

3rd Annual Black History Celebration: *Reconnecting to our Past to Revolutionize our Future*

I could not think of a better way to spend my Friday afternoon than to spend it watching our students gather for a celebration of black history, conveyed through music, singing, dancing, and reflective stories. Our school filled the auditorium at 2:30 p.m. and as we welcomed guests and families, our Gospel choir, led by Mr. Allen proceeded in singing “**This Little Light of Mine.**” With several performances and presentations ahead Ms. Chresfield’s Teen Tech class presented a video production of **Unsung Heroes in Black History.**



Dr. Robinson, Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City Campus President, joined us as our Keynote speaker, sharing his own story of his road to success. I think the students understood that through his choices, family support, work ethic, and determination to achieve his personal best he is where he is today. I believe the students could relate to his story, sharing with them his trophies of chess, leadership, and billiards awards. These represented to him that personal goals, team sportsmanship, and fun play an important role to building character.

With welcoming Dr. Robinson, we also welcomed three students from Hillsborough Community College’s international business program. Vuyiswa, Emily, Nkondo are from South Africa and take part in a cultural club partnership on our campus. They shared their amazing stories of how they came to the United States, how an experience of opportunity has changed their life, and what they plan to do when they return. Their touching personal accounts had a positive impact on our students and will not be forgotten.



We were also joined by our sister school students and staff. APSP choir, step team, and dance team helped us celebrate through presentations of dance and song. We have had opportunity in the past to participate with APSP in sports and graduate support programs but this was the first time our schools have shared the stage. We look forward to more collaboration like this in the future.

The Spoken Word and Culture Club students shared their class presentations. Ms. Telus’ Culture Club presented “**Same Ship, Different Stops,**” a visual performance on the connection of cultures to the continent of Africa.





Spoken Word and Mr. Kelley prepared a verbal ensemble **“Do you see what I see? This is what my history means to me...”** a collaborative piece that focuses on the African- American experience.



Our Celebration ended with a Soul Food tasting in the courtyard. Our families and staff shared and prepared home made recipes. Mrs. Randolph and our parent volunteers filled the tables with a

plethora of taste from rice and beans, curried chicken, collards, greens, and corn bread to pound cake and bread pudding. Even Mr. Tamayo prepared the legendary Midnight Train plate “Chicken and Waffles.” Isn’t your mouth watering just thinking about all this great food? And doesn’t this make you want to come next year!



Thank you to our families and friends who joined us and our staff and volunteers who helped to create another fantastic day at Academy Prep. - Sharon Joller, Community Relations Coordinator

If you or someone you know would be interested in attending one of our amazing school events or want to volunteer at APT, contact Sharon Joller at sjoller@academyprep.org.

Event held Friday, February 13, 2009.