

## February Newsletter 2012

*GAP Community Child Care Center*

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome  
someday. Oh, oh, oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall  
overcome, someday!!

"We Shall Overcome" is a [protest song](#) that became a key [anthem](#) of the [African-American Civil Rights Movement \(1955–1968\)](#). The title and structure of the song are derived from an early [gospel song](#) by African-American composer [Charles Albert Tindley](#).

## Black History Facts



*Who calculated the speed of the moon?*

*By Dr. Henry Louis Gates*

Walter S. McAfee is the African American mathematician and physicist who first calculated the speed of the moon. McAfee participated in Project Diana in the 1940s - a U.S. Army program, created to determine whether a high frequency radio signal could penetrate the earth's outer atmosphere. To test this, scientists wanted to bounce a radar signal off the moon and back to earth. But the moon was a swiftly moving target, impossible to hit without knowing its exact speed. McAfee made the necessary calculations, and on January 10, 1946, the team sent a radar pulse through a special 40-foot square antenna towards the moon. Two and a half seconds later, they received a faint signal, proving that transmissions from earth could cross the vast distances of outer space. Official news of this scientific breakthrough did not include McAfee's name, nor was there any recognition of the essential role he played. But Americans could not have walked on the moon had it not been for Walter S. McAfee and his calculations.

## Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to [Dr. Carter G. Woodson](#). Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population—and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

## Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, [Frederick Douglass](#) and [Abraham Lincoln](#). However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history. For example:

- **February 23, 1868:**  
[W. E. B. DuBois](#), important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born.
- **February 3, 1870:**  
The [15th Amendment](#) was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.
- **February 25, 1870:**  
The first black U.S. senator, [Hiram R. Revels](#) (1822-1901), took his oath of office.
- **February 12, 1909:**  
The [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\)](#) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.
- **February 1, 1960:**  
In what would become a [civil-rights movement](#) milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.
- **February 21, 1965:**  
[Malcolm X](#), the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

## Staff improve their skills!

GAP staff had the opportunity to participate in staff development training for five days, facilitated by teaching strategies and Early Stages DC.

The staff development trainings centered around knowing infants, toddler and twos, creating a responsive classroom environment, caring and teaching also an overview of creative curriculum GOLD , with hands on training.

Training was also done with Early stages DC. This training focused on developmental screenings and evaluations.



Important dates to remember!

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**Parent workshop: February 14 2012**

**Facilitator: AJE- Advocates for Justice and Education**

**Topic: Rights for English- Language learners**

**Time: 5:00pm- 6:00pm**

**Place: Angels Classroom**



**February 20 2012: President's Day the GAP Center will be closed.**



**Parents please check the announcement board for important news and information.**

**The announcement board is at the end of the hallway by the elevator.**

# Emergency numbers!

Police Department Youth Division (24 hours) 202- 576-6737

OSSE 202- 727-0284

Family Protective Youth Service 202- 671-7233

Poison Control Center 202 -442- 5828

Emergency 911

Non Emergency 311

