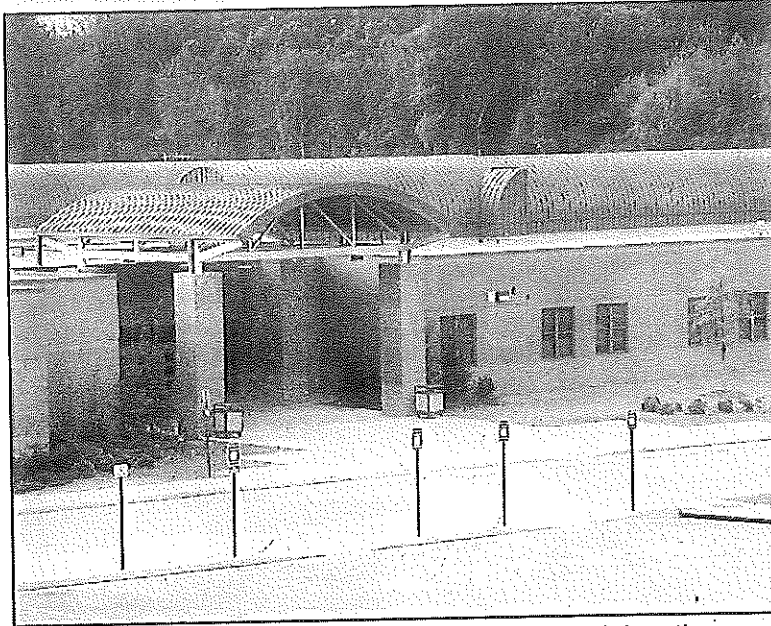


Columbia Middle School Brings African Proverb 'It Takes A Village' to Life



At Columbia Middle School, the teachers and administration used the proverb "It takes a whole village to raise one child" as a way of teaching African culture and also beautifying the new state of the art facility (Columbia Middle School opened in 2001-2002). Photo by Kathy Mitchell.

An African proverb said, "It takes a whole village to raise one child." This proverb has been used in the DeKalb County School System to emphasize the importance of all members of the community working together to support

children. At Columbia Middle School, the teachers and administration used the proverb as a way of teaching African culture and also beautifying the new state of the art facility (Columbia Middle School opened in 2001-2002).

Arlinda D. Wilson, a seventh grade teacher at Columbia Middle School said, "I am determined for my students to achieve immeasurable heights. In order for us to become familiar with our parents and the community, we kicked off the year with a wonderful P.T.S.A Open House. The seventh grade team of teachers chose to exemplify the old African proverb in order to get the attention of parents and to get them excited and involved in our school."

Wilson continued, "We collectively decided to decorate a hall in an African theme to coincide with the 'It Takes A Village' focus of the DeKalb County School System. We had teachers that brought in artifacts for displays and eagerly transformed our theme and hallway displays. Every teacher dressed in Afrocentric attire. This brought a sense of true uniqueness within our school. This was well received by parents.

"Here at Columbia Middle School, we are a team and work closely to bring home and school together for our students," said Wilson.