

Mother's Day Tea Party at King Elementary

Students show off language skills

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For nine years now, Connie Mode's second grade has celebrated Mother's Day in a Southern style with sweet tea, pastries and the soothing tones of Louie Armstrong.

This year, Mode decided to mix things up by exhibiting the language skills of her 20 students, exactly half of whom live in Spanish-speaking households.

First, a group of six students led by Courtney Adams recited a poem in English titled "Mom is Wow!" for a large, appreciative audience of parents and teacher's assistants.

Then another group of students that included Jose Rojas-Salazar and Rogelio Hernandez-

Calderon stood up and recited a Spanish translation. The applause was deafening.

The group was proud to have students teaching one another language skills during these formative years of learning to read and write.

Mode is especially proud of integrating a Southern tradition into a diverse part of north and northeast Portland.

"I was inspired by living in Louisiana, and all the mothers, daughters and grandmothers would get together for a relaxing afternoon on Mother's Day," she says.

One of her students, Savanna Johnson, had another interpretation, saying, "We do this because everyone loves their mothers, and we especially."

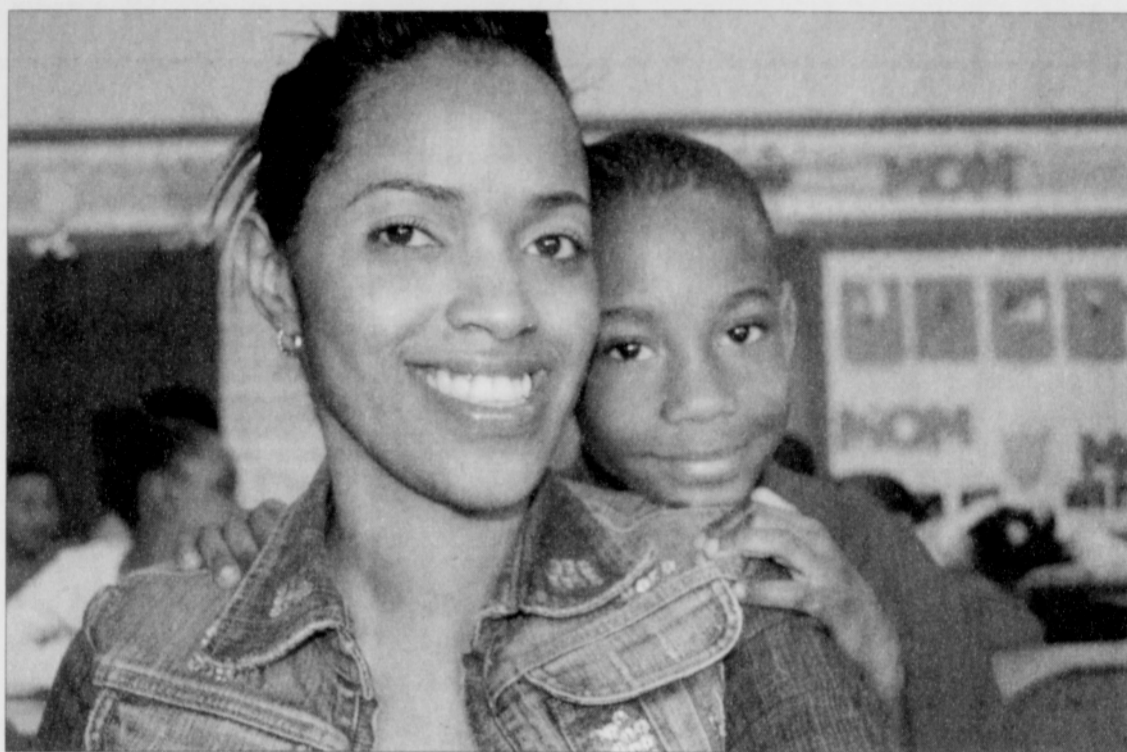


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Kisha Nelson and her son Ayzaiah Walker have fun at King Elementary in northeast Portland during last Friday's Mother's Day Tea Party in Connie Mode's second-grade class.

Arts Revitalize Corner

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In true Ethos fashion, rather than make people sit through a boring series of lectures, classrooms will be converted into performance spaces, giving families the rare opportunity to attend a number of concerts in an up-close and personal setting.

The theme of the event is "Here, There & Everywhere," it aims to highlight the wide variety of Ethos' programs.

While traveling around the building, guests will hear various styles of music performed by the organization's students and instructors, including its children's choir, a Suzuki violinist, and drop-in hip hop and beat-makers.

In addition, the community will try out an assortment of musical instruments in one of Ethos' instrument "test-drive" rooms and participate in free musical workshops.

The music center's emphasis on "homespun, niche business" has forged community connections.

Ethos serves students in the Portland Metropolitan Area, and in rural communities throughout Oregon, but organizers are most excited about everyone coming together at their north Portland location to showcase talent.

"It's not just a studio environment; there's lots of audience participation," says Huntington.

Musicians, poets and other performance artists can book a spot by contacting travis@ethos.org or calling 503-312-1716. Broadcast time is limited, so performers should get in on the action soon.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Liberia President to Visit Portland

World's first black woman head of state

Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the world's first black woman head of state and Africa's first woman president, will host an invitation-only community forum early Friday afternoon, May 18 at Concordia University in northeast Portland. That evening, she will speak as a part of the World Affairs Council's International Speakers Series at the Arlene

Schnitzer Concert Hall.

At Concordia, Sirleaf will speak to members of the greater Portland area's Liberian community, which is estimated to be around 200 individuals, as well as the local African and African-American communities. This invitation-only event will feature entertainment by the local African community, the conferring of an honorary degree by Concordia, presentations by the Liberian community and a short talk by President Sirleaf followed by a question and answer period. The World Affairs Council is

holding a press conference with President Sirleaf at 4 p.m. at Portland's University Club.

At her evening lecture, President Sirleaf will talk on the challenges facing her country and all of Africa in building modern competitive economies, fairer political systems, and societies where health and opportunity are open to all.

Tickets for the evening lecture are available through Ticketmaster at 503-790-2787. Invitations for the noontime community forum have already been dispersed and are not available to the general public

Fighting Video Brings Arrests

Four students were arrested on assault charges after an after-school video was posted on the internet you.tube.com showing several Jefferson students fighting in a bathroom.

School leaders sent home a letter

May 9 with students, directed at parents who might fear for the safety of their children.

The Portland Public School district said the fighting wasn't a stranger-to-stranger attack and that the students involved were suspended pending ex-

pulsion hearings.

"Jefferson does not tolerate violence in any form and will continue to cooperate with Portland Police during any criminal investigations that may result from this event," the letter to parents said.

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