

RITE NOW @ ROP



During the month of February, students and staff at Uta Halee Academy joined with people all over the country to honor the contributions of African Americans.

One of the goals of the month was to stretch beyond the people, places, and events that we normally hear about in February. Each morning an email was sent out to our Uta Halee community celebrating a variety of people well-known and maybe not so well-known amazing people who have contributed to Black History. We learned about difference makers throughout history from diverse contributions ranging from science, government, sports, arts, literature, and entertainment.

The month of exploration culminated in a Black History Month Showcase. Students and staff pre-

sented about African Americans who have made an impact in shaping who we are as a community committed to valuing each individual. Preparation for the showcase was a wonderful collaboration between Group Living Staff and Education Staff. Students worked on presentations on Cottage as well as during Education. Evidence of student and staff ownership in the event was present in the preparation and the presentation of the showcase. All students participated in the showcase as well as several staff members from Group Living, Education, and Leadership. The showcase was conducted through zoom which allowed Uta Halee classrooms, staff, leadership, and guests all to contribute, participate, and learn together in a COVID responsible way.

Our February focus helped us reflect on the heritage of people who have come before us, our place in history, and the people who will come after us. Ordinary people do extraordinary things every day. Some of those things are only noticed by a few people and some things are celebrated by the world. Every person has opportunities every day to impact the world around them even if it is a simple act of kindness that gets passed along.

We are grateful for the small and large ways that so many people make a positive impact at Uta Halee.