



# GATORS GAZETTE

February, 2026

## Black is Beautiful

*Celebrating Black History Month*



Black History Month helps students learn about important people who helped make the world fair and equal, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. Martin Luther King Jr. led peaceful marches and taught people to solve problems with kindness, while Rosa Parks showed courage by standing up for fairness on a bus. Learning about these heroes teaches students respect, equality, and kindness. Black History Month helps students understand why it is important to treat everyone equally. It also makes school more interesting and helps students learn new things.

Valentine's Day is a fun and happy time for students at school. Many students feel excited because they get to give and receive cards, candy, and even gifts. Students get to write kind messages to their friends, classmates, and teachers. This day is to show love, friendship, and kindness to others. Valentine's Day makes the classroom feel friendly and cheerful, and it reminds students that being kind is important every day, not just on holidays.

Both Black History Month and Valentine's Day teach students important lessons.



They help students learn about kindness, respect, and caring for others. These lessons help make our school a better place.



**Briana FM**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### January 23-27 Winter Storm Fern

Winter Storm Fern brought heavy snow, strong winds, and cold temperatures, causing travel disruptions and power outages. Communities responded quickly by clearing roads and helping those in need. The storm highlighted the importance of preparation and teamwork during harsh weather events.



**Barack Obama**

Barack Obama was the first African American president. He was the 44th president of the United States. He spent his early years of childhood in Jakarta, Indonesia. His mother was from Kansas, USA and his father was from Kenya. Barack was the president from 2009 to 2017. He also worked in Chicago civil rights law firm and taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago.

During his presidency, he expanded healthcare Affordable Act, guided the country through economic recovery, and inspired millions with his message of unity. His leadership was defined by empathy, vision, and the belief that progress is possible when people work together.

**Brooke P.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**



### **Serena Williams: A Champion On and Off the Court**

Serena Williams is one of the best tennis players in the world to this day. Serena started playing tennis when she was just three years old and won her first medal at 17 years old. Serena had her very first tennis game in 1995. Serena has won 367 games and 423 career matches and has been nominated for best female tennis player at the ESPYS twice. Serena Williams is a talented tennis player and has been featured on a few shows like the Super Bowl. Her fame is outrageously, shockingly crazy.

Finally, one special quote from Serena Williams is, "I think you have to love yourself before you fall in love. I'm still learning how to love myself"

**Anyinju N.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### **Chinese New Year 2026: The Year of the Horse**

Chinese New Year 2026 celebrates the Year of the Horse, a symbol of energy, strength, and independence. Across China and the world, families will gather, share meals, enjoy lion dances, and light fireworks to welcome the new year.

The horse inspires confidence and perseverance, encouraging people to chase their goals and face challenges with optimism. This festive season blends ancient tradition with a hopeful spirit, marking a fresh start and a year full of possibilities.



### **Why Do We Celebrate the Black History Month?**

Black history month is when Americans celebrate the achievements of African Americans throughout history.. The idea goes all the way back to the mid 1920s, when a historian named Carter G. Woodson worked with an organization to create what he called Negro History Week choosing February to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Mr. Woodson did not like that most schools used textbooks at the time, ignored much of black history and the contributions of all kinds of black historical figures. So he decided to take matters into his own hands and help raise awareness. The week grew into a monthlong celebration in 1976, when President Gerald Ford urged Americans to recognize the central role of Black History in the nation's story.

More than a look back, Black History Month is a reminder to learn from the past, celebrate diversity and work toward a more equal future.

**Charlie B.**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade



### **Celebrating Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day is all about sharing love with one another. But how can we share love?

As a student, we share love by giving gifts, flowers, and cards. But this celebration is more than just a gift.

It is the best time to spend more time with family and friends.

Lastly, let us show love and respect for each other, not just on Valentine's Day.

**Faith A.**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade



### **Gladys West: The Quiet Pioneer Behind GPS**

Gladys West was an African American mathematician. She was known for her contributions to mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of satellite Geodesy models, which were later incorporated into the Global Positioning System.

**Josephine A.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



### **Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. Astronaut/Scientist**

Guion was born November 22 1942. Guion often received encouragement because of his good grades. In college he joined the US Air Force R.O.T.C program and he graduated with a degree in Aero-Space Engineering. Guion joined NASA space program. He became a NASA astronaut in 1978. In 1983 he became the first African American to journey into space. He retired in 1993 after 688 hours in space.

**Idera L.**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade