

# 3rd Grade happenings

Devin Homme • Sunday, Mar 7 at 10:42 PM • **3rd Grade**

Hi Everyone,

What a week last week!! The experiences we had as third graders were exciting, powerful, and will hopefully create some lasting memories for all of us. Though we did our normal awesome third grade things last week (**like continued our Scratch coding project, dove deeper into fractions, traced each other and measured our heights as well as the lengths of our fingers to the nearest quarter inch, and workshopped each others' story plays**), this post will mostly focus on our Black Panther Party work, as well as how that relates to art as activism.

As you know, our **walking trip to Marcus Books was on Wednesday**. It was an experience that I hope your kids won't soon forget. It feels like a sacred space going in, and most kids upon entering were so quiet and respectful. When Blanche (daughter of Marcus Books founders, and current owner) heard one cohort being so quiet, the first thing she said to them was "I'm kinda worried about you guys.... you're too quiet!! This isn't a library, it's a gathering place. Be loud! Say good morning as loud as you can!" After that, the kids still revered the space while also feeling more comfortable looking around at the books and posters hanging on the wall. **Blanche talked briefly to each cohort, telling the kids about Marcus Books' history in the community, and all the people (and Panthers) she has met in the bookstore through the years.** Having all your kids peruse the books, pick one out, and physically purchase the book with "their own" money will hopefully inspire them all to continue reading and (maybe more importantly)

fall in love with independent bookstores, especially ones as important as Marcus Books. I mean, not everyone gets to visit the oldest Black-owned bookstore in the country and buy their own book from it! **One good sign: SOOO many kids read their books immediately upon return to campus.** Put a smile on my face :)

ASK YOUR KID ABOUT SOMETHING MEMORABLE FROM MARCUS BOOKS. Did they see a poster on the wall or a book they recognized?

Another very beautiful moment from this past week happened on Thursday, when **we were lucky enough to be visited by Emory Douglas**, the famous artist who came to prominence as the **Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party**. During our Zoom call with him, he not only showed us his work on display all over the world, but told us about his artistic process and his motivations as a young artist. The kids were incredibly engaged, and were impressed and inspired by the **creativity and activism found within his work**. If you don't know about him, please look him up. His work as the editor and main artist of the Black Panther newspaper made him an icon, and his continuing contributions to a wide variety of social causes makes his work all the more powerful.

ASK YOUR KID ABOUT EMORY DOUGLAS AND HOW HE USES HIS ART TO CREATE SOCIAL CHANGE OR ALL THE PLACES HIS ART IS UP. OR ASK THEM ABOUT HOW CAN ART IN GENERAL HELP SOMEONE FIGHT FOR A CAUSE.

As we move into this upcoming week, we will continue to work on our **Black Panther inspired albums**. We're typing up our liner notes, re-designing our album covers with our new band and album names, creating song names, and adding in our historical diaries from the time period as well. **Be on the lookout for them coming home soon!**



I'll attach a bunch of pictures to this post from the past week. Hope you all had a nice weekend. Sorry for the late post- but as you may have guessed, this is when I get work done with three littles around :)

Take care,

-Devin, Denise, and Claudia

