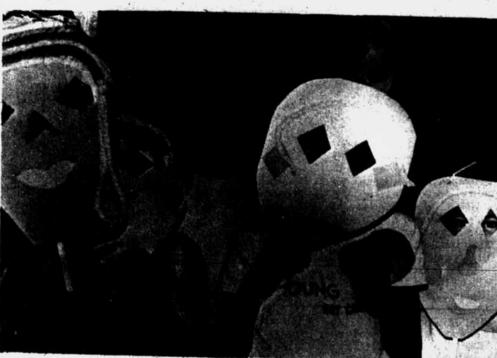


and her mother, Elloree Erwin, how to make a dragon, while Thomas Brown and art

Pamela Gibson (front) shows Kandyce Erwin director Susan Parker look on. (photo by

in Spirit Square.



Members of the Children's Art Program show zaa, an East African holiday. (photo by off the African masks they made for Kwan- Eileen Hanson).

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Caroline Huntley and Thomas Brown learn an African dance

Children's Arts Program Prepares For Kwanzaa



Program director JoAnn Moorhead and music director Delcia Harper introduce Tsahi Harris, age 21/2, to African instruments at the Afro-American Cultural Center. (photo by Eileen Hanson).

by Eileen Hanson Special To The Post You can tell from the smiles on their faces-the youngsters in the Children's Arts Program are eager for another Saturday of activities at the Afro-American Cultural Center

Zelda Brown, a high school student who works at the Center under a CETA program, registers each child and gives him a large name tag.

"I really dig the kids," said Brown, who wants to be a teacher some day. "We're teaching them about their culture, where they came from.'

The Saturday morning program for children ages 4 to 14 includes visual arts, music, African dance, photography, films and refreshments-usually a healthy snack of fruit, crackers and juice.

The program is free, but parents are encouraged to send 50 cents for the snack. UNCC theatre student JoAnn Moorhead directs the pro-

This coming Saturday, Dec. 2, the 6 to 8 year old children will take & field trip to the Mint Museum. They will help paint a mural to be exhibited at the museum during the holidays. The group will leave Spirit Square at 9 a.m. and return at 1 p.m. The trip cost is \$2.00, including refreshments.

For the next four Saturdays, the children will be putting the finishing touches on their Kwanzaa program. On December 27, they will invite their parents and friends to the Center for a covered dish dinner and program, celebrating the Kwanzaa principle of creativity of "kuumba".

Kwanzaa, an East African Custom celebrating the first harvest, is observed by many black American families from December 26 to January 1. People come together to give thanks, make joyful noises and enjoy acting together for the community.

The children are busy preparing

African dances, songs, and dramatic interpretations. In the art room. several budding young artists are

preparing a colorful paper mache dragon under the direction of Susan Parker and Evadne Jones, volunteers who work with the children.

One volunteer, Marjorie Johnson, comes each Saturday from Chapel Hill. A post-graduate student at UNC, Johnson is especially concerned with the involvement of the family in education. She is working to get parents involved in CAP.

"We want the total family involved-children, mothers and fathers," said Johnson. "Parents want to be involved with their children's education, but they need a specific job."

She is working with Renee Jones to get parent clusters organized to help with the weekly program. Adrienne Leatherman and Hazel Koontz were among the parents that came to find out about the program last Saturday.

"My kids enjoy the program because it is contact with their roots." said Leatherman, whose children Nicole (7) and Robyn (8) were busy in the music room learning an African dance. "Here they see pictures of African children-they are our cousins. This gives them a sense of history, an appreciation of where they came from.

Hazel Koontz, whose 4-year-old daughter Karen just started in the program, would like to see more ople get involved in sharing their talents with the children.

"There are many senior citizens who could tell stories about their own past and the struggle of black people in this country. This is part of our roots."

For more information about Kwanzaa and the Children's Art Program contact, JoAnn Moorhead, 374-1565 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Post! Your support helps! at the Children's Art Program. (photo by Eileen Hanson). THE CHARLOTTE POST

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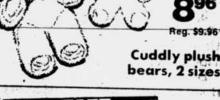






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NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS-Wendi Weaver, 500 Owen Blvd., Charlotte, and Tami Todd, Rt. 9, Charlotte, (center) are among 40 4-H members from North Carolina attending the 57th National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Ill. Shown with them is James West, district 4-H program leader at North Carolina State University. Miss Todd, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Todd, Jr., was selected as one of 18 winners across the nation in the 4-H veterinary science program. Miss Weaver, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Weaver, is attending the congress as state winner in the 4-H horse program. The delegates return home Friday (Dec.

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