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[GALLERY](#)

[HISTORY](#)

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[ARCHIVES](#)

[Project
Homepage](#)

Archives

ALLISON TALLEY A HISTORIC WINNER

On March 6, four WMSG students competed in the 18th Annual African American History Bee, a city-wide contest held at the Charles Sumner School Museum in DC. Allison Talley's second-place showing earned her a beautiful plaque and a cash prize. Congratulations to teacher Marcia Gilreath, who coached Allison and her team, and to all of our fifth and sixth grade competitors!

A FAIRY TALE DAY, THANKS TO GOOD FRIENDS

Recently, WMSG students and a few fortunate faculty members enjoyed a memorable day out. Leaving school before noon, we all had lunch together, then attended a presentation of "Into the Woods," by Steven Sondheim. The musical fantasy was beautifully performed by students at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Bethesda. Our friends at the Connelly School issued the kind invitation, and even sent a bus to take us there. From all of us, the whole day got rave reviews.

WMSG and Its Partners: Junior Achievement

We're excited about our newly launched collaboration with Junior Achievement, a way to bring practical economics alive as part of everyday life. Junior Achievement (JA) is a not-for-profit organization that helps introduce young people to business and private enterprise and the way a good grasp of economics can improve their lives.

WMSG 8th grade students are taking a course called Econ and Me, designed by JA. They'll tackle such topics as career interests, interviewing and job application, budget planning, credit ratings and what they mean. They'll even explore the stock market.

Meanwhile, 6th graders are working toward a better understanding of "Our World." This JA course introduces key aspects of global trade, and demonstrates the economic interdependence of most countries around the world.

We won't be surprised, in a few years, if a number of WMSG graduates go on to lead important (and socially responsible) businesses. One of our girls might even become the U.S. Secretary of Commerce in, say, 2032!

For WMSG students and staff, February is even busier than usual. Why? Partly because it's Black History month. Much of the month will be devoted to thanking many of our good friends and contributors: G-Tech, the Bank of America, National Geographic, the AKA Sorority, and so many others....

A Promise to Keep: After students visited the Great Blacks in Wax museum in Baltimore, they decided to adopt the "Pledge to the Ancestors" written by the museum's founder, Dr. Joanne M. Martin. It includes a reference to prisons as "slave ships," and to drug dealers as "slave traders." It ends with a determination to work for peace and justice and to make the world "a better place, simply because I'm in it." The girls are reciting the pledge every morning in February.

A Black History Oratorical Contest was sponsored by our good friends, the AKA sorority of Howard University on Sunday, February 10. Several WMSG students submitted their speeches for the contest, and while they didn't win, they received honorable recognition for taking part.

Walking Proudly with Our Heritage: Also as part of black history month celebration, students are inviting family and friends to a fashion show on February 22, with poems and skits. The student models, of course, will be elegant, wearing traditional clothing from a number of African countries.

Grand Opening for WMSG's New G-Tech Computer Lab. On February 13, at 2:30 PM, WMSG will hold a press conference to unveil our state-of-the-art computer lab, donated and installed entirely by the G-Tech Corporation. DC councilwoman Sandy Allen, a member of the WMSG Board, will be the keynote speaker. Students are writing personal essays to thank our G-Tech friends for everything they've contributed to our school!

For a Happy Valentine: On Valentine's day, students and faculty alike were encouraged to wear red to school, instead of their student uniforms. Topping off a holiday party with games and surprises, students gave a great performance of the classic *Anne of Green Gables*, directed by English teacher Sr. Joan Ferraro.

Join Us for WMSG's Open House! For the Bank of America, it seems it wasn't enough to provide our wonderful school space-at no charge-in the Washington View Apartment complex. Bank officials are inviting the WMSG community to a gala Open House on February 22, at 1 PM, at the school. Students and staff will join DC Mayor Anthony Williams and other distinguished guests to celebrate our beautiful school and our progress here.

Update for the OnLine Science Project: Directed by science teacher Kay Carter, seventh and eighth grade WMSG students are studying the process of trapping and using methane gas as a safe, cheap, and useful source of energy. The project, sponsored by the Electronic Industries Foundation, will include an informative student tour of a landfill in Lorton, VA. A lot more information on this exciting project is available on our [homepage](#) link.

Exploring the World-on Our New Computers! More friends, from the National Geographic Society, have given WMSG's computer lab a whole world of instructional software, including maps and research projects. We even have, on CD-Rom, a complete set of National Geographic Magazines, all the way back to 1910. Students have already used the materials for a study of volcanoes, and are now involved in learning about the diverse cultures and geography of African nations, where most of our ancestors came from.