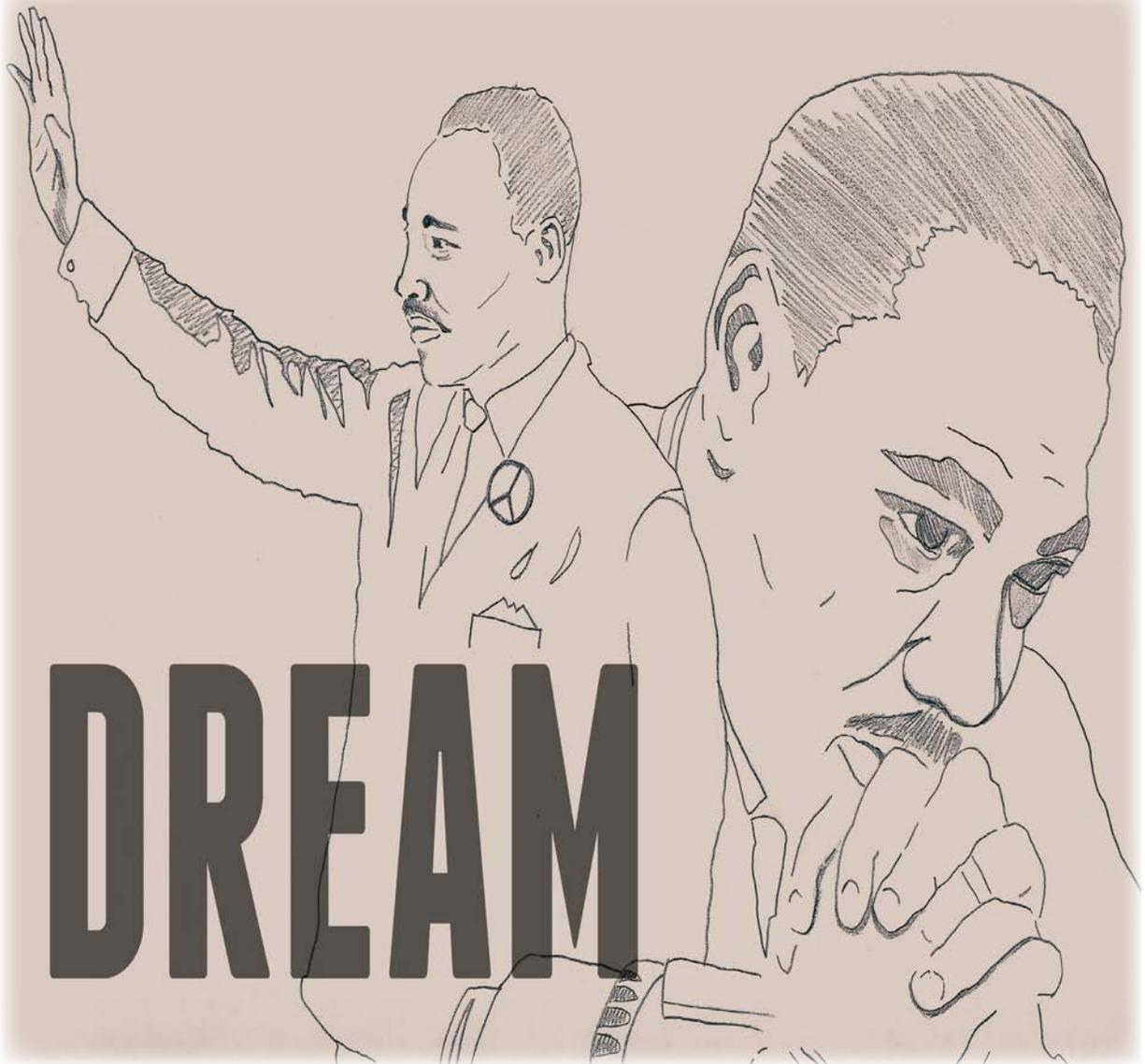


COMMUNITY LEARNING

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

OVCS NEWSLETTER

February 2013



by Ari Holden '14

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character –that is the goal of true education.”

Reverend Dr. King, Jr.

Dr. King Loved to Read

Winthrop Science and Technology Magnet Elementary School & Connecticut College



Follow Your Dreams

by Margaret Sturtevant

On Friday January 25th, two shifts of twenty Connecticut College students and staff members each crammed into a small yellow school bus and went to Winthrop Elementary School for just one afternoon. Other campus members joined us at the school. Our goal was to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., promote his social justice/activist legacy, and to share his love

of reading with all 21 classrooms at the school.

We were welcomed by two 5th grade tour guides, who were eager to show us around their beautiful new school building. As lunchtime ended for each grade, our time came to go into our individual classrooms to read. We were greeted by squirmy, smiling children who were very



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Follow Your Dreams (cont.)

curious as to why these “big kids” were coming into their classroom with books tucked under their arms.

I joined a 1st grade classroom to share the book Michelle Obama: Mom in Chief, by Roberta Edwards. My partner, Julian Gordon ‘14 and I explained why we were there and discussed Dr. King’s legacy. The moment we started reading, eyes became glued to us and little smiles broke out here and there amongst the sea of cross-legged seven year olds. When we finished reading, we asked them what they thought. Hands shot up left and right. “How do

I become president?” “I really like that book; can we keep it?” Julian and I were delighted by their battery of questions and excitement. We were also proud to share that all the books being read at their school today would be available in the library and they could check them out to read as many times as they wanted. That news was met with a choir of excited responses about how they wanted to be the first to read the book again. They wanted to know if it would be in the library that day.

There is something so magical about reading with a child and thinking about how the

world we live in works. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.” This project was another opportunity to learn how to do just that by reading and engaging in dialogue that covered important topics such as discrimination and issues they see in our communities. The event was an amazing experience. We got to share something very special with many children and to think beyond the words being read.

One of the last remarks in my classroom was

made by one little girl who I noticed had been silent for quite sometime, clearly thinking hard about something. She stuttered a little bit when I called on her, not because she couldn’t find the words but because she was so excited to share what conclusion she had come to with the others in the room. She said, after two gulps of air, “It is really important to follow your dreams because if you follow your dreams, we can make the world a better place.”

Save The Date: Upcoming Events!

Fri. March 1st: 4:00 pm- 5:30 pm
The Latino Second Generation:
A look at their Educational Success
Katherine Blunt House Coffee Grounds

Wed. March 6th: 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble Concert
Cummings Arts Center Evans Hall
Tickets: General Admissions \$5, Students \$3

Thurs. March 7th: 4:15 pm-5:45pm
Zenas Hutcherson ‘08
Cummings Art Center 308
Open to campus community

Fri. April 18th: 4:30pm Evans Hall
Academy Award Winning Screen Writer, Geoffrey S. Fletcher, and his new film: Violet and Daisy

Dr. King Loved to Read



As part of the Connecticut College Common Purpose Committee's series of events #THISISACTIVISM to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy of non-violent social change and civil rights, OVCS and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life organized and implemented a community learning

project with the New London Winthrop Elementary Math & Science Magnet School. Members of the Connecticut College campus traveled to the Winthrop School on Friday, January 25 and read selected books in each of the 21 classrooms at the school. The readers and the children dialogued about the books and the

connected themes of social change and civil rights. OVCS and ORSL donated the books to the Winthrop School library. Jessie Gold '13 and Gary Kaufman '13, student teachers at the Winthrop School during the fall semester, lead tours of the school with some of the fifth graders for the Connecticut College visitors.

Principal Wilson, the classroom teachers, and especially the children loved having

the Connecticut College students, staff and faculty in their classrooms and in their school. Connecticut College student Chakena Sims said: "I really enjoyed seeing the curiosity and enthusiasm this project sparked in the Winthrop School students. They worked on their reasoning, speaking and discussion skills, throughout the reading session." "The Winthrop School students are so smart and dynamic."

Community Learning is published by the Connecticut College Office of Volunteers for Community Service

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