

# Discussing tough issues and having fun

## Black Student Union helps break down racial barriers

By: Danielah Blackburn

**H**AVING FUN DISCUSSING IMPORTANT ISSUES, going on scavenger hunts Black History presentations and the Kwanzaa presentation, Black Student Union (BSU) had a great year filled with tons of fun activities. One of the main purposes of BSU has been to help promote diversity in the school and to help break down any racial barriers.

The annual scavenger hunt, which was one of their first events, has been a favorite of the club members for some years now and was said to be one of the best meetings they had. Also, greatly enjoyed by the members were the "keep it real" sessions where they discussed many issues important to teens today such as violence, teen pregnancy and drugs.

However, out of all their meetings their biggest event was the Kwanzaa program in December. This program required many hours of practice and dedication from the members. The Kwanzaa program included a short play performed by the students and some of the acts that were also featured in the school's variety show. The program also included a dinner for all who attended.



**DURING KWANZAA THE KINARA IS LIT** for seven days. There are three red, three green and one black candle; one is lit each day starting with the black candle. Each day focuses on one of the seven principals of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

**ALONG WITH THE PLAY AND** readings about Kwanzaa, there was also a performance by **Tirara Jackson, 10**. She sang Mariah Carey's song "Hero" to close the program. Jackson also performed in the variety show in October.

We had a "Keep it real" session where we talked about issues that affect us as teenagers such as racism, teenage pregnancy, guns, violence and a variety of other topics.

**>Cherie Hunnicut, 12**

**THE PLAY CALLED,** *The Joneses' Kwanzaa Celebration* was written by **Ms. Gretchen Washington, Dan Love '03** and **Lee Langston III, '03**. The play was about how Kwanzaa began. At the end members told of the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

