

To: Administrative Council, Principals, Vice Principals and Consultants

From: Warren C. Hayman, Assistant Superintendent, Planning, Development and Training


Re: Martin Luther King Commemoration

I would like to extend to you a very happy new year and wish you every success in the coming year. At the same time, I would like to remind you that the January 15th commemoration day for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is fast approaching. Therefore, I am urging you, in keeping the the Board's recommendation, to encourage the staff to support this recommendation by providing learning experiences that will reflect the life and work of Dr. King and his relationship to man's humanity to man.

Enclosed please find some learning experiences in this regard. However, administrative support is always crucial in implementing change. I trust that you will give us your much needed support and that you see this as a giant step toward a multi-cultural approach to education and maybe even a step toward leading other school districts toward such an end.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Love, Power and then Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren C. Hayman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Warren C. Hayman

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Department

Martin Luther King - Background Material

Here is some background information to help teachers tell their classes about Dr. King.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. His mother was a schoolteacher, his father a Baptist clergyman. Young Martin grew up in Atlanta, going to school and college there, and in 1947 he was ordained a minister in his father's church. Later he went North to study, first at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., then at Boston University, where he earned a doctor of philosophy degree and met and married Coretta Scott, a talented music student who was a graduate of Antioch College.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was pastor of a Montgomery, Ala., church when a single, simple event provided the spark that ignited his historic crusade. On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Mrs. Rosa Parks, a Negro seamstress, boarded a bus. It was the end of the day. Mrs. Parks was tired and her feet hurt. She took a seat in the front section of the bus. When the driver ordered her to give her bus seat to a white man, Mrs. Parks refused to get up. She was arrested for disobeying an Alabama law that reserved seats in the front of the bus for whites only. Later Mrs. Parks was convicted and fined \$14.00.

In protest, Dr. King with other Negro clergymen organized a city-wide boycott of the buses. It was the start of his career as a civil-rights leader. A year later, Montgomery's buses were desegregated and Dr. King's message was heard throughout the land.

In 1957, to spearhead the drive for new laws, Dr. King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was chosen its president and under his leadership, which continued until his death, "non-violent direct action" was its strategy. Montgomery...Birmingham...Selma...Washington--Dr. King exhorted his followers onward.

Almost a quarter of a million strong, they marched together that sultry summer day in Washington, D.C. They marched along the broad avenues of our nation's capitol while police and Army units stood guard against the possibility of violence. But the multitude assembled from all parts of the country was there to demonstrate a faith in the basic dignity of man, and its mood reflected its purpose. The civil-rights March on Washington of August 23, 1963, would be remembered as perhaps the most peaceful, most moving mass demonstration ever held.

It was to reach its eloquent climax late in the day as the marchers massed on the mall in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. A hush fell upon the crowd. Thousands, of all races, listened intently to the words of a short, stocky Negro with almond-shaped eyes. His face was gentle with a friendly expression; his voice was a resonant baritone.

"I have a dream," said the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'"

On December, 1964, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to the cause of universal peace. He was then 35 years old, the youngest man--and third Negro--ever to be so honored. Only 13 Americans had preceded him as Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Over 100 years ago Abraham Lincoln fought slavery. When the Civil War was over, in theory, the slaves had been freed. In theory, a man whose skin happened to be black was as much a citizen of our country as any other man. But a hundred years later, Martin Luther King was to lose his life in the battle Abraham Lincoln had begun.

On April 4, 1968, on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tenn., Martin Luther King was shot to death by an assassin. He was 39 years old.

The night before he had said, "We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. I won't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will."

In his address to the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial that summer day of the epic March on Washington five years ago, Dr. King spoke in the shadow of the past. But like Lincoln and all other visionaries, it was to the future that he addressed himself. "I have a dream," he said, and he most meaningfully, most poignantly expressed it: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Dr. King dreamed of freedom and justice not only for his own children, but for all young people everywhere, for youth is the future in which he believed so deeply.

"And He has allowed me to go up to the mountain, And I have seen the Promised Land...Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." These were his words, the night before he died.

Like those other dedicated patriots who almost 200 years ago declared our country's freedom, Martin Luther King had complete faith in the future. His vision is a charge, a challenge--and a promise--for young and old, for all mankind.

dlv/1/15/68

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Palo Alto, California

MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMEMORATION

Learning Experiences

READING

Library Books
Book Reports - Book Talks
Chart Stories Martin Luther King, Jr. Reader
Picture Talks
Story Hour

LANGUAGE ARTS

Creative Writing - What Martin Luther King, Jr. Meant to Me; the Nation;
his People, etc.
Letters to Mrs. King; S.C.L.C.
Letters to proclaim January 15th as a Legal Holiday

S.C.L.C.
P.O. Box 911
Atlanta, Georgia

Poems about Dr. King--original--authored
S.C.L.C. since Dr. King
Time line of monuments and memorials to Martin Luther King.

MUSIC

Songs of the Civil Rights Movement (Belle Haven School)
Ref. Negro in American History, Volume 1, Encyclopedia Brittanica

SPELLING

Word list from non-violent vocabulary

ART

Murals/portraits related to Language Arts and Social Studies

MATH

Story problems related to Dr. King and S.C.L.C.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Works (children's/teacher's) by and about Dr. King

SOCIAL STUDIES

- A. Reference--Research Projects
 - 1. Life and works of Dr. King
 - 2. S.C.L.C.
 - 3. Nobel Prize
 - 4. Bus Boycotts
 - 5. King Memorials
 - 6. S.C.L.C. since Dr. King
 - 7. Martin Luther King Games
 - 8. Operation Breadbasket
- B. Why the Holiday
- C. Plays--original--authored
- D. Time Lines--life, work, S.C.L.C.
- E. Oratorical Contests
- F. Book Reports

LIBRARY CORNER

Books by and about Dr. King

References:

"Life of Martin Luther King" District Office, Curriculum Department.

Life, April 1968

Ebony, April 1968, January 1970:

Negro Heritage Library--Martin Luther King

Minority Curriculum Ex cerpts

Jet, April 18, 1968

Gordy Records

March on Washington

Detroit

Free At Last