

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

M-DCPS PLACED ON THE COLLEGE BOARD'S 6TH ANNUAL AP® DISTRICT HONOR ROLL FOR SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) once again is being honored by the College Board with placement on the 6th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to Advanced Placement (AP) course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Reaching these goals indicates that a district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP. To be included on the 6th Annual Honor Roll, M-DCPS had to, since 2013, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the number of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

This honor re-emphasizes M-DCPS's commitment to advanced academics: In 2014, the district was named the College Board Advanced Placement Equity and Excellence District of the Year for being the nation's number one leader, among large school districts, in expanding access to Advanced Placement Program (AP) courses and improving AP Exam performance.

National data from 2015 show that among black/African American, Hispanic, and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating. The first step to delivering the opportunity of AP to students is providing access by ensuring courses are available, that gatekeeping stops, and that the doors are equitably opened so these students can participate. Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

M-DCPS PROVIDES FREE FLUMIST TO STUDENTS, 'TEACH FLU A LESSON' INITIATIVE

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has teamed up with Healthy Schools to offer your child a no-cost pain-free flu vaccine - a flu mist.

Going to school every day is one of the simplest and most important contributing factors to a child's academic success. Every year thousands of children miss valuable time in the classroom because of the dreaded flu. If that isn't bad enough, they carry it home with them, infecting loved ones, and causing them to miss work and school. Based on data from other counties in Florida, as well as in other states, we know the in-school flu vaccination program works and STOPS the flu in its tracks. Please join us in encouraging all of our children to be properly vaccinated and help "Teach Flu a Lesson" in 2015!

We have made it as convenient as possible to safeguard your child against the flu this season. The single best way to protect against flu and its potential severe complications is for children to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. The nasal spray vaccine is easily administered and offers an alternative to injections.

Be on the look-out for your child to bring home a Healthy Schools

2015-2016 Seasonal FluMist Vaccine Consent Form. All you will need to do is complete the form and have your child return it to their school. Healthy schools will take care of the rest and there is no cost involved.

Healthy Schools will be providing flu vaccinations from December 1st -December 18th in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Please check with your child's school for scheduling. For more information, visit www.dadeschools.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 21 - January 1	Winter Recess
January 15 -	Magnet Applications Close
January 18 -	Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
January 25 -	Teacher Planning Day
February 15 -	All Presidents' Day
February 16 -	Teacher Planning Day

M-DCPS CELEBRATES GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT AT PALM LAKES ELEMENTARY & THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF VOTER APPROVAL

Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho, community leaders, District and school administrators, teachers, students and parents gathered recently at the newly-renovated Palm Lakes Elementary School to celebrate the renovations performed on the school as well as the third anniversary of voter approval of the \$1.2 billion General Obligation Bond by Miami-Dade County voters.

To date, 64 projects have been completed and more than 200 projects are in progress. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has already invested \$200 million, with another \$120 million committed, continuing its promise to deliver quality projects on time and under budget.



Pictured (l to r): Asst. Superintendent Carl Nicoleau, Hialeah Councilman Luís González, Chief Facilities Officer Jaime Torrens, Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho, Palm Lakes Principal Alina Iglesias, State Rep. Eddy González, Guillermo Fernández, President of Link Construction, and Raúl Pérez, Asst. Superintendent, Facilities and School Construction.

VALUES MATTER IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AT M-DCPS

As the school year progresses at M-DCPS, we continue to emphasize the District's core values to reinforce the development of positive behavior in our students. Each month, we are focusing on one specific value. During the month of September, we focused on the value of Responsibility. Two student winners and one school were recognized at the School Board's monthly meeting as Values Matter Students/School of the Month.



The Values Matter Student of the Month at the elementary level is Steven Mejia, a first-grader from Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary. Zaire Gladden, a seventh-grade student from Country Club Middle School is the Values Matter Student of the Month at the secondary level.

The Values Matter School of the Month was awarded to Flagami Elementary School. For the month of December, schools throughout the District will be highlighting Fairness.

In addition, all senior high schools participated in Values Matter in Athletics, an extension of the on-going Values Matter initiative. High schools throughout the district participated in activities highlighting the connection between good sportsmanship and behaviors aligned with core values.

As part of this effort to promote values in athletics, M-DCPS partnered with the Greater Miami Athletic Conference in sponsoring 17 Values Matter football games. These games, which closed out the regular season in Miami-Dade County, highlighted the Values Matter in Athletics initiative. Nearly 2,000 football players from Miami-Dade County Public Schools wore Values Matter stickers on their helmets.

HANTMAN, BENDROSS-MINDINGALL CHOSEN TO LEAD MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL BOARD

Perla Tabares Hantman, School Board Member and Chair for the past five years, was elected for the sixth consecutive time as Chair of the Miami-Dade County School Board for the year ahead. Ms. Hantman will serve for an unprecedented ninth time as Chair since she was first elected to the School Board in 1996 to represent District 4. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve as Chair, and has previously served from 1999-2001, and then each consecutive year from 2010-2015.

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall was elected for the first time as Vice Chair. This appointment makes her the first African-American woman in Miami-Dade County Public Schools to be chosen for the position. Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, who represents District 2, was elected to the School Board in 2010.

M-DCPS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN TEN80 STEM FEST EXPO & INVITATIONAL

Student teams from some 17 Miami-Dade County public high schools competed against each other at the Ten80 STEM Fest Expo and Invitational Race Challenge at iTech @ Thomas A. Edison Educational Center. Schools have been competing all year to win an invitation to the 2016 National STEM League Finals where they will test their skills against more than 30 teams from around the country.



Team members from Miami Springs Senior High School prepare their remote-control car for the STEM challenge.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

January 13	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting
February 3	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting
March 9	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair
Susie V. Castillo
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway
Dr. Martin Karp
Lubby Navarro
Raquel A. Regalado
Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

Logan Schroeder-Stephens
Student Advisor to the School Board

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