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Kids dress up to celebrate history

BY MATT MANNING

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FREMONT -- Stamm Elementary School fifth-graders dressed up and recited facts about the lives of famous men and women in history during the school's second African American Wax Museum on Thursday.

Historical African Americans such as Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King Jr. and Colin Powell were represented during the hour-and-a-half session in the school's gymnasium involving 43 students.

Fifth-grade teacher Nichole Almroth said students spent the last month writing a paper and preparing to speak about their topic Thursday.

Almroth said students were asked to pick three people. From those choices, the teacher selected a person for each student to avoid having duplicates.

Parents as well as other Stamm students walked around the gymnasium to view the figures. They then could push a makeshift button sign it if they wanted to hear about these famous lives.

Matthew Henson, who helped discover the North Pole, was portrayed by Ismael Venegas, who dressed in a thick coat with a winter cap lined in fur.

"I had a couple other choices," Venegas said. "I thought (Henson) was pretty interesting."

Trayvion Scott, who played Malcolm X, said he found out information on the civil rights activist on the Internet.

"I though he was an interesting spokesperson," Scott said.

Brianna Dykes, who was dressed in a red gown, portrayed singer Marian Anderson.

She said she chose Anderson because she was an opera singer.

Almroth said she was pleased with how this year's event turned-out and students will receive a grade partially based on the day's performance.



Parents and students were invited to attend Stamm Elementary's African American Wax Museum in celebration of Black History Month in the school's gymnasium Thursday. (Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger)