The students and staff at Little Black Pearl are proud to celebrate their heritage and the many sacrifices that have been made by Legends and Pioneers to ensure that Freedom is Free. In celebration of Black History, the LBPA Freshman class has done their research, created inspirational works of art in song, visual arts, and creative writings that we are sharing and hope you will take time to read and enjoy the creativity of our students.

This is one of three publications that will be shared this month. We are hopeful you will be inspired on learn something new from the information shared.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2/21 President's Day - School Closed
- Attendance in school is required for all students
- Afterschool Programs, including tutoring and Internships are now in session, Monday - Thursday from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- SAT Prep sessions are after school, Monday - Thursday. Juniors and Seniors who did not take the test last year are encouraged to attend. TESTING DATE: March 23rd (GRADUATION REQUIREMENT)
"Let America Be America Again"
Langston Hughes - 1901-1967
1st Stanza
Reference: website at https://poets.org/poem/let-america-be-america-again

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.
(America never was America to me.)
Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.
(It never was America to me.)
O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.
(There’s never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this “homeland of the free.”)
Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?
I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery’s scars.

Student Researcher: Taniyah Johnson

Facts About our 44th President
"Barack Hussein Obama"
Born: August 6, 1961

- Barack means ‘one who is blessed’ in Swahili.
- Community organizer, lawyer, Lecturer and Senior Lecturer of Constitutional Law at the University of Chicago Law School
- The first president born in the 50th state and outside the continental U.S.
- He gets his regular haircut from Zarif, his barber from Hyde Park Hair Salon. The procedure costs $21.
- The Obama couple’s first date was seeing “Do the Right Thing” by Spike Lee.
- Transformed the White House tennis court into a basketball court.
- The first African American elected in the Presidential position of the Harvard Law Review.
- Favorite television series are Homeland and The Wire.
- Barack’s father is Kenyan while his mother is American.
- Obama’s codename was ‘Renegade’ to the Secret Service Agents who guarded him.
- In Maryland 2005 Barack Obama won the chairman award
- Practiced as a Civil Rights Lawyer with the firm of Miner, Barnhill & Galland
**THE COLORS I SEE**  
*Written by: Jillian Ali, 9th Grade*

As I explore the colors I see, I see a history that looks like me.  
The sculpture I see defines the history of the hands that get me to see what I see.  
Beautiful colors, beautiful souls all becoming one.  
Sounds like fun doesn't it? Blissful in fact to be exact.  
Then I see and remember the work that's been done and work left to do.  
What can I do; how about you?

Inspired by Art Work by various artists at Gallery Guichard including the Great Migration Exhibit,  
Art has flown through history, developing in many different ways.

Through the culture and light we see how it's always been with us in so many ways,  
So many meanings have pass through art,  
From different point of views that can both be light or dark  
Art comes from creativity,  
Whether that be through writing, music, performances, culture.  
It all leads back to this wonderful thing of displaying the emotions in one's mind or body.  
Art is one of the main things that helps tell a story.

Black people have expressed more through words and hardships they have been through,  
How they can express more of raw emotion through a single brush, paper, pen, movement, or vocal.  
We are so different but the same inside the hearts,  
We celebrate this month for we are beautiful.

We are powerful and were made to be heard and free,  
to be treated as equal people.  
We are artists.......  
We are People.........  
We are BEAUTIFUL!!!!!!!
Black And Proud

Listen here because I have a story to tell
Just because I'm a young black man doesn't mean I belong in jail
Or have to be the reason that we protest
Because the police still have not chosen to care yet.

You can either stand with me or take a seat
cause there's no waiting till the police get profit (see)
You might think me a young teen doesn't know what that mean
But as I watch the news and as I look around
I see that the police think that they wear a crown

They look at my skin as a weapon but when I look I actually love my complexion
This weapon that you see actually shows the true power in me
Working hard for my price
Because I know my skin use to have a price

Whites do what's wrong but are told its right
We sung songs to make it alright
Most might say protest is not the way
But i know if they hear us they might understand our place

Come on know - Scream it loud - "I'M BLACK AND I'M PROUD"

Original Poem written by~ Kamarion Sample
Original Artwork by: Danielle Williams

Betty Reid Soskin
"First Black Park Ranger"

Betty R. Soskin grew up in Oakland in the 1920s and '30s, and well before she became the country’s oldest park ranger, she found ways to contribute to her community.

Betty Soskin was a black civil rights activist, musician, and pioneering businesswoman. In 1945, Soskin founded one of the first Black-owned record stores in the California Bay Area.

For more information: https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/betty-reid-soskin.htm

Student Researcher: Kierra Aguire
9th Grader
The movie “Green Book” was based off an actual book called “The Negro Motorist Green Book” by Victor H. Green. This book is an international travel guide for the black community to have safe travels during the period of racial segregation and it wasn’t safe for people like us to travel. This green book was very helpful and very informative about where to and were not to travel. It helped black travelers to find lodgings, businesses, and gas stations that would serve them along the road.

Reference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWiQBgeKV_w

Hattie McDaniel
First African-American Oscar Winner

A beautiful black woman who was born on June 10, 1893, She was the youngest of 13 children. She was born to enslaved parents in Wichita, Kansas. Hattie McDaniel had many talents, she was a comedian, American actress, and singer-songwriter. She won the “Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress”. Which lead her to become the first African American to win an Oscar. During Hattie McDaniel's career, she experienced a lot of racism and racial segregation. She couldn’t attend the premiere of “Gone with the Wind” in Atlanta because it was presented at a whites-only theater. During the Oscar ceremony in Los Angeles, she had to sit at the segregated table on the other side of the room. When she had sadly passed away due to breast cancer her final wish was to be buried at Hollywood Cemetery, but it was denied because it was for whites only.

Student Researchers: Mia Berry & Jamar Watts

Student Researcher: Melanie Marshall, 9th Grade
**DANCER**
**ALVIN AILEY, JR.**
(January 5, 1931 – December 1, 1989)

*Student Researcher: Jamarion Shavers*

Alvin Ailey Jr. was an American dancer, director, choreographer, and activist who founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He created AAADT and its affiliated Ailey School as havens for nurturing Black artists and expressing the universality of the African-American experience through dance. In 1941 he had his first experience at a Dance concert.

There are 32 dancers in The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

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**ACTIVIST**
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America’s preeminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

While others were advocating for freedom by “any means necessary,” including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals.

Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation’s capital.

*Student Researcher: Lamarcus Walker, 9th Grade Student*

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**Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer**
Born: October 6, 1917

*Student Researcher: James Shavers*

Was one of the most powerful voices of the civil war and voting rights movements.
A leader in the efforts for greater economic opportunities for African Americans.
Born in Montgomery County, Mississippi.
Born in poverty and at the age of 6 years old, Hamer joined her family picking cotton.
By the age of 12 she left school to work.
Because Hamer was the only one who knew how to read and write, she served as plantation timekeeper.
On August 31, 1962 led 17 volunteers to register to vote at the Indianola, Mississippi Courthouse.
• "I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me... all I ask is that you respect me as a human being." - Jackie Robinson

• “I can accept failure; everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying” - Michael Jordan

• “Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time.” - Barack Obama

• “Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.” - Nelson Mandela

• “I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take me alive. of freedom, keep going.” - Harriet Tubman

• “Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations.” - Dr. Mae Jemison

• “Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.” - Coretta Scott King

• “Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.” - Langston Hughes

• “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” - MLK

• "I believe there is only one race – the human race." - Rosa Parks
I am a story
not only a pretty body
I come from a nation of color
A wide variety
Lighter and brighter
Our stories shine
Through our bodies
I am a nation of color
A wide variety
Wanna be me?
If you say so
My roots deep and they still grow
Don't do much but I'm Monroe
I don't do much but
I'm black though
Where the reparations
That you owe
I'm lit black and emo
Don't try steppin
On my throne
We are the greatest
The struggles are very mighty
Long years of torture
But so strong we still are fighting

An Original Song Written by
Students, Krystal Killingsworth & Asanti Tate

Click on the Link to hear their song
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GTICEQHvAcRCwrNbzYmOUh1YO_jgSby1/view?usp=sharing

LYRICS

My hair is the weapon
To silence the evil blighting
I am a nation of color
A wide variety
I hold my crown high
Can't remember when it fell
My life it tells stories
I'm a captivating spell
I raise my head high
Listen to the death knell
To racism to poverty
To the over racist politics
To the media
And gossiping
And the school building
Democracy
The teachers and they're hypocrisy
Wanna be the better
Just follow me
My melanin showing them scholar tingz
I am a color variety

Book References
Researched by: Tynecka Brisco

Kingdom Animalia by Aracelis Girmay
"& isn't the heart an ampersand, writes Aracelis Girmay, my favorite living poet, imploring us to think of love as a task in embracing, always, more. This book is a manual, a meditation, an investigation into kindness & loss & mortality. In that same ode to the ampersand, Girmay writes, "you remind us of the heart & how the heart would rather die than keep its two dark arms all to himself."

Magic City & Dien Cai Dau by Yusef Komunyakaa
"Poetry," Yusef Komunyakaa has said, "is a kind of distilled insinuation." Indeed Komunyakaa’s poems are distilled, essential, sharply in focus, often haunting. Magic City captures his growing up in Bogalusa, Louisiana, and Dien Cai Dau chronicles his experiences during the Vietnam War.
Birthday Shout Outs

January
Jeremiah Hammond Price, 1/1
Onni Lomax, 1/11
Kyra Broadwater, 1/12
Damon Payton, 1/14
Antoni Scott, 1/15
Shamauri Hoy, 1/17
India Johnson, 1/17
Khamani Dean, 1/23
Danielle Williams, 1/26
Rashid Sales, 1/29

February
Romero Boyd, 2/3
David Edwards, 2/10
Arion Mhoon, 2/13
Marlon Harris, 2/16
D'Maia Royster, 2/25
Keirra Marzette, 2/26
Asanti Tate, 2/27
Dava Williams, 2/27

Staff Birthdays
Mr. Little, Music 2/20
Ms. Norris, Counselor, 2/24

Acknowledgements
Congratulations to the 9th Grade Class for a "JOB WELL DONE"!