

Stephanie James Wilson Harris gives memorable speech in Plainfield

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“Talk to your children and share with them the history in your own family,” was the charge that the Stephanie James Wilson Harris, gave to her audience during Plainfield Public Schools Black History Month Breakfast on Wednesday at the Barack Obama Academy for the Academic and Civic Development. Pictured left to right are L-r Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools Anna Belin-Pyles, Plainfield Public Schools Board of Education President Wilma G. Campbell, and Stephanie James Wilson Harris, Executive Director of the NJ Amistad Commission.(Photo: ~Courtesy of Plainfield Public Schools)

PLAINFIELD - “Talk to your children and share with them the history in your own family,” was the charge that Stephanie James Wilson Harris, executive director of the New Jersey Amistad Commission, gave to her audience during [Plainfield Public Schools'](#) Black History Month Breakfast on Wednesday at the Barack Obama Academy for the Academic and Civic Development.

Harris said the history of black families must be told and unless that history is recorded, the people with the knowledge will take it with them when they die.

“So many times, we find out our grandparents had a role in history when it’s too late,” she said.

Harris has been with the commission for more than eight years. Her mandate is to have black history interweaved in school curricula so that children learn about the black diaspora and are better equipped to discuss our multi-cultural society.

Plainfield Public Schools will continue to celebrate this month with several events. The 15 schools and 16 daycare centers have events planned through Feb. 29. A main event that is free and open to the public will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Feb. 26 at Plainfield High School, 950 Park Ave. There will be student performances, vendors, a special guest — author, activist and historian Junius Williams — and a food tasting extravaganza.

For more information, call or email Gloria Montealegre, Community Engagement Liaison at 908-731-4333 or gmontealere@plainfield.k12.nj.us.