

Public Speaking Students “Read Across Rutherford”

Through a generous donation from the Rutherford Education Foundation, students from the Public Speaking classes and the club, Future Teachers of America, once again took part in the annual “Read Across Rutherford” celebration of Dr. Seuss.

This day-long activity was designed by Mr. Stracco and Mrs. Nastasi to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday as well as to provide a connection between the high school and Washington and Lincoln schools. There were fifty two students from the high school involved in this activity this year, making it the largest group since the collaboration started over seven years ago.



The halls of Lincoln and Washington Schools were filled with “duck feet” during “Read Across Rutherford”

The day was filled with excitement and energy as the elementary school students eagerly awaited the arrival of the high school students. Under the direction of Mrs. Nastasi, the Future Teacher of America students came fully prepared with construction paper, crayons, coloring sheets, balloons and other materials that made the activities fun and active.

Whereas, the Public Speaking students honed their voice, diction, articulation, animation and body language as they read some of the challenging tongue twisting books of Dr. Seuss.

One of the biggest highlights of the day was the arrival of the Rutherford Bulldog dressed as the Cat in the Hat.



After visiting the Kindergarten center, the high school students stood in awe as they

The official Mascot of the Rutherford Public Schools helps welcome the high school students to Lincoln, Washington Schools and the Kindergarten center during the annual “Read Across Rutherford”

read the sign “Class of 2029,” soon realizing the large generation gap.

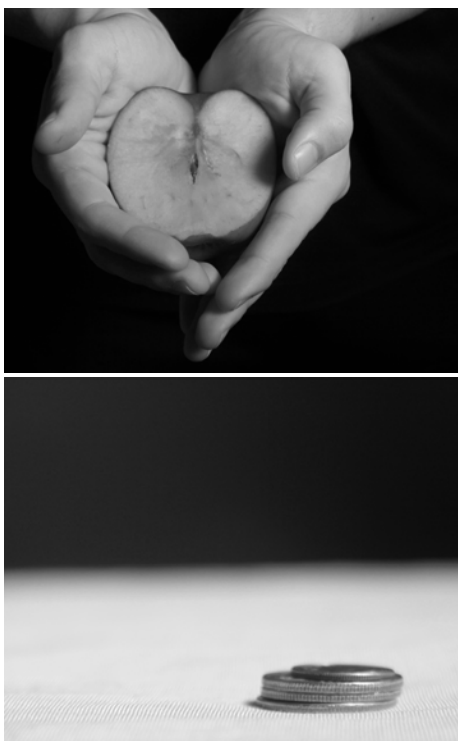
The Kindergarten Center was so excited about the visit, there is talk for a stronger collaboration between the high school students and the Kindergarten Center.

Planning for next year has already begun as Mrs. Nastasi and Mr. Stracco continually review the success of each year.

English 300 Students Examine Deferred Dreams through “Raisin in the Sun”

Lorraine Hansberry’s poignant play, “A Raisin in the Sun” about racism in the 1960’s has been the topic of discussion and study for the English 300 students.

During the study of the play, the students engaged in problem based / project based learning activities that heightened their comprehension of the play. One of the major projects that we did was to combine our knowledge of the play with the skills of the photography class. We had to explain the symbols, motifs, and ideas to photographers who then created a photo shoot for the pictures. The combined effort led us to think about the information that we were reading and how each symbol, motif or idea could be interpreted.



Students created still life photo shoot pictures that represent the symbols, motifs and ideas as seen in “A Raisin in the Sun.”

Another project we did, after completing the reading, we projected how the characters would be in the year 2017 and wrote a memoir from a character’s point of view. Such wonderful pieces came from that assignment; such as *“I remember life when it meant something. When I was living in the 1960’s everyone used to fight for their life. It didn’t matter if you were a woman wanting to work the same job as your husband, African American men marching in the streets for their freedom, or a women like me fighting to live in my neighborhood. When I speak of freedom I don’t mean just physical chains I mean the mental and emotional chains that have kept so many down for so long.*

I moved my family Clybourne Park knowing that we all would be ostracized, mocked, and never be considered a part of the community. For a time the strain of our situation didn’t impact us, nothing was overshadowed, the birth of my granddaughter Maya Lena Younger, When Beneatha got married and moved to Nigeria I fought with her a long time but her stubbornness won me over, non of that tore us down. None of the dirty looks, nasty comments, or bricks thrown into my vegetables made me regret my decision. Until the day I lost my Walter again. It was right after that wonderful Dr.King was murdered in 1968 everyone that was black was angry my Walter was one of those people, he had just closed his liquor store that he worked hard to get all the colored people was destroying everything in sight my Walter tried to fight and he took a beating that no man should ever have been able to survive.”