



“One must focus upon catching hold of dreams and never giving up.”
—Teacher Alvinna Johns

Diversity difference

Black History Month program gives all a chance to shine



Celebrating culture
Student, faculty performances at annual Black History Month Program promote acceptance

by Delilah Rivera
 Fluorescent lights beat down on the cafeteria stage. Students and staff run around, up and down the stage, filled with anxiety. Teacher and event organizer, Alvinna Johns, knows everything must be organized. The lighting must be set, the sound system must work and the performers must do the intended job: “Focus upon catching

hold of dreams and never giving up.”
 For as long as most can remember on campus, Johns has taken a role behind the scenes to mastermind the February Black History Month, starting with January auditions and ending with the program’s closing remarks.
 At audition time, Johns tells potential performers to look into

a variety of options, from spoken words, to acting, to music.
 “It’s an opportunity that gives all students the chance to shine,” Johns said. “Historically, the program has been totally student centered where I ask for student volunteers.”
 This year, Johns also accepted acts from adults, including Principal Anthony Watson and

hall monitor Adrian Washington. With a slate full of participants, the week before the event became a little more intense than other weeks for Johns.
 “We had to cram it all in, and that’s pretty stressful,” Johns said. “The week of I’m just running around scrambling, making sure the I’s are dotted and the T’s are crossed.”

Normally, it’s just Johns doing the checking, although, from time to time, she has had a couple of people to volunteer to form a committee and help.
 “Everybody is just so busy,” Johns said, “and I know it.”
 However, Johns wishes to do even more with the program in the future, and that will take extra help. One idea she hopes to expand on is forming a

full cultural fair that would celebrate all cultures within the community. She has proposed the idea to administration, and she says she hopes it will be in place by next year.
 “It’s a vision I’ve had for a long time,” Johns said. “I’d like to have some type of beautiful cultural diversity program where we have tables and booths set up in the mall. We could display different cultures,

so people could just walk by and experience them.”
 While she waits to hear about her ideas regarding the cultural event, for now, Johns keeps her eyes on February 2017, a time for another celebration.
 “Every year, I just want everything to go right,” Johns said. “And, for the most part, people are there, and it turns out beautifully.”

1 Change Gone Come Junior Jasmine Bray 2 Junior Damian Guerrero 3 Generation No Prayer Senior Tyler Logan 4 Willie King 5 Jazz Band Junior Carson Salter 6 Jazz Band Jacob Torres 7 Jazz Band Sophomore Thomas Fancher 8 Teacher Alvinna Johns 9 NJROTC Freshman Zachary Royce, Junior Dakota Donde, Junior Nicolas Vera, Junior Damian Guerrero 10 Imagination Principal Anthony Watson 11 Imagination Security Adrian Washington 12 Keyboard Accompaniment 13 No Shade Junior Delicia Sledge

photos by Jordan Baack

Students sweep Black History Contest, win cash prizes for their 2D artwork

Taking all five places in the Round Rock ISD’s annual Black History Art Contest, sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, art students received both public recognition and, for some, even a little cash. The competition asked students to use particular forms

of 2D art to explore a theme from African-American history. The winners included: First place Cicely Roane (\$100.00), second place Hannah Greb (\$75.00), third place Laura Huynh (\$50.00) and Honorable Mention Jordyn Buckland and Laura Soriano.



Junior Hannah Greb receives second for a portrait of Le’Shanda Holmes.

Speaker’s historical story left unheard

Star Williams, Miss Oklahoma and a semi-finalist in the Miss U.S.A. Pageant in 2003, was secured as a speaker for the Black History program because of her relationship with her grandfather, Bishop Otis Clark. Williams listened to her grandfather tell about surviving the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot, a time in which black Tulsa saw 35 city blocks of businesses and homes destroyed by fire and 800+ black Tulsans injured, 6,000+ imprisoned and 300 die in 24 hours. Instead of staying on topic and providing an insider’s look at a historical event, Williams and her mother went off topic.
 “Rather than celebrating black history, she inserted her own personal prejudices and put them on display,” a student said.

1 Star Williams 2 Star’s mother, Dr. Gwyneth Williams

photos by Jordan Baack



photos by Jordan Baack

Culture, dance
 Kappa Psi members perform to “Bet You Can’t Do it Like Me” by D’low 1 Freshman Bryson Sawyer 2 Junior Kaeja Pierce 3 Junior Jacobi Smith 4 Juniors Jacobi Smith and Jermaine Randall 5 Freshman Jamahsis Marshah and Junior Kodi Johnson 6 Junior Jermaine Randall 7 Freshman Alexis Odom 8 Junior Tamara Reynolds 9 Junior Jacobi Smith 10 Junior Kodi Johnson

88 **curiosity** **united** **learners, instructors** **Describe a moment when a friend from a different background taught you something about culture.** **What is something you do to show others your skills or your personal abilities?**

“I play basketball.”
 - Junior Kodi Johnson

“I love to dance, and I’m proud of my abilities.”
 - Freshman Alexis Odom

“I always show up to school no matter what.”
 - Junior Tamara Reynolds

Black History Month Programs **Remember Diversity difference that day!** **89**
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