



## Superintendent's Report – November

The Superintendent's Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities underway to support the district goals of academic achievement; student, family and community engagement; and effective and efficient operations as they are aligned to the district's eight strategic objectives:



**Close the GAP**



**Re-envision Partnerships**



**Educate the Whole Child**



**Strengthen Communication Systems & Outreach Strategies**



**Redefine the MPS Experience**



**Develop Our Workforce**



**Rethink High Schools**



**Improve Organizational Processes**

### MPS Equity, Education & Empowerment Speaker Series

I gave remarks to welcome Dr. Decoteau Irby, keynote speaker at our **MPS Equity, Education & Empowerment Speaker Series** event at South Division. His presentation was titled *A Eulogy for "Back in the Day": Meeting Young People Where They Are*. There was much enthusiasm at the launch event for the speaker series, and people are already looking forward to the next speaker! More information will be forthcoming in the near future.



### Plan for Progress

I addressed school leaders at the Principal's Leadership Institute (PLI) with a Plan for Progress on *One Calendar* alignment, program/placement alignment, transportation supports, showcasing student success, budget carousels, long-range considerations and next steps. This information was also shared with parent coordinators at their monthly meeting.

### Aspen Institute

I traveled to Baltimore for the Aspen Urban Superintendent's Retreat. This was an excellent networking and development opportunity for Superintendents with many great take-a-ways for our district. Several districts want to visit Milwaukee to learn about our BLMA department and the work we're doing with our young men, as well as to learn about our FAFSA and college/career strategies. We've also been invited to learn from other districts about their Pathway schools, strategies for suspension reduction, attendance, and more.

Meetings from late November through mid-December follow:

I continue to meet with **Vincent Lyles**, CEO of the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee** to discuss our Community Learning Center partnership.



I met with **Dr. Vicki Martin** and **Julia Taylor** to discuss the Bradley Tech Strategic Plan.

I attended a meeting at **Northwestern Mutual** with the Goal 2 Executive Committee members comprised of Bill Berezowitz, Mayor Tom Barrett, John Schlifske, Jami Racette, Rachel Lander, Audrey Borland, and Jan Haven to discuss the Reading Foundations Collateral and project on early literacy.



I co-hosted the *Morning with Meralis* citywide celebration event honoring **City Year** of Milwaukee's new Executive Director and Vice President Meralis Hood.



My staff and I met with **UW-Madison's** Senior Associate Dean Carolyn Kelly and their Smart Spaces Project Director Annalee Good regarding their proposal to MPS for the Online Academy for Advanced Learners.



I attended the **United Way** Board meeting and gave an update on our Volunteer Engagement efforts, which have increased by 39% over this same time period last year. The number of community groups and workplaces has increased 28% over this same time period. As of the end of November, 21,261 hours have been contributed to our Season of Caring efforts (92% of goal)!

I attended the **American Heart Association's** 2017 Volunteer Vision & Recognition Event, where MPS was honored for its efforts with this year's Heart Walk!

Dr. Juan Báez and I had an introductory meeting with Jorge Franco, Chairman, President & CEO of the **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin** to establish a relationship and discuss potential collaboration opportunities with our Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA) department.

I participated in **Milwaukee Succeeds** Partnership meeting as a panelist with Dr. Bill Hughes, Vincent Lyles and Dr. Vicki Martin. The purpose of the meeting was to present the StriveTogether 2018–2023 Strategic Plan, to share national opportunities to grow capacities that will strengthen our work locally, and to provide an understanding of the importance of equity and eliminating disparities as key to successful outcomes for all kids. There were many great take-a-ways from this meeting.



I met with Principal Arrington, Dr. Cotton and BLMA staff on the **African American Institute** curriculum, followed by my standing meeting with the MTEA, and a call with DPI regarding having licensed special education teachers.

I attended and gave remarks at the MPS Foundation Annual Business Meeting.

I spoke to the Senior Men's Club at the **Milwaukee Jewish Community Center** about MPS. I received such a warm welcome and it was an amazing opportunity to dialogue with them around important issues in education, including teacher recruitment, mentoring and internship/apprenticeship opportunities for the district.

Our Fall **Public Education Leadership Institute (PELP)** Triad meeting was held in conjunction with the Guilford County and Nashville districts. We each discussed one of our problems of practice and theory of action related to the components of our strategy and walked through the process of implementing the strategy.

## Events/Programs/Announcements

### *Students get free books to build home libraries*

More than 5,000 MPS students received free books to help build their own home libraries and develop their reading skills through the **My Very Own Library (MVOL)** literacy initiative. The program was founded by New Jersey school volunteer Anne Feeley, who was dedicated to putting books into the hands of children in need. This is the third year of the initiative in the city of Milwaukee.



A special event for the MVOL program was held at Longfellow Elementary. During a student assembly, students heard from the Love of Reading panel, which included students and Scholastic author Allan Woodrow. Children were able to hear how reading impacted the lives of the students and author on the panel, and also had the chance to ask questions about their favorite books. Authors Varian Johnson and Tommy Greenwald also visited schools along with book distributions.

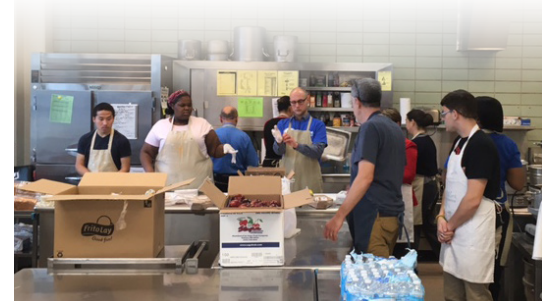
Milwaukee is one of only seven communities selected to take part in the MVOL program, which is supported by the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, the family and friends of the late MVOL founder Anne Feeley, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Scholastic Book Fairs. Inaugural partners United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County and Milwaukee Public Schools continue to support MVOL at MPS schools. A contribution from the Zilber Foundation allowed the program to add additional schools.



During the last school year, the My Very Own Library program distributed 34,200 books to MPS students. This year, 14 schools will receive books: **Auer Avenue School; Brown Street Academy; Doerfler School; Hopkins Lloyd Community School; Jackson Early Childhood and Elementary School; Kagel School; Kluge School; Lancaster School; Longfellow School; Milwaukee College Prep Lloyd; Milwaukee College Prep North; James Whitcomb Riley School; Townsend Street School; and Clement J. Zablocki School.**

### *MPS donates and packs lunches for homeless shelter*

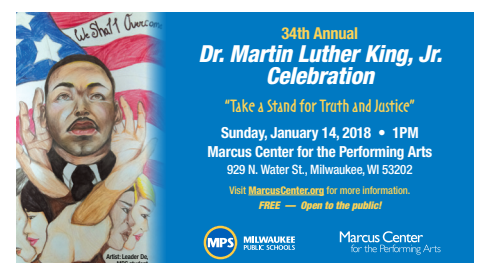
Several dozen students and employees from MPS Central Services banded together to pack lunches for residents at the Guest House of Milwaukee. All of the bread, lunchmeat, cheese, fruit, and other items were purchased through cash donations from MPS employees, which totaled nearly \$600. Sandwiches were crafted by students in the **Community Assessment Training Program**, who are learning career skills that will help them directly transition to the workforce after graduation. Employees assisted with packing and wrote friendly notes to the residents who receive the lunches.



The Guest House of Milwaukee is Milwaukee's largest publicly funded homeless shelter and is located at 1216 N. 13th Street. It provides permanent housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and prevention services. Founded in 1982, the Guest House has been a leader in providing solutions to Milwaukee's homeless citizens for more than 30 years.

## Awards/Recognition

This year's MLK contests have produced amazing entries from more students than we have seen in many years. Selecting winners was extremely difficult this year due to the increase in the quantity and quality of submissions for the Art, Speech and Writing competitions. We are happy to recognize the following students for their outstanding work around this year's theme: Take a Stand for Truth and Justice.



## Speech Contest

This year's speeches were highlighted by many personal stories of taking a stand and a call to action to improve our community. These qualifiers participated in the second round competition at We Energies on Saturday, December 2. The finalists will move on to the MLK Day celebration on January 14, 2018, at the Marcus Center.

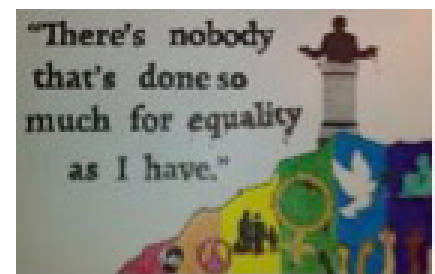
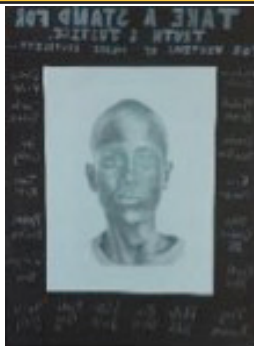
Grades	Name	School
K-2	Inezmari Chico	Curtin Leadership Academy
K-2	Josiah Franklin	Elm Creative Arts School
K-2	Zadayne Miller	Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts
K-2	Kamari Nash-Miles	Holmes School
K-2	Christian Wilder	Atonement Lutheran School
3-4	Amir Johnkin	Elm Creative Arts School
3-4	Benji Johnston	Eastbrook Academy
3-4	Salma Lewis	Golda Meir Lower Campus
3-4	Joyonna Petty	Lowell International School
3-4	Nyla Ryles	Emerson Elementary School
5-6	Alejandra Anderson	Curtin Leadership Academy
5-6	Kaylie Deluna	Victory Elementary School
5-6	Brandon Gorton	Cooper Elementary School
5-6	Katelen Pickens	Emerson Elementary School
5-6	Chloe Reader	Alcott Elementary School

Grades	Name	School
7-8	Amillia Bell	Golda Meir Lower Campus
7-8	Terynn Erby-Walker	Golda Meir Upper Campus
7-8	Demi Figueroa	Curtin Leadership Academy
7-8	Angela Gorton	Cooper Elementary School
7-8	Jona'e Smith	Milwaukee Environmental Science
9-10	Ameen Atta	Salam High School
9-10	Cheyene Lee	Hmong American Peace Academy
9-10	Akili Pleas-Carnie	Rufus King IB High School
9-10	Marvell Reed	Obama School of Career & Technical Ed.
9-10	Iman Snobar	Reagan IB High School
11-12	Ahmad Blake	Obama School of Career & Technical Ed.
11-12	Perrion Bohannon	Vincent High School
11-12	Ariana Cawthorn	Eastbrook Academy
11-12	Roy Christensen	Golda Meir Upper Campus
11-12	Daniel Montalvo	Reagan IB High School
11-12	Biluge Ntabala	Milwaukee High School of the Arts

## Art Contest

More than 170 students from 30 schools participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest. The following students and their artwork will be honored at the January 14, 2018, celebration.

### Grades 9-12



#### 1st Place

**Ayah Amer**  
10th Grade – Salaam

#### 2nd Place

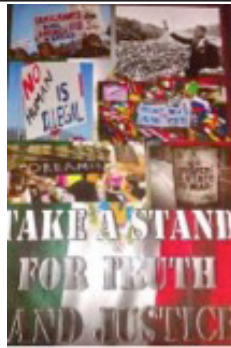
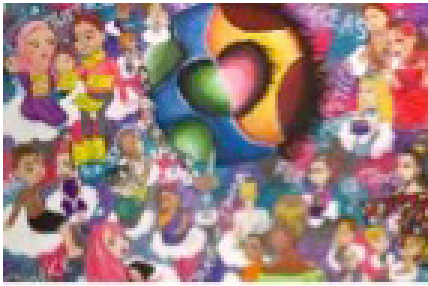
**Kylie Bowen**  
9th Grade – Milw School of Languages

#### 3rd Place

**Grace Newton**  
12th Grade – Reagan HS



**Grades 6–8**



**1st Place**

**Ruttana Chanhara**  
8th Grade – Milw School of Languages

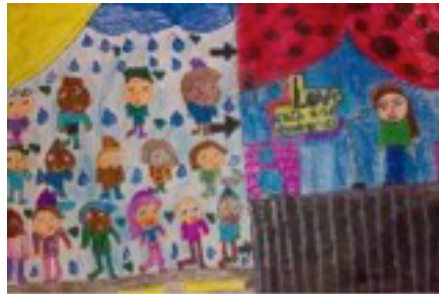
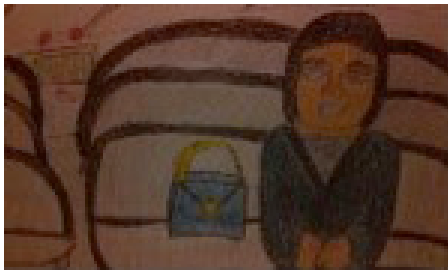
**2nd Place**

**Yoana Perez Morales**  
8th Grade – Lincoln Center of the Arts

**3rd Place**

**April Barillas**  
7th Grade – Golda Meir

**Grades 3–5**



**1st Place**

**Salina Tagliavia**  
5th Grade – Alcott

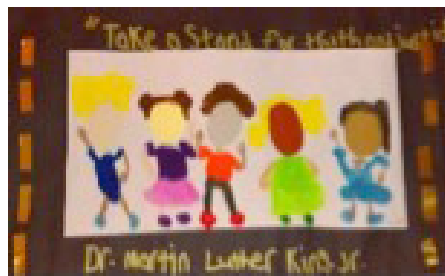
**2nd Place**

**Leah Serdynski**  
4th Grade – Spanish Immersion

**3rd Place**

**Analia Roman**  
4th Grade – Spanish Immersion

**Grades K–2**



**1st Place**

**Joshua Rivera Mercado**  
Grade 2 – Vieau

**2nd Place**

**Briana Davis**  
1st Grade – Burbank

**3rd Place**

**Eduardo Villegas Sanchez**  
2nd Grade – Vieau

## Writing Contest

Below are the winners of the 35th annual MLK Essay contest.

### Grades K–1 Group Project Winner

Burbank, Grade 1 – Christine Sylvester

Place — Grades 2–3	Name	Grade	School
1st	Miriam Webb	3	Golda Meir
2nd	Nikyonna McDaniels	3	Emerson
3rd	Sophia Wood	3	Trowbridge
Place — Grades 4–5	Name	Grade	School
1st	Nicolas Holtzman	4	Milwaukee German Immersion
2nd	Nancy Thao	4	Bruce Elementary
3rd	Lalaya Clay	5	Elm Creative Arts
Place — Grades 6	Name	Grade	School
1st	Tatiana Dockery	6	Keefe
2nd	Golden Brown	6	Golda Meir
3rd	Nakiyah Gooden-Alexander	6	Keefe
Place — Grades 7–8	Name	Grade	School
1st	Faith Abdiramn	7	Salaam
2nd	Daisy Kiekhofer	8	Golda Meir
3rd	Vaughn Smith	8	Golda Meir
Place — Grades 9–10	Name	Grade	School
1st	Christian Delfose	9	Rufus King HS
2nd	Christian Kind	10	Milwaukee High School of the Arts
3rd	Eleajah Thompson	10	Milwaukee High School of the Arts
Place — Grades 11–12	Name	Grade	School
1st	Amani Omari	12	Salaam
2nd	Lauren O’Hear	11	Ronald Reagan HS
3rd	Tien Vo	12	Ronald Reagan HS

## 15th Annual MPS Drumline Competition

The 15th Annual MPS Drumline Competition was held at Milwaukee High School of the Arts this month. Eleven MPS teams competed in this year’s event. This is just one example of the many talents our students possess. As a district, we continue to strive to provide more opportunities for students to excel both in and out of the classroom.

High School Division Winners	
<b>1st Place</b>	Rufus King High School Varsity Drumline
<b>2nd Place</b>	Riverside University High School Drumline
<b>3rd Place</b>	Milwaukee High School of the Arts Drumline
Middle School Division Winners	
<b>1st Place</b>	Golda Meir School
<b>2nd Place</b>	Parkside School of the Arts
<b>3rd Place</b>	Humboldt Park School

