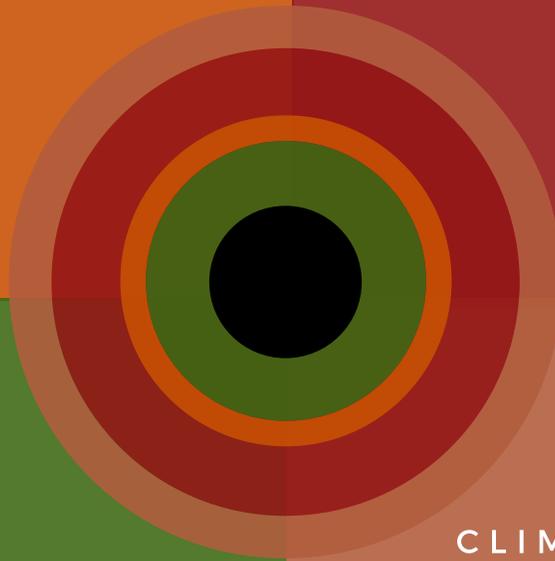


FOR THE CULTURE

"THEY TRIED TO BURY US, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE SEEDS."



CLIMB HIGH CHRONICLES
FEBRUARY 2021



AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

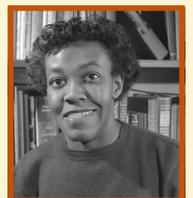
A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL BELLE

Dear La Cima Families,

As we welcome in February, we are also looking forward to just about the second half of the school year. It's amazing that the year is more than half way over. As I review our school data, I would like to make note of a few things that demonstrate our success. I think this is a good time to share and look forward to great things as we close out this semester.

The first is **attendance**. Most students who do extremely well have great attendance. They are here almost every day and they are here on time. Both of these things are important to learning. We certainly understand that scholars do sometimes get sick and there is the need for some absences, but there is a lot learned every moment we are here. We have improved our daily attendance from averaging about 85% to 92%. Let's continue this effort. Please continue to make sure scholars attend every day and arrive on time. The second is **participation**. Students who are performing well in the classroom are actively engaged. I have witnessed this process during my classroom visits. Scholars are seated with their materials and responsive to the teacher's question. I very much recommend that all parents encourage active participation in class every day. Lastly, the third is connected to our theme of continuing the climb: **perseverance**. The ability and willingness to take on a challenge and stick with it is so important. We want to encourage all of our scholars to do their best, even when things are challenging - this is how they will accomplish great things! Our most successful students continue to work hard when things are challenging. We hope you will encourage and inspire this at home as we do the same here at La Cima.

Brooks is considered to be one of the most revered poets of the 20th century. She was the first Black author to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for *Annie Allen*, and she served as poetry consultant to the Library of Congress, becoming the first Black woman to hold that position.



IT'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

February is Black History Month and we have a wonderful lineup of activities and events for scholars and families. Please see this month's calendar of events.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL:

Remember that reading is happening every day for ALL scholars. It is the key to information and access. Scholars who read every day become better readers; improve their vocabulary and develop critical thinking skills.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

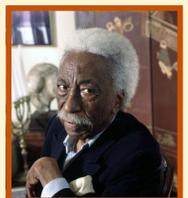
I want to thank you for all of the work and support you provided to our scholars in completing their Changemaker Projects! Our scholars from K-5 did such a wonderful job. Many created PowerPoints (with some assistance) and presented like pros. We thank you for your continued support!

Let us continue the climb together!

Letta Belle

Principal Belle

Parks was the first African American on the staff of LIFE magazine, and later he would be responsible for some of the most beautiful imagery in the pages of Vogue. He also was the first Black director of a major film, Shaft, helping to shape the blaxploitation era in the '70s.



CONVERSATION CORNER

FEAT. PRINCIPAL BELLE

Q: What does Black History Month mean to you?

A: That's an interesting question as I don't fully believe in the idea of BHM. I think that a "knowing of self" should happen all year round. To me, every day is Black History. I see it as an opportunity to raise awareness of all people of color who have impacted the diaspora. It's about our students embracing who they are and a love of self.

Q: How pertinent is it to acknowledge this celebration of the Black diaspora specifically at La Cima?

A: Because our mission here is to elevate our student's thinking around the society they live in, this year we named each of our classrooms after a person of color who is seen as a change-maker within their era. We are a school about social justice. Our vision is to develop students who have intellectual capacity, social capital and emotional strength of character to be personally successful and to act as effective change-makers in their communities.

Q: What does it mean for you to be a woman of color in an influential position?

A: It means a lot mostly because when I was coming up in school I did not have a lot of Black teachers. And the same was true in my higher education experience. But when I did experience an educator of color it was very reassuring to see someone I could have an affinity with. I feel it's important for students to see reflections of themselves that let's them know that who they are as they are is accepted and you don't have to aspire to any norm. I believe that truly loving your own culture is pivotal and I want to be able to represent that.



A pioneer in law, Jane Bolin was the first Black woman to attend Yale Law School in 1931. In 1939, she became the first Black female judge in the United States, where she served for 10 years.

FEBRUARY 2021

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

7
 Research an important Black changemaker like Henrietta Lacks or Alvin Ailey!

8
 Family Movie Night: Akeelah and the Bee
 [@5:30pm]

9
 Read a book by a Black author today! Check the La Cima Instagram page for some great recommendations!

10

11
 Black History Month: Literacy Night
 [@5:30pm]

12
 Research an important Black changemaker like Maria P. Williams or Benjamin O. Davis!

13
 Take time to talk about Black influencers and their accomplishments. Highlight a different person every day or week.

14
 Research an important Black changemaker like Rebecca Lee Crumpler or Robert Abbot!

15
 22

16
 23
 African Dance and Drumming Family Class
 [@5:30pm]

17

18
 25
 Family Trivia Night
 [@5:30pm]

19
 26
 Attendance Award Ceremony
 [@8:30am]

20
 27

MID-WINTER BREAK: NO SCHOOL

21
 Research an important Black changemaker like Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler or Robert Abbot!

28
 Reflect with an adult about what it means to celebrate Black History Month as a student in the Bedstuy Community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR

MOVIE NIGHT:

AKEELAH AND THE BEE

FEBRUARY

8TH

Come join us as we celebrate Black Excellence during movie night. This movie highlights some of La Cima's very valuable CARE Principles: Community, Accountability, Reconciliation and of course Effective Effort!

5:30p.m.

LITERACY NIGHT:

Enjoy an afternoon meeting black authors and hearing their amazing work. These author's will share their books through a Read Aloud as we also get to learn more information on what it takes to be a published author.

FEBRUARY

11TH

5:30p.m.

FAMILY AFRICAN DANCE/DRUMMING:

FEBRUARY
23RD

featuring MR. BABACAR!

Come enjoy an interactive African Dance and Drumming class led by none other than Mr. Babacar. Mr. Babacar brings excitement to our scholars everyday through this amazing and very active class. This month, we decided to bring the same JOY your way. Come and join us and get ready to sweat while having fun!

5:30p.m.

FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT:

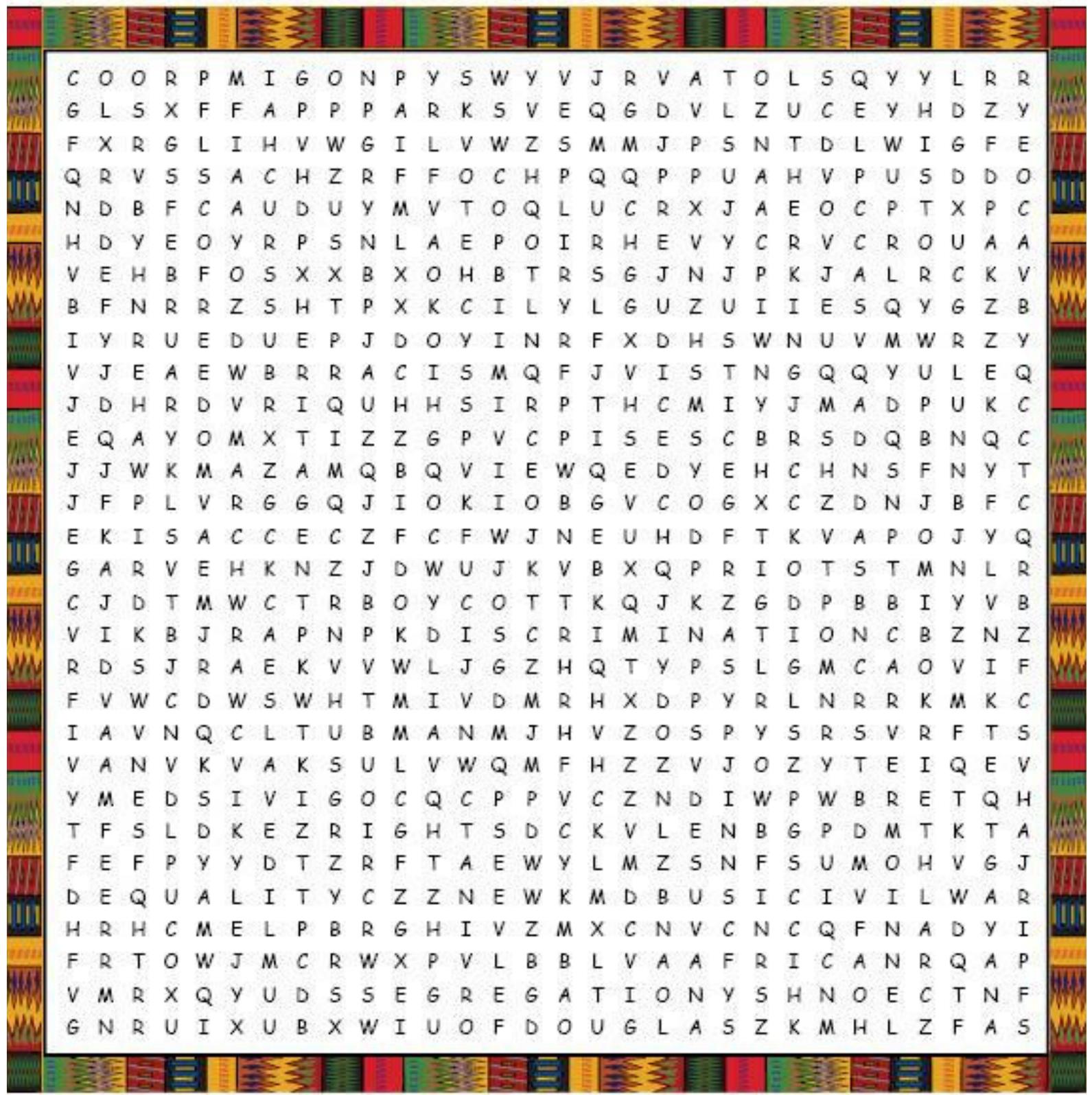
FEBRUARY
25TH

Interested in Learning More About Black History and Culture? Want to show-off your knowledge and skills? Attend our Black History Month Trivia Night! Our top 3 performers will receive prizes!

5:30p.m.

Name: _____

BLACK HISTORY MONTH!



AFRICAN
BOYCOTT
BUS
CARVER
CIVIL WAR

DISCRIMINATION
DOUGLAS
EQUALITY
FEBRUARY
FREEDOM

HERITAGE
HISTORY
JUSTICE
LUTHER KING JR
MARCH

NAACP
PARKS
PREJUDICE
RACISM
RIGHTS

RIOTS
SEGREGATION
SLAVE
TUBMAN
VOTE