

# Pathfinder

FEBRUARY 2024



## CELEBRATING INFLUENTIAL BLACK AMERICANS

February is Black History Month. Members of the Golden West staff shared influential Black Americans from their field of study.

**Dance - Misty Copeland** Ms. Copeland made history as the first African American Female Principal Dancer (AKA "Prima Ballerina") with the prestigious American Ballet Theatre. (submitted by Mrs. Cullum)

**Agriculture - Corey Flournoy** Mr. Flournoy served as the first Black and non-rural president of the National FFA organization. "My ultimate goal is to help ensure all students in FFA feel welcomed, no matter who they are, where they come from or how they identify," said Flournoy (submitted by Mr. Escamilla)

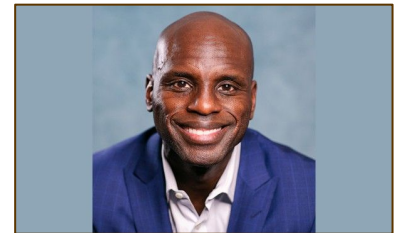
**Library Services - Miriam Matthews** Ms. Matthews became the first Black credentialed librarian in California, and the first hired by the Los Angeles Public Library. (submitted by Ms. Jurbina)

**Aviation - Jesse Brown** Mr. Brown was a U.S. Navy officer and a pioneer of aviation that fought and died in the Korean War. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. (submitted by Mr. Gostanian)

**Literature - Ruby Bridges** Ms. Bridges is an American civil rights activist and author. She was the first Black child to attend a formerly whites only school in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis. (submitted by Ms. Hallstrom)

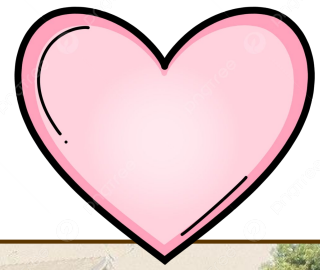
**Science - Neil deGrasse Tyson** Mr. Tyson popularized science with books like The Pluto Files and through his appearances on TV shows, talk shows, and hosting about science. He hosted a series called Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey (submitted by Mr. Roebuck and Ms. Jurbina)

**Music - William Grant Still Jr.** Mr. Still composed nearly 200 works, including five symphonies, four ballets, and nine operas. He was an important contributor to the Harlem Renaissance. (submitted by Mr. Raheb)

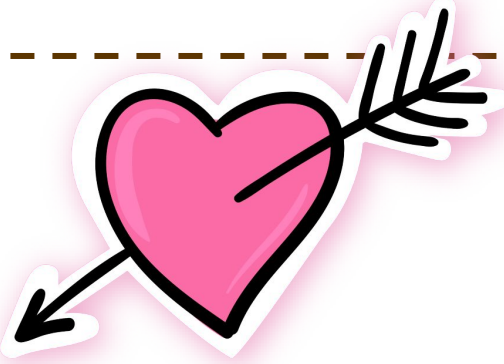


## MR. PASQUINI SHARES HIS ITALIAN ARGENTINE ROOTS

Mr. Pasquini is one of the assistant principals at Golden West. Many years ago, his grandparents lived in Italy, and after World War II they decided to leave their homeland. They took a boat, The Mendoza, bound for Argentina, and their son Henry (Mr. Pasquini's father) was born on the boat. The family lived in Argentina until Henry was eight years old. Because the Pasquini family has close ties to Italy and Argentina, their heritage is a mix of traditions and culture from both countries. Mr. Pasquini inherited a love of cooking from his nonna (grandma). She taught him the traditions of making Italian sauces. His dad enjoys grilling meat, which is a fun aspect of cooking culture in Argentine culture. Food helps the Pasquini family keep a tight hold to their Italian and Argentine roots. Mr. Pasquini said in his family, "food has been a real mix of both cultures." His heritage is important to him because it creates memories and connectivity to his family and the past. Many of us can relate to Mr. Pasquini because we come from mixed backgrounds and heritage.



**Multiple generations of Pasquini's**  
(From right to left) Mr. Pasquini's grandfather, Fred Pasquini, who was born in Italy, his father Henry, who was born on the ship The Mendoza, Mr. Pasquini and his two children Michela and Dominic (who are older now), and his brother Mark



## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: BLACK STUDENT UNION

- Black Student Union (BSU) is a Golden West club that focuses on a variety of cultures and inclusivity. One of the goals of BSU is to receive more club recognition. Members want Golden West students to know that BSU exists and that everyone is welcome. BSU president, Bellah Miller, said heritage is important "to know where you come from and who made a path for you." Club members said they enjoy learning from each other, eating together, learning different perspectives, and having a strong female presence in their club. Throughout February, during Black History Month, BSU is highlighting highly respected Black historical figures on their Instagram. Check it out! [@goldenwest.bsu](https://www.instagram.com/goldenwest.bsu)



Black Student Union members with their advisors, Mr. Loliva and Mrs. Waters

