

February

WEST MIFFLIN AREA HIGH SCHOOL

# Newsletter



Mrs. Prutz and some students attended the production of  
"A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem"

## March IMPORTANT DATES

23rd - End of Nine Weeks  
31st - PD (Early Release)





Mr. Aufman took several students on a School-to-Work field trip to Alstom (formerly Bombardier) facility in West Mifflin. Alstom designs, produces and tests 80% of the autonomous people movers for airports around the World. And it's all done right here in West Mifflin.





# Mr. Rost's, defense side of the mock trial team at the Allegheny county mock trial competition.

Congratulations to Nick Miller for winning the best witness.  
Congratulations to Gabriella Zastko for winning the best advocate



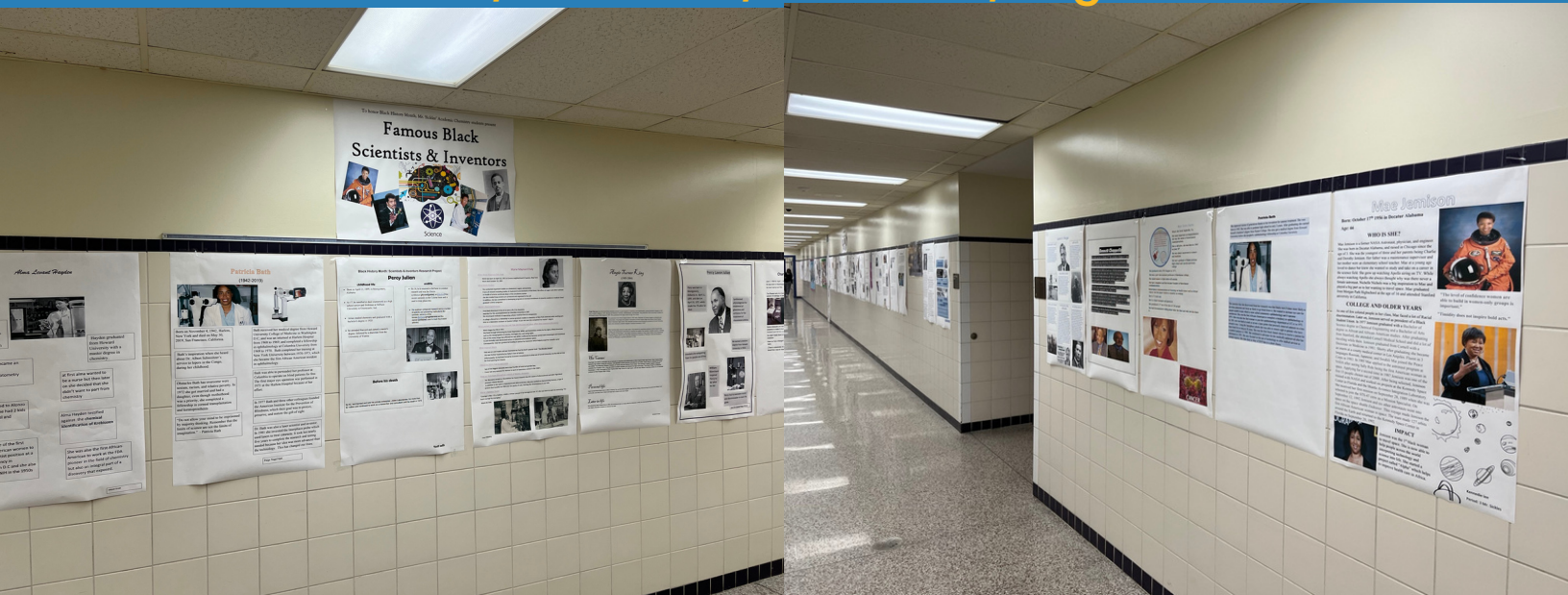


The Advanced Culinary students were asked to cater a light luncheon on Wednesday for some administrative meetings. The students chose some slider sandwiches with a homemade dip assortment, and were excited to show off their recently learned royal icing skills





# In honor of Black History Month, 10th grade Academic Chemistry students created posters highlighting black chemists/scientists/inventors/engineers.



## Mae Jemison

**Born:** October 17<sup>th</sup> 1956 in Decatur Alabama

**Age:** 66

### WHO IS SHE?

Mae Jemison is a former NASA Astronaut, physician, and engineer. She was born in Decatur Alabama, and raised in Chicago since the age of 3. She was the youngest of three and her parents being Charlie and Dorothy Jemison. Her father was a maintenance supervisor and her mother was an elementary school teacher. Mae at a young age loved to dance but knew she wanted to study and take on a career in the science field. She grew up watching Apollo airing on TV. While always watching Apollo she always thought why was there never a female astronaut. Nichelle Nichols was a big inspiration to Mae and played a big part as to her wanting to travel space. Mae graduated from Morgan Park Highschool at the age of 16 and attended Stanford university in California.

### COLLEGE AND OLDER YEARS

As one of few colored people in her class, Mae faced a lot of Racial discrimination. Later on, Jemison served as president of a Black Student Union. In 1977 Jemison graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in African and African-American studies. After graduating from Stanford, she attended Cornell Medical School and did a lot of traveling while there. Jemison graduated from Cornell with a Doctorate in Medicine in 1981. Shortly after graduating she became an intern at a county medical center in Los Angeles. Fluent in 3 languages Russian, Japanese, and Swahili Mae joined the Peace Corps in 1983. In 1985 Mae applied to the astronaut program at NASA after seeing Sally Ride being the first American woman in space. Applying for a second time in 1987 Jemison was one of the first 15 people chosen out of 2000. After being selected, Jemison trained with NASA and worked on projects at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory. She received her first mission on September 28, 1989 when she was selected to join the STS-47 crew as a Mission Specialist. On September 12, 1992 Jemison and six other astronauts went into space on the space shuttle *Endeavor*. This voyage made Jemison the first African American woman in space. The team made 127 orbits around the Earth and returned to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on September 20, 1992.

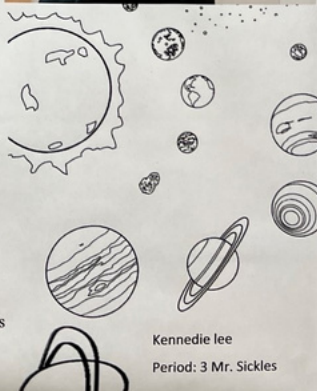
### IMPACT

Jemison was the 1<sup>st</sup> black woman to travel space. She is now able to help people across the world interpreting technology and science into life. She started a project called "Alpha" which helps to improve health care in Africa.



"The level of confidence women are able to build in women-only groups is important."

"Timidity does not inspire bold acts."



Kennedie lee  
Period: 3 Mr. Sickles

## Alma LeVant Hayden (1927 – 1967)

Alma LeVant Hayden is known for her big impact on the FDA's drug analysis capabilities with her skill in spectroscopy and paper chromatography. In 1956 she began working with the FDA.



Throughout the 50s and 60s, a drug called Krebiozen gained popularity for its alleged ability to cure cancer. Although it was so popular, it lacked clinical evidence for being effective. In 1962, the FDA started an investigation of the drug, which was lead by Alma. They found the drug was just creatine (animal protein), and really wasn't curing cancer. The FDA went on trial with the marketers of the drug, but ultimately, they got off with minimal consequence.



Later on, she kept applying her skills in chemical analysis to advance the safety of medication. Unfortunately, she passed away from cancer at 40, but her revolutionary work with the FDA will not be forgotten.



## Garrett A. Morgan

### THE TRAFFIC LIGHT

In 1923, Morgan created a traffic signal, one with a warning light to alert drivers that they would need to stop, after witnessing a carriage accident at a particularly problematic intersection in the city. Morgan quickly acquired patents for his traffic signal -- a rudimentary version of the modern three-way traffic light in the United States, Britain and Canada, but eventually sold the rights to General Electric for 40,000 US dollars.



### LIFE FACTS

Garrett Morgan was born on March 4, 1877 in Paris, Kentucky. He died on July 27, 1963 in Cleveland Ohio home. He was married to Mary Anne Hasek and has three children, Cosmo Henry Morgan, Garrett Augustus Morgan Jr., and John Pierpont Morgan. Morgan quit school early and went to look for work. He worked as a handyman. In 1895 he moved to Cleveland Ohio and started to fix sewing machines. He was so good he ended up opening his own shop. He also worked as a tailor and started his own hair care company. He later created the traffic light and breathing device.

### BREATHING DEVICE

In 1914, Morgan patented a breathing device, or "safety hood," providing its wearers with a safer breathing experience in the presence of smoke, gases, and other pollutants. Morgan worked hard to make his device, especially to fire departments, often personally demonstrating its reliability in fires. Morgan's breathing device became the prototype and precursor for the gas masks used during WWI, protecting soldiers from toxic gas used in warfare. The invention earned him his first prize at the Second International Exposition of Safety and Sanitation in New York City.



### SOCIAL ACTIVISM

Outside of his inventing career, Morgan diligently supported the African American community throughout his lifetime. He was a member of the newly formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was active in the Cleveland Association of Colored Men, donated to Negro Colleges and opened an all-black country club. Additionally, in 1920, he launched the African American newspaper the *Cleveland Call* (later named the *Call and Post*).

### CLEVELAND TUNNEL EXPLOSION

In 1916, the city of Cleveland was drilling a new tunnel under Lake Erie for a fresh water supply. Workers hit a pocket of natural gas, which resulted in a huge explosion and trapped workers underground amidst suffocating noxious fumes and dust. When Morgan heard about the explosion, he and his brother put on breathing devices, made their way to the tunnel and entered as quickly as possible. The brothers managed to save two lives and recover four bodies before the rescue effort was shut down. Despite his heroic efforts, the publicity that Morgan generated from the incident hurt sales; the public was fully aware that Morgan was African American, and many refused to purchase his products. Adding to the detriment, neither Morgan nor his brother were fully recognized for their heroic efforts at Lake Erie, most likely from racial discrimination. Morgan was nominated for the Carnegie Medal for his efforts, but ultimately wasn't chosen to receive the award. Additionally, some reports of the explosion named others as the rescuers.

### Colored Hero At Cleveland Disaster

Garrett A. Morgan Rescues Seven Survivors of Tunnel Tragedy and Recovers Several Bodies.

INVENTOR OF SAFETY HELMET  
Is Personally Complimented by Cleveland's Chief Executive for Heroic Work.



### DEATH & LEGACY

Morgan began developing glaucoma in 1943 and lost most of his sight as a result. The accomplished inventor died in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 27, 1963, shortly before the celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation centennial, an event he had been awaiting. Just before his death, Morgan was honored by the U.S. government for his traffic signal invention, and he was eventually restored to his place in history as a hero of the Lake Erie rescue. Morgan improved and saved countless lives worldwide, including those of firefighters, soldiers, and vehicle operators with his profound inventions. His work provided the blueprint for many important advancements that came later and continues to inspire and serve as a basis for research conducted by modern-day inventors and engineers.



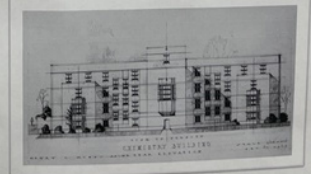
## SAINT ELMO BRADY



- Born: December 22, 1884 in Louisville, Kentucky
- Died: December 25, 1966 in Washington, D.C.
- Occupation: Chemist/Professor
- Brady was the first African American to obtain a Ph.D. in chemistry in the United States from the University of Illinois
- He obtained his Ph.D. in two years
- His college Chemistry teacher, Thomas W. Talley, encouraged him to study chemistry
- He was the first African-American admitted to Phi Lambda Upsilon, the chemistry honor society.
- He was one of the first African-Americans to be inducted into Sigma Xi, the science honor society.
- In November 1916, *The Crisis*, the monthly magazine of the NAACP, selected Brady as Man of the Month
- Published three scholarly abstracts in Science in 1914-15 on his work with Professor Clarence Derick
- Collaborated with Professor George Beal on a paper published in *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* titled *The Hydrochloride Method for the Determination of Alkaloids*
- Chair of Howard University's Chemistry Department (1920-1927)
- Chair of Fisk University Chemistry department for 25 years until his retirement
- While at Fisk, Brady founded the first ever graduate studies program at a black college
- He encouraged African Americans to pursue careers in the chemical sciences
- Some obstacles Brady faced were he lived in a segregated community where it was difficult finding housing. He was also one of the few African Americans at the University of Illinois
- Our lives have changed a lot due to Brady building up the chemistry curricula, faculty, programs and facilities at four major historically black colleges and universities: Tuskegee University, Howard University, Fisk University and Tougaloo College
- Brady was once quoted as saying, "I had the extreme privilege of knowing personally Dr. Washington, the great educator, and Dr. Carver, the beloved saint and great scientist. It was the friendship of these two men that showed me the real value of giving one's self and effort to help the other fellow."
- Interesting fact: Brady was named after the protagonist in one of the most popular novels of the 19th century, *St. Elmo*



St. Elmo Brady in a chemistry lab at Fisk University, ca. 1950

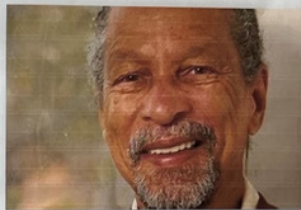


Talley-Brady Hall (1931), the chemistry building named in honor of Thomas Talley and St. Elmo Brady

## James West

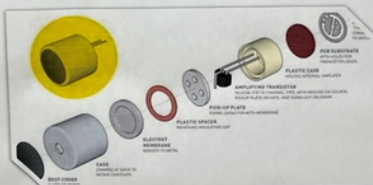
### Virginian Inventor

- Born in 1931
- He lived during the mid 1900s, when a lot of new inventions came into play, giving him inspiration to become an inventor
- He invented the electret microphone
- He did his work at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey
- He is famous because of his invention of the electret microphone, and his contribution to several books on acoustics, solid state physics, and materials science



### Electret Microphone

- It is a sensitive, compact microphone that works on electret transducers
- It is not expensive to make or buy, which was West's goal in his development
- The microphone is now used in a vast majority of devices with microphones such as baby monitors, cell phones, hearing aids, or camcorders



James West has over 200 patents on different parts in his microphone.

He authored over 100 papers on acoustics and materials science.

Something that I find interesting about him is that he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1999.

He was also made president of the Acoustical Society of America in 1997

## Dorothy Johnson Vaughan

Date of Birth – September 20<sup>th</sup> 1920

Date of Death – November 10<sup>th</sup> 2008

She then joined a new analysis and computation division. She became an expert FORTRAN programmer and worked on the SCOUT launch vehicle program. This was one of the nation's most successful and reliable launch vehicles used for launching a 385-pound satellite into a 300-mile

Dorothy Johnson Vaughan was a mathematics teacher who became one of the leading mathematical engineers for the aerospace industry. She also worked with the leading computer operators and engineers.



SHE LIVED FROM 1910-2008.

VAUGHN WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SEGREGATED "WEST AREA COMPUTING" UNIT WHERE SHE HAD TO USE SEPARATE TRAINING AND RESTROOM FACILITIES.

IN 1949 VAUGHN BECAME THE FIRST BLACK SUBTITLED AT THE NASA WHEN SHE WAS PROMOTED TO MANAGER OF THE WEST AREA COMPUTERS. SHE LED THIS FOR A DECADE, THEN IN 1958 NASA WAS TRANSFORMED INTO NASA

She ended up receiving another management position at NASA. She retired in 1971 and during the final decade of her career she worked closely with Katherine G. Johnson and Mary Jackson on the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit which brought confidence to America's space program. Vaughn died on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. Her legacy and story along with other women from the west computing live on in the 2016 film *Hidden Figures*



# West Mifflin Area High School Presents: MAMMA MIA!



Kayla Brill  
Kayla Shoridan



Cynthia Shoridan  
Donna Shoridan



Christopher Bessant  
Sam Cornelius



LYDIA BLAZEWSCH  
ALL/FEATURE DANCER CAPTAIN



KYLE SCOTT  
LISA/FEATURE DANCER



Shannon Higgins  
Tanya



Madeline Cushman  
Beale



Dedrick Davis Jr.  
Bill Austin



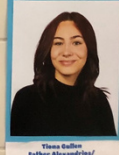
Tanyan Brooks  
Murry Bright



Riley Barner  
Sky



Alex Enger  
EDDIE



Tiana Gallow  
Tanner Alexander/  
Features Dancer



Matthew Olson  
Pepper/Fiddie



Logan Schmittner  
Murry/Pepper

## ISLAND and WEDDING GUESTS



Cassidy Upcott



Taylor Smith-Bell



Frankie Blomere



Alex Enger



Meghan Johnson



Kyrin Lee



Andree Loeffel



Taryn Frame



Kyle Shanks



Amy Mathews



Julie Long



Emma Smith



Kaitlin Lamb



Anna Wilkins



Madeline Ray



Taylor Hogg

## ORCHESTRA SENIORS



ARI MARTINEZ-LOPEZ



CRAIG GRAHAM



GRACE MICHALSKI



JOELLE SMITH



CARLY CLAYTON



ANTHONY SIMON



MASON GRAHAM



CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS



## FEATURE DANCERS



Tanya Mitchell  
Feature Dancer/Bonus Captain



Haera Tiboni



Castalejo Schneider



Aligill Catella



Ryle Karasinski



Emma Link



Emma Cooper



Eliza Warren



# SCHEDULING TIMELINE

- \*Teacher Recommendations will be in PowerSchool on Feb. 28th
- \*Classroom Scheduling Presentations with counselors will be as follows:
- \*11th Grade (for Senior year)- Wed, 3/1 during 2nd and 3rd Period
- \*10th Grade (for Junior year)- Thurs, 3/2 during 2nd and 3rd Period
- \*9th Grade (for Sophomore year)- Thurs, 3/2 during 8th and 9th Period

Course requests will be open in PowerSchool beginning Thursday, 3/2 and will close on Thursday, 3/9

A big thank you to Mr. Mizener, Mr. Mann, Mr. Frisco and former student Damian Ferchak for installing the wrap in the high school main entrance area.





### Attendance All-Star Winners

West Mifflin Area HS

- Wahedullah Shinwari
- Justin Collins
- Rylee Scott
- Kamry Toliver
- Myiar Washington



Feb. 13-17, 2023

**Free Drink at the Titan Shoppe**  
(See Mr. Yeschenko in the Main Office)

### Path of the Titans Winners May 17, 2023

Respectful – Accountable – Proud

**Makayla Baker**  
**May Fenwick**  
**Eva Turner**  
**Cedric Robertson**  
**Alayna George**

**See Mr. Yeschenko in the Main  
Office to pick out your prize!**

### Path of the Titans Winners February 17, 2023

Respectful – Accountable – Proud

**Makayla Baker** earned from Mrs. Wurzel  
**May Fenwick** earned from Mrs. Wasson  
**Eva Turner** earned from Mrs. Martell  
**Cedric Robertson** earned from Mr. Licht  
**Alayna George** earned from Mr. Kinavey

**See Mr. Yeschenko in the Main Office  
to pick out your prize!**



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February 13-17, 2023

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