

Alexander Macomb Historical Award
Organization



Year Award Given: 2008

Awarded to: Bellview Elementary School – East Detroit, Macomb, MI

Nominated by: Suzanne Pixley, 2008 Macomb County Historical Commissioner

Presented Where:

Presented By: Macomb County Historical Commissioners

Bellview Elementary School located in Eastpointe, was selected for the 2008 Alexander Macomb Historical Award because of a unique approach used by four teachers; Sharon Cowells, Denise Davis, Esther Sherizen and Nina Hardiewich, to bring history into the classroom at Bellview.

In conjunction with “March is Reading National Month” the teachers added an incentive by incorporating a wax museum as a school event. Third and fourth grade students had the option of participating, but for fifth graders, it was a must. These activities tied directly into fifth-grade curriculum on American history.

Students were encouraged to select a figure in American history that interested them, or because Eastpointe was celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2009, participants could also choose a historical Eastpointe figure. The students then researched their figure and documented facts about them including the clothing they wore in their time period. From their research, participants prepared a two-minute presentation that would be used to share with visitors to their wax museum. On the day the wax museum made its debut, students dressed up and acted as former school principals, an Eastpointe judge, school board members and other characters such as Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Grace Kelly, George Washington, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Wright Brothers and Jackie Robinson to name a few. As visitors, strolled the halls of Bellview, they could stop at each figure and learn fun tidbits that were recited by each student actor.

The event was a huge success and a great way to involve our younger generations in history!

Information Resources: Former Macomb County Historical Commissioners
Karl Mark Pall / June 2015, Raymond G. Glime and Donald W. Green / August 2015
Bellview Elementary Teacher Denise St. John / October 2015