

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

MAY 07, 2024

ISSUE 46



News for School Board Members and District Personnel



Dear Team Monroe,

Lots of celebrations are occurring throughout the district. Teacher Appreciation Week is an opportunity to say thanks to teachers for their unflagging support to students. I say a big thank-you as well. The week closes with an opportunity on Sunday to thank all the mothers out there who make a difference in the lives of their families. They are special and offer the spark that ignites our lives into something beautiful.

As we near the end of the year, it's important to reflect on accomplishments but also to decide what could have been done better. I would recommend an earnest look into data and reflection on practices for grade level and department teams. The more deeply we collaborate with our fellow teachers, the more we will learn from each other and the better our district will become.

Yours in education,
Terri

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

May testing is in full swing- students are engaged in their FAST testing in grade 3-10 for ELA and 3-8 for Math. End of course exams are also taking place for Biology, US History, Civics, Algebra and Geometry. Many schools have also begun their 5th and 8th grade science test- this is the first year these exams will be offered in an online platform. High schools are also embarking on the rigorous AP testing schedule for the next two weeks. Seniors and underclassmen are also preparing for their final exams. Please be mindful of getting students to school on time, well rested and ready for the day. Schools should have their testing schedules posted on their websites and social media. Please reach out to your child's school if you have any questions regarding the testing schedule.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

There are lots of things to celebrate in May. On May 1st, schools celebrated principals in a myriad of wonderful ways for National Principal Day. Principals are some of the hardest working people in the education system. Without them, a school would not operate successfully on a daily basis. They set the academic tone by encouraging students to excel. They implement their vision through dedication and determination to provide a positive environment for students, teachers and families. We appreciate them and all they do each day!



School bus drivers and school food workers were also the focus of special thank you posters and cards this month with National Superhero Lunch Day a time for students to thank those heroes that serve them with a smile every day.

thank you



Students are FAST testing and parents can see their child's progress on the FAST parent portal. Please be sure you have an account for students and families, encourage your child to do their best and if you haven't seen our District video about the Computer Adaptive Technology testing, please go to keysschools.com and click on the button in the middle of the page to learn more.

Check
It Out
↓



<https://flfast.org/fast.html>



CONTINUED COMMUNITY RELATIONS

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, so take a few minutes to thank a teacher for the tremendous amount of work they do and the care they give in helping our students be the best they can be! A simple note from a student or parent can make a teacher's day!

♥
**TEACHING IS A
WORK OF HEART**



Congratulations to the Key West High School Baseball team who earned the District Championship last week with a 2-0 win over Killian High. They will play at home against Jensen Beach on May 08th at 7:30 pm at Rex Weech Field in their bid for a state title.



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Marilyn Manners, a dedicated teacher at HOB School, identified a need for additional supplies to enrich her student's learning experience. Upon receiving the list of required items, Superintendent Theresa Axford took action by engaging Gaby Henriquez, a member of the Sunshine Committee at the School District, to address the matter.

The collaborative efforts of the staff at the District Admin Building were nothing short of remarkable. Every item on the list was promptly procured, exceeding expectations. Among the supplies provided were a sand table, books, Barbie dolls, clothes, posters, and games, all tailored to enhance the student's educational journey.

What makes this endeavor even more heartwarming is the timing – the much-needed items arrived just in time for a special occasion. The delivery coincided with the day before the student's birthday, adding an

CONTINUED EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

adding an extra layer of joy and excitement to the celebration. This act of kindness exemplifies the power of community and underscores the commitment of all involved to ensure every student's needs are met. HOB School extends its deepest gratitude to Superintendent Theresa Axford, Gaby Henriquez, and the entire District Administration for their unwavering support and generosity.



FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE

The payroll team continues to work on ensuring effective and accurate payments to our dedicated staff. Additionally, our benefits team has been working tirelessly to enhance the employee experience, introducing new resources and tools to assist with benefit selection and management. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting the financial well-being of our employees and ensuring they have access to the best possible benefits packages.

On Thursday, May 2, 2024, the Association of School Business Officials International sent notice that the Monroe County School District, was presented the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal year Ended June 20, 2023. The District has received this Excellence Award for ten years in a row...a decade!! Many congratulations to Austin and the Finance team for their time and efforts in reporting timely and accurately!



HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Department of Human Resources proudly sets MCSD standards by supporting employees with District guidance toward staying on track with important dates and educator certification. This enables the District and schools to satisfy requirements set forth in contracts and by the FDOE. Timelines for providing educator and administrative contracts, signing of annual acknowledgements, educator reporting, reappointment of staff for the next school year, observations, evaluations and bargaining negotiations are all major HR priorities. A current top priority includes recruitment, retention and hiring of highly qualified staff and educators. This includes expanding our reach with early job postings. The HR Team is working hard to recruit for the 2024-2025 school year. Schools are being updated with lists of educators released and/or requesting a transfer to assist with hiring decisions for the 2024-2025 school year. Continued Get-To-Know MCSD meetings for applicants at 4:00 pm every Wednesday on Teams are providing very positive results with early hiring. Most applicants are indicating they are scheduled for interviews and currently looking into and obtaining area housing. It's our hope that all school staff and educators enjoy a wonderful Summer and come back to us refreshed and feeling supported by their HR Team!

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

The Monroe County School District is preparing to host their first Food Show with the 5th grade students from Poinciana Elementary School, Gerald Adams Elementary, and Horace O' Bryant school. Students will be visiting with our vendors and giving their personal feedback on items for our breakfast and lunch menus.

"It's important for us to get our customers' input on our menus and have buy in on what we are serving them", says Effie Jackson, Director of Food Services.

Key West High School is also gearing up for some changes to their meal service. The concession stand will be getting some small renovations and new equipment to help offer meal options that are more favorable to the students. We will be offering smash burgers, chicken wings, flatbreads, walking nachos and other elevated grab n' go options.

We are excited to be celebrating Haitian Flag Day with a special menu on May 17th. Creole cuisine is a blend of several culinary styles from Africa, France, Taíno, Spain and Arabic influences. We will be serving the country's traditional black rice with beans, avocados, plantains, and pork.



Pictured Above:
Diri Djon Djon - Creole Cuisine

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Monroe County School District

 

 

Let's Get Connected for Menus, Updates and More!

 **Monroe County School District
Food and Nutrition Services**

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Six schools and over 130 middle school students participated in our annual SeaPerch underwater robotics competition on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at Founder's Park. Sugarloaf School, Plantation Key School, Key Largo School, Horace O'Bryant, Sigsbee Charter School, and Marathon Middle School each competed with five teams who built their underwater robots as part of their STEM classes. Key Largo's "The Going Merry" with Jake Campanioni and Alexander Rodriguez took first place and the traveling trophy home for their school with an amazing track time of 1:58 minutes. Second place went to Marathon Middle School's "Skibidy Sigmas" with Khoa Nguyen, Graham Murphy, Garrett Ruddy, Jack Chapman, Taylor Huff, and Andrew Suarez. Marathon's "Team Sprite" came in a close third, with Ryland Driscoll,

CONTINUED TEACHING AND LEARNING

Brett Clark, and Bradley Roberts. A special thank you to Founder's Park and the three swimmers in the pool spotting and untangling robots for four hours: SLS Principal Mr. Tyler, MMH STEM teacher Mr. Driscoll, and Sheriff Deputy and MMHS SRO Officer Tedesco.



Pictured Above:
Jake Campanioni and Alexander Rodriguez



seaperch

CONTINUED TEACHING AND LEARNING

Coral Shores students have been busy this month earning Industry Certifications. Twenty-six automotive students earned 84 ASE certifications covering 11 categories of auto mechanics. This is the first year four female students have earned certifications and a record high twelve students earned the MLR-Maintenance Light Repair-certification. Twenty-six culinary students passed the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals and twenty-four of them received their ServSafe certification. Congratulations to them all!



Pictured Above:
CSHS Culinary Students



Pictured Above:
CSHS Auto Mechanics

The Key West High School Fashion Show, produced by students in teacher Lauren Albury's classes, was a fantastic success, with the designers amazing the crowd with their talents! The models walked the runway with pride and showed off dresses, gowns and suits that looked as though they should be in a Fifth Avenue store. The yearly event was a true CTE collaboration with Ed Smith and his students preparing the designers opening remarks, Lisa Rivard and her culinary crew walking around with delicious appetizers before the show and Ebenson Michelin's students utilizing their IT talents to help prepare some of the print work that was used for signs and programs. Congratulations to all involved for such a remarkable display of what are students are learning in school that transfers to real life skills.

Fashion

SHOW

