

Zawadi is Swahili for gifts given to children at the end of Kwanzaa. Children are our gifts.

Fascinating discoveries

Youth experience joys of discovery at science camp-in

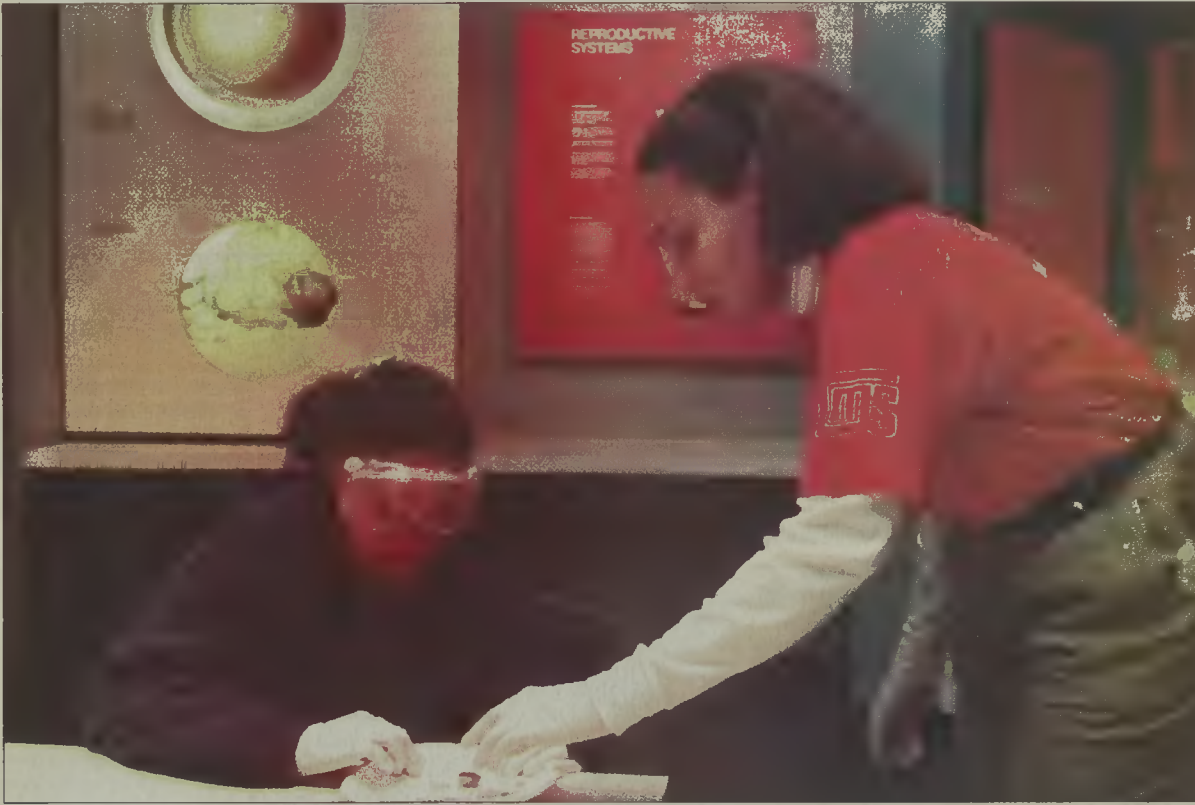


PHOTO: PAUL WILLIAMS III

Giselle Bailey, a Davidson International Baccalaureate sixth grader, prepares to dissect a pig's eye with help of her mother, Faith Bailey, a chaperone at the annual Minority Achievement sleep-in at Discovery Place.

By April Bethea and Brittny McGraw
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Nearly 400 Charlotte-Mecklenburg middle school students attended the annual minority achievement program camp-in at the Discovery Place science museum.

The annual camp-ins are designed to encourage sixth, seventh and eighth graders to take math and science seriously and perhaps to discover truths about themselves and their potential.

The two-weekend event — boys and girls attend separately — is co-sponsored by Hoechst Celanese Corporation and the

National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

Nay Howell, the school system's special assistant for minority achievement, said, "Some people, especially if they are outside education, might wonder why we would have such an event for middle school students. But after a few minutes spent with these students, they would quickly be able to determine there is absolutely a need for many reasons.

"One of the reasons is if one were to talk with a Brittny McGraw who as an 11th grader has already conducted biomed-

ical research one would realize that we need to create as many opportunities as possible for these gifted young women to develop their potential as scientists.

"If one were to attend the Science Adventure workshop and observe the number of girls who were afraid of the exhibits because they had been taught to fear, then one would know why we need these experiences."

Camp-in students participated in science game shows and science-related activity sessions. During the Oink Optics activity session, students

learned about the human eye, optical illusions and night vision.

Mia Kennedy, an eighth grader at J.T. Williams Middle School, said, "I have learned that pigs' eyes are much like human eyes. We dissected the pig's eye to learn more about ourselves."

During the Magic of Color session, students participated in hands-on activities experimenting with color and light. The other activities included Colorful Chemistry, Cosmic Detectives and Sea Adventure.

Students met career panelists from the world of bank-

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My favorite Christmas...

...was when I was five years old. I had a lot of things for Christmas. I had a pink bike with a radio, about 10 dolls, a Barbie playhouse, clothes and shoes.

On Christmas, we always have dinner hot and ready for us to eat.

I remember on Christmas we don't forget who we are with or who we love. We just love everyone with all of our cares and love inside.

Mamie Truesdale

...was two years ago in 1995. It was just me and my family. That's why I liked it so much. In the morning, near 8 a.m., was when my whole family came in the living room and watched me and my sisters open our presents. Then we all let our parents open their presents last, because they like to see how happy our faces are when we opened our presents.

We would take pictures and thank each other for the presents they gave. Then we would go get something to eat and watch a movie all together, just me and my family. I like it like that because it's not hectic and chaotic.

Vanary Savann

...was the Christmas of 1989. I was living in Cincinnati (Ohio) at the time. My family and I were snowed in the house for three days. We had no electricity. During that time we spent together I really don't remember much about it except that that was the year my sister and I got our 14 karat gold inscribed Christmas ornaments. This was my favorite Christmas yet.

Alecia Gaiter

...was one year when I was about seven. I didn't expect much that year. Seems I got more than I expected. I got a Tootsie Roll piggy bank full of Tootsie Rolls; an Easybake oven; clothes; a whole bunch of toys. I had a great time with my family.

Sharel Stowe

...was the Christmas of 1994. My brother came home from Bronx, N.Y. He brought back home some nice Christmas presents for me from New York. Our families picked names that year and my cousin got me some diamond earrings. My sister got me an outfit. My mom got me a Monopoly game, clothes, shoes and jewelry. My aunt got me a bike. My other aunt bought me a whole set of earrings. My dad bought me a radio and clothes and shoes. Then the whole family went to a Christmas party and had fun!

Ebony P.

Kudos for cheerleading teams



Two Greenville Recreation Center cheerleading squads won first place honors at the county's third annual cheerleader competition last month. The 9-10-year-old team, coached by Priscilla Williams, is pictured above. The 12-15-year-old team, coached by Regnae Goodwin and Terresa Lowe, is below.



What's hot for Christmas giving

Zawadi editors recently sent a crack team of expert shoppers into the malls and shopping centers of the city.

Armed with notepads and keen eyes, they found out what will bring the biggest smiles to the faces of children on Christmas morning.

Videogames and game platforms were near the top of the list. So were dolls, particularly Barbies, followed closely by Sing and Snore Ernie, a follow up to last year's wildly popular Tickle Me Elmo.

Here are some of the team's findings:

Videogames — NBA Live 98 and

Madden 98 for Sony's PlayStation; Quarterback Club 98 and Madden 64 for Nintendo 64; and Mortal Kombat and Trillory for Gamecom.

Dolls — Barbie & Ginger; Licka Me Pop; Rapunzel Barbie; Barbie's Dream House; Hula Hair Barbie; Lickaty Treats Doll; and Diaper Surprise Doll.

Computers and computer-like educational toys — some complete systems for under \$1,000. Software abounds.

Pocket Gameboy
Giga Pets — (Don't ask, just buy it. Your kids will love you for it.)

Touch and Crawl Baby Disney

characters.

San Rio Surprise stuff
Glow in the Dark Teddy bear.
Barney Bear that talks back.
Talking Clueless Phone
My Dear Diary
Clueless Diary
Picturebook See and Say
Fingernail Fun

Compiled by
Rashard Little, Shalace Gregg,
Vanary Savann, Tamika Baldwin,
Keasha Misenheimer, Ebony P.,
Vannearry Sok, Ru'dydra Watta, and
Courtney Forman.



Storybook characters stop in Charlotte last week on a national "Read Me a Story" tour sponsored in part by Visa. Characters included Clifford the Big Red Dog, Angelina Ballerina, Babar, Jesse Bear, Little Red Riding Hood, Lyle the Crocodile, Mother Goose, Peter Pan, Pippi Longstocking and Curious George. They appeared at Myers Park High School, the Public Library Main Branch and Eastland Mall. The tour is designed to encourage children to read and introduced a Reading Check-up Guide. Sponsors hope to raise \$1 million for the Reading is Fundamental campaign, which gives books to kids. Visa will donate to RIF each time a Visa card is used before Dec. 31.

The Charlotte Post staff is proud to present the students of Cochrane Middle School's communication arts classes as they help to produce Zawadi each month.