

Kumon of West Linn

Newsletter

February 2022

Monthly Recommended Books

Black History Month

In February, we are encouraged to learn more about Black History from around the world. Focusing on Black History can spark conversations and ideas which we might not otherwise experience.

When I was in fifth grade, I went to school in a part of Denver rich in Black heritage. I had moved from Boulder, which, to say the least, was not strongly represented by other than Euro/Caucasian heritage and culture. The year I spent in Denver influenced me for the rest of my life. Mrs. Johnston, my music teacher, was to become one of my top two favorite teachers, EVER, even through college. Mrs. Johnston was an African American woman in her 70's who immersed us in multi-cultural learning through song, and then through teaching us the origins of such songs when she could. For example, she gave me a new understanding of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" with stories of the song's possible origins. One such story was that the song had been sung as a secret signal that "Harriet Tubman" (or another member of the underground railroad) was in the vicinity to help the local slaves escape.

Books can have a similar mind-opening quality to all of us. Here is a list of just some of the many amazing books on our reading list, written by and about African and African American culture.

Book Recommendations for Black History Month

[The Hundred Penny Box](#), by Sharon Bell Mathis

[I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#), by Maya Angelou

[Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry](#), by Mildred D Taylor

[Invisible Man](#), by Ralph Ellison

[Notes of a Native Son](#), by James Baldwin

[The Day Gogo Went to Vote](#) by Elinor Sisulu

Focusing on Black History can spark conversations in which we might not otherwise engage.



Looking for Special Events Ideas

Please email me if you have suggestions or requests.

I'm always looking for new ways to reach out to help our West Linn community, so they understand how Kumon can develop possibilities for their family. Right here in West Linn, we run an outstanding center that sends incredible learners into our schools.

Did you know that we can start a student as young as Preschooler - before they develop habits they need to fix or years of skill gaps?

Kumon students become the students that don't necessarily need "special" attention in school, because they get the challenge they need at Kumon! Kumon students learn all there is to learn in the classroom and allow the teacher focus on other students who might otherwise "fall through the cracks." Imagine how we can help our schools excel when we send them prepared, independent learners!

Setting our SMART Goals for 2022

It's Progress and Goals conference time at West Linn Kumon

Has your student told you about their SMART learning goals for 2022?

February marks the month we aim to have had each of our students set their own Math and Reading goals for the year. Many students have set their intentions to earn certain awards at the 2022 award ceremony. We are helping them make sure their personal objectives line up with achieving *sustainable, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based* (SMART) goals. Ask your student/s if they have set the own SMART goals yet, and please set up a Progress and Goals meeting with the instructor if you haven't yet done so.

This is such a great opportunity for you to discuss with your student the concepts of "not yet" which is part of what Carol Dweck discusses in her book, [Growth Mindset](#). Working towards SMART goals also helps your students develop what Angela Duckworth refers to as, "grit."

Make sure to schedule your next Progress and Goals meeting! If you haven't yet met this spring, please schedule ASAP. And you can schedule your pre-summer (April 15th – June 15th) meeting while you are at it!

[Schedule your Next Progress and Goals meeting with this link!](#)



Goal Setting for 2022!

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell and got back up again." Nelson Mandela

Goal setting and Progress and Goals meetings are such great opportunities for you to discuss with your student the concepts of "not yet" which is part of what Carol Dweck discusses in her book, [Growth Mindset](#).