Malcolm X’s daughter speaks to area children

By Jim Holt
Friday, September 17, 2010

Leading a purpose-driven life was the main message Ilyasah Shabazz wanted to relay Friday to Parker Middle School seventh graders.

Her visit was part of the national HistoryMakers initiative, an education campaign about black history targeting youth in schools.

Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, visited Parker Middle School to speak to seventh-graders. Her visit was part of the national HistoryMakers initiative, an education campaign about black history targeting youth in schools.

"We should be able to love who we are," she said. "Every child, regardless of race, creed or gender, should be able to feel safe."

The knowledge of historical facts eliminates feelings of inferiority, she said.

"The third eldest daughter of civil rights activist Malcolm X, Shabazz said her message is simple."

Shabazz also spoke of how pop culture reinforces the usage of the "N-word, B-word and H-word" in black culture.

Shabazz handed out pens, pins, shadowboxes and copies of her book "Growing Up X," to students and faculty who participated through "How many of you have been called these words before," she asked.

"N-word, B-word and H-word" in black culture.

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She asked them what they want to be when they grow up is "rich" … an answer she said she deplores.

"Women in bondage."

"We were not slaves," Shabazz said. "We were African men and women in bondage."

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