. Home to hundreds of penguins and alcids, the science center entertains and educates guests as well as serves as a living laboratory for protecting and preserving polar life.

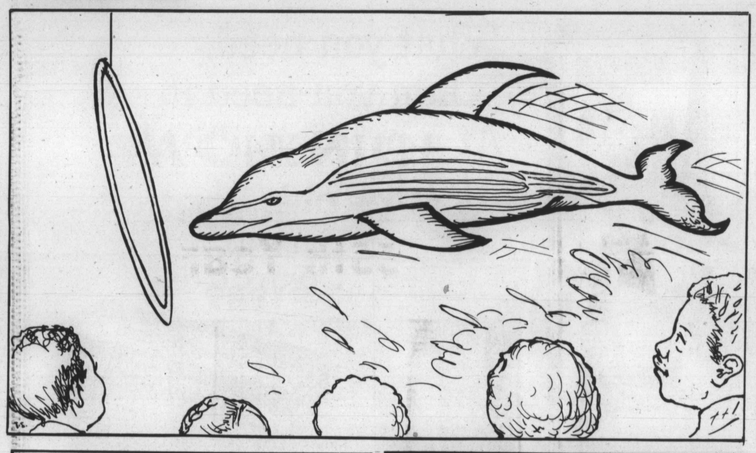
For those who want a view of life below the water's surface, the Tropical Reef offers a scuba diver's perspective on thousands of exotic inhabitants of the world's oceans. Tropical fish from great reefs of the Caribbean, South Pacific and Australia form an ever-changing rainbow against the colorful background.

STRUTTING THEIR STUFF — Maggie and Patrick, two young Magellanic penguins raised at the Penguin Encounter at Sea World of Florida, are seen in their juvenile plumage.

Designed with the creative input of children, the 2.5-acre Cap'n Kids World is a unique nautically-themed play area. This just-for-kids area includes a 55-foot pirate's Funship with water cannons, rigging nets for climbing, a water traverse and a fun-for-all ball crawl.

Sea World of Florida is open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., with extended hours during summer and holidays.

Color Me



Reading Rainbow celebrates the Year of the Young Reader

In this, the 'Year of the Young Reader (YOYR),' the highly acclaimed public television show "Reading Rainbow" and the Library of Congress share the goal of encouraging children to read. They also share actor LeVar Burton as host/spokesperson.

The YOYR was designated by President George Bush and the United States Congress. It was initiated by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and by the Library's Children's Literature Center. Based in Washington, DC, the Center for the Book stimulates public awareness of books and reading through its national network of state Centers.

Burton will appear in a series of video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) aimed at promoting awareness of the YOYR. He will urge parents of young children to make reading "a family affair."

"The YOYR encourages parents, educators, librarians and private citizens to develop activities that foster a love of books and reading among young people," said Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress. "In this country, we have an urgent need to bring more young people into creative contact with books, reading and libraries."

"I'm thrilled to serve as a spokesperson for the YOYR," Burton said. "The intention of both the YOYR campaign and Reading Rainbow are the same; to use the medium of television to bring reading and the written word to the attention of our children. Reading Rainbow is recognized as a foremost example of quality children's television, which emphasizes using TV to motivate children to read. As most reading experts agree, one of the most important elements in instilling a love of reading in children is for parents to read books with them at home.

LEVAR BURTON is a national spokesperson for Library of Congress' Year of the Young Reader.

"Children need adult encouragement to acquire a love for reading. We want to appeal to parents to act as role models and take an active interest in their children's literary future."

"The success of LeVar Burton in urging children to read through Reading Rainbow made him a logical choice to be a spokesperson for the YOYR," said John Y. Cole, Director of the Library of Congress' Center for the Book. "LeVar is an effective role model for children and adults of all races and backgrounds and he will help make millions of people aware of the YOYR."

Check your local television listing for the times and stations on which Reading Rainbow is aired in your area.

Kids Calendar

Talent Showcase

The Baltimore Afro-academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) will sponsor the First Annual Talent Showcase featuring Baltimore City high school students and special guest artists performing in music, dance, poetry, and other creative arts.

The program will be held on Sunday, April 9, 4:30 p.m. at the Langsdale Auditorium on the University of Baltimore's Campus at 1420 Maryland Ave. For tickets and additional information, call 366-3300.

Everyone loves a parade

Come see the most popular parade in the nation's capital, the National Cherry Blossom Parade, sponsored by the Downtown Jaycees. The parade will begin at Constitution Ave. and Seventh St. at 12:30 p.m. and will end at Seventeenth St. at 3:30 p.m.

A Fairytale Comes to Life

Remember the magical tale of Rumplestiltskin? Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park, Md. is presenting the American version, Laddio Tiddliwink through April 9. Performances are on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $4 general admission with a pre-paid group rate. For information and reservations call 320-5331.

An Animal Hunt

The Muppet Babies presentation of "Where's Animal?" can be seen at the Patriot Center on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., April 2-6. For tickets, call TicketCenter at 202-432-0200 in metro Washington.

Puzzling??

Sea Life

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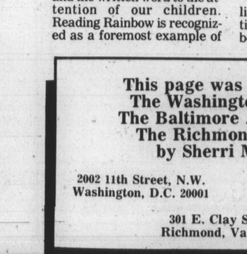
FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

Atlantic	Pacific	divers	dolphin
eel	fish	ocean	octopus
seaweed	shark	squid	whale

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:



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by Sherri Milner

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School of the Week

Duke Ellington Primary School

Male role models needed

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

The most unique feature of the Duke Ellington Primary School is its location, 790 W. North Ave., right above Baines Supermarket.

It's also unique because it is one of only five primary schools, (pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade) in Baltimore City.

Unfortunately, School 117 is not unique in one aspect. It is like many city schools that grapple with the ever present dilemma of how to raise the self-image of students.

In almost every school that has been highlighted as, "School of the Week," by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper in the past few weeks, the challenge of building self-esteem among students and in many cases teachers, has been a top priority of administration and staff.

"It's frightening to believe that they,(students) feel they don't have alternatives at this age," said Ernestine Jolivet, Master Teacher of Duke Ellington Primary.

It's the same story that has been told over and over again. The lack of male role models, single parents too busy to spend adequate time with their children,impoverished living conditions, etc.

In too many cases small children who shouldn't have a care in the world and who should be being groomed to achieve any and all their aspirations, feel a sense of defeat because of circumstances far beyond their control.

The saving grace for the staff at Duke Ellington is that the students are extremely young, making them more accessible. However, without cooperation from parents it doesn't matter.

Involving parents in the education process has been the main thrust of School 117's efforts in correcting this massive problem.

According to the principal of Duke Ellington Primary,Barbara Grier, parent participation has been, "Fair."

"Parent involvement is not at the level that we want it to be, but the parents who do participate are very receptive," explains Master Teacher Jolivet.

The school holds regularly scheduled workshops that instruct parents on how to create a more nurturing home environment. The workshops are also used to help solicit more direct involvement from parents.

These workshops further stress the importance of proper nutrition and parent's interaction with their children academically.

School 117 has also created the, "Duke Ellington Improvement Club." The students who attend the meetings talk about the importance of school and they talk about what's good about their school.

Several programs are in place to motivate students, boost esteem and involve parents.

There are academic achievement awards given by Baines Supermarket located beneath the school. Perfect attendance awards are handed out on a quarterly basis by the school to encourage good attendance.

Duke Ellington awards cultural enrichment incentives to exceptional students. These incentives not only encourage academic excellence, but the incentives provide exposure to a variety of cultural events.

For parents who participate in their children's education process regularly, a "thank you luncheon" is given in their honor each school quarter.

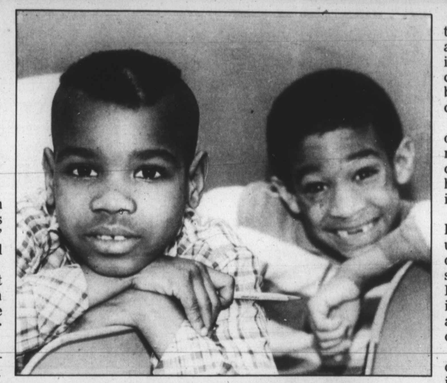
A family math workshop that takes place after school on Tuesdays allows parents to be directly involved with their children's math instruction.

A lack of space is another problem confronting School 117. Several of the schools rooms have dual identities. For example, the cafeteria doubles as the auditorium.

Like in other city schools the student to teacher ratio is a little high as well. The ratio at Duke Ellington is about 30-1. These situations can only be corrected with augmented finances for the school.

"My main concern is the quality of teachers. If you have competent teachers, we can instill what needs to be instilled in the children," says principal Grier.

More teachers, more qualified teachers, are an absolute must. But qualified male teachers are especially important.



Marquis Gibson and Harry Taylor take a timeout.

Duke Ellington Readers.

AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene

The school's physical education teacher, who only comes in once a week is the school's only male instructor and he's white. This cannot be acceptable in an all black school, within an all black community.

The school is in desperate need of positive, black, male, role models. That is one reason behind career awareness programs that have taken place and that are being scheduled currently.

As of this moment Duke Ellington Primary is surviving under these very challenging conditions. Even with a competent staff and administration, Duke Ellington needs a lot of assistance, if it is to grow. Some of this assistance just takes time from a caring community.

Until that time comes the future of these very young people hangs in the balance.

If you feel your school has what it takes to be school of the week, call the AFRO at 728-8200 and ask for the education reporter, Delfield S. Yoes, III.

Andre Montague enjoys his lunch, immensely.

Principal Barbara Grier and Master Teacher Ernestine Jolivet.

Stephanie Harper shares a secret with Ashley Mosley during lunchtime.

JOIN NOW!

AFRO Clean Block
55th Year
1934-1989

1. The captain must try to get all persons in the block to sign up and and send their names to the AFRO-AMERICAN.
2. He or she must call a meeting of all adults and children and elect a president who will act as an advisor.
3. Have a secretary, who will write down what is done at each meeting and send reports to the AFRO-AMERICAN.
4. Elect a marshal, who will call out the clean-up brigade at a definite time each day, so that by all working together at the same time, the block will soon improve in appearance.
5. Do not paint trees or curbs.

To Participate
Call 728-8200
Ext. 291
Narda Terry
AFRO Clean Block, Director

AFRO Clean Block
628 N. Eutaw St. • Baltimore, Md. 21201
Yes, I want to be Captain of my block ( )
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____