

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

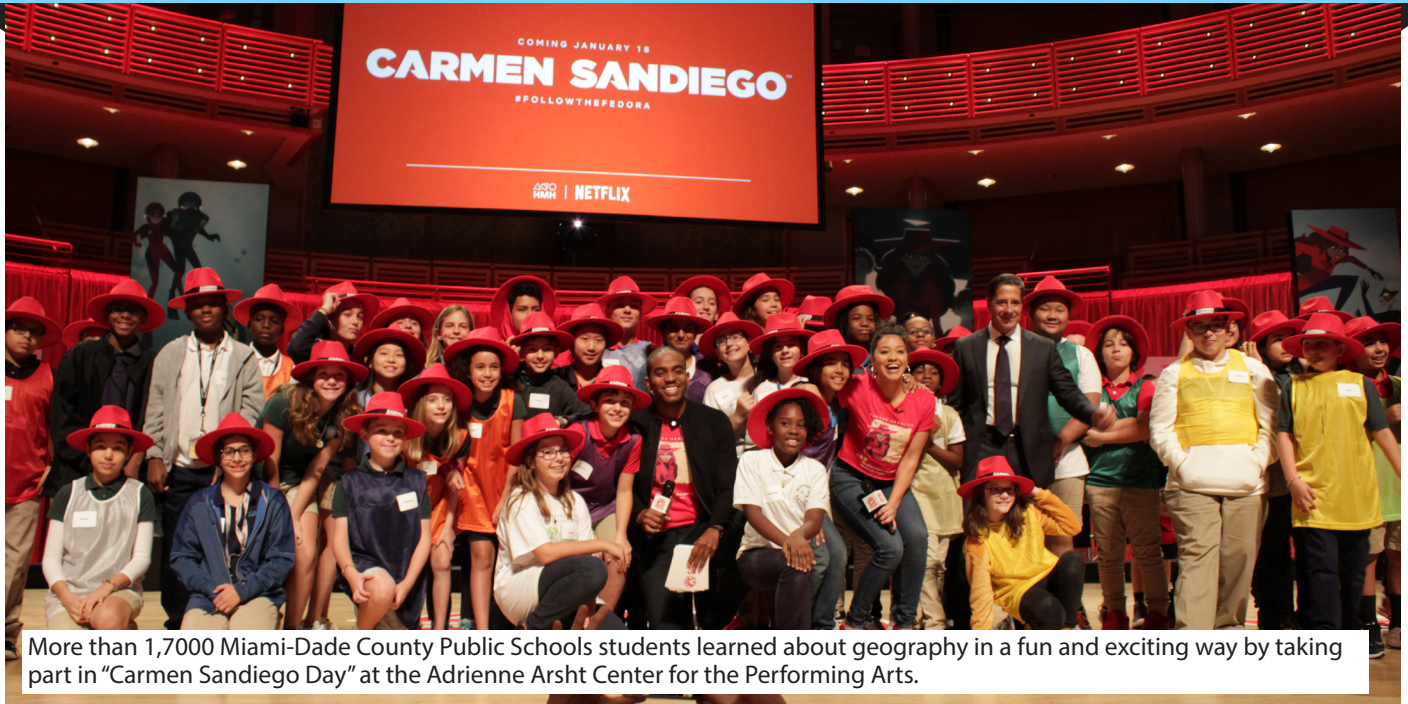
JANUARY 2019

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Mentoring Programs
- Graduation Rates
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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SANDIEGO?



More than 1,700 Miami-Dade County Public Schools students learned about geography in a fun and exciting way by taking part in "Carmen Sandiego Day" at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

REGISTER TODAY! 2019 SUPERINTENDENT'S 5K RUN/WALK CHALLENGE

The 4th Annual Superintendent's Challenge, scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Museum Park, is a 5K Run/Walk to promote health and wellness in our schools and in our community. Schools are encouraged to register teams as a percentage of event proceeds benefit participating schools. Proceeds from solo participants benefit the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc. – a direct-support organization



of M-DCPS. All registered participants will receive a race t-shirt and finisher medal. Register now at:

<https://www.athlinks.com/event/superintendents-5k-challenge-race-for-education-167578>

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

FEB. 13

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting

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. 18 - Presidents Day
Feb. 24- Miami National College Fair
March 14 - Secondary Early Release Day
March 25-29 - Spring Recess

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS & SONS TO WORK DAY



Get ready to see children and teens engaging in learning outside of the classroom and inside your workplace! Miami-Dade County Public Schools is once again participating in "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" Day.

This year, M-DCPS chose Friday, February 1st, 2019 to honor the day, which allows students, aged 8-18 to go to work with their parents, other relatives, or adult mentors in their lives.

The intent of the national program is to assist students in learning to articulate their career goals and aspirations to themselves, their peers and the adults important to their lives.

Employers are encouraged to offer interactive experiences for participating students across South Florida's workplaces. M-DCPS selected this year's date in partnership with Broward County Public Schools to facilitate participation by companies and families in both counties. For additional information on "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day," head to daughtersandsonstowork.org.

CARNIVAL SCHOLARSHIP & MENTORING PROGRAM - When Dreams Set Sail



For twins Stephanie and Geovanna Hernandez going to college was always a given. How they were going to pay for it was not. Growing up with a single mother on a sparse income, the twins knew they would have to make their own way if they were going to be the first in their family to attend college. Through the Carnival Scholarship & Mentoring Program, Stephanie and Geovanna were among the first high school seniors to earn the Carnival scholarship that opened the door to Florida State University.

The girls entered the Carnival Scholarship & Mentoring Program as high school sophomores after attending the HEAT Academy. The mentoring program taught them that, with hard work and determination, anything is possible. Stephanie recalls bonding with her mentor, Dr. Rosalie Payne, who made a deep impression on her. Payne was the first person she met with a PhD, a degree Stephanie herself is working toward at the University of Texas at San Antonio, after earning two degrees in demography.

"Dr. Payne made me more than a better student. She made me a better human being, more responsible, more ambitious and more inquisitive," said Stephanie. "She taught me to see obstacles as an opportunity to succeed." Geovanna's Carnival mentor, Vicky Blanch, taught her to dream big. It was Blanch who planted the idea that she could go to college anywhere, and after earning her BA in sociology, she enrolled at Boston University for her MBA. "What I remember most is the one-on-one time I had with Vicky in her office," said Geovanna. "During my visit, she cleared her schedule and I knew it was my time."

Days with their mentors were spent discussing everything from school to music to goals and aspirations. Both twins say their mentors gave them the confidence to apply to colleges beyond Miami. The scholarship meant they could focus on their studies and dedicate their spare time to giving back to the community. Geovanna was a Big Sister in Tallahassee and is one in Boston, while

Stephanie worked with elementary, middle and high school students. When asked what they'd tell an incoming freshman about the Carnival program, Geovanna said, "You can easily show up and go through the motions, but be proactive and make the best of the experience. Use it to better yourself and develop new skills."

Stephanie advises, "Don't be afraid to ask for help. At the Carnival Scholarship & Mentoring Program, someone is always willing to help. Raise your hand and ask questions." The twins credit the program with teaching them how to dress, speak in public, prepare for an interview, understand professional etiquette, write a check, and maintain a budget. But most important, was the emotional connection with their mentors.

"I had someone to look up to who wasn't in my family, someone who really cared for me," said Stephanie. "We had access to a network of people who cared about us and who were truly invested in us," added Geovanna.

M-DCPS' GRADUATION RATE CONTINUES TO SOAR

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' graduation rate rose once again to an all-time high of 85.4 percent for the 2017-2018 academic year, a 4.7 percentage point increase from the 80.7 percent the prior year. This rate marks the highest graduation rate M-DCPS has achieved since the Florida Department of Education began tracking graduation statistics with modern methods in the late 1990s. If charter schools are removed from the calculation, the graduation rate in schools managed by the District is 89 percent. Thirteen hundred more students graduated in 2017-18 than the prior year.

Since 2006-2007, the District's graduation rate



has increased almost 27 percentage points from 58.7 percent to 85.4 percent in 2017-18.

Miami-Dade's graduation rates for White, Hispanic, Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners and Economically disadvantaged students exceeded those of the State.

This is a remarkable achievement for a graduating class that is being measured on the more rigorous Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment.

For more information, visit <http://news.dadeschools.net/cmnc/new/28892>.

SCOTT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GOB PROJECT



M-DCPS recently unveiled the renovations at Scott Lake Elementary. With a total investment of \$5 million, the project includes: classroom technology improvements, new 10,546 square-foot, one-story building addition, new ceiling, lighting and flooring, a new bus drop off and covered walkway, exterior painting, and much more. #GOBprogress

SCHOOL BUSES



Keeping parents informed is of the utmost importance to M-DCPS. The transportation department is sending text messages to notify parents of bus delays and other important information. Parents should ensure their contact information is up to date with their child's school, especially cell phone numbers and email addresses. To stay connected, download the Dadeschools mobile app to your iPhone or Android device.

PARENT E-TIPS:

Primary:

Teach Your Child How to Balance School & Activities

<https://bit.ly/2SYG94A>

Secondary:

Support Emerging Executive Skills

<https://bit.ly/2VXSsjp>



www.dadeschools.net

SOCIAL MEDIA



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