



## Embrace the World Celebration

Our annual celebration of cultures, languages, and diversity, Embrace the World, will be held February 22 from 6:30-8:00pm. Bring your whole family to this free event to see your kids' classmates and community members representing countries and cultures from all over the globe to right here in Michigan. Children will receive passports and travel from area to area learning about different places and traditions and getting their passports stamped. There will also be performances at 7:30pm, including Mrs. Pike's multi-grade PAWS choir.

We are seeking volunteers to serve as table hosts, assist with set-up, hand out passports, and help with logistics. Visit the WSA website and click on "I Want to Volunteer" to see the sign up link. You can also contact event chair Joy Campbell via the WSA email.



## Plan Ahead for Science Fair

Our kid-driven Science Fair returns on Wednesday, March 28. We had a great STEM Festival in the fall with outside labs and guests, and now it's our Wolves' turn. There's plenty of time for your child to plan poster or other project! Visit the Whitehills Science Club website for some great ideas on how to get started: <http://whitehillsscienceclub.weebly.com/>. Watch the WSA website, Facebook, and eblasts later in February for information on how your child can sign up to do a project.



## PawPalooza a Great Success!

Many thanks to everyone who came to enjoy the PawPalooza, and to our donors, organizers, volunteers, and bidders! Silent Auction profits topped \$5,000 and will be shared among the grade levels and specials teachers to do something specific for each grade.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Popcorn Friday**  
Friday, February 2

**Box Tops Winter II Deadline**  
Friday, February 9

**WSA Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 13  
6:00-7:30pm

**Marco's Pizza Night**  
Thursday, February 15

**Science Club**  
Friday, February 16  
3:35-5:30pm

**Presidents' Day—No School**  
Monday, February 19

**Embrace the World**  
Thursday, February 22  
6:30-8:00pm

## Coming in March

- Teacher Appreciation Lunches on 3/14 and 3/20
- Half days on 3/14, 3/20, and 3/22
- No school 3/23
- Science Fair 3/28
- Spring Break begins 3/30

## CONNECT WITH US

**Email**  
[whitehillsparents@gmail.com](mailto:whitehillsparents@gmail.com)

**Facebook**  
<http://www.facebook.com/whitehillsparents>

**Web**  
<https://whitehillsparents.org>

**Board**  
President: Joy Campbell  
Vice President: Jen Gorchow  
Treasurer: Jeff Hicks  
Secretary: Elizabeth Ivkovich

**Meetings**  
At 6:00pm, second Tuesday of each month in the library

# WOLF PACK WRITERS

Proudly featuring the work of Whitehills students

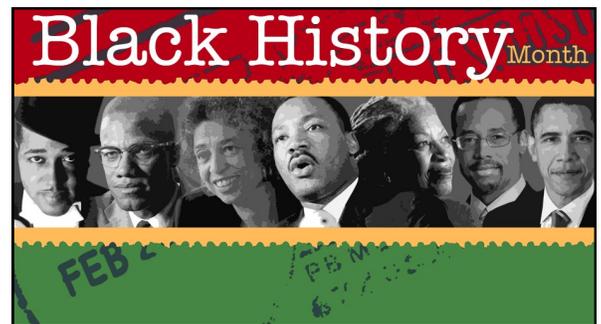


## The Importance of Black History Month

by Brandon McClinton-El

I think that Black History Month is important because one of the things it shows other people is what Black people accomplished and did to eliminate segregation in our country. Segregation was bad because Black people weren't treated equally. They could not go to the same restrooms as White people, or to the same restaurants. We had to sit in the back of buses and give up our seats to White people.

Another reason to celebrate Black History Month is to recognize Black inventors such as Lewis Howard Latimer (at right) who was one of the people who helped create the light bulb. I feel we should celebrate Black History Month more than just one month to learn what Black people did and can do.



Learn more about Black History Month, as well as the diverse backgrounds of some of your school-mates, at Embrace the World on February 22!

## A Puzzle of Cultures

by Orhan Kamilli

When I first came to Michigan from Azerbaijan, I was seven. I was ready for a new start because I had some scary experiences in my country. I was shocked that there was so much to do, to learn, and to see. One big difference I noticed here was the roads were more comfortable to ride on because in my country there was dirt and rocks and bumps on the streets. I had to get used to new things like the taste of food, what kind of things people cared about, and how people got around. It was like fitting pieces of a puzzle together.

But I was new here and didn't speak English, only Azerbaijani and Turkish, so I couldn't do too much because I didn't understand. When I started school, that was when all the drama started. I will describe it in one word: terrible. I'm being honest. I did not like it. It was really like I was missing out and not loved because I didn't understand the language. I was too shy to talk and I always had cold lunch so I wouldn't have to talk to anyone. Only the teachers could understand me because they tried to understand my English.

When I had learned English (by watching TV and talking to my cousin who already lived in Michigan), everyone was finally not acting like I was not there. Everyone was nice to me and to each other and no one bullied one another. It was like that for third grade. I finally felt like the puzzle was fitting together.

Then I visited Azerbaijan after third grade ended, and I had to take all my puzzle pieces apart again. For example, I needed to eat less at each meal because we had four meals instead of three (we had a meal when we got ready for bed).

When I first started fourth grade I was worried no one would remember me, but everyone did. I was worried about what teacher I would have, but it was Mrs. Brenner, who is a really nice teacher. I was worried that the specials teachers weren't going to be the same, but when I went, everything was normal. It was easy to get all the puzzle pieces together again.



### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Brandon McClinton-El** is a fifth grade student in Mr. Montgomery's class. He loves math and basketball. When he was in pre-K in Atlanta he led a get out to vote rally for adults.

Fourth grader **Orhan Kamilli** is in Mrs. Brenner's class. His favorite food is pizza, and he likes to play and watch soccer.

Have an idea for an article? Contact us at [whitehillsparents@gmail.com](mailto:whitehillsparents@gmail.com).