

LONG BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3723 Franklin Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32206
904-630-6620



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Principal
Marva McKinney

Assistant Principal
Felicia Hardaway

Instructional Coach
Pamela Drinkwater

Vincent Taylor
Mathematics Coach

Reading Coach
Shameka Brown

Team Up Coordinator
Issac Kennedy

Secretaries
Lynn Manuel
Lula Scott

Guidance
Marva Payne

To Mayor Payton:

The air was electrified with anticipation and excitement as the students of Long Branch Elementary waited for the arrival of “Cornbread” and Mr. Vincent Taylor. Mr. Taylor brings an innovative method of teaching literacy skills through interaction and rap music. His style is unique and the program gives students the motivation and self-esteem to enhance their learning endeavors.

Long Branch Elementary is very fortunate that Mr. Taylor is part of our team. Not only is he our Math Coach, but he plays an important role in the other areas of the curriculum as well. He is a mentor to all students and teachers and wants only the best children.

Having Mr. Taylor, along with his character “Cornbread”, was an awesome and exciting experience for the students of Long Branch Elementary. Mr. Taylor says that being an author is one of his most gratifying experiences. During his 15 year tenure in education, Mr. Taylor has been instrumental in the lives of children. Throughout his career he has created this wonderful way of helping kids connect to reading and enjoy it in the process. Mr. Taylor has written three books from his “Cornbread” series which include: *Cornbread Has a Bad Habit*, *Cornbread Faces the School Bully*, and *Cornbread Runs for Class President*. These stories inspire, teach and motivate students about many subjects that are a part of their day to day experiences.

The **Florida Times Union** highlighted the performance from Literacy Week at Long Branch Elementary, mentioning the methods that Mr. Taylor uses to teach students literary skills through rap music. In addition to this unique style of teaching, he identifies main idea, context clues and supporting details, all while keeping students highly engaged in the performance.

The students’ reaction to “Cornbread” was priceless! They continue to sing the songs and talk about their favorite part of the “Cornbread” books. Mr. Taylor already has a wonderful rapport with students and now he is viewed as a local celebrity. This was an amazing event and would be beneficial for any educational arena.

Sincerely,

Marva McKinney
Principal



“Reaching out to each person, each heart, each mind, leaving no child behind.”