



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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ADVISORY

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Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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Thurgood Marshall ES Hosts Embrace Your Crown Activity

The event was designed to increase self-awareness and celebrate uniqueness

JONESBORO- Clayton County Public Schools is committed to engaging the whole child and creating exciting avenues to foster social-emotional learning (SEL) for all students. On Tuesday, October 24, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School hosted an incredibly creative and fun-filled SEL event titled “Embrace Your Crown” that featured Atlanta-based husband and wife photographers, Kahran and Regis Bethencourt of Creative Soul Photography. Kahran and Regis are New York Times bestselling authors and have been featured on CNN, CBS, and the Steve Harvey Show. To support the release of their latest work, “Crowned”, they created the Embrace Your Crown event to help increase self-awareness and celebrate the uniqueness of our young scholars through the eye of a camera lens.

Kahran and Regis believe that everyone deserves to be seen truly, so they go beyond just capturing beautiful snapshots. They create thought-provoking imagery showcasing kids across the African Diaspora by bringing to life past, present, and future visions of black culture to create a society where all kids are created equally and feel empowered to move in the world as their true authentic selves.

“It is so important for students to embrace reading and engage with diverse characters as well as characters that they can identify with,” said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “We are very appreciative of Mr. and Mrs. Bethencourt for visiting our district to support our work of Building a Better Tomorrow, Today through literacy, art, and cultural diversity.”

Kahran and Regis began by presenting a stunning series of their portrait work which had scholars jumping in their seats at the displayed creativity. Additionally, they showed images of other young scholars being photographed as a Mathematic African King, a Neuroscience Expert, a Medieval Aviation Pilot, the 2023 version of Annie, a modern-day Batboy, an Underwater Mermaid, and a Lion Princess. As shared by the distinguished guests, one of their greatest accomplishments thus far has been to partner with Disney and have their Disney Princess doll photo collection turned into a real-live Disney Princess doll collection that is available for purchase.

The duo then had the Marshall Elementary scholars create their own crown using arts and crafts supplies. Students were asked to come up with a word that best represents them and create a design around it. Among the scholars were three winners for the best crown design who received an autographed copy of the duo’s newest book, “Crowned”, and the five runner-up winners received an autographed calendar from the duo titled, “HEIRS.”

Clayton County Public Schools and Thurgood Marshall Elementary School appreciate Kahran and Regis Bethencourt of Creative Soul Photography for taking the time to come and share their gift with our brilliant students. Additionally, we thank the Marshall Elementary Leadership, Social Workers, School Counselors, and Student Engagement Specialists for coordinating such an inspiring and life-changing activity reminding all young dreamers never to let anyone dim their light.

To view images from this inspiring activity, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/CCPSEmbraceYourCrown>

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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