

Kenna Cottman: An example of African-American excellence

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WE WIN Institute's students learned about great African-American heroines of the past such as Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth and of the present such as Josie Johnson and Kenna Cottman.

WE WIN children have been studying the accomplishments of African-American women leaders in Minnesota. They created posters and life-sized mannequins of Cottman. They also learned that Cottman is an extraordinary mother, teacher, dancer, and drummer. She has a tremendous love for her community and for her people. It is exhibited by her teaching throughout Minnesota, through her leadership and participation in Juneteenth festivities. Cottman has also created various programs such as African Nights, where she brings dancers from the African world together to demonstrate their skills. Ms. Kenna, as children fondly call her, is a dance educator who teaches about the history of African people through art, culture, movement and song. She is a Black American Griot, following in the oral tradition of storytelling through art. Fourth and 5th grade students at WE WIN Institute wrote about the accomplishments of Kenna Cottman.

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