

CONNECTION

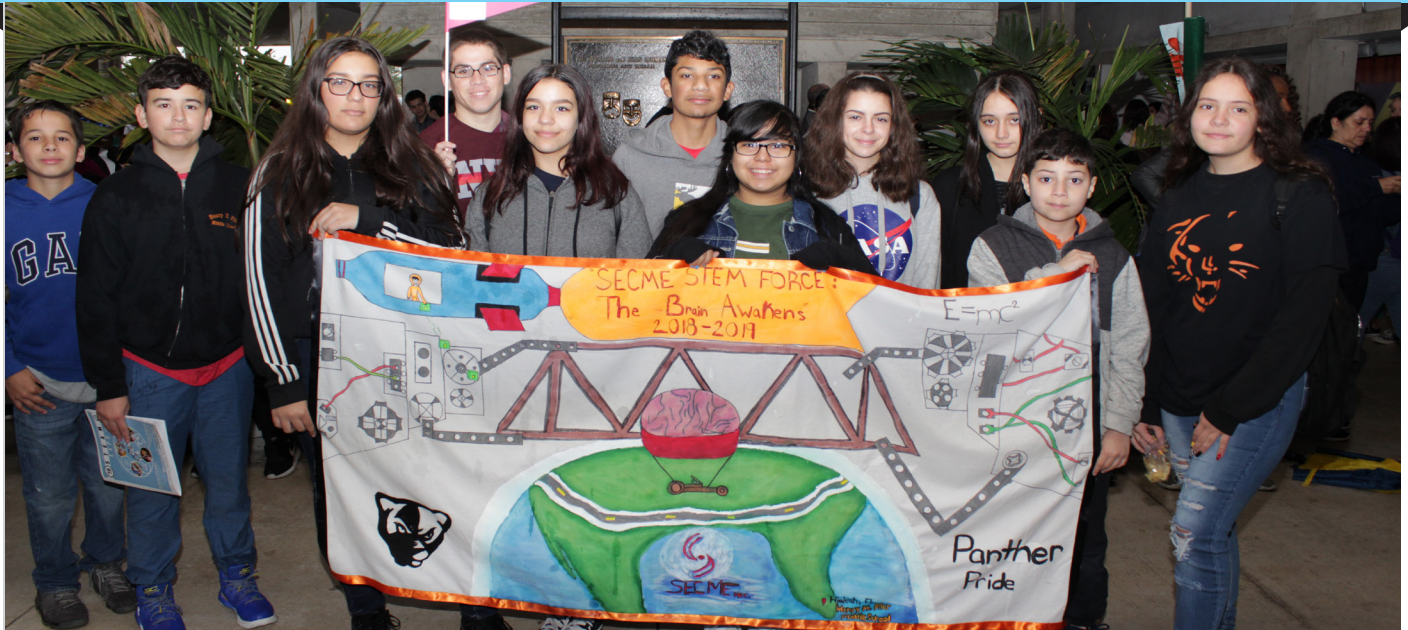
A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 50
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FUTURE INNOVATORS SHOW OFF AT MIAMI-DADE STEAM EXPO



More than 25,000 students, parents, teachers, and community members came together to witness our young learners creatively express themselves through STEAM activities and competitions at the 9th Annual Miami-Dade STEAM Expo.

OLIVER DIEZ NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR, LAURA HAIM ROOKIE TEACHER

Oliver Diez, a music teacher at Palmetto Elementary School, was named the 2020 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year. During his nearly 20-year tenure with M-DCPS, the youthful-looking Diez often has been mistaken for a high school student. Due to Diez' creative and innovative approach, his students have been able to perform and play musical instruments as early as first grade.

The runner-up is Ray Parris from Hialeah-Miami Lakes



Senior High. Laura Haim, a teacher at Pinecrest Elementary School, was named Rookie Teacher of the Year. Christopher Fisk,

who was Diez' student 13 years ago, was named Rookie Teacher of the Year Runner-Up.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

MARCH 13

11 a.m.
Regular Meeting

APRIL 17

10 a.m.
Conference Session:
Attendance Zones for
2019-2020

11 a.m.
Regular Meeting; Initial
Reading - Attendance
Zones for 2019-2020

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

Feb. 1 - 28: Black History Month
Feb. 24- Miami National College Fair
March 14 - Secondary Early Release Day
March 25-29 - Spring Recess

M-DCPS COMMITTED TO SAFETY & SECURITY



M-DCPS has been steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its students, employees, and visitors. For years, the District has invested in enhancing school safety through school police, infrastructure improvements, and personnel training aimed at averting potential tragedy.

Immediately following the unspeakable act of violence committed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, the District initiated the process of reviewing safety protocols and identifying opportunities for improvement. This review was comprehensive in nature. Over the last 11 months, a multipronged system of safeguards has been deployed to ensure that the District's schools remain safe spaces for creativity and learning. For more information, visit <http://news.dadeschools.net/cmnc/new/28967>.

M-DCPS HONORS STONEMAN DOUGLAS VICTIMS WITH DAY OF LOVE, KINDNESS



February 14, 2019 marked one year since the horrific tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School claimed the lives of 17 students and staff. Last week, M-DCPS joined its neighbors in Broward, Palm Beach, as well as school districts across the country in honoring the lives of the victims who were lost to a school shooter. Participating school districts observed a moment of silence at 10:17 a.m. on Feb. 14, to honor the lives of the 17 victims.

As part of M-DCPS' "Love and Kindness Day," schools hosted numerous activities geared toward every grade level with a focus on love and kindness.

Activities included:

- Kindness Corner: schools designated an area in their schools where teachers and staff posted positive messages about students who have demonstrated love and kindness.

- Sending Love and Kindness notes: template were provided to all schools for students to write or draw a kind message to someone on Valentine's Day.

- Tell someone they are special: students were encouraged to write a message to another student they do not know that well, highlighting something special about them.

- Lunchtime Check List:

students were given a "Love and Kindness Day" checklist to check off as many acts of kindness as they were able to complete during their lunchtime.

- "Be Kind!" Public Service Announcement (PSA) Challenge: schools were encouraged to create a PSA on kindness. Outstanding PSAs will be recognized through the District's Values Matter Miami initiative.

Counselors were available to meet with students or staff who needed extra support.

The Department of Mental Health Services was also available to offer school and community services for students and their families.

FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PLAN



It's never too early to save for college. In fact, the earlier a family begins saving, the lower the cost per month. We want to make sure you know about an affordable, flexible option for college savings that is guaranteed by the State of Florida, and has already helped more than 450,000 students attend college. Florida Prepaid College Plans offers prepaid tuition plans for a variety of budgets. Lock in tomorrow's tuition costs with guaranteed plans starting at \$47 per month. Enroll by April 30 to take advantage of those prices during the current Open Enrollment period, the annual time of year when families can start saving for college with a Prepaid Plan. Open Enrollment ends April 30, 2019. Enroll today!

<https://bit.ly/QptSoA>

SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Schools Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho has committed the \$10,000 prize he received in honor of his recognition as National Urban Superintendent of the Year to fund college scholarship awards for student innovation in Miami-Dade. The scholarships will be awarded to students presenting the most innovative projects as part of the inaugural Superintendent's Student Innovation Challenge.

The Challenge seeks to engage current high school students in identifying real-world problems and leveraging their knowledge, passion, and creativity to develop innovative solutions to large-scale issues currently

facing our society. Working in teams of two, students may submit entries related to environmental issues (such as sea level rise and red tide), health issues (such as e-cigarette use), or social issues (such as youth homelessness). The prize for the winning project includes a \$10,000 college scholarship. The challenge is open to high

school juniors and seniors enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Students and parents/guardians can access information regarding the challenge, including rules for entry and important deadlines, by visiting <http://challenge.dadeschools.net/>.



2019 GRADUATION SCHEDULE



Miami-Dade County Public Schools released its 2019 graduation dates, locations and times. This year's graduation ceremonies will take place from Wednesday, May 29 through Thursday, June 6.

To download the schedule, visit www.dadeschools.net.

REGISTER FOR THE MIAMI NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR



Representatives from nearly 200 colleges and universities will be at the 2019 Miami National College Fair – on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, to meet with students and parents on subjects such as financial aid, college planning, admission and testing requirements. Students can pre-register at www.gotomyncf.com.

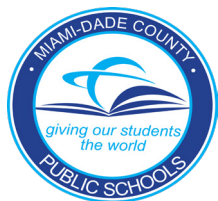
PARENT E-TIPS:

Primary:

Make Reading a Social Activity
<https://bit.ly/2SgAxXd>

Secondary:

Learning is About More Than Grades
<https://bit.ly/2BjB14c>



www.dadeschools.net

SOCIAL MEDIA



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@MiamiSup



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@AlbertoMCarvalho1



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**Produced by the
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