During Black History Month we honor and respect the leaders in our communities that have helped bring the changes we have longed for. One month alone is not enough to celebrate these leaders. However, we must continuously give credit for the ones that came before us; especially the black leaders whose work and influence are not as recognized as they should be.

Robert Smalls
From enslavement to an influence, Smalls’ unbelievable courage enabled him to escape slavery in South Carolina and become a hero of the Civil War. On a long journey, Smalls was able to sail the Planter, a confederate ship, to the North where he surrendered the ship along with any confederate weapons to the Union Navy. Smalls continued to leave his impact by convincing president Abraham Lincoln to allow African Americans to fight for the union in the Civil War. Once Lincoln took his advice, Smalls became the first African American to hold rank in the U.S Navy as captain of the vessel. Furthermore, Smalls entered politics after the Civil War. He began as a South Carolina member of the House of Representatives, and later became a senate member; and he served Congress for 21 years (1868-1889).

Morgan Kirkaldy heavily influenced desegregation in the country with her own defiance. In 1944, Kirkaldy refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a crowded bus in Virginia, and was arrested. Angry with the discrimination, Kirkaldy took her case to the court, and later to the Supreme Court. With the help of lawyers from the NAACP, the court ruled in her favor, arguing that “seating arrangements for the different races in interstate motor travel require a single uniform rule to promote and protect national travel” (Justice Stanley F. Reed).

Bayard Rustin
Rustin is most known for being the advisor to Martin Luther King and is acknowledged for his role in organizing the March on Washington; where King made his famous “I Have A Dream Speech”. However, Rustin’s impact surpasses these accomplishments. Rustin was an active member of the Civil Rights Movement, taking part in several non-violent organizations and protests, while also playing a significant role in advocating for the rights of the LGBTQ community.

Amelia Boynton Robinson
While motivated by justice and equality, Robinson’s bravery showed no restrictions. Robinson was an active Civil Rights activist; she was a significant member in the march from Selma to Montgomery. She was even involved in protesting on Bloody Sunday in 1965, where she was injured; during Bloody Sunday protesters, such as Robinson, attempted to march to Montgomery, but were physically attacked and abused by lawmen. Nonetheless, Robinson continued her activism and became the first African American woman to run for a congressional seat in Alabama.

Black Inventions
By: Shawnaeisee Hinkson
Due to school curriculum, we don’t learn a lot about black history other than slavery. In honor of Black History Month, here are some black inventions/ inventors we don’t learn about or know they were due to black inventors.

Irene Morgan Kirkaldy
Before Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Irene Morgan Kirkaldy heavily influenced desegregation in the country with her own defiance. In 1944, Kirkaldy refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a crowded bus in Virginia, and was arrested. Angry with the discrimination, Kirkaldy took her case to the court, and later to the Supreme Court. With the help of lawyers from the NAACP, the court ruled in her favor, arguing that “seating arrangements for the different races in interstate motor travel require a single uniform rule to promote and protect national travel” (Justice Stanley F. Reed).

Lewis Latimer
Latimer was an engineer and inventor. He’s responsible for many inventions we interact with everyday, but don’t think about. One was the carbon filament, a vital component of the light bulb. He designed an improved railroad car bathroom and an early air conditioning unit. Next time you you feel that blast of cool breeze, remember it came from black history.

Gerald A. Lawson
If you play Playstation, Wii or Xbox, you should know Lawson. He is responsible for the modern day game system. He created the first home video game system that used interchangeable cartridges, which allowed for a variety of games and a chance for video game producer to make profit on making games.

Otis Boykin
Like Cardi B raps, there’s nothing in the world that some people like more than money, Henry Brown made keeping it safe possible. Henry Brown created the modern day fireproof safe. Safes are not only for money, but for important documents like Henry Brown intended it to be.

Sarah Breedlove
(Aka Madam C.J. Walker)
Continue reading on the next page →
with her defiance, Irene
Last but not least, Sarah Breedlove, who
invented a black hair care line for women in a
time where these women didn’t have access to
these type products. In addition to hair care
products, she helped women to become
economically independent. Madam CJ. Walker
was one of the first black female millionaires,
along with revolutionizing black hair care.

My AMS III Experience
By: Okikiola Michael

First of all, no school is
perfect. The term
“perfect” is defined from
the lens of the school
board, principals and any
education enthusiast.
However, “perfect” should
be convenience, “perfect” should be option,
comfort, flexibility and access to a welcoming
community. These attributes are what make a
perfect school; from my eyes, as a student of
AMS III, this is the perfect school for scholars
who are reliant on creative learning and are
seeking a close community.

I am Okikiola and I’m writing for the
journalism club at AMS III. As a student of
AMS III, I can’t guarantee that I will garner
everyone’s perspective of the school. Over the
three years I’ve been here, the opportunities are
plenty and our out of school connections are as
well (the opportunity network as well as the
many clubs offered by GGE). Anything new
can be presented to you from our main office,
APs, teachers and even students because it’s
tight knit relationship here and everyone helps
each other. You will most likely see the same
person twice in a day around the school… aside
from your friends of course. Since enrolling at
AMS I, I have experienced or seen opportunities
such as volunteering at a soup kitchen,
receiving college guidance, joining after school
clubs, and recently a homeless experience that
immerses you in the point of view of living
without possession of shelter or warmth. These
were just within my freshman to sophomore
years. You aren’t forced to do any of these
either, you can wait until you’re ready to try
new things or introduce new things to the
community. There will always be a place for
your interests.

I have also seen freedom in creating
communities and clubs from scratch; students
have the ability to petition for a club or any
group they want. This can be done through
flyers or announcements during advisory or
lunch. The clubs you make also need a teacher
that sponsors them, and for as long as I’ve been
here, I have never seen a teacher reject a student
suggestion. An example of this is the club that
I’m writing on behalf of; which is the
Journalism Club, founded by a senior last year
and currently sponsored by a 9th and 10th grade
teacher. This club has students from all grades
already and is always welcoming to more
students who are interested in joining. So
imagine what you can do to express your
passion for the community and make a mark
through your talents and causes.

I also attend GGE, a daily program which
isn’t founded by a student. However, the
program’s content spans over an array so wide
it covers topics from social justice , to gender
equality, the arts and technology. This is what
the school is made of; communities that create
havens for discussion and passion for students.
There is a lot more to experience that I don’t
even know, but I’m sure you’ll see it because
it’s ever changing aspiration is here at AMS
III.

Queer and Queer and
LGBTQIA
Representation in movies and media
By: Javon Hawker

To understand the representation and the
shift of focus of queer figures or LGBTQIA
figures in movies and media, we have to look at
how on far the LGBTQIA+ community has
been represented and the way it was
represented. During the time of the late 1960s
through the middle of the 1980s, the focus of
LGBTQIA+ films was to normalize and
educate the heteronormative public on the
LGBTQIA+. For example, the documentary
“Before Stonewall” was to show the queer
community before the 1969 Stonewall riots and
how the development of openly queer
neighborhoods and nightclubs in the 20th
century. Some LGBTQIA+ films tackle the
topics of race and human rights such as the
film “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard
Rustin” which sheds light on the openly gay
Chief Organizer for MLK, Bayard Rustin who
spent more than 50 years to advocate for
human right for all. In the 1980s to the 1990s,
the focus of LGBTQIA+ films had shifted
toward the injustices directed toward the queer
community, such as “Paris is Burning”, which
dealt with the ideas of chosen family and
modern day life for the oppressed gay or trans
type person during that time period. Jumping to post
modern times, the focus of LGBT movies has
now been the struggle of understanding sexual
identity such as films “Moonlight”, where the
protagonist, struggles with his own sexual
identity while sustaining the emotional and
physical abuse within his community.

Destiny 2 Game Review
By: Jaden Burke & D’Cody Burnside

What I like about the game is

What I like about Destiny 2 offers a multitude of new worlds, encounters,
and numerous boss fights that will keep the
players wanting more. Since its release date on
September 7, 2017, there have been three major
expansions and one sub expansion that has been
released to keep the game flourishing and new.
the players wanting more. Since its release date on
September 7, 2017, there have been three
major expansions and one sub expansion that
has been released to keep the game flourishing
and new. These expansions contain new global
events, missions, raids, gear, and supers. These
expansions are the Curse of Osiris, The War
Mine, Forsaken, and The Black Armory.

Similar to Destiny 1, the game offers three
classes to choose from:

Titan (Buff, Strong, Very Aggressive) - acts as a shield in sticky situations
Hunter (Slender, Agile, Nimble) - aims for the perfect shot
Warlock (Tactical, Supportive, Well Rounded) - plays in boosting

D’Cody’s Review: What I like about Destiny 2
is the encounters that the raids present to its
players. The raids force players to cooperate
and think about each encounter as different
and force players to adapt/change roles in their
team to suit the needs of the encounters. For
example, the typical raid team would be two of
each class; but you can still complete the raid
having any amount of each class as the players
see fit. I also like the many options that you
have with your load out, ranging from having
three different weapons, skill trees (which
involves your super), your supers themselves,
and your subclasses. The thing that I don’t like
about Destiny 2 is the wait time for each
expansion; but that is an inevitable price to pay
for such an amazing game. Overall, I would
give Destiny 2 an 8.5 out of 10 rating.

Jaden’s Review: What I like about the game is
that it brings back some old weapons from
Destiny 1. On top of that some of the weapons
are new and improved. The elemental base of
the hard light dishes out void damage instead of
kinetic damage. Also, the old black spindle
exotic sniper rifle, which was very good for
raids, came back into Destiny 2 as “The
Whisper of the Worm”. Everything in Destiny
1 that would annoy the veterans who’ve played,
has been balanced out in Destiny 2. There are
many new faces to meet, and worlds to explore.
Everything looks better, and the game runs a lot
smoother. The new weapon systems are also
enjoyable. The player will discover lots of
different guns of their own kind; the weapon
variety is very large compared to that of
Destiny 1. In Destiny 1, players never got to
run around with any weapon of choice in any
weapon slot on their character. Weapons were
designated as primary, secondary, and heavy.
Now, in Destiny 2, players can do whatever
they want. Destiny 2 is a first person shooter of
creativity and customization, I would rate this
game a 9 out of 10.

Continue reading on the next page →
**Movie Reviews**

By: Jadaya Nicholson Souff

*Bird Box* was about a woman named Malorie who needed to find her way to a safe place with her children while blindfolded, in hopes of escaping a supernatural force. *Bird Box* in my personal opinion was a very good movie, especially in the sense that the whole outline of the plot held a double meaning. This double meaning was the main character’s fight for survival, but also gaining the ability to grow into the mother she never thought she be could for the two children, Boy and Girl. Because of her reluctance to be their mother, she did not name the kids till the end of the movie. By her naming her kids, she showed real personal growth.

*Black Mirror* is a very dynamic show. Each episode portrays societal problems faced by society in an intriguing and odd manner. Two episodes that I think really embodies the purpose of Black Mirror are “Nosedive (Season 3, episode 1)” and “Hang the DJ” (Season 4, episode 4). “Nosedive” I actually liked how it was portrayed society’s obsession with rankings and external opinions, but others were not fond of how the storyline was played out. Many believed that the plot and the message were good, but argued that the idea wasn’t portrayed well on film. “Hang the DJ” I like how this story was portrayed. After you see what the episode is about the whole storyline drags you in.

I recently went to see *Miss Bala* in theatres, and I was intrigued to see this movie because of the trailers I’ve seen of it. *Miss Bala* is about a woman named Gloria who battles against a ruthless drug cartel while trying to find her best friend Suzu; To do this she has to find the strength inside herself. Before I break down the movie I would like to argue that the plot was well developed, it had a good amount of twists and actions. The twists in the movie were somewhat unexpected, but they weren’t significantly groundbreaking. Similarly, the action scenes in the movie were entertaining, but they weren't really impactful. The action scenes could have been better and more entertaining if the soundtracks used were stronger and more impactful. Music plays a significant role in helping people feel strong emotions during certain scenes, for example, the music in the car chasing scenes in Fast and Furious excites the audience. But, this movie failed to excite its audience in that aspect and it felt like the scenes were one sided and were just going with the motions.

**Cinema to Broadway**

*Clueless* is about a girl named Cher realizing how misguided she was about life and grows as a person through the storyline.

*13 going on 30* is about a young girl on her birthday wishing to be older and experiencing life as a thirty year old.

*Hercules* is a Disney movie about the upcoming of the demigod Hercules, and how he became a hero in Greek mythology.

**Sources**


Can you find the 11 amazing contributors to black culture?

Lewis Latimer
Henry Brown
Gerald Lawson
Sarah Breedlove
Robert Smalls
Irene Kirkaldy
Amelia Robinson
MLK JR
Harriet Tubman
Sojourner Truth
Maya Angelou