



At Derita Elementary School, students in the the Minority Achievement Program recently celebrated Black History Month. Here, they are singing "Lift Every Voice And Sing," the Black National Anthem.

Minority Achievement Program Shapes Lives Prior To College

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

"The Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste" is a slogan adopted by the United Negro College Fund, but the Minority Achievement Program in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System is shaping lives before they reach college.

The program was implemented in October of 1983 in all schools grades, K-12. Its purpose is to identify minority students with high potential at an early age and give additional assistance in developing their potential.

Each school has different objectives and enrichment activities. Some of the activities include field trips, art appreciation, communication exercises, computer training, and lessons in Language Arts, Math and test taking preparations.

According to Ellanor Graves, program coordinator, the MAP is doing well and expanding. "We have selected 15 students for the new Duke Power Development Partnership Program that will begin on March 15. The students will get training in assertive-

ness, communication, time management and presentational skills and will also get an overview of various fields in the com-

pany," she announces. "On May 2-3, there will be an overnight camping experience for students at Discovery Place."

At Windsor Park Elementary, they have targeted third and fourth graders to work with in their program. We want to chart

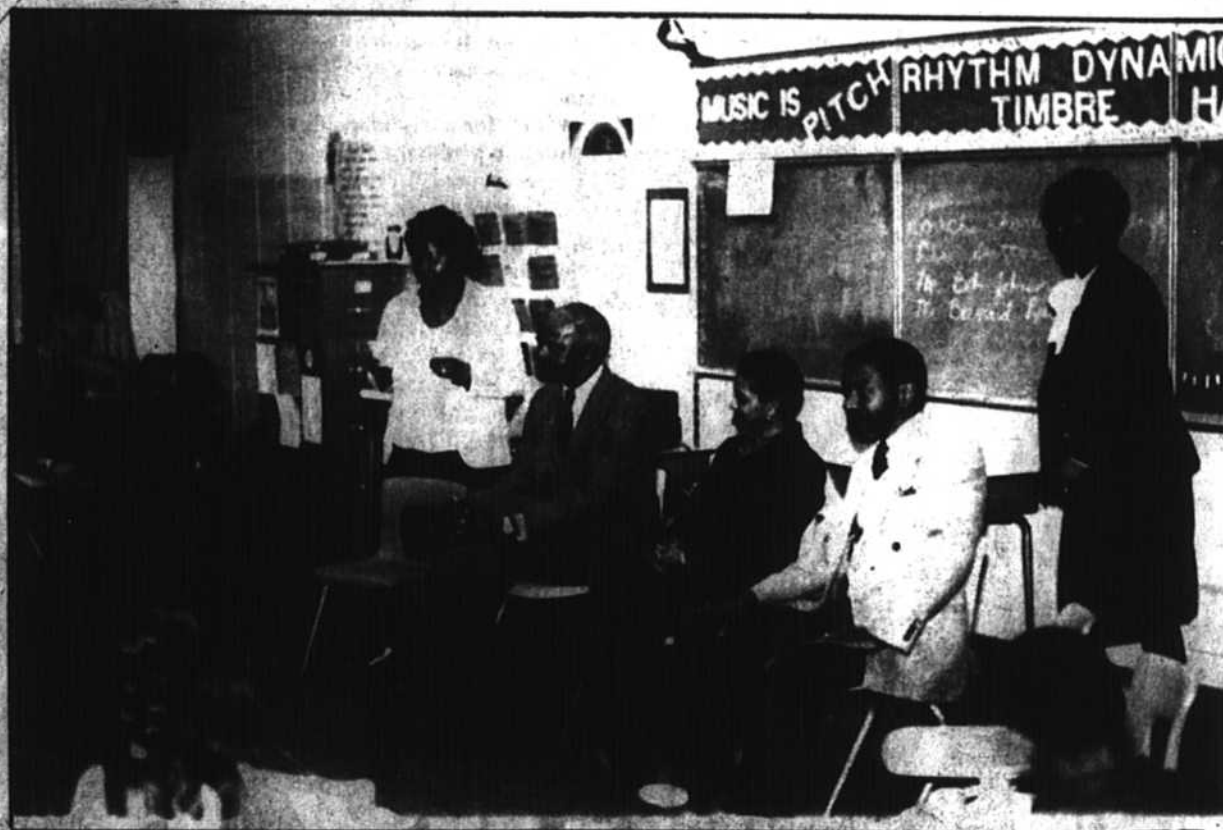
their academic growth through the sixth grade. Our objective is to increase student appreciation of their heritage through cultural

experiences yielding a health self-image," points out Windsor Park MAP Committee Chairperson, Della Kibler. "To meet our objective, we have developed a Parent Appreciation Day to held on Feb. 12, 1987. A Mini Career Day, Feb 24, 1987-Field Trip to Discovery Place to see the India Exhibit and a visit to the Afro Cultural Center on Feb. 25."

Another Windsor Park activity included a visit by District Court Judge Terry Sherrill on Feb. 27 at a Black Studies Assembly. A visit by Mayor Harvey Gantt followed on March 6.

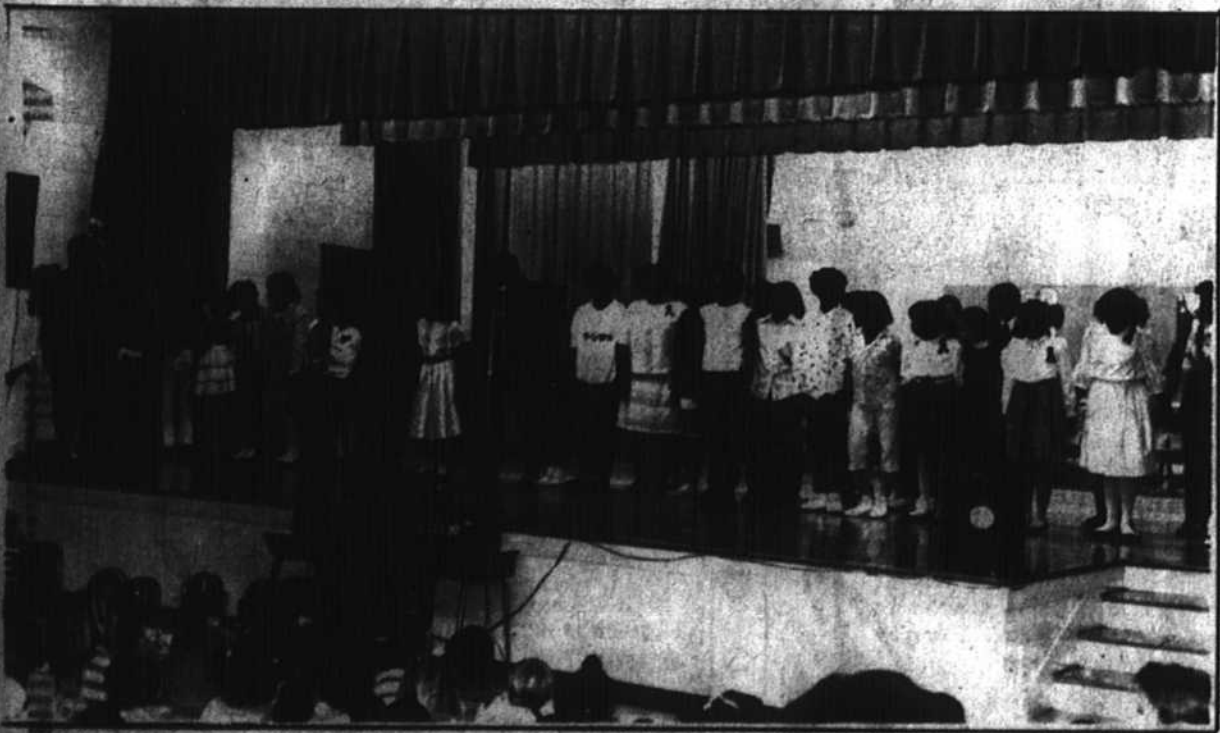
The school also observes an International Day that is scheduled for May. "On this day, art, dances and ethnic dishes will be featured. This will culminate our activities for the year," Kibler concludes.

The Cotswold Elementary School MAP Students presented a special Black History Month presentation. The program revealed the past by telling and showing the hardships of slavery. It ended by portraying a positive image for blacks in all walks of life.



Windsor Park Elementary recently held a Mini Career Day and invited community leaders to speak to MAP students. Shown here are (left to right) Alice Lyons (teacher), Charles McCollough (West Charlotte High School Varsity Basketball

Coach), Dr. Marilyn Sutton (J.C. Smith University), Bob Johnson (Co-Publisher of The Charlotte Post), and Della Kibler (MAP committee chairperson at Windsor Park).



Ancestry recital was one of the activities that Derita Elementary initiated in a special Black History

Month Assembly.



Coach McCollough lectures as Windsor Park MAP students take notes.



Students at Cotswold Elementary wait patiently for their introduction by principal, Stephanie

Counts. Their assembly featured a story telling experience from slavery days to the present.



Exercising their talents, MAP students dance to a special version of Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

The dance was choreographed by second grade teacher, Cassandra Saunders.