



***“In the church, we think of ourselves as all part of God’s family.
That means we think of the people where we worship as
brothers and sisters—part of our family.”***

--Dr. Benjamin Carson, pioneering African American surgeon--

STM is not just a school: It’s one big, multicolored family. And we are both proud and blessed to have such a diverse population. Building and maintaining that diversity, however, is not about luck. It’s part of STM’s core values. Just look at our belief statement, which says, “...cultural diversity within our school facilitates interactions with and opens doors to an interdependent world.”

February is Black History Month. True to our beliefs, we want to take this time to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans and teach our children about the amazing contributions African Americans have made to our world. We believe that education is the first step toward understanding.

To this end, the PTO is sponsoring the Saint Thomas More Black History Month 2006 African American Achievers Archives. Starting Wednesday, February 1, a student will read over the intercom a brief biography of a famous (or not so famous) African American. Week 1 will feature famous African American scholars and educators. Week 2 will focus on scientists and inventors; week 3 on artists (of all types); week 4 on abolitionists and civil rights leaders; and finally, week 5, on healers. These will be men and women we normally don’t hear about, past and present. And to reinforce the messages, we will send home a weekly recap that tells a bit more about each day’s featured person. Thanks to parent Janet Harrell for writing, scripting and compiling all these.

In addition Lonnie Johnson inventor of the Super Soaker, will be coming to STM on February 8, to speak with our children about being a scientist.

On February 15th The African Talking Drummer, who performed at last year’s festival, will return to perform for the school.

We hope you’ll find these efforts enlightening as well.

The PTO