

THANK YOU!

**Casey Klein and Russell Hoffman
for sponsoring the
Pleasant City Elementary
reading room.**

- Mrs. Gilmartin, our fabulous art teacher and muralist
- Mrs. Gilmartin's family members who helped with the mural: Calvin Gilmartin, Ryan Acree, Tally Tucker.
- Our custodial team: Mr. Walker, Mr. Bussey and Mr. Carter
- Mrs. Hollis, PreK Teacher
- Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Patterson, Ms. Guy and Ms. Vereen.
- The Literacy Team: Mrs. Dower, Mrs. Patterson, Dr. Drayton, Mrs. DeVastey



The Ben Carson Reading Project is the second initiative of the Carson Scholars Fund. The primary purpose of the program is to provide funding and support to local schools so that they can create a literacy-enriched, nurturing environment where children can become enthusiastic and proficient readers.

The Reading Project is dedicated to combating illiteracy and promoting leisure reading as a key to unlocking a child's potential.

Adventure awaits!



**Pleasant City
Elementary School**



**Ben Carson Reading Room
Opening Day Ceremony
& Ribbon Cutting**



Friday, April 26th

**Sponsored by Casey Klein
and Russell Hoffman and
dedicated to the Odum family.**

About the Odum Family

Being of service to others has been a tenant of the Odum family for generations. The community has benefitted immensely from their kindness, generosity and business acumen, especially for residents living in the Pleasant City neighborhood of West Palm Beach, Florida. Charley, the patriarch of the Odum family, and his wife Addie moved to the Pleasant City neighborhood in the early 1940's, where they raised four children. They were the proud owners of a small convenience store on the corner of 20th Street and Contentment Avenue, which is now known as A.E. Isaacs Avenue. Additionally, Charley's brother, Willie Lee and wife Carrie Odum owned and operated World Cleaners, a local dry cleaner business. As the businesses began to grow, the Odum family began to diversify their business ventures and became proprietors of a tavern and grill in another historical African American neighborhood located in the Tamarind Avenue area. The family established other local area business ventures and became owners of several real estate properties in Pleasant City and other surrounding areas.

Charley and Addie Bell had 10 grandchildren. Today, seven of their grandchildren live in the local West Palm Beach commuting area. In 1995, the fourth oldest grandchild, Michael Odum, became involved in several Pleasant City community initiatives, including serving as vice president of the Pleasant City Community Development Board, whose mission was to build single-family homes in the Pleasant City Neighborhood for first-time homebuyers. Michael is still currently involved in community initiatives in the Pleasant City and local community neighborhoods, serving as director of community relations for the West Palm Beach Housing Authority. To date, Michael's leadership has been instrumental in the creation of 13 buildings, and 128 units of low-income rental workforce housing, 34 townhomes and 12 single-family homes, which are a part of Pleasant City, now known as Merry Place Estates. He is also actively involved in the Early Childhood Leadership Collaborative that provides opportunities for key stakeholders to collaborate and implement strategies that address kindergarten readiness at Pleasant City Elementary School and other targeted schools.

The Odum family continues to be civic-minded and own properties in the Pleasant City neighborhood that was previously owned by Charley and Addie Odum.

Pleasant City Elementary School

- **Welcome to the Most Pleasant Place on Earth** Mrs. Griffin
- **Pledge of Allegiance** Melineda, Wein, Amena, Malani
- **School Pledge & Tiger Creed** PreK Students
- **Musical Selection, "I am a Promise"** PreK
- **The History of Pleasant City** Javien Kennerly
- **Musical Selection "The Climb"**
..... Khole, Jazmine, Arianna, Janasia, Geordan
- **Introduction of Featured Speaker** ?
- **Reading Room Sponsor** Casey Klein
- **Poem "Open a Book"** Shariya Taylor
- **Video Message from Dr. Ben Carson**
- **Remarks from Mrs. Carson**
- **Closing Remarks** Mrs. Griffin