

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy's Media Center Newsletter

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Senator Milton F. "Toby" Fitch visits Northwest

Senator Milton F. "Toby" Fitch visited Northwest on October 1, 2018, 10:00 through 12:00 Noon. He spoke with students from the Civics and American History Classes on Civic Responsibility. Issues were discussed on why students should focus on doing well in school and obtain their high school degree. Education is essential in assisting a young person in being prepared for the world today, many people need to attend a college or university to acquire their dream job.

He shared that being a former judge he was able to see that young folks make mistakes in their lives and he would understand if a young person made one mistake, they were usually given a second chance; however, if they continued getting in trouble and landed back in court, he believed that they needed to be punished for the wrongs that they have done, excluding taking someone's life.

He reiterated that each student should do their best in school because, if you are a minority and are not rich, you have to be twice as prepared to make you and your community's life a better place to live. He encouraged students to aim high for their goals and never stop focusing on their life's plan.

Senator Fitch asked Quentin McGee to visit The North Carolina Legislative Building to meet other Senators and House of Representatives.



Teachers, Principal, Mr. Steve Hunter, Senator Milton F. "Toby" Fitch and American History and Civic students smile to celebrate the importance of civics.



Quentin McGee smiles with Senator Fitch.

Kimba Smith speaks at Halifax Community College

Kimba Smith visited Halifax Community College October 30, 2018 at The Centre auditorium. She shared her incarceration story with a documentary that was produced by the Black Entertainment Television (BET) station. The journalist who interviewed her discussed how she was raised from a good home with two caring parents. She was sheltered and when she attended college at Hampton University and was naïve on choosing young men to date, at 19 years of age Kimba ended up dating a young man named Peter Hall who was eight years her senior who leading a \$4 million dollar crack cocaine ring. The emotional and physical relationship was abusive, he often beat her and when she tried to leave it was a difficult endeavor. She followed Peter to various cities, the last city she followed him, he could no longer support her, she was also pregnant, he sent her home to her parents in Richmond, Virginia. Shortly after she went home he was killed. The government held Kimba Smith accountable for the drug charges of Peter Hall.

Kimba Smith said she knew her boyfriend was selling drugs, though she did not sell drugs that is why she pleaded guilty. Despite being a first time offender, she was sentenced to 24 years in prison. After her BET documentary was released, several women organizations from Delta Sigma Theta, The Links, Inc. and other organizations rallied to see that her sentence end. After serving 6 and 1/2 years, she was granted clemency in December of 2000 from President Clinton.

After being released from prison, Kimba has earned a bachelor's degree in social work and a law degree from Howard University. She speaks out to educate young people on making sound choices for their lives. She asked the student's who attended the event, "What is your plan in life?" You should have a plan that will make your life better. Kimba Smith is a professional public speaker who shares her life story to young people across America.



Kimba Smith smiles for a picture with Mrs. J. Ruffin-Pittman.

STEM Interest Day

October 4, 2018, Aurelian Springs Elementary School held a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) interest day, 1:00 PM through 3:30 PM. School Counselor Jacqueline Harper invited Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy's NSBE Jr. Club to the event. Northwest's math teacher Mrs. Sura gave a presentation on math and money, the students were able to learn about money with fun hands on activities.

Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy's National Society of Black Engineers Junior Club (NSBE Jr.) attended the event and shared what they learned from their Solar Car Summer Camp. The NSBE Jr. students displayed the solar cars in small groups so that the students would acquire hands on knowledge about how the cars work.

Mrs. Ruffin-Pittman explained the purpose of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. Club. The organization was founded by African American Engineers, The National Society of Black Engineers across America who knew there was a small percentage of African Americans majoring in Engineering, they began to promote majoring in Engineering and other STEM careers by fostering and supporting Engineering events from grades K-12. The students compete in a Lego League (1-5), Math Quiz Bowl (1-12), and Car building and Racing (6-12).

The NSBE Jr. students also volunteered to judge an essay contest where students wrote about the Science Fiction Technology that was used throughout the book, *The Black Panther* by Ta-neshisi Coates. The Lake Gaston Links also supported the event by assisting the NSBE Jr. Club with the school's essay contest. They helped choose first, second and third place winners.

The Northwest students who are NSBE Jr. Members are the following: Diamond Woodley, Briana Jefferson, Orlando Arrington, Aleah Alston, Juatiah Bass, Shirmara Young, Isiah Gordon, Zetra Johnson, Miajha Rooks, Rodney Sears, Jenna Hilaire, and Vernisha Harris.



National Society of Black Engineers

STEM Interest Day Continued



Zetra Johnson shares what she learned on how to build and race a solar car with students.



NSBE Jr. Club member, Miajha Rooks, Aleah Alston and Zetra Johnson share what they learned about Solar Car building and racing.



Jeffrey Mills Jr. wins first place in *The Black Panther* essay contest.

Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy

Attends the Broadway Show, *Hamilton*

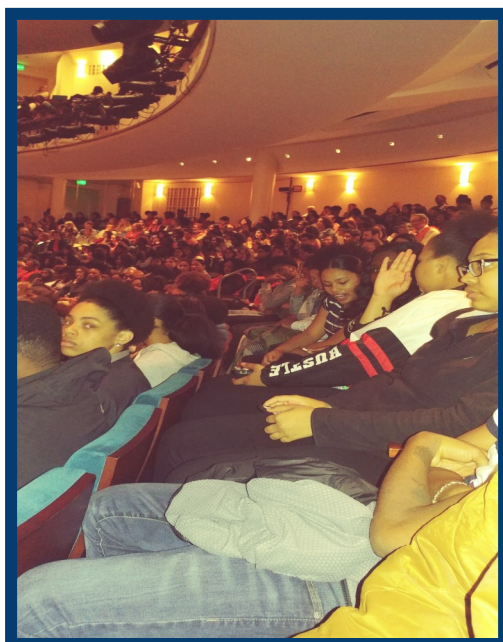
Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy witnessed the Broadway Show, *Hamilton* on November 1, 2018 at The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte, NC. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History sponsored the event. Northwest tweeted them on Tweeter asking for possible school tickets; they later sent us an e-mail promising 10.00 tickets per child and chaperons. The program began at 10:15 AM where students across North Carolina performed their own interpretation of Revolutionary people, events, and documents. The students did a captivating performance, from rap, poetry, skits, and songs. Some students performances were complimented by the Master of Ceremony. The show *Hamilton* began at 1:30 PM and ended at 4:30 PM.

Northwest also prepared for the event with American History Classes by preparing creative interpretations of Revolutionary people, events and documents. The students were given a Hamilton study guide on The Revolutionary Era in America. 100 of Northwest students presented 32 creative Revolutionary presentations in groups of three. Mrs. Jacquelyn Ruffin-Pittman, the Media Specialist collaborated with the History Department teachers, Mr. Edwin Sexton, and Mr. Eric McKnight corresponded with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York, New York. Though our chosen student performers were not invited to perform on November 1st, they will showcase their Revolutionary song and poetry on November 19, 2018 at William R. Davie Middle School.

Superintendent of Halifax County Public Schools, Dr. Eric Cunningham and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tyrana Battle assisted Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy in procuring funds to see *Hamilton*. The Halifax Board of Education also assisted paying for the tickets and two charter buses. The chaperons were Dr. Eric Cunningham, Dr. Tyrana Battle, Mr. Steve Hunter, Principal of Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy, Northwest faculty, Mrs. Pamela Burnette, Ms. Demetrius Phipps, Mrs. Doreen Tubbs, Ms. Diamond Faulcon, Mrs. Kenya Arnold Clemonts, Mrs. Judy Green, and Mrs. Jacquelyn Ruffin-Pittman.

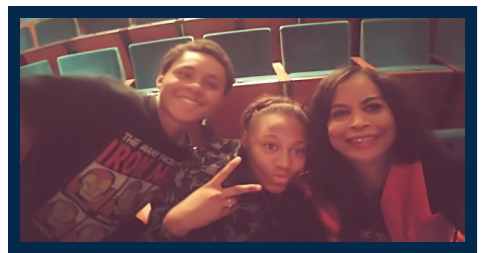
Some of the new facts that Northwest students learned was James Armistead Lafayette, a slave who became a spy for General Washington in the Battle of Yorktown. James Armistead's bravery lead to a victory in Yorktown, General Lafayette, Hamilton's friend, was able to see that James become a free man.

Men of the Revolutionary War have always been acclaimed; however, the 16 year old Sybil Ludington was just as brave as Paul Revere. Sybil let working militia men know that the British were coming in the villages of Putnam County, New York and Danbury,



Students enjoy watching and listening to other student's Revolutionary Era rap, poetry, songs and dialogue.

Hamilton Field trip pictures



WRAL gives Northwest Azaleas



WRAL television gave Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy 50 azaleas. Mrs. Ruffin-Pittman applied for the school to possibly acquire the azaleas and was later contacted to pick up the plants. Mrs Ruffin-Pittman picked up the plants on October 6 at WRAL. The WRAL Azalea Committee asked for the school's landscape and maintenance plan. Lowe's has donated 10 bags of mulch for the azaleas and are continuing to raise funds for more mulch. The Horticulture class taught by Mr. Donald Ford will assist in completing the landscape and maintenance work for plants. The beautification plan for the azaleas will bring life to the campus.



Northwest now has azaleas through out the campus. The campus will be surrounded by beauty.