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## **FIRST THURSDAYS AT BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

### **Lockerman-Bundy Elementary School**

#### **Baltimore, Maryland**

Partnerships are alive and well at Lockerman-Bundy, thanks in part to the hard work of the Action Team. One of the most exciting events this year was our participation in First Thursdays at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). We began on Thursday, December 2 with a hotdog dinner for the students and their families—247 participants. We boarded buses provided by BMA and arrived in time for a comedy skit performed by the Educational Department at the museum. This additional attraction was presented just for our school and provided a motivating beginning for our visit.

The evening focused on “Portrait in Paris.” Students and families were delighted to take part in all of the enriching activities. We attended musical soirees and had our portraits drawn by “French” artists, compliments of the Maryland Institute of Art. We viewed beautiful works of art by the French Masters. We engaged in hands-on activities, and made our own portraits with the materials and assistance provided by the museum’s staff.

A wonderful follow-up to this activity occurred when Cash Hester, an employee of BMA, came to our school to work with 40 of our students to extend the learning from the First Thursdays celebration. Children who displayed an interest in expanding what they learned at the museum used the materials provided by Ms. Hester to make wonderful paper bag puppets. She stressed the term *Kuumaba* which means creativity, using the talent that God has given you to strengthen, enlighten, and uplift people daily. The children displayed their work with pride. We are looking forward to continuing this activity next year.

*Brenda Blackston, Action Team Chairperson*  
(410) 396-1364