

The Westampton Eye

WESTAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Westampton Middle School

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Christopher J.



February, what a lovely month. It's still winter and luckily for us, we have gotten a lot of snow. But why is February a special time of the year, besides being the month of Valentine's Day? Black History Month! According to History.com, "Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history."

Ever since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. There are also other countries around the world that celebrate it, including Canada and the United Kingdom. But where does Black History Month even come from? How did it become what it is today?

Well the story of Black History Month all starts in 1915! 1915 was half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, meaning that the government declared that slavery wasn't allowed anymore in the U.S. That same year in September, a Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and a prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH, known today as the ASALH because the term "negro" was changed to "African American"), which is an organization that is dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other people of African descent. The same group had sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Those are two people that had an impact on the abolishment of slavery. This event inspired many schools and

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communities to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures. In the following decades, mayors of cities across the nation began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. And thankfully because of the Civil Rights Movement, by the late 1960s, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. Eventually, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976 and announced to the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” And every year since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed, meaning approved or supported, a specific theme.

So what do you think you could do to celebrate Black History Month? Share with your family and friends about the history behind the “event.” During this month, we all often highlight many notable figures, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Mae Jemison, Rosa Parks, and even Barack Obama, who have made an impact on Black Americans in the United States of America. I often quote these many figures when I might be battling a tough situation, and there are many out there for you to use when looking for a little hope or even inspiration. You should never be ashamed or scared to make a good, big impact in other people's lives, and maybe even the world.

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."

Rosa Parks

"History has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."

Michelle Obama

"All great achievements require time and effort."

Maya Angelou

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

NBA Roundup: Harden to the Nets

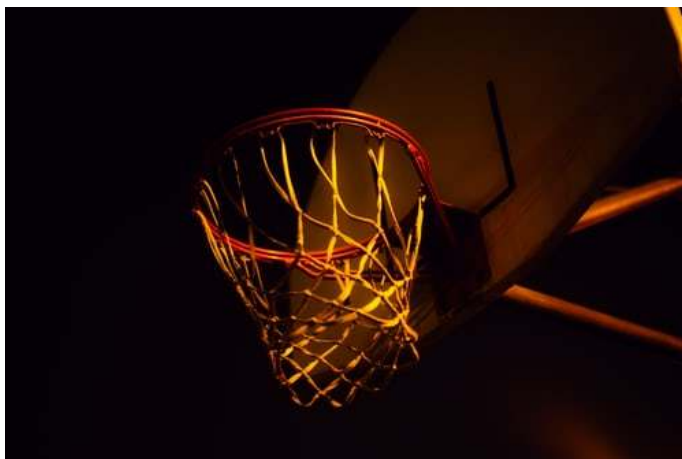
by Aaron R.

On January 14, James Harden was officially a Brooklyn Net in a four team blockbuster trade. To acquire Harden, the Net had to send Caris LeVert, Rodions Kurucs, three first round picks (2022, 2024, and 2026), and four first round pick swaps (2021, 2023, 2025, and 2027) to the Houston Rockets. Brooklyn also gave up Jarrett Allen and Taurean Prince to the Cleveland Cavaliers to acquire a 2024 second round pick. The Rockets also received Dante Exum and a 2022 first round pick from the Cavs.

With Harden going to the Brooklyn Nets, who were already a title contender, they are the favorites to win the East. When a team has Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, and you add an MVP caliber player like James Harden, you *should* be the favorite to win. There is one thing, however, that is keeping people from favoriting them to win: team chemistry and ball movement.

Kyrie Irving and James Harden are among the best ball handlers in the league. Both players are great, especially when they have the ball in their hands, but with both of them on the same team, there will need to be sacrifices made. Both Irving and Harden will have to start taking less shots and start passing more. This trade also made the Nets bench worse, which means that the starters are going to have to keep the same stat lines but with less shot attempts.

This is going to be a gigantic challenge for the Nets. But with the talent that they have on the team, I think they can still win the championship.

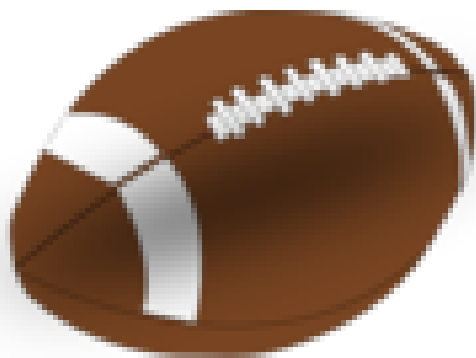


Pederson Is Out

by Daivik P.

Doug Pederson is finally out after four NFL seasons as Eagles head coach. The Eagles have recently been losing almost all of their games and they did not make the playoffs. They have also traded Carson Wentz to the Colts. I feel like these changes will be better for the Eagles. Wentz got an injury that resulted in surgery, and he missed the remainder of the season. Some of the Eagles players were shocked that Doug Pederson was fired, while others didn't seem to care.

I feel like it was a right move to fire Doug Pederson. Though he did lead the Eagles to a SuperBowl win, for the past few years they have been failing.



2021 NBA Playoff Bracket Prediction

By Aaron R.



SNOW: AN APPRECIATION

By Daivik P.

Do you enjoy the snow? You can do multiple things in the snow such as sled, make a snowman, and have a snowball fight. Here are some facts about snow that you might find interesting. According to Mental Floss:



- Snow comprises individual ice crystals that grow while suspended in the atmosphere and then fall on the ground where they undergo further changes.
- Snow is actually translucent, not white.
- Snow falls 1-4 mph.
- Tamarack, California holds the United States record for greatest snow depth ever measured. A maximum snow depth of 451 inches, or 37.5 feet was recorded on March 11, 1911.
- The largest snowflake was 15 inches wide.
- The Syracuse Common Council in Syracuse, New York tried to make snow illegal in 1992.
- Japan receives more snowfall than any other country.
- In 1988, a scientist found two identical snow crystals. They came from a storm in Wisconsin.
- Each winter in the U.S, at least one septillion ice crystals fall from the sky.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MRS. DONNELLY

By Molly M. and Lady A.

Mrs. Donnelly is a very nice teacher. She has been a part of WMS for a long time. We know remote learning has not been easy, but Mrs. Donnelly has done such an amazing job making sure her students are learning all of the material, along with making class such a fun experience.

We asked her some questions. We are so happy we were able to feature her for *The Westampton Eye*.

Westampton Eye: How long have you been teaching?

Mrs. Donnelly: 27 years.

Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

A: Love the variety, and every day is different.

Q: What is your least favorite thing about teaching

A: Grading papers.

Q: What's your favorite class?

A: 7th, but loves all and loves the 7th grade topic.

Q: Favorite food?

A: Candy, and fresh fruit

Q: Favorite Place to go?

A: Cape Cod

Q: Favorite season?

A: Summer

Q: Do you like online or in person better?

A: In person

Q: What is your favorite subject besides social studies?

A: Language Arts (LA)



Photo by Mrs. Donnelly

POETS CORNER

By Brianna S.

I Am...

I am a human
Just like everyone else,
But I'd like to be treated differently
Than everybody else.

Everyone says I'm nice,
Very kind and sweet.
I'm a little awkward.
I don't like to talk to peeps.

Drawing is a fun activity.
And so is reading and singing too.

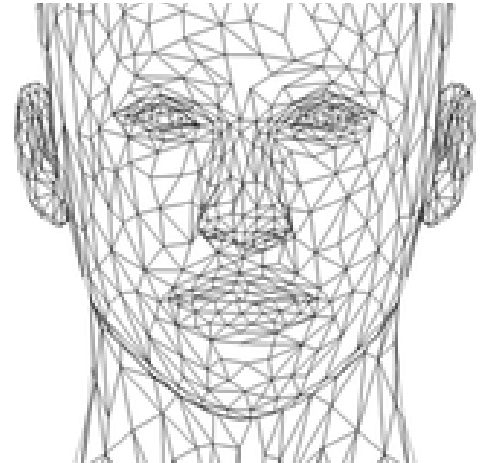
And playing games with my family
Is the cherry on top to you.

I can be very sensitive.
When someone yells I start to cry.
My goal is to make everyone happy.
And then I'll think about myself sometime.

I'm a straight A student.
I'm in a lot of clubs.
But I'm still pretty shy.
And I have a lot of nice friends,
Who like to watch anime dubs.

I am a human
Just like everyone else.
But I'd like to be treated differently
Than everybody else.

Because I am me,
Myself and I.
And no one can replace me,
Even if I'm a little shy.



POETS CORNER

By Brianna S.

Child's Fear

Someone is watching me.

I can feel it.

But I've checked every nook and cranny.

I've checked every closet and bathroom.

But I can't find them.

I'm scared.

It's past midnight now.

My parents still aren't home.

They said they'll be back by ten.

But it's almost one.

And I hate being home alone.

I'll just get my Teddy.

No need to be afraid.

The wind keeps knocking on my window.

It's making a horrible sound.

And is it me or is there a creature

That's hiding in a corner?

I hear something in my closet

But I'm too scared to check inside

Oh Teddy, where are you?

Why aren't you with me?

So many nightmares.

So many monsters.

Teddy is lost, Mom isn't home.

Someone's watching me

And I'm alone.

Now it's time to panic.

Because I'm so scared!

I finally found Teddy.

My parents are back now.

The neighbor's cat was watching me.

And that creature in the corner?

It was just a pile of clothes!



POETS CORNER

By Brianna S.

Don't Deserve

I don't deserve her,
This special someone.
She carries positive energy
Whenever I see her.

We've met in 5th grade.
Oh, just a pleasant memory.
I was so young,
And so was she.
We were in the same class,
Sitting right next to each other.

And she looked at me and starting chatting
And chatting
But I liked it
Because I liked her

She was cool,
I was not.
We would be such great friends.

Now it's 6th grade.
We get our first schedule.
Can you imagine how happy we were
When we found out
We shared the same classes?

Everyday we walk together.
We talked, we laughed.
We ate lunch together.
We celebrated our birthdays together.
We had sleepovers at my house.
Such joyous memories those were.

But now it's 7th grade,
And everything had to change.
Right when I was having the time of my life,
It just had to change.
Now I'm sitting in a new seat.
No one familiar near me.
And she's not here.



POETS CORNER

By Brianna S.

Don't Deserve

I'm walking around these new halls,
Looking at these new faces,
Feeling like a nervous wreck.
And are those kids looking at me?
If *only* she was here.

But she's miles away,
Having the time of *her* life.
Will she think about me?
Will she bother to text me?
I'm *nothing* without her.

Of course she texted me.
Of course she thought about me.
She even came to my birthday party,
Because she's my best friend.
Just like that song.
I can count on her.
She can count on me.

I love her to the moon and back.
I don't deserve an amazing friend like her.

The Westampton Eye

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