

#17

Selene Lara Hernandez

Vocabulary AM

February 12th, 2016.

### “A Beautiful Experience That We Can't Miss”

Benjamin Banneker was a great activist, scientist, and astronomer whose actions greatly impacted our society today. He grew up with his family during very rough times in history. Mr. Banneker worked really hard searching for racial equality, and the abolition of slavery by promoting racial equality.

Today we live in a society that changes very rapidly, with no time to stop and think about what is left behind. I come from Mexico, and even when it is a different country that is so close to the border with the U.S. the importance of family bondings is not the same.

Growing up around my family was the best thing that could ever happened to me, because I learned so many core family values. This is also the way I began to love everything around me. I learned to love my pets, all nature, the birds singing outside, and the beautiful pink and white bugambilia flowers in the garden. I learned to love my grandmother's cooking therefore I learned to love and respect her since I was little.

I still keep deeply engraved in my heart every morning with my dad turning on the radio for us to listen to the children's music station, while we were getting ready for school. My mom used to wake up early every day to make sure we didn't leave the house with an empty stomach. I grew up surrounded by people who loved me and I loved them so much too.

Nowadays, everything paints a different picture in this country. Everyday on my way back home, when I'm walking on the streets, I see many teenagers, even children that are just hanging around dangerous places. Everytime I ask myself the following questions: Where is their grandmother?, Are they in school?, Where are their moms and dads?, Are they having dinner with their families at night?.

It seems that we all go around working too hard, worrying about the next days, and forgetting about our present. Our present and future are our children, and our families should be our main focus.

I made a trip back to North Carolina to visit my old high school counselor just a couple months ago. Everything was fine until she got a phone call from her secretary telling her that one of the students had dropped out of school. The student had run away from home, and the police were looking for her.

After listening to the conversation I asked her how this generation of students was doing. She was very honest. She said that the biggest obstacle for a teenager or child was not having enough parental support. He said she often sees this cycle repeat, a cycle in which parents work all day and don't invest time with their children anymore. Parents leave it up to the TV, the internet, or the radio to teach their children lessons that will never be taught.

I still remember my afternoons having dinner with my family in Mexico after a long day. This was truly the best time of our entire days because we all shared our daily experiences and laughed at each other's jokes.

So, what is the next step?

Inspired by Benjamin Banneker's work towards the community, and from my personal experience I can say we are in need, a need of activities that could bring families together. We need to talk more with parents at school, and perhaps organize parenthood classes.

I would like to start off with the closest members of my community. I would like to propose certain activities for entire families to participate in. Here are some ideas:

The first idea is to create workshops with activities that entire families can enjoy doing them together. Some workshop ideas are: baking and cooking classes for families, painting classes, computer skills, and internet safety lessons. and reading clubs for parents and children.

I would also like to add a puppet show, and a talent show for children. It is also important to teach our children how to help out people



who are in need the most. We can search for certain places to volunteer with our families.

Let's unify our families with activities that will not only bring them together, but also change their lives positively.

Spending time with our families is a beautiful experience. Love and trust can unlock the door for communication between parents and children to talk about certain subjects and topics that most the time parents are afraid to talk about with their own children.

Making a difference today for a better tomorrow. I would like to quote Martin Luther King with the following: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are we doing for others?"