

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Elizabeth Board of Education and Elizabeth Public Schools hosted student performances on January 11th at Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51 to honor and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The performances included "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech", performed by 4th Grade Winfield Scott School No. 2 student Zaylen Mehki Britt, "Stand Up" by Cynthia Erivo, performed by students of Winfield Scott School No. 2, "He Had a Dream" by Quaver Music, performed by students of Winfield Scott School No. 2, "Just Fine" by Mary J. Blige, performed by students of Winfield Scott School No. 2, and "A Change is Going to Come" by Sam Cooke, performed by students of Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5.



For more photos,
please visit www.epsnj.org



JANUARY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- Upcoming Events

Important Dates:

January 29

Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.
Professional Development

Month of February

African American Heritage Month
National's Children's Dental Health Month
Career & Technical Education Month

February 2

Groundhog Day

February 5-9

National School Counselor's Week

February 8

Students Dismissed at 12:15
Parent/Teacher Conference

February 15

Digital Learning Day

February 19

School & District Closed
President's Day

February 29

Leap Day

Quick Links:

School District Website



District Social Media



Back To School Resources



Career Opportunities

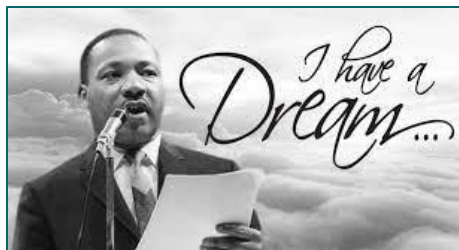


EARLY CHILDHOOD

Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50



The students in Ms. Harris' class learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They read stories and discussed his dream. Students drew pictures of their dreams and created a heart out of their handprints to represent peace. This was a great lesson, and the children had a wonderful time creating this project.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52

During the week of January 16th-20th, students, team members and families celebrated the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each day of the week highlighted an event/activity. On Tuesday, students created an *I Have a Dream* rainbow, on Wednesday, children sang songs, on Thursday, a classroom birthday celebration for Dr. King and they ended the week with an 'I Have a Dream' Festival for students and staff to celebrate. Activities at this event included a Writing/Reading Corner about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Musical Chairs, Fishing for a Dream and video clips of Dr. King. Throughout these activities and celebrations, students and staff honored MLK's pursuit of justice and equality for all and reflected on his dream for a better world.

Below, children are designing "I Have a Dream" rainbows and discussing why it is important to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy.



ELEMENTARY

Victor Mravlag School No. 21



As the cast and crew prepares for their production of *Into the Woods*, they took a break from rehearsals to visit The Papermill Playhouse to see the production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Students were able to watch a professional production that helped illustrate how strong singing, acting, and movement can produce an incredible performance. They are looking forward to their own performances in May!

Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



The first-grade classes for social studies watched a video about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on BrainPOP Jr. The teachers stopped the video at different times to discuss who he was, what problems were faced during this time, and what changes he made. The students also listened and watched Dr. King deliver his famous speech, *I Have Dream*. After discussing the meaning of his speech, students shared what their dreams were to make the world a better place. The students wrote their dream and made a craft representing peace and love for the world.



ELEMENTARY

William F. Halloran School No. 22



The 6th grade scholars participated in a mock CSI investigation presented by the Union County Sheriff's Department. Students collected evidence and jotted down their findings to solve a murder mystery. The 5th grade scholars participated in the Union County Grade 5 Environment- Saving Earth Today for a Better Earth Tomorrow Convocation.

Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28

AVID students attended this year's NJIT Education Day. Students were able to spend the morning on NJIT's campus where student athletes lead a campus tour; allowing students to ask questions about campus life, gain insight from actual NJIT students, and set goals for their future. Following the campus tour, students were able to attend a Division 1 Women's Basketball game, where the school was selected to participate in a halftime show rally race. This was a totally unique opportunity that allowed students to immerse themselves in a true college experience.



Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30



The week of January 22nd, the Pre-K classes participated in a Winter Wonderland encompassing the curriculum. It was coordinated with literature, music, poetry, and mathematics in the classrooms.

Also, the Chessie Dentley Safety Patrol led by Guidance Counselor, Miss Nicholson, helped with the Pre-K students at numerous learning centers during the Winter Wonderland.



ELEMENTARY

Robert Morris School No. 18

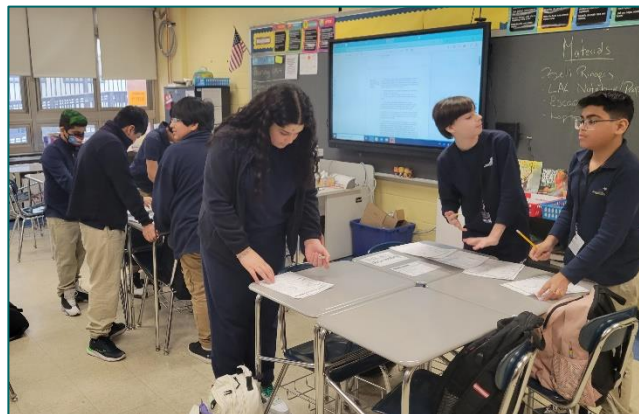
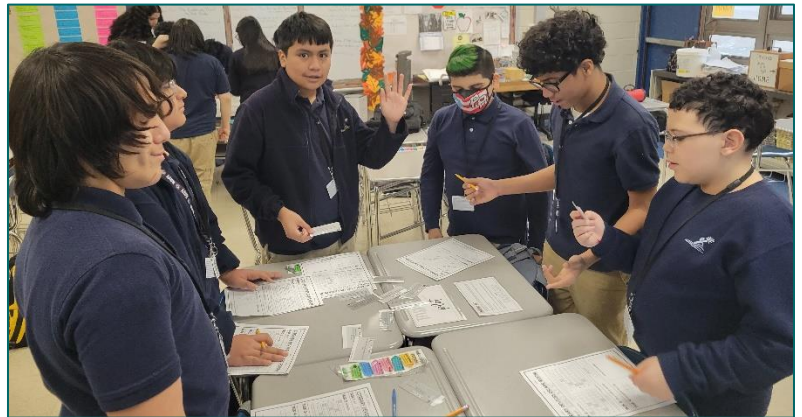
When students in Mr. McCormick's 7th Grade ELA class asked if they could read something like *The Lightning Thief*, a book from the 6th Grade curriculum that they all enjoyed, he told them that there was no way to fit it in during class time. However, Mr. McCormick said that if they wanted to start a book club and read *The Sea of Monsters* (Book II in the Percy Jackson series) on their own, he'd help them make that happen. And so it began, *Mr. Mac's Book Club* was created and consists of a group of 7th & 8th graders who meet once per week during lunch to discuss 4-5 chapters of the book and expand their love for reading.

Principal, Mr. Crespo also gets credit for ensuring that everyone receives a copy of the book and has already received the club copies of the next 2 Percy Jackson books too. Club members include 7th graders -Mia Diaz, Fnu Zeenat, Ailyn Andujar, Maria Quinchia, Yara Abdalla & Madison Rodriguez and 8th Mia Castillo, Yolienmy Justiniano, Dalisha Roman, and Maria Beltre Munoz.



Joseph Battin School No. 4

Students in the Joseph Battin Middle School Language Arts classes put their skills to the test—their literary devices skills that is. Students read “Seventh Grade” by Gary Soto, then used their knowledge of literary devices to solve clues scattered in stations around the room. These skills included: plot structure, character, theme, mood, and figurative language. Students worked in teams to apply the skills they are learning in class to solve the puzzles. Students came together through active learning to win both bragging rights, and a coveted homework pass.



ELEMENTARY

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

Written by student: Miriam Benabdi 6-230



Senate and Leadership RLS has recently concluded the schoolwide Book Drive. The goal of two-hundred books was quickly surpassed the first week alone. In total over 700 books have been collected. The event was of course, not a holiday centered event, but a portrayal of the unselfishness of Terence C. Reilly students.

The TCR Senate and Leadership RLS and Mrs. Jones-DiSabatino started working on the idea of a Book Drive in November and collected books in December. The book drive was a great way for older kids to share part of their knowledge with their younger friends. Not only is this an opportunity to make sure good entertainment doesn't go to waste but it's a great representation of a gifted and talented student's willingness to learn and share with others.

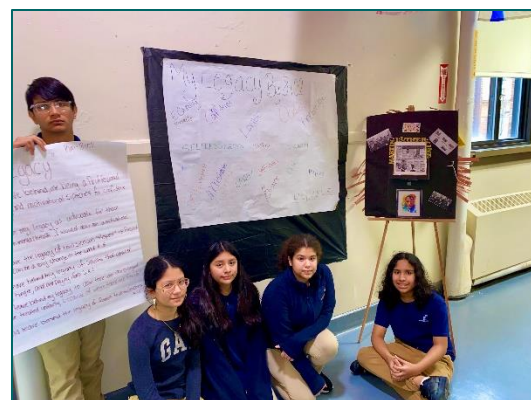
Students were instructed to bring in any books that hadn't been getting any attention, to be handed in to their LAL teacher. The book drive has proven to be a great success, which is no surprise because of the absolutely amazing students at Terence C. Reilly. The Senate/Leadership RLS have been working hard to make this happen. Countless posters and signs were created, and announcements and Facebook posts have been made in order to publicize this event. Many moving parts went into making this happen and students and teachers have been supportive and enthusiastic. This event shows yet another example of the creativity, responsibility, and generosity of the student.

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14



Students in Mrs. Gonzalez's fourth grade bilingual homeroom created gingerbread houses. After reading the story *The Gingerbread Man*, student enjoyed both discussing the story and creating a gingerbread home.

Also, during the month of January, students of homeroom 8-102 collaborated and discussed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s activism, and included their legacies that they would like to leave behind in the world. Providing quotes and words from the heart, the students also expressed their thoughts outside of their classroom hallway titled, *My Legacy*.



ELEMENTARY

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31



Student musicians attended the Youth People's Concert featuring the New York Philharmonic at David Geffen Hall in Lincoln Center. This special event marked the 100th Anniversary of the Youth Peoples Concert, featuring world class musicians and featured new compositions from local youths.

The concert provided a unique blend of musical enrichment and an opportunity to see the newly refurbished David Geffen Hall, which just reopened last year captivating pieces from Mussorgsky. The concert provided a unique blend of musical enrichment, art appreciation, and social-emotional learning for the students.

Elmora School No. 12

On January 11th, middle school AVID students went on a field trip to New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)! The growing learners explored various buildings on campus and got to experience first-hand what a college atmosphere feels like. After students toured the campus, they were treated to seats for a women's basketball game and cheered them on through all four quarters! The students were thrilled to be there and expressed their desire to make NJIT one of their top choices when they apply for college in the future.



Joseph Battin School No. 4

Visual Art Teachers, Mrs. Kristine Downey and Miss Lily Claus, in conjunction with Elizabeth Board Member, Maria Carvalho, had their National Junior Art Honor Society along with their ARP Visual Art students, lead a school-wide collaboration. Students created 500 hand-made holiday cards which were distributed at the senior center and nursing homes within the community.



ELEMENTARY

Christopher Columbus School No. 15



The band and chorus led by Mr. Deverman and Ms. Rowe performed the Winter Concert to students at School No. 15 Annex. The concert consisted of winter and holiday themed songs and this momentous occasion was enjoyed by all who attended. Students were excited to perform in the new School No. 15 Annex in the first of many performance celebrations to come.

Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23



Fourth grade students took charge of the hallway bulletin board, contributing to a positive school culture. These young students showcased their design skills by organizing and writing impactful hashtag phrases.

The bulletin board aims to “start a new trend” in the fourth grade, promoting leadership and kindness. Examples of hashtags like #speakkindly and #smile@others were crafted by students, like Leon Healy as shown in the picture, to inspire their peers.

Also, School No. 23 held their monthly Student of the Month ceremony. The Student of the Month ceremony is a special occasion that recognizes outstanding achievements and improvement in K-8 students. Teachers play a pivotal role in selecting honorees based on various criteria, such as academic, attendance, and exemplary behavior.

The ceremony serves as a meaningful platform to celebrate the efforts and achievements of young learners, fostering a positive and supportive school community. It encourages a culture of recognition and motivates students to excel in both academics and character development.

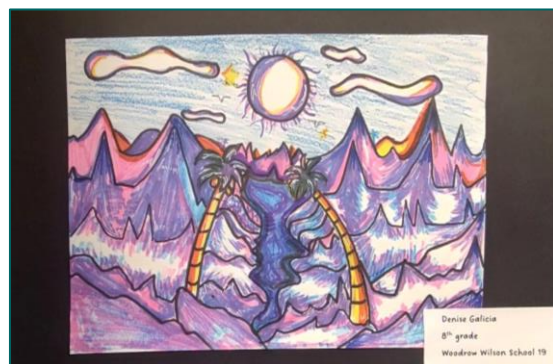


ELEMENTARY

Woodrow Wilson School No. 19

National Adoption Day is held on a yearly basis and falls on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Courthouses and communities celebrate the adoption of children from foster care and finding their forever home. National Adoption Day symbolizes an emotionally charged yet positive day to say the very least.

A special shout out goes to art teacher Ms. Karen Villamar. She took the initiative and submitted artwork created by Salome De Oliveira 6-106 and Denise Galicia 8-206 to the Surrogate Court of Union County. Both students submitted artwork depicting landscapes and consequently, their artwork was selected and is currently featured at the courthouse atrium. A special thanks to all for helping make *Adoption Day* even more special and memorable.



Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6



Students and team members celebrated back to the 80's day on Wednesday, January 18th, to celebrate the 80th day of school.

Students and staff were invited to wear their best 80's theme bright fluorescent colors, leg warmers, sunglasses, side ponytails. Classes used the 80's theme to teach various lessons across the curriculum.



Madison-Monroe School No. 16

The Vulcan Society Fire Department of Elizabeth visited and spoke with the 1st marking period student scholars. They discussed the importance of getting an education, staying focused in learning, and keeping up with reading regularly. They also donated various books that the students were allowed to pick one free book of their choice. The Vulcan Society Fire Department knows that reading is undeniably critical for a student's mind. It helps expand their imaginations, boost their analytical skills, and develop problem-solving abilities.



HIGH SCHOOL

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

The Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy drama department was a big winner in the annual Governor's Awards in Arts Education competition at Montclair State University on January 6th. Twelve students from Jefferson Arts Academy joined students from throughout the state in the highly competitive event sponsored by the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey (STANJ).

Participants competed in categories such as Dramatic Monologue, Comedic Monologue, Musical Theatre Solo, and Shakespeare. Each category was judged by industry professionals who provided valuable feedback to the participants following their performances. The following Jefferson Arts Academy students earned special recognition for their efforts:

3rd Place for SCENE - performing a scene from A Raisin in the Sun, directed by Jefferson Arts Academy Theatre Arts teacher Erika Hicks
Actors: Angelina Benatar, Za'Niyah Shell, and Shamar Thomas

2nd Place for DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE – Monologue - A Raisin in the Sun
Actor: Shamar Thomas

2nd Place for BEST ACTRESS Overall: Za'Niyah Shell

1st Place for BEST ACTOR overall and the Governor's Award for BEST ACTOR was awarded to Shamar Thomas.

The 2024 STANJ Governor's Award for Outstanding Teacher of Theatre was awarded to Jefferson Arts Academy Theatre Arts teacher Sandra Toll, recognizing her years of dedicated service.



STANJ : The Speech & Theatre Association of NJ

2d · 🌐

Congratulations to Sandra Toll, the 2024 STANJ Governor's Award winner for Outstanding Teacher of Theatre! Thank you for all of the inspiring and incredible work you do for your students! 🌟 #STANJ2024 @tjaa.drama @tjartsacademy



STANJ : The Speech & Theatre Association of NJ

2d · 🌐

Congratulations to Shamar Thomas on winning 1st Place for Best Actor and the 2024 Governor's Award for Best Actor for his performance in the scene from A Raisin in the Sun! 🌟 #STANJ2024 @tjaa.drama @tjartsacademy

HIGH SCHOOL

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy



There have been an array of activities happening at Halsey Academy. Students celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday immersed in various events throughout the week such as an opportunity to participate in a virtual tour of the Civil Rights Museum. Various classes watched the documented speech *I Have a Dream* and the famous *What Is Your Life's' Blueprint*, emphasizing self-worth and dignity. AVID classes enjoyed a trip to Universal Technical Institute where they learned about automotive technology, welding, and diesel. Earlier in the month, students also enjoyed a presentation on the dangers of vaping. In addition, the ROTC students will be competing later in the month for armed and unarmed regulation, armed and unarmed exhibition, armed and unarmed inspection, and armed and unarmed color guard. Good luck to the ROTC students!

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

Students and their guidance counselor, Mrs. Howell, participated in the Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program (UC Step) held at Kean University. The students were selected for their leadership potential. This year's program focus was titled "Stepping Up to Mental Health" and provided a platform to collectively address mental health challenges in communities. Bollwage students proudly "Stepped Up" to the task!



HIGH SCHOOL

William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy



The Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) program has been designated a Naval Honor School by the Commanding General of Marine Corps Training and Education Command for the 2022-2023 school year.

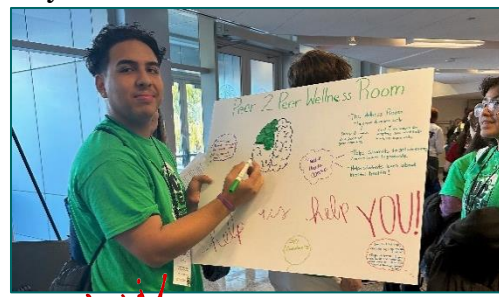
This marks the third time in four years that the MCJROTC at Admiral Halsey Health & Public Safety Academy has received this honor.

Currently, there are about 250 MCJROTC programs worldwide divided among four regions. Being designated a Naval Honor School means that a Marine Corps JROTC program is in the top 20 percent of all programs. The selection is based on several criteria, including participation in school activities and clubs, community service, public events, and various competitions.

Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy

The TECTA Junior leadership team was invited to participate in UC Step at Kean University on December 15th. Students were divided up with other schools from Union County and asked to create a project to spread Mental Health Awareness.

Students presented to Union County Commissioners Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Lourdes M. Leon, and Sergio Granados. Students created apps to make it easier for teens to find access to mental health providers, ask for help, and create programs in their schools. TECTA student Jaedon Leon was awarded a leadership award for his work with his group. The students had a great time bringing awareness to Mental Health and getting to meet with students across Union county.



HIGH SCHOOL

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy



Students from the *Multicultural and AVID Leadership Club* teamed up this past holiday season to organize a toy drive for the Mercy House located at 249 Court Street in Elizabeth. The collection of new toys, zip up sweaters, hoodies, pajamas, basketballs, and makeup sets were presented to the director of the center Cheryl A. Riley in the school's media center. Ms. Riley discussed how the Mercy House supports everyone in need no matter their background and shared ways of how students could become volunteers at the local community center. *"This was the first time my organization ever collaborated with a public school,"* stated Ms. Riley. *"We are so thankful for the work done here by Hamilton Preparatory Academy students."*



Also, the *STEM Club* students, instructed by science teacher Ayesha Ali, constructed electric pencil sharpeners. They learned that hand cranked pencil sharpeners were used earlier. They are still used in many classrooms today. The students investigated how switches and circuits operate a pencil sharpener and that electricity cannot jump across the gap in open circuits. The students actually put science to work by doing this construction activity! They enjoyed this new learning experience!

Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy

EHS - FJC Academy hosted its annual Winter Dance Show. Dance teacher, Ms. Nicole Lemoine, described the theme as follows, "This year's show theme is 'School Days' and focused on school subjects as well as the ins and outs of the school day." There were 12 Dance numbers, half of which were choreographed by students in Ms. Lemoine's dance program. Ms. Lemoine goes on to say, "The dancers and I were excited to show the school community the creativity and choreography brought to life! I'm so proud of the dancers and their hard work on both the dance floor and stage this year! I am honored to present their accomplishments and talents." The event was a sell out.



HIGH SCHOOL

JVJ STEM Academy



The new year is here! January is a great time to reflect on the previous year and to sow the seeds of growing a better future. The future is bright for JVJ's first senior class to embark on their new paths. On January 9th, the school hosted a FAFSA workshop to create a financial plan for the transition to college life for many members of the class of 2024. Hearing the buzz from the seniors about their futures, the rest of the school took time to reflect and create academic resolutions for the remainder of their school year. Setting small goals will yield big rewards!

Below is information for an upcoming FAFSA workshop in which parents and students are invited to learn more about the process. Free entry and no registration required.



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Financial Aid
FAFSA NIGHT

January 17th, 2024
February 7, 2024
March 13, 2024

Dwyer Auditorium and iLeap Center 5:00pm – 7:00pm

[8 Steps How to Apply](#)
[How to Create Your FSA ID](#)


Free Entry
no registration required

Get a Head Start on Financial Aid

For more information:
 908-436-6547 saluccioai@epsnj.org

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UPCOMING EVENTS



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every child. Achieving Excellence

— PARENT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES 2023-2024 —

YOUTH SUCCESS FOUNDATIONS

PARENTAL GUIDANCE FOR YOUTH GOAL SETTING AND ACHIEVEMENT

JAN. 30TH, 2024 @ 7PM


LOCATION:
VIRTUAL ON ZOOM &
WILLIAM F. HALSEY, JR. HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY
641 SOUTH ST
ELIZABETH, NJ 07202

THIS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WILL DISCUSS:


- HELPING PARENTS GUIDE THEIR CHILDREN IN SETTING, DEVELOPING, AND ACHIEVING PERSONAL GOALS
- TIPS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN IDENTIFYING SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES
- CREATING A GOAL-ORIENTED CULTURE WITHIN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, AND MORE...

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
SAMUEL ETIENNE
ETIENNE@EPSNJ.ORG


*Translation will be available
in multiple languages*



SCAN QR CODE
TO RSVP

PRESENTED BY:
 **EARL BROWN**
EDUCATION CONSULTING
PARENT UNIVERSITY

WORKSHOP LINK BELOW:
[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/](https://zoom.us/j/96821397448)
MEETING ID: 968 2139 7448



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every child. Achieving Excellence

2024

celebrate

Feb 5-9 National School Counseling Week

Feb 15 Digital Learning Day

Feb 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb 19 President's Day

Whole Month Black History Month

Whole Month Career & Technical Education Month

Whole Month National Children's Dental Health Month

in the month of February



You are empowered to achieve excellence!
Send us excellent news on the great things happening in your school to Delilah Sousa email: **enews@epsnj.org**



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every child. Achieving Excellence

January is

Board Recognition Month



Charlene Bathelus
Dorgely
President



Stanley
Neron
Vice President



Diane
Barbosa



Maria Z.
Carvalho



Iliana
Chevres



Jerry D.
Jacobs



Rosa E.
Moreno
Ortega



Stephanie
Goncalves
Pestana



Isaias J.
Rivera

Thank you for all that you do!