

Students learn to be entrepreneurs at Carter G. Woodson

By PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

May 12 was Entrepreneur Day at Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge, and several of the youngsters interviewed for this article said they want to be business men or women when they grow up.

Amantha Muhammad, a second-grade teacher and coordinator of Entrepreneur Day, said, "This is the second year we've had it. We do this really to give our students an opportunity to show that they can do things themselves and be productive citizens in their community. We don't want them just to go to school and go on to college, get a degree and then go on to work for someone. We want them to go into business for themselves and be a part of the community in that type of way."

At Entrepreneur Day, she said, "We have lots of different types of food items - fish fries, grilled chicken. We have some snack foods, chips... We'll have some popcorn, cotton candy. We have a lot of arts and crafts that the children made as well. We have children that made

sand art by themselves. They made name bracelets, key chains. We've got flower pots, Mother's Day cards...pencil holders....They also came up with some creative games, which I thought was nice. We're going to have a basketball tournament and a wet sponge relay race. Hopefully that will cool them down with this hot sun today.

"We're just excited about having them put their hands together to produce something and make something that they will be proud of and that they can sell. The money - they'll make a profit off of it and they'll be able to have a pizza party in the class or buy themselves something. Another portion of it will go to the school. It's a school fund-raiser as well as you'll have an opportunity to have some fun.

"Every grade (kindergarten through eighth grade) participates. We give them a list of ideas. They come up with their own ideas. The teachers, of course, are assisting them (man the tables at Entrepreneur Day), but they were assigned to collect money. They have to know how much change they are going to

give back to the people. They keep a tally of things they've sold...Usually when we do this we do a couple of lessons in the classroom about profit or loss, marketing, advertising; so they've been waiting for this to happen and practicing some business etiquette for a while now. It also ties in, especially with my grade, second grade, with good customer service. We talk to them about how you speak to people, how you treat people..."

Shakima Jeter, a second-grader in Lateefah Razzak's class, was selling toys, bookmarks, cupcakes, chips, juice, freeze cups and candies. "I learned about art work, making things and other stuff," Shakima said.

Sandra L. Jeter, Shakima's mother, said, "She learned a lot about arts and crafts, and how to do different things, how to become a sales person." Ms. Jeter said Shakima had fun too.

Jeter said of Entrepreneur Day: "I think it's real nice. I'm very excited."

Joshua Mack, another student of Razzak, said, "I learned

about...adding and subtracting and counting money."

Razzak said, "Since our main theme this year was phonics and reading, we wanted to make bookmarks...As we progressed in our work they developed to where they wanted to put their names on their bookmarks to identify their work..."

"The other arts and crafts idea they did was decorating sea shells. I got those sea shells from Edisto Beach in South Carolina. I brought them back and our idea was to see what we could create. We have a variety of colors and designs over there that the children have done. We had a wonderful time doing it..."

"We've been working in math all along, talking about numbers and counting money and adding and subtracting and how you recognize whether or not you are getting the right amount of money by the way you subtract and add..."

"The whole idea of entrepreneurship is how to treat the customers when they come in and how to add and subtract to make sure you are giving them their proper money and making sure you get your prop-

er money." Sandra Wright told about her fourth-grade students' project. "We took old beer bottles and... old buttons and stuff that we had, and we made flower vases."

They started by covering the bottles with newspaper or brown paper towels, using wall paper paste. "We

took our time and we painted them (the bottles)," Wright said. Then they added buttons, ribbons, beads, anything they had at home that they could use.

"We (also) made necklaces," Wright said. "Another teacher had some cord. I went and bought the

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Joines

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behind the state average.

Joines said neighborhood development is taking a back seat currently. He wants to change that by forging ahead with projects that "remove blight" while preserving the history and character of communities. Joines says he has already shown that he can do this with his leadership of revitalization projects at La Dera Crest and Burke Village while deputy city manager.

Joines said he is proud of his track record in city government. Those he has helped over the years with problems have already called to volunteer for the campaign, he said.

"These folks know me," he said. "They know my ability to do projects and bring together groups on very complex issues."

Unity and togetherness are things Joines says are sorely lacking in the city under its current leadership.

"For our city to go forward, our elected officials have to be



Joines chats with residents near Trade Street.

Photo by Kevin Walker

working together and I believe I (Board of Aldermen) and the can help bring some unity to the city," he said.

Joines is proud of the impressive list of supporters he has racked up so far. They include many African-American ministers and community leaders, as well as former supporters of Cavanagh.

Most members of the Board of Aldermen have also thrown their support behind Joines, including Fred Terry, who was once considering running for mayor himself.

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