



Leopard News

February 2026

ISSUE 07

Black History Month



"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

-Frederick Douglass

Did Your Know?

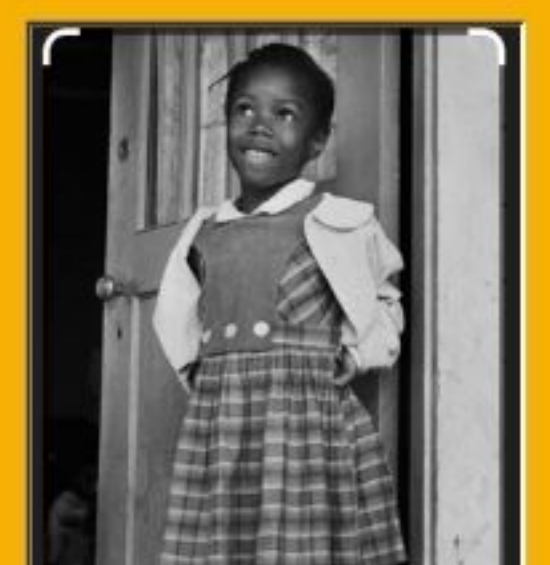
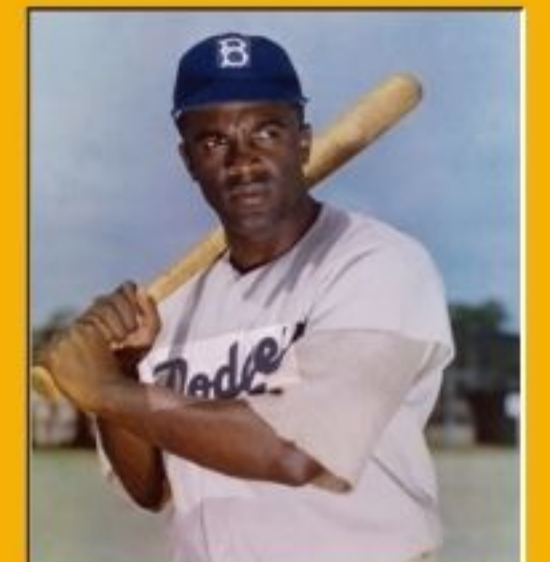
Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926, founded by historian Carter G. Woodson. He believed that the achievements of African Americans were often left out of history books and deserved national recognition. The week was originally celebrated in February to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

In 1976, during the U.S. Bicentennial, it was officially expanded to a full month. Today, Black History Month is a time to celebrate the powerful contributions, resilience, innovation, and leadership of African Americans.

Past, present, and future.

Did you also know that Black History Month is celebrated in other countries?

Canada observes it in February, while the United Kingdom celebrates it in October. Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History selects a national theme to highlight a specific focus area in history.

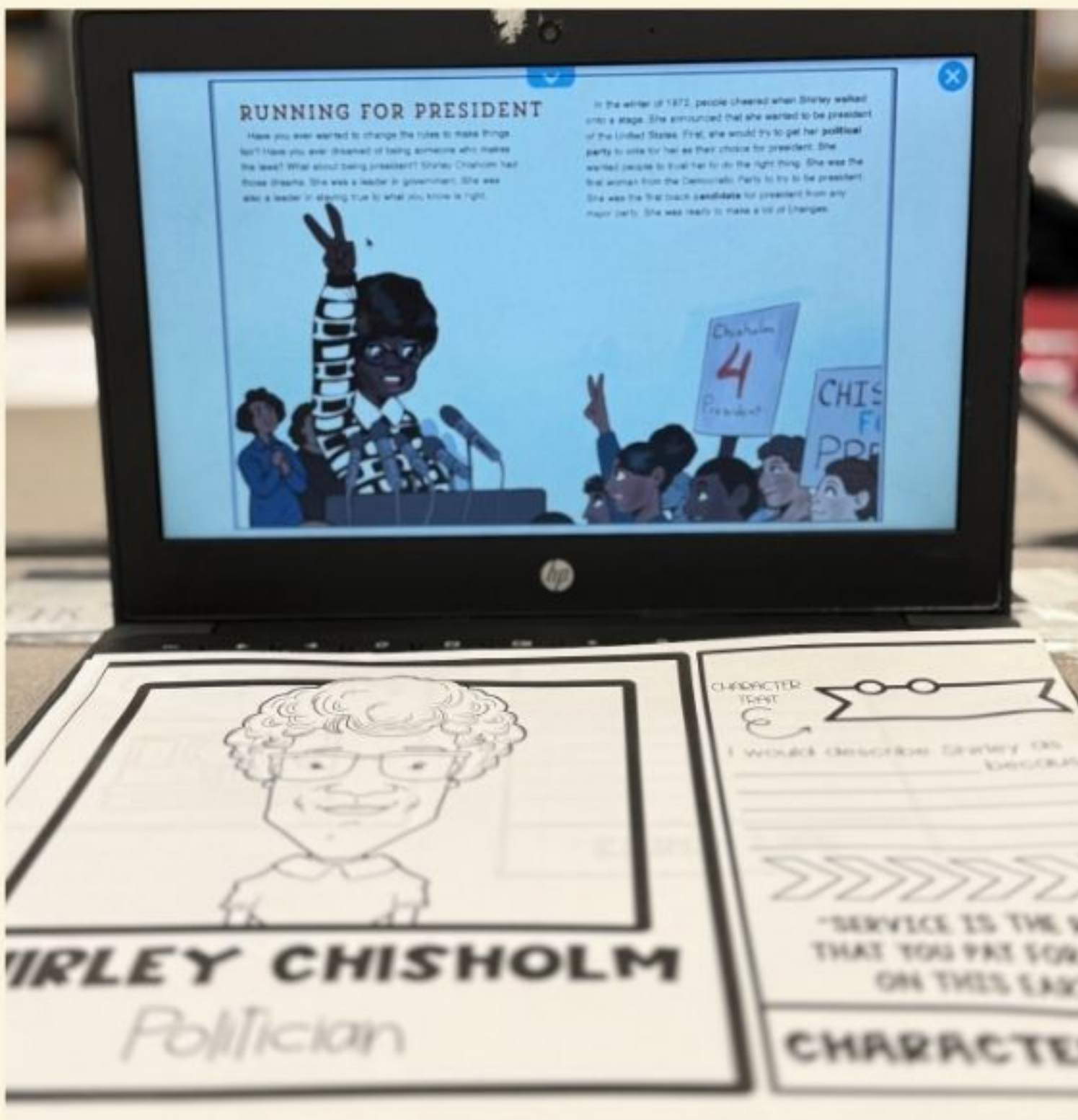
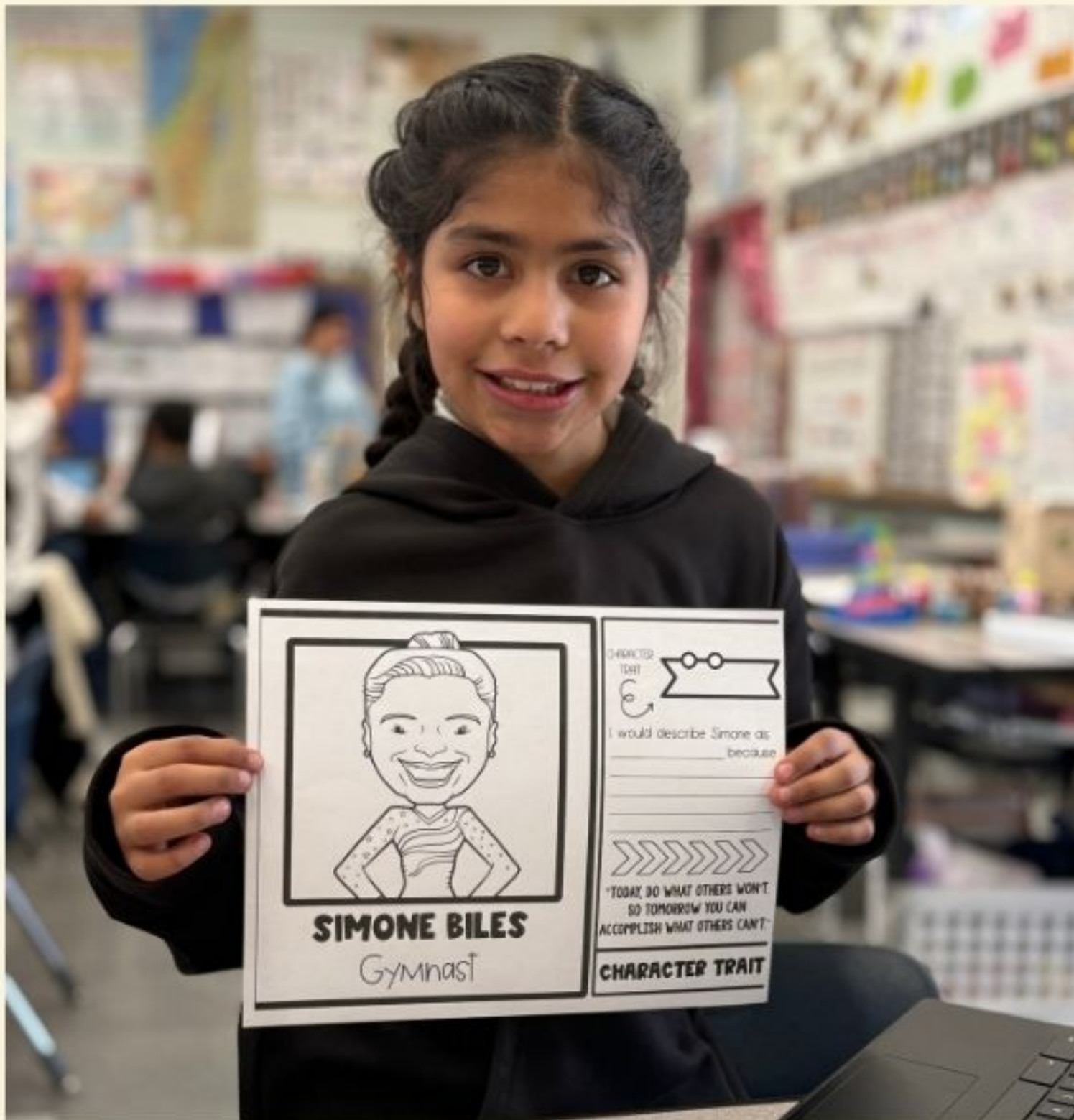


Uplifting the VOICES of those who led with strength and purpose

Our fourth graders dove deep into learning about influential leaders during Black History Month through meaningful research, collaboration, and thoughtful discussion.

By exploring leaders from the past and present, students strengthened their critical thinking, reading comprehension, and communication skills. At this developmental stage, research shows that collaborative learning builds confidence, empathy, and deeper understanding, and we saw that in action as our scholars worked together, shared ideas, and supported one another.

This experience empowered our students to connect history to today, celebrate resilience and leadership, and grow as thoughtful, informed learners. We are so proud of their curiosity, teamwork, and dedication to learning.



Lighting the Way: First Graders Celebrate Black History Month

At Valley Village, our first graders were excited to celebrate Black History Month with a special guest who helped them understand why Black history is an essential part of American history. Students learned how the contributions of African American leaders have shaped the world we live in today and why it is important to honor their impact year round.

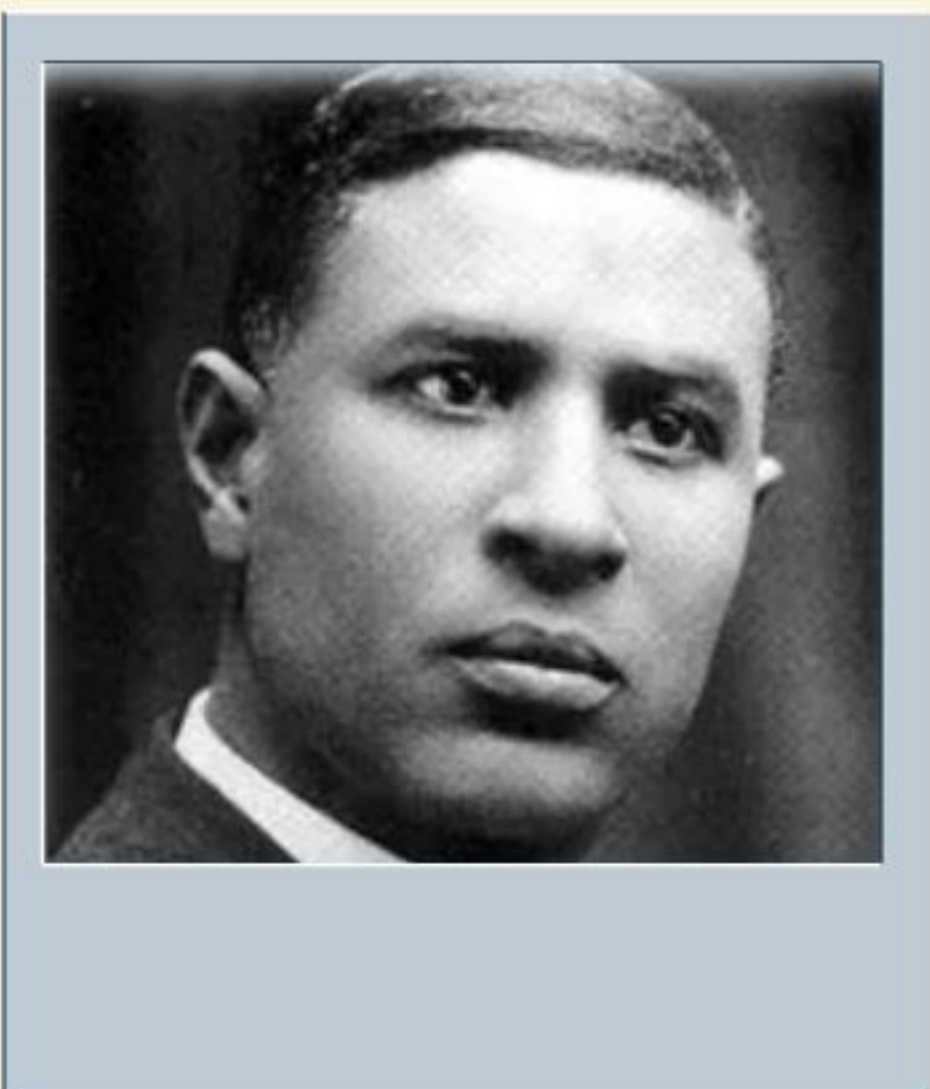
As part of their learning, students created a colorful stoplight project in honor of Garrett Morgan, the brilliant inventor who improved the three position traffic signal in the early 1900s. They discovered that his design added a warning light to help make streets safer for drivers and pedestrians. Students were amazed to realize that something they see every day on their way to school connects to a powerful story of innovation and perseverance. They also learned that Morgan held multiple patents and used his success to support and uplift the Black community.

To wrap up this meaningful day of learning, students enjoyed a delicious slice of sweet potato pie, connecting culture, history, and tradition in a joyful way. It was a sweet ending to a powerful celebration filled with creativity, curiosity, and pride.



*"I never considered myself a great inventor, but I tried to improve on what already existed."
-Garrett Morgan*

- Garrett Morgan only had an elementary school education, yet he became a successful inventor and entrepreneur through self teaching and determination.
- He invented a safety hood in 1914 that protected firefighters and rescue workers from smoke. His invention was later used to rescue workers trapped in a tunnel explosion under Lake Erie in 1916.
- Because of racial discrimination, Morgan sometimes hired white actors to demonstrate his inventions so businesses would take them seriously.
- He founded a newspaper called The Cleveland Call to support and inform the Black community.
- Morgan held multiple patents and built several successful businesses, including a sewing machine repair shop and a hair care company.
- His improved traffic signal added a "warning" position between stop and go, helping prevent accidents and making streets safer for everyone.



March Madness

Upcoming Dates and Events



RE-ENROLLMENT

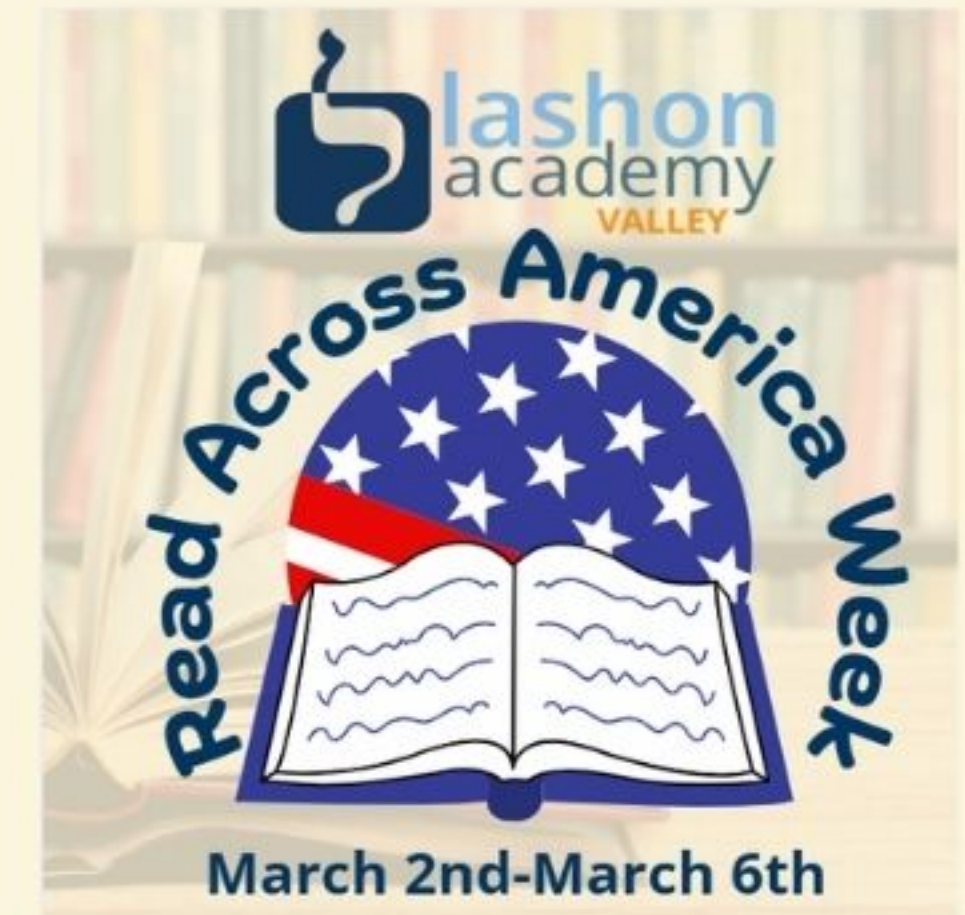
Starting March 2 on ParentSquare. Secure your seat for the 26-27 School Year!



SPIRIT WEEK

March 2nd-6th

If students are not participating in Spirit Week, students **MUST** wear their **PROPER** school uniforms. This is **NOT** a free dress week.



READ ACROSS AMERICA

March 2nd-6th

Snap a photo of your child reading and **TAG** us on Instagram!



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

March 2nd- March 6th
Sign-up for your scheduled time on ParentSqaure



MINIMUM DAYS

March
4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th
Pick up at 1:30pm!

Grade	Date	Location	Arrival Time	Bus Pick up	Departure
Tk/Kinder Fulton	3/31	Underwood Farms	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	1:00 PM
Tk/Kinder VV	3/31	Underwood Farms	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	1:00 PM
1st Grade Fulton	3/17	LA Zoo	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	1:00 PM
1st Grade VV	3/17	LA Zoo	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	1:00 PM
2nd Grade	3/10	Discovery Cube	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	1:00 PM
3rd Grade					
4th Grade	3/26	CA Science Center	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	1:00 PM
5th Grade					
6th Grade	3/12	Museum of Tolerance			
7th Grade	3/24	USS Iowa	9:30 AM	8:15 AM	
8th Grade	3/19	Getty Museum			

FIELD TRIPS

It is **HIGHLY** encourage for students to wear their light blue Lashon Academy T-shirt or **PROPER** school uniform. Field trips days are **NOT** a free dress day. Don't forget to sign your child's permission slip on ParentSquare

THREE MORE DAYS ADDED!

Get your child's favorite books and items until Wednesday, March 4th
Hours: 8am to 3:45pm in Room 711



SHOWCASE & LITERACY NIGHT



Wednesday, March 11th
It's a two-in-one!
1:30pm-2:30pm
Save the Date!