

Carr Lane VPA News & Views



March 2018

Issue No. 3

January 26, 2018! Spirit Day begins at Carr Lane VPA. Mr. Phillips leads an early morning Pep Rally with the Drum Line, the Jaguar Spirit Squad, and Jaguar Cheerleaders. Carr Lane celebrates its Honors Students, its students with perfect 1st-semester attendance and the victories of both the Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams under the coaching direction of Ms. Grove and Mr. Fox!!!



Girls' Basketball Coach and 6th Grade ELA Teacher, Ms. Grove with Mr. Phillips in the early morning on January 26, 2018, preparing for the day-opening Spirit Assembly.

CARR LANE VPA

by Christian, Grade 6, Period 3

Carr lane VPA is one of the best schools in Downtown. It is located on Cole and Jefferson Street not far from Downtown. Our principal and our staff are so cool. Our principal's name is Mr. Young. He used to work in a school named Compton Drew. This school

was made in 1958. This school is so fun because we have everything. We have a basketball, volleyball, teams. We even have strings, band, and cheerleaders. Every time Carr Lane plays basketball Carr Lane is there to cheer for them. This is why Carr Lane VPA is one of the best schools.

DANCE

by Leah, Grade 6, Period 1

In Ms. Parker's 6th grade B-day dance class the students are learning 3 dances for the big spring show at the end of the school year. In the show we are doing a tap, jazz, and ballet routine. On 2\8\18 we were supposed to do cuts for the tap dance, but that did not happen because some people came from down town to take pictures. So, we are supposed to do it on 2\13\18. To not get cut we have to know the dance or almost know the dance. If not, Ms. Parker will give us a smaller part. So, I'm going to practice and practice, so I will not get cut. Wish me luck!

PRACTICE MAP TESTING

By Hadessah, Grade 6, Period 1

For the month of February, Carr Lane VPA Middle School has been doing practice MAP tests. All grades will be testing, all on different days. To provide no distractions, while one group is testing, the rest of the school will hold in their 2nd period class. When the testing groups are done testing, there will be an announcement on the intercom telling people they are free to move. Miss V.'s comment on this was: "This is to prepare you for the real MAP test.... These test grades are connected to your name.... you need to do your best on these tests."

Some people feel this is going too far and is wasting precious learning time. Some people feel this is necessary. Whatever the opinions, the school must work together to ensure a successful testing month.

"DEN OF THIEVES"

by Imani, Grade 6, Period 1

On February 7, 2018 I went to the movies. I went to go see "Den of Thieves." I went with my dad and my big sister. The movie had Ice Cube's son in it. The son's name is O'Shea. It was a confusing movie, but there was a lot of action and shooting. O'Shea played a man named Donnie. He worked at a bar. He was a driver for the bad guys that tried to rob a bank. They caught Donnie when the bad guys tried to get away.

But here's the thing; Donnie was the mastermind of all of this! Donnie got all the money and moved to England. He had his own plan all along. The other people who tried to rob the bank all died. They never caught Donnie to take him to jail. It was a very exciting movie.

UMSL HONORS BAND, CHOIR, AND ORCHESTRA

by Jessica, Grade 6, Period 1

On February 7, 2018, students in middle school from around the St. Louis area were able to perform at the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL). Three groups performed that day. The groups were band, choir, and orchestra. Each group performed 4 songs. Each group had to practice for hours. Each group worked hard. Every group had a different conductor. The band conductor was nice. The performance started at 6 and ended at 8. When on break, we could go to the student center and eat and shop. After everything was done and the performance was over we could go home. This was my experience at UMSL.

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

by Joe, Grade 6, Period 3

Today, Feb. 2, 2018, I am writing a news paper story for our school paper about whatever news story I feel like writing about. Dr. Phoenix (my 3rd period teacher at Carr Lane VPA Middle School) told us to write a news story, and then type up the news story. So, that's what I am doing. I hope he likes it. Please do, please, please do! *(Well, Joseph, this is not quite the topic I had in mind, but I think you did a pretty good job addressing the news story questions: who, what, where, when and why! Dr. Phoenix.)*

MAP PRACTICE TESTING AT CARR LANE

by Maurice, Grade, Period 2

I'm going to be talking about how Carr Lane VPA middle school has been testing on 1/30/18. That's when we started testing, but

we all were practice testing so the teachers kept us in the gym. Next they made us sit up, so we waited and watched a good movie and ate some snacks, and they called us down to the computer lab and we started testing. Finally, the day was back to normal, but the next day the same thing happened again. The next day and we were done testing for the 6th grade and so the 8th grade started testing. We, in the sixth grade, had to go to our second period class and stay there for about three and four hours. It was a lot of testing, and there is more testing in the days ahead.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. STITH

by Ja’Niya, Grade 6, Period 1

On Friday January 26, 2018 I interviewed the Carr Lane band teacher Mr. Stith. I decided to interview Mr. Stith because he is a hard working, calm and patient individual. His primary instrument is the trumpet, and he is also good at playing percussion instruments. The interview wasn’t long, but I can tell he has passion to teach his students. He helps out with the school computers, helps put on the shows in the Carr Lane Auditorium and is a big part of Carr Lane VPA.

A NEWS STORY FROM THE BEGINNING OF OUR COUNTRY

by Xzandria, Grade 6, Period 1

The Weehawken Duel took place in 1804 when Alexander Hamilton went to duel with Aaron Burr. They face one another over political issues after the election of in which Hamilton had the final vote. A course of letters clearly stated that Hamilton did not vote for Burr because of Burr’s inaccuracy, and Burr’s failure

to show why he was running for president. Burr told Hamilton to meet him in Weehawken to draw their guns. Before he left Alexander Hamilton wrote a letter to his wife Elizabeth saying he never intended to wound Burr. This led him to shoot into the tree above Aaron Burr. In retaliation Burr shot Hamilton right between his ribs. Burr tried to speak to the wounded gentlemen, but he lost those privileges after agreeing to the duel. Burr traveled back to New York City, Alexander Hamilton bled the death the next day with his wife and sister-in-law by his side. Aaron Burr’s political career was ruined by the incident. Burr was charged with murder in both New York and New Jersey, but never prosecuted.

In addition to news stories, 6th Grade Students have been learning how to write argument paragraph. They begin with a controversial topic or issue, take a position and state a claim. Next, they develop several strong reasons in support of that claim. Here are some argument paragraphs written in the New Year.

UNIFORM POLICY

by Hadessah, Grade 6, Period 1

St. Louis Public School District has a strict uniform policy that is just not fair. Kids cannot express themselves or show their true inner sparkle because the uniforms lack color. And lack of color means lack of success. It is a renowned fact that more people are bullied and get into fights in the St. Louis Public School District than any other school district in the St. Louis area. This may be because of the lack of color in the uniform. I’m not saying change the uniform; I’m saying “no uniforms!” That is what we all need to be successful. So, in conclusion, what a student decides to wear to school would be safe, colorful, fun, and planned to channel to a person’s creativity.

NO UNIFORMS

by Jaziah, Grade 6, Period 3

I think we should not wear uniforms. If we don't wear uniforms more people might show up to school. I think if we don't wear uniforms nobody will talk about anyone else because they will be wearing their normal clothes. I think if we don't wear school uniforms people would be more successful, because they won't have anything to focus on but their work. And the teachers won't have a hard time getting the class quiet, because everyone will be happy in his or her own clothes. This is why I think we should not wear uniforms.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

by Aaliyah, Grade 6, Period 1

Students should be able to express themselves through their clothing. Today, I will be addressing the issues that most students like me have with uniforms. I am also going to be answering most questions that schools might ask regarding uniforms. All SLPS schools should allow their students to wear the clothes of their choice to school. Most schools think that if they allow their students to wear the clothes of their choice they would wear inappropriate cloths, like short-shorts and crop-tops. The schools can simply issue a dress code, so the students must wear the appropriate clothes. The appropriate clothing would be medium length shorts, shirts at least to waist, pants, appropriate accessories, etc. In conclusion, students that attend schools in the SLPS school district should be able to express their creativity through their clothing.

MICHELLE OBAMA RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

by Arie, Grade 6, Period 2

Michelle Obama should run for president. Her husband did, and everyone loves her as she is and what she does. If she runs and wins, she will be the first woman as a president. We have never experienced a woman president, so it will be a dream come true to me and to millions of women and girls everywhere. She will be the first black, woman president. We also never experienced that. My mom would also be happy, because she loves Michelle Obama, and it would be a dream come true. I hope Michelle becomes president.

WHY STORES SHOULD LOWER PRICES

by Arin, 6th grade, Period 2

They should lower prices of things to buy. Some people are homeless, and if they have any money they might not have enough because the prices are too high. Another reason why they should lower prices is that people have more money left over for other things. My last reason is that people might have a lot of kids and be the only parent and not have a good job to get them food or clothes. I heard that back in the day candy bars were about twenty-five cents and now candy bars are about a dollar or two. If candy or soda or anything cost just a little bit less, people would buy things more. That's why they should lower prices in stores.



Can't get enough of that Spirit Day — January 26, 2018! Ms. Parker, Mr. Folkes, Ms. Parker, Mr. Jude, and Ms. Choate!

PARAGRAPH ON UNIFORMS

by Aariah, Grade 6, Period 2

My problem is that we can't wear clothes besides uniforms in school. I don't know why we can't wear our style of clothes in school, even on Fridays! I have some reasons why we should wear what we wish, at least on Friday. We wear uniforms every day in the week, and we deserve a break from uniforms. Secondly, we try to be the best we can be, plus, we aren't bad all the time, so we should have it as a reward. Finally, students are sick and tired of wearing uniforms every single day. Here is my solution, we could wear our own clothes on

Fridays, and we can wear uniforms Monday through Thursday. Friday means free to us!

LET'S USE OUR CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

by Christian, Grade 6, Period 3

These are some reasons we should use our phones in school. Reason one is for an emergency. Reason number two is that when we are done with all of our work we can get on our phones without hurting anything. Reason number three is that we need phones so we can take notes and use the calculator. So, what about reason number one, emergency? If there

is a school lockdown or our school catches on fire we can call our parents to come and pick us up, and we won't have to wait in line. Reason number two? After we are done with all of our work we can get on our phones and play with them for a little bit so we won't get distracted and cause problems. The third reason is all about doing our school work. We have to take notes in our papers and the teachers tell us to write notes, so we can easily write them in our phone, and we can just get on our phones and look at them. Also, when we get older we get bigger math problems, and so we don't have to write it down; we can just type it in our phones. This is why we should have phones in the school.

PHONES IN SCHOOL

by Kenneth, Grade 6, Period 3

Phones should be legal in school. If you have an emergency you can call your family members. If you got into an accident you could call your mother. Also, your phone can help you read and help with grammar. They can help prevent boredom. If I was bored I could play on my phone. Now you know why phones should be legal.

X-BOX IS ONE OF THE BEST

by Darryl, Grade 6, Period 3

X-Box consoles are the best. They have the best graphics, there are many games available, and I like how they designed the controllers. They have the best graphics. The players look so real on the games. It looks like I'm watching a movie. There are so many games on there that can be purchased. You can buy all kinds of games even movies and apps. The controllers are white with heat things on them and if you drop it, nine times out of ten it will not break. These are some reasons why X-Box is one of the best game consoles.

CELL PHONES SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL

by Darryl, Grade 6, Period 3

We should really be able to have phones in school so we can use them for certain reasons. We can use them for Internet. We can use them for calling our moms in emergencies. Phones can be used for doing work, such as looking up stuff. If we could have phones I think school would be a better place. There wouldn't be so much fighting going on. So, when we have free time we can get on them. These are the reasons that support what I'm arguing about.

AMENDMENTS SHOULD REMAIN

by Jessica, Grade 6, Period 1

People think the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd amendment should be taken off the U.S Constitution. I think that these laws should stay on the Constitution. These are the reasons I think these laws should stay on the Constitution. The 1st amendment is freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and liberty. The 2nd amendment is the right to bear arms. The 3rd amendment is the right not to quarter soldiers. The first amendment is important because it gives us the right to practice religion anywhere. It gives us the right to wear what we want, to have a peaceful protest, and say what we want. The second amendment is important because it gives us the right to bear arms. It gives us the right to conceal and carry weapons for safety. The third amendment gives us the right to not quarter soldiers. This gives us the right to not let soldiers in our house and demand things. If they do show up you don't have to let them in. These are reasons I think these amendments from our Constitution should remain as they are.



8th Grade Strong! 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher, Mr. Petty and 8th Grade Mathematics Teacher, Mr. Risch on 1-26-18!



The Penton brothers bring free doughnuts to 307. Thank you!!!



Incredible! Mistrs Malcolm and Martin Penton!

CARR LANE VPA SPIRIT DAY



Shortly after 7:00AM in the morning, the Cheer Leaders, Spirit Squad and Drum Line members lead the charge!



Mr. Gulley, Carr Lane VPA's PBIS Coordinator. Mr. Gulley is both loved and respected by the students of Carr Lane VPA. He is always there to help, to offer a kind word, and to lend a guiding hand. He turned out **in force** for the January 26, 2018 Spirit Day!



Less than a month into his new role as Principal of Carr Lane VPA, long-time SLPS employee **Mr. Darwin Young** surveys the early-morning Spirit Day celebration he authorized as the school's leader. 15 minutes later, it was on to 1st Period!



Carr Lane VPA's winning Girls' Basketball Team, coached by 6th Grade ELA Teacher, Ms. Grove takes the stage as Mr. Philips announce the names of the individual team members. The cheers and applause of the Carr Lane VPA Student Body was deafening!



The Boys' Basketball Team members, coached by 7th Grade Science Teacher, Mr. Fox, step onto the stage as the gymnasium erupts with cheering and applause at 7:15 in the morning! Mr. Philips calls out the names, one by one, leading up to a star player, Dampier Evans, a Carr Lane VPA scholar who succeeds academically in class and on the court. The cheers of the school were deafening!

TEAR DOWN WALLS

by Joseph, Grade 6, Period 3

I think the border wall should be TORN DOWN! First, some Mexicans are actually trying to meet family members in America. Secondly, some Mexicans need to make some good money so they can actually take care of their families. Some Mexicans came to put their kids in better schools that also cost less. My conclusion? Mexicans have just as much of the right to come and/or stay in America as we Americans. Almost everyone, except for the Native Americans, came from different places. To me, if Donald Trump does not tear down the boarder walls, then he will be wrong!

BAN VIOLENT GAMES

by Joseph, Grade 6, Period 3

I think violent video games should be banned. Kids act like the characters in all the games they play. The younger they are the more games they play. When they are older instead of being active and actually doing something, they just sit around and play games. Some games are just too violent. That is why I think video games should be banned, or at least the most violent ones.

CELL PHONES AT SCHOOL

by K'ron, Grade 6, Period 3

Cell phones should be allowed in school. Phones prevent boredom and students from falling asleep. Phones prevent problems and danger, because when there is an emergency you can call 911. Phones can help students in school. Phones help kids with math using the calculator. Apps on phones can help with grammar, writing, and reading. The phones can help students with their work such as writing or studying. Now you know why schools need to let students bring their phones.

UNIFORMS

by Marie, Grade 6, Period 1

I'm going to be writing about uniforms and I don't like it. Keep on reading so you can know why I don't like it. I'm going to be talking about uniforms first and then tell you why I don't like it. The uniform is very ugly. Then I'm going to tell you it does not match to me with anything. Then the uniform can only be bought at certain places. Uniforms are ugly to me. We should not have to wear them.

MORE FOOD STAMPS

by Maurice, Grade 6, Period 2

We should have food stamps in this country and they should not be eliminated. Many people need more and more food stamps because people don't get many food stamps. Some people have many children and some people are struggling with food. They need more money for more happiness, but they don't have money, and people are hungry out here struggling. They really need food stamps to be able to eat.

SNACKS SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS

by Arianna, Grade 6, Period 1

Do you ever get to have snacks in your school? We don't have snacks in our school because it makes messes. It's not fair in Carr Lane that students don't get to bring snacks. The teachers keep saying no snacks. Well, I say we should have snacks because we are hungry and thirsty, and if I don't eat at least one snack a week I will probably pass out in school. I wish they would let us have snacks in school. This is my argument about snacks in school. P.S I eat snacks every day. My name is Arianna and this is my story argument about no snacks in school.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE SNACKS IN SCHOOL

by Leah, Grade 6, Period 1

I do not think it is fair that Carr Lane students can't bring snacks into the school without a "pass." They don't understand that we are hungry throughout the day. This is especially true in the 6th grade. We eat last, and when we go down to lunch the girls have to go straight outside. Also, when we go in we still have to wait until they call us up to eat. Some people come too late to school. If this happens and they did not eat at home, they might be too late to eat breakfast. So, because of that they will be hungry until lunch time. The last thing is that we all need energy/brain food to work, to focus and so that our brain can function. So, if we had snacks in school that we can also eat in class the 6th grade and the rest of the school would focus more and probably have better grades.

WHY WE SHOULD HAVE PHONES INSIDE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by Terrion, Grade 6, Period 2

I think we should be able to have our phones in school. It can be more useful to help you. It can give you a better understanding on how to function with it. It can be a faster way to do your school work. What I mean about better understanding is summing something up. Like if you have to find the definition of a word you could be asking the phone, searching the definition in the phone where it is right in your face, instead of have to take time to find it somewhere else like in a book. It can make this easier by telling you the right definition. That is why I think phones should be able to be in school.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

by Isaiah, Grade 6, Period 2

This is why it's important to get an education. First, you can be homeless without it. You don't want to be homeless, because you might freeze to death. Next, you can end up successful and rich. If you're rich you barely have to do things because of maids. You also might not get a lot of jobs. They might see that you're a dropout and might not hire him/her. This is why it's important to get an education.

WHY EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE GYM

by Shane, Grade 6, Period 3

These are the reasons why we all should have gym. One reason is everyone needs fitness. Also, in elementary we had to take gym. My last reason is we need recreational time. Those are my three reasons why we all should have gym.

PHONES IN SCHOOL

by Darryl, Grade 6, Period 3

Today, I'm going to be telling you about why phones should not be allowed at school. Phones drain kids minds while they are at school. Kids sneak and play on their phones. They get on them and they get on stuff such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and games. If kids weren't on their phones it would be better. More kids wouldn't fail. I try my best to do all my work to do better on my grades. If I keep studying and do all my work and homework I will do better. I like it when people don't get on their phones, I know I really don't want to stay in the 6th grade for another year, so I have to do work in every single class. So, in conclusion, don't get on your phones, kids!

Young Men's Empowerment Summit!



8th Grade Jaguars stand-in for a photo during a break in the action on February 15, 2018.

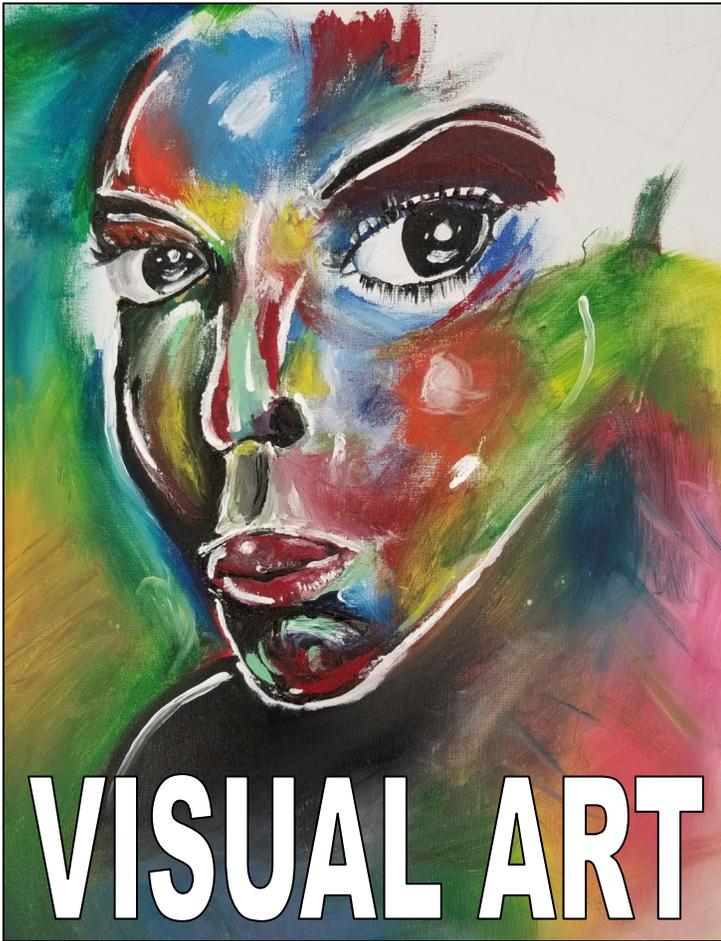


REACHING THE SUMMIT! Carr Lane VPA's 8th Grade Boys spend the day learning from community stakeholders about issues of vital to interest to young men growing-up in the 21st Century.

SUPPORT YOUNG MEN'S EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

Mr. Ferrer, Carr Lane VPA Assistant Principal

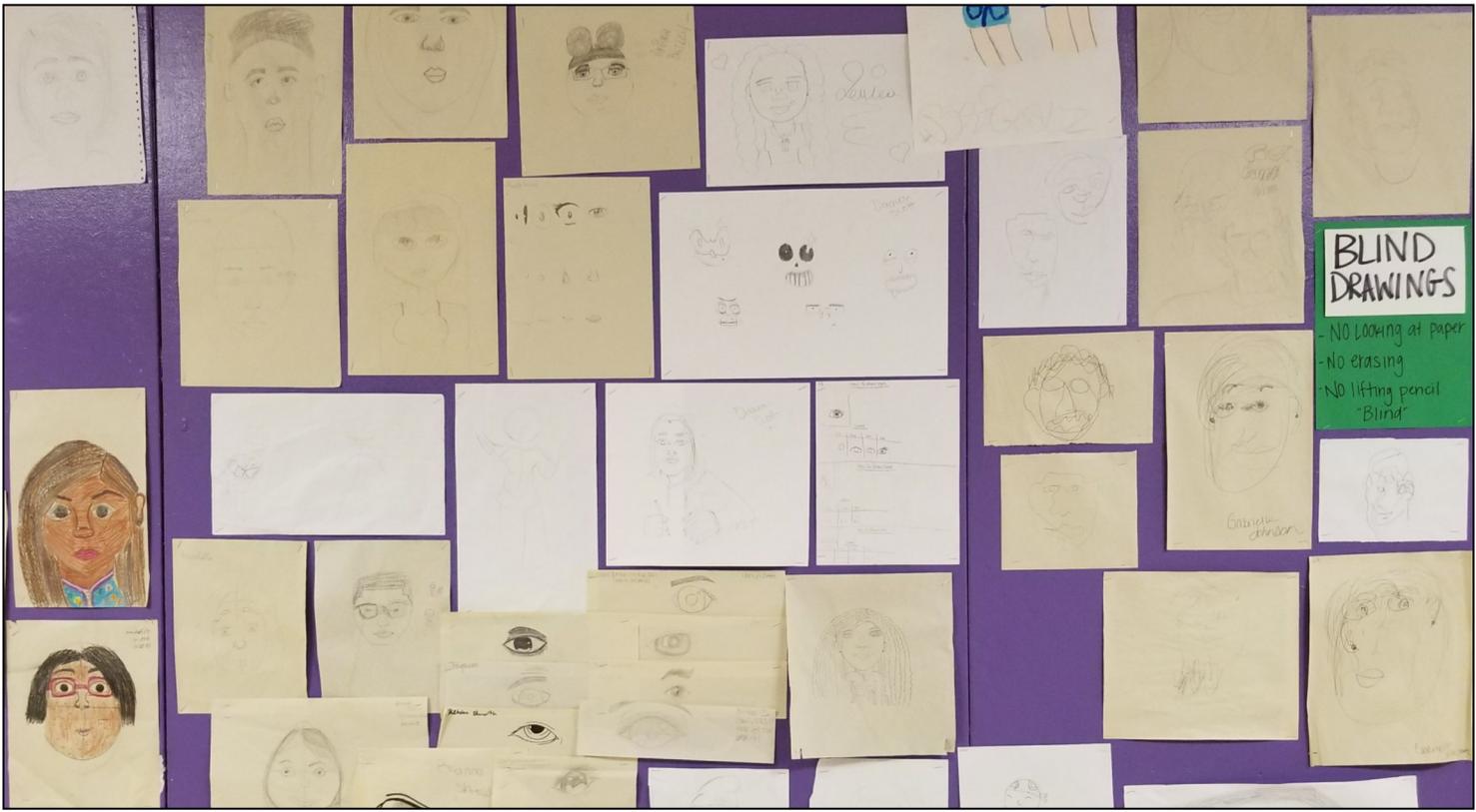
I wanted to thank you for supporting today's Young Men's Empowerment Summit. I want to shout out Mr. Phillips as well as the entire Summit Team of Mr. Gully, Ms. Williams, Ms. Abram, Ms. Curry and Mr. Young who provided leadership and ideas. I would also like to thank Mr. Jude, Mr. Risch, Mr. Blount, Mr. Banks, and Mr. Folkes who took time to support the young men doing their break-out sessions. It is as a team that we can all make a difference!



8th Grade Art prodigy, Nick, sets his colored pencils aside and moves over to paint on canvas. The "V" in Carr Lane VPA!

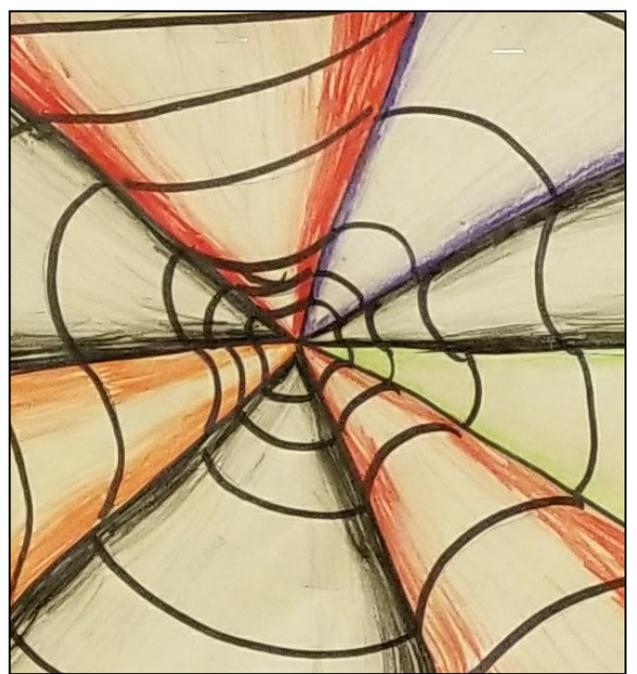
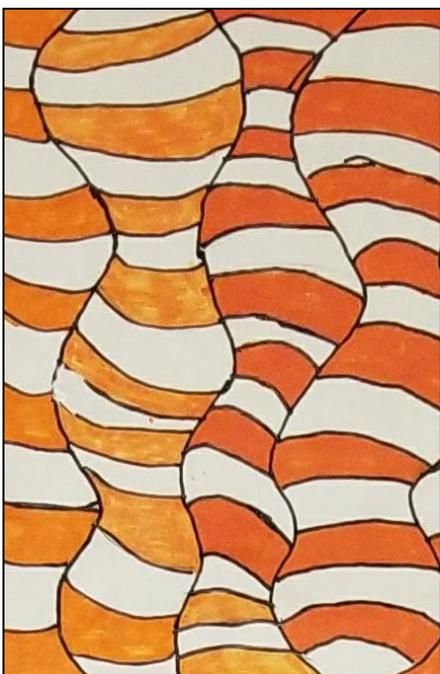


On Saturday February 24, 2018 Carr Lane's Visual Art Teacher, Ms. Choate spent her morning in Ms. Wagman's room helping the 6th Grade Teachers enter MAP Practice Data into a district-wide data base. That's the story of a team-player who helps-out wherever and when-ever she can. There was a lot of information to input, and the other teachers were glad to get the extra help from a member of the school's Fine Arts Team. Speaking of Fine Arts, Ms. Choate's Art students have been busy working on portraits.





More recent student artwork on display outside Ms. Choate's art room doors in the second floor hallway.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY



Ms. Alfermann directs the Carr Lane VPA Choir during the Black History Month Celebration on Friday, February 23, 2018.



Homage to greatness. Three of Ms. Parker's dancers present a powerful homage to three, world-class black American athletes.



8th Grade ELA Teacher, Mr. Petty, unleashes some powerful, politically-charged raps for an amazed student-body!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY

by Johnnesha, Grade 8, A-Day

On February 23, 2018 students at Carr Lane VPA Middle got together to watch a black history month program in the Carr Lane Auditorium. The band played the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice," under the direction of Band Director, Mr. Stith. Fine Arts Team Leader and Carr Lane Vocal Music Director, Ms. Alfermann was there with the Carr Lane Choir who performed "*Dona nobis pacem*," (Latin for "Grant Us Peace.") The dance, directed by Dance Department Head, Ms. Parker, was a powerful tribute to famous athletes. 8th grade English Language Arts Teacher, Mr. Petty performed his own special rap-poems to his audience about social injustice and black history. Let's give a big thanks to Ms. Williams, Carr Lane's Counselor for the good work she has done for our school, and the great way she announced the performances at the Black History Month Assembly!



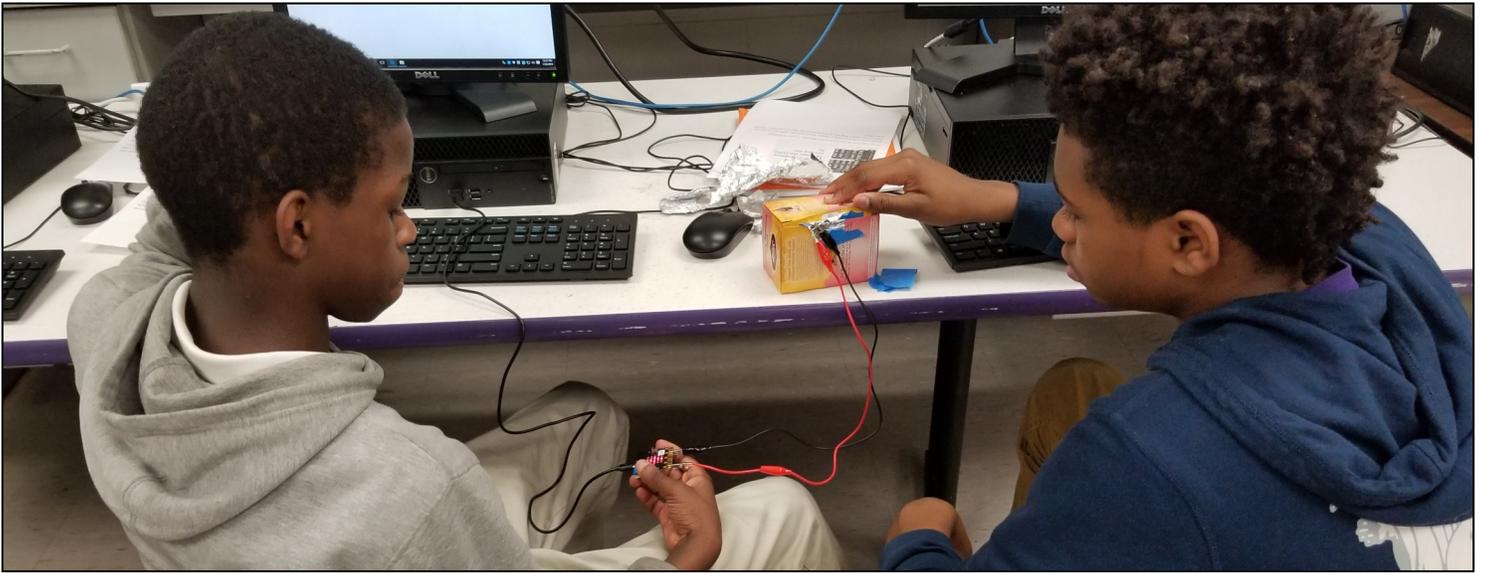
Ms. Watson and Ms. Cotton!



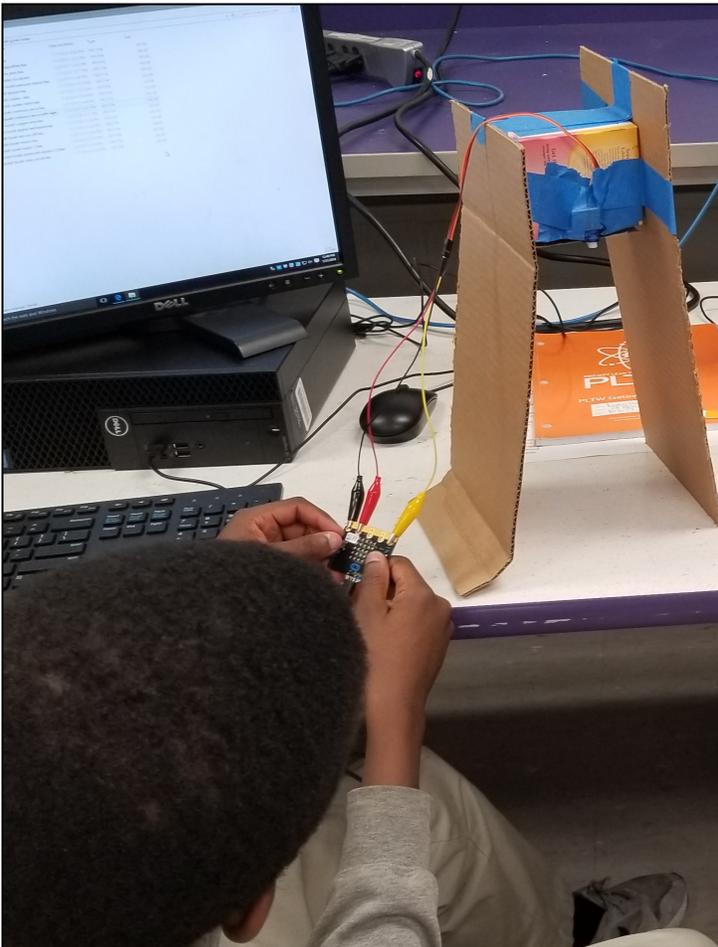
Ms. Bolden and Ms. Brown!



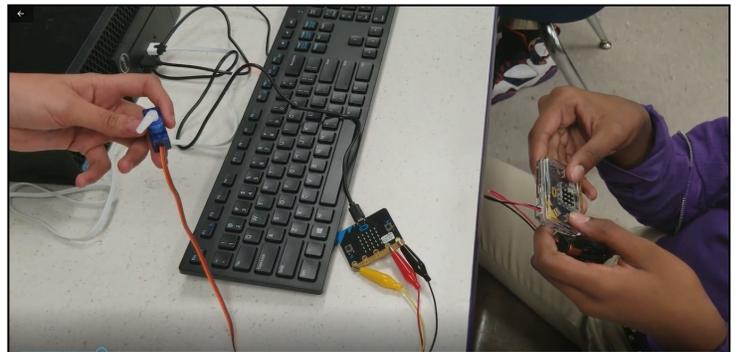
Mr. London and Ms. Choate!



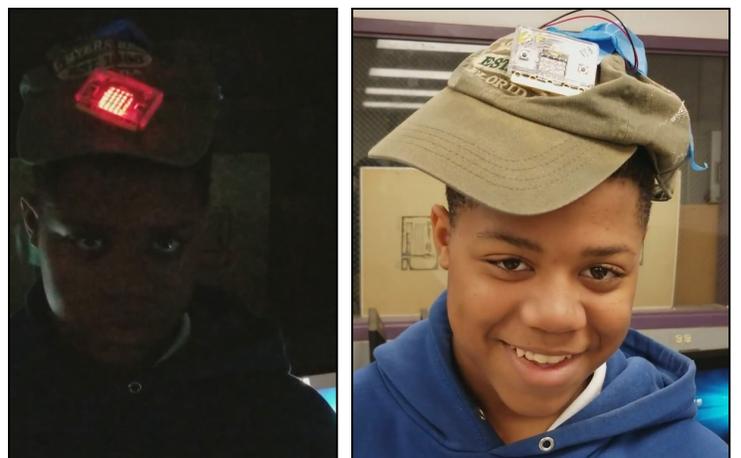
7th Graders Luvell and Caiden program their microprocessor to alert them when someone opens their prototype “safe.” The project was one of many the students completed in their Project Lead the Way Computer Science “Innovators and Makers” course in Dr. Phoenix’s class beginning last November. The 7th Grade A—Day program was part of a Project Lead the Way grant to Carr Lane VPA.



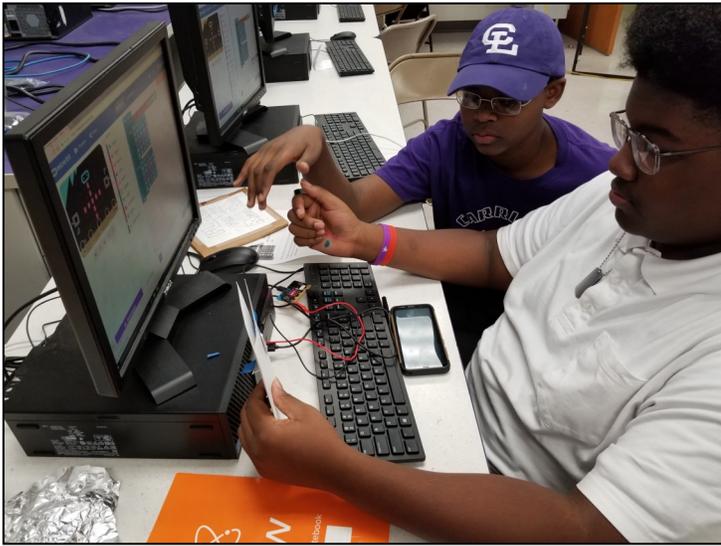
Physical Computing! For their final, physical computing projects, several teams built prototypes to test automatic food dispensers. For instance, a pet could dispense food by pressing a pedal when the owner was out of the house. Through trial and error, and careful record keeping in their Project Lead the Way notebooks, students created working models.



Away from home and want to feed your pet? Gabrielle and McKenzie code a microprocessor to send a remote radio signal to activate the servo motor to open the door, releasing the food.



Wearable Technology. Going for a jog late at night? Malachi coded his processor to sense light levels in the environment and respond with a logical algorithm. He coded a microprocessor and fastened it to one of his teacher’s old hats with a battery pack to test the prototype. Lights out? The warning, safety light comes on. Lights on? The warning light switches off!



Better not open this book, or I'm gonna know! Theodore and Marion program an alarm in their Project Lead the Way class.



7th grader, Gabrielle, programs an alarm on her hand-made prototype "Strong Box," in her Project Lead the Way Classroom.



6th Grade students learn keyboarding and "productivity" software programs in Computer Literacy. Perhaps next year, they will be interested in learning how to write algorithms and computer code!

BLACK PANTHER

by Joseph, Grade 6, Period 3

In "Black Panther," there is a hidden city in Africa called Wakanda which contains a metal called "vibranium" that is known to be the strongest metal in the universe. There is an ancient guardian that has protected Wakanda for thousands of years called "the Black Panther." In this century, there is a modern day Black Panther who has to defeat his cousin, another new Black Panther, in order to save the world.

You're right, Joseph, and the powerful story inspired Marvel Studios to hire African American film director Ryan Coogler to direct "Black Panther." Not since Spike Lee, has an African American film director generated as much "buzz" in the American film industry.

Coogler's film, starring Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danni Gurira, Forest Whitaker, Daniel Kaluuya, Angela Bassett and many other African American actors, was a major, multi-million dollar production, part of a billion dollar Marvel-Disney superhero franchise. In its opening weekend (over President's day) "The Black Panther" proved to be the strongest opening of any film by a black director, and one of the world's top-five highest box office openings in history!

Older fans of the Black Panther knew this promised to be a wonderful story based on the incredible comic book tales of Prince T'Challa, created, way back in 1966 by two giants of the comic book industry: Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

***Demetrious Johnson** is a former professional American football player. Johnson is a native St. Louisan. He grew up in the Darst-Webbe Housing Project. The youngest of eight children, he was raised by a single parent. He graduated from McKinley High School, earned a full athletic scholarship to attend the University of Missouri, Columbia and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education. When he graduated, the Detroit Lions drafted him. Johnson was the Lions' defensive captain, and he earned many awards. He ended his professional football career with the Miami Dolphins in 1987.*

Johnson started his charitable Foundation to help give back to his home-town community in St. Louis. During Black History Month, he sponsored hundreds of St. Louis area school children to attend a free presentation of "Black Panther." Thank you, Mr. Johnson!

Thanks to the Demetrius Johnson Foundation! On February 23, 2018 virtually the entire sixth grade population of Carr Lane VPA Middle School was treated to free popcorn, soda and a free screening of "Black Panther."

Soon after the amazing field trip, sixth grade students at Carr Lane were encouraged to write formal, thank you letters to Mr. Johnson. Students hand-wrote their letters of thanks. In room 307, many elected to key their letters in MS Word for possible publication in Carr Lane VPA News and Views. On the following pages we present just a sample of all the many letters that were penned (and typed) to thanks Mr. Johnson and his Foundation!

Carr Lane VPA Middle School
1004 N. Jefferson
St. Louis, MO 63106

February 27, 2018

Demetrius Johnson Charitable Foundation
724 Union Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My name is Hadessah. I go to Carr Lane VPA middle school and am in 6th grade. I went to see the movie "Black Panther" at 24:1 cinema that you sponsored. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this event.

"Black Panther" took place in the USA and in the middle of Africa in a country named Wakanda. The movie is mainly about Wakanda and how it keeps the most powerful weapon in the world. T'Challa was son of king of Wakanda and since his father died he became king of Wakanda. Then T'Challa found out about his cousin who was named Kill-Monger. Kill-Monger wanted the throne and won against T'Challa, so he became king. There were still people who did not let his evil reign stop them from doing what's right.

I really liked the movie because they never gave up hope and kept fighting for what they thought was right.

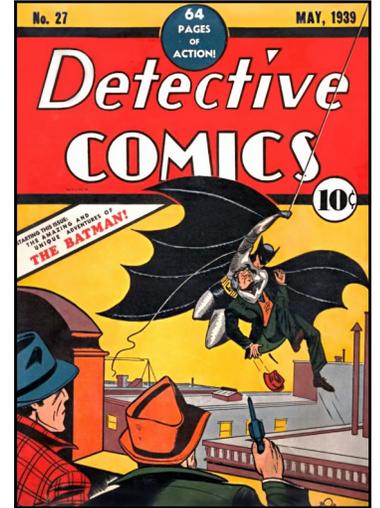
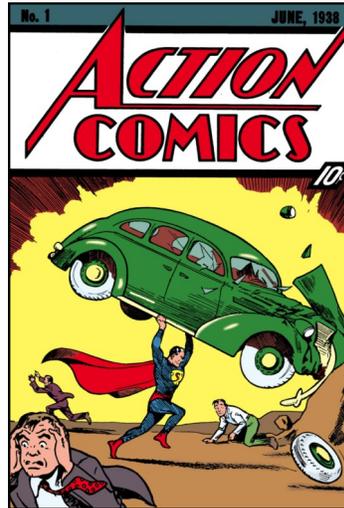
I think the theme is to always have hope and fight for what you believe in. I think others will learn that if something happens that they believe in their heart is not right, everyone has the power to do something.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to see the hit movie "Black Panther." I really enjoyed the field trip. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Hadessah



The modern comic book was invented in the United States. The first comic book was Famous Funnies which appeared on newsstands in 1934. It reprinted syndicated comic-strips from the popular American Newspapers. By 1935, young artists and writers were putting out comic books with new material.



In 1938 and 1939, Superman and Batman first appeared. Suddenly, every young person in America was reading comic books. By 1942, twenty-five million comic books were being purchased each month! By one conservative estimate, at least ten children read every comic book purchased. It was the single biggest reading fad among children in American History!

Carr Lane VPA Middle School
1004 N. Jefferson
St. Louis, MO 63106

February 27, 2018

Demetrius Johnson Charitable Foundation
724 Union Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My name is Xzandria. I go to Carr Lane VPA in the Sixth grade. I attended the showing of the "Black Panther" movie which you funded. I am grateful for this because I noticed how popular the movie is.

I enjoy how it takes place in Wakanda; they have unique names such as T'Challa. It was a very intense movie, especially how all the fights ended out.

This movie made me feel mixed emotions. It's unlike other movies I've seen because they are more realistic, but I enjoyed having a more fictional story, especially the details on the outfits and face paint. It was beautifully done. I learned one thing from this movie: fight for what's right. T'Challa knows what he needs to do. He fights Kill-Monger to take back his place on the throne.

Thank you very much, for this wonderful experience. I enjoyed this movie!

Sincerely,

Xzandria Rogers

The idea to have sixth graders write thank you letters provided a great opportunity for Middle School ELA teachers to introduce the formal letter format, to teach handwriting/penmanship and to review concepts of theme and paragraphing. All letters appearing in this issue included the formal heading with sending address, date, and recipients address. To save space, and to include more letters, we'll omit the addresses and dates in the remaining examples from room 307.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

My name is Darryl. I'm 12 years old in the 6th grade. I attended Lexington Elementary. When I saw, the movie "Black Panther" it was awesome. The best movie I saw yet. I really enjoyed the movie "Black Panther."

The movie took place in T'Challa's Wakanda, Africa. It's about him beating the other king. It was the best movie ever.

I liked the whole movie. I really like where T'Challa and Kill-Monger had a fight. I liked where he was going in the sand, drinking blue magic stuff, and to see his dad in some kind of land.

The main idea of the movie is Black Panther standing up to protect his land. The lesson I learned was to protect your peoples. It connected with me, because I protect my family.

Thank you Demetrius Johnson Charitable Foundation for the opportunity to see the movie. I really enjoyed the movie and the free popcorn.

Thank you so much, and I appreciate you.

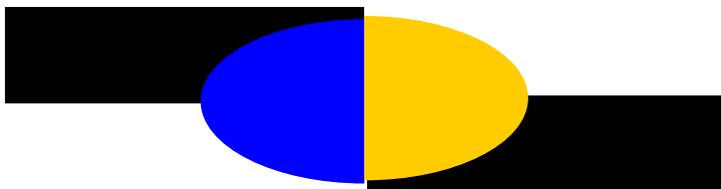
Sincerely,

Darryl Ross



1948. Comic book burnings. Continuing in the late 1940's and into the 1950's, communities gathered spontaneously across the United States to burn comic books in massive bonfires.

Following World War II young people started to get in trouble with the law. The United States Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency investigated comic books. A popular book by Dr. Fredric Wertham called, "Seduction of the Innocent," blamed comic book reading for a lot of the nation's problems. In much the same way as some modern politicians blame video games for the bad behavior of children, the politicians of the mid-1950's blamed comic books. Dozens of comic book publishers went out of business. Nearly a thousand comic book writers and artists lost their jobs. The industry was nearly destroyed.





The remaining comic book publishers started the Comics Code Authority. It was a very strict set of rules and guidelines as to what could be shown or suggested in comic books. A special panel of censors looked at every comic book before it was printed. If the Comics Code Authority did not approve the comic book, distributors refused to handle the comic. Suddenly, comic books became “squeaky clean.” Meanwhile, interest in reading comic books was challenged by the invention of television.

Dear Mr. Johnson:
My name is Christian Dominguez. I go to Carr Lane VPA, and I am in 6th grade. I saw the movie because of you. Thank you very much for inviting Carr Lane VPA to see the movie “Black Panther.”

It took place in Wakanda and Kill Monger was the villain. The story is about fighting to be the king of Wakanda. T’Challa wanted to keep Wakanda safe, but when Kill Monger became the king, everything had to change.

What I like most about the movie is that it is so funny. I like how the actors act. The movie was action-adventure. The funny part was when T’Challa’s sister

told him, “What are those?” That was the funniest part of the movie.

Kill Monger wanted to be the king and he was a very bad person. He wanted to change Wakanda. T’Challa became king again and everything changed for the best, and everybody was very happy.

Thank you very much for inviting Carr Lane VPA to see the movie. I really enjoyed the movie and also the trip. Also, thank you for the popcorn and the drinks. We really appreciate you for inviting Carr Lane VPA to see the movie, “Black Panther.”

Sincerely,
Christian Dominguez



Fantastic Four #1 from 1961 and the first appearance of Spider-Man in Amazing Fantasy #15 from 1962. Marvel comics from Dr. Phoenix’s collection of old comic books.

In the 1960’s a small, comic book company began to challenge the Comics Code Authority. Marvel comics added realism to comics. The basic premise of the comics was simply: What if super heroes were real? What would happen if an ordinary person with real-world problems — like going to school, holding down a job, making friends — suddenly found him or herself with super-powers? Reed and Sue Richards had a child: the first baby born to a superhero couple in a comic book. Peter Parker was a hard-working student at school where many of his class-mates made fun of him for being a “nerd.” He had to help support his Aunt May by holding down a job as a part-time newspaper photographer while he spent his nights fighting super-powered criminals as The Amazing Spider-Man.



The first appearance of The Black Panther in Fantastic Four #52 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby in the summer of 1966.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

My name is Isaiah. My mother's name is Tracey. I go to Carr Lane VPA. Also, I'm from St. Louis, Missouri. We went to see "Black Panther" on February 23, 2018. The main characters are Kill Monger, King T'Challa and The Tribes.

I liked when Black Panther jumped on the car. I also liked the two fight scenes with Kill Monger. I also liked when Klaw told the man he could go, and then shot him in the back.

The theme of the movie is to stop crime and be peaceful. The Black Panther wanted to take out Kill Monger because there couldn't be peace if he didn't. T'Challa, The Black Panther wanted to take out Klaw because Klaw was committing crimes.

I really enjoyed the field trip. The movie was very exciting. I will recommend this movie to various people.

Sincerely,

Isaiah Hughes

* * *

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Hey, my name is Arin Warren. I go to Carr Lane VPA and I am in 6th grade. I just watched the movie "Black Panther" on the 23rd of this month (February) because of your kindness in letting us go for free. Thank you so much for letting us go.

The movie was great. I really liked the part when they flew to Wakanda. It was beautiful. The movie was great to me because of the adventures they took. It was amazing and also interesting.

Sincerely,

Arin

* * *



In 1966, The Black Panther, the world's first black super hero, appeared in issue #52 of the Fantastic Four. Several years later, the Black Panther became a member of the Avengers.

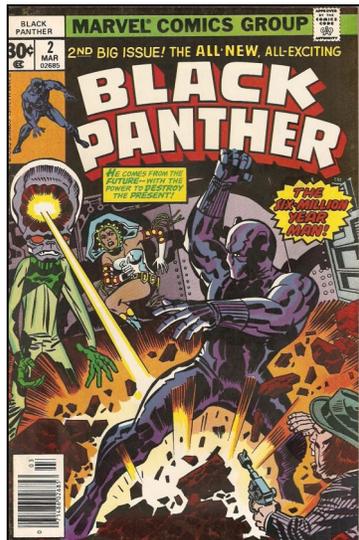
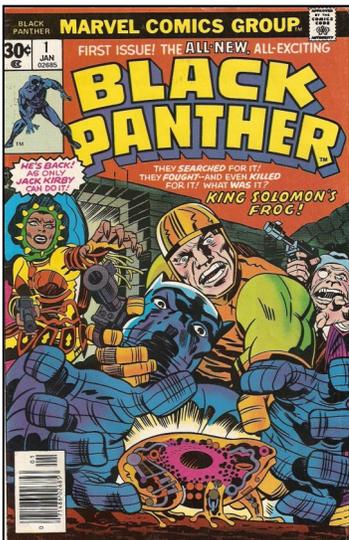
In the early 1970's The Black Panther became the lead feature in "Jungle Action" set in Wakanda, Africa with an all black cast. In 1977 he won his own comic book. Over the decades the Black Panther has appeared in many ground-breaking Marvel comic book series and now is the subject of one of the most popular and financially successful movies of all time!



The Black Panther becomes the lead feature in “Jungle Action” with issue #5. In issue #6, Kill-Monger appears for the first time — the same character who appears as T’Challa’s antagonist in the Marvel film “The Black Panther,” starring Chadwick Boseman as T’Challa and Michael B. Jordan as his cousin, aka, Kill Monger.



Got to Love the Popcorn! Carr Lane VPA Social Worker, Ms. Abrams and Carr Lane VPA Secretary, Mr. Curry, prepare bags of popcorn as a treat for the high-performing Carr Lane Students!



Black Panther earns his first solo series in 1977.



Principal Young checks on the progress of the popcorn treats!



6th Grade students head-out across the back lot of Carr Lane VPA to board buses that will take them to the free screening of “Black Panther,” courtesy of the Demetrious Johnson Foundation on February 23, 2018. Later, back at school, the 6th graders wrote formal letters of thanks to Mr. Johnson and his foundation.



A parting shot of the January 26, 2018 Spirit Day Celebration with the entire Student Body and Staff of Carr Lane VPA!!!



Room 307 “Studio Time” students with Band Director, Mr. Stith.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- March 11, 2018 Carr lane Performs at Central Baptist Church with Morehouse College at 4:30 p.m.
- March 13, 2018 SLPS Choir Adjudication at Carr Lane VPA Middle School at 8:00 a.m.
- March 14, 2018 SLPS Band Adjudications at Central VPA High School at 8:00 a.m.
- March 15, 2018 Principal’s Talent Show
- March 16, 2018 Carr Lane Family Literacy Day
7th and 8th Grade Girls attend Marvel Studio’s “Black Panther”
- March 21 & 22, 2018 Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 22 8th Grade Girls’ Empowerment Summit
- March 26-30 Spring Break
- April 2, 2018 Classes resume

* * *



Carr Lane Boys’ Basketball Star #11 take the stage on 1-26-18.

Carr Lane VPA News & Views March 2018 — Issue No. 3

News and Views is published by the 6th Grade Writing Classes from Room 307 with the contributions, help and support of the Carr Lane Fine Arts Team and the students, teachers, and staff throughout the building. Look for our Summer Issue this coming May!