



Title I, Migrant Education & Special  
Programs  
February 2021 Newsletter

## The Director's Message



*1 - Ms. Luwando Wright, Director*

*Title I, Migrant and Special Programs*

In 2021, I encourage you to keep your batteries fully charged. The Title I, Migrant Education and Special Programs department is committed to the continued support of our students, schools and the community by energizing parents, families and students in every school. We have recently held virtual events including parent meetings, Dads Chats, and ZOOMfest to keep us all energized. Building drones with Captain Barrington Irving during ZOOMfest certainly kept us engaged! We intend to continue hosting parent events and trainings throughout the spring and encourage you to get involved. Follow us on social media to get up to date information.

## In this Month's Issue

In this February Newsletter, you will find updates for the following initiatives and programs in our department:

- Parent & Family Engagement Parent Resource by Michael Shorter and Linda Howard
- Food Drive collaboration with Gulfstream and Mobile Pantry by Linda Howard
- Hispanic Lawyers Committee Donation by Annette Torry

- Title I Winter ZoomFEST 2020 by Angelique Lynch
- School Spotlight - North Lauderdale PreK-8
- School Spotlight - Ben Gamla Charter School South
- School Spotlight - Stirling Elementary

## *Title I Digital Resource Center*



<https://sway.office.com/smIEOtJ1Rv8Gyhe#content=GUAytqdEqDZnsh>

## *Family Engagement: Forging Strong Community Partnerships!*

With a sigh of frustration...Coronavirus are you still here? It has been nine long months of quarantine, working remotely from home, social distancing and wearing masks. Enough already! The Mobile School Pantry and all their wonderful volunteers refused to let this pandemic get the best of them and the families of Broward County. "With Christmas just around the corner, what could we do to spread some holiday cheer?" thought two Title I employees.

They called on the assistance of families, friends, businesses and church organizations to donate a Santa Claus costume and toys for distribution during the month of December at three sites (Gulfstream Early Learning Center, West Hollywood Elementary School and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy), and they showed up in a big way! There were over 900 toys distributed to the boys and girls as they drove through the food distribution line.

It was amazing to not only see the children happy, but adults were excited to greet Old Saint Nicholas. Despite the dark shadow of COVID-19, a great time was had by all! As the melodious tunes of music played, it truly was the most wonderful time of the year. Billy Joel, also known as the Piano Man, coined it best when he said, "I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music." That is exactly what the up-tempo sounds of the Christmas music did, it created an atmosphere of joy and excitement for all that were in attendance.

Old Ebenezer Scrooge and Mr. Coronavirus both had to think twice because their cold-hearted tactics did not stop the Mobile School Pantry from providing the fresh fruits, vegetables and other edible essentials to the families in the Broward County communities. If there is a will, there definitely is a way for us to stay connected and engaged with our families. Yes, for nine months and riding the waves of this pandemic, there have been some heroes that have been volunteering and committing their time to serving the needs of others. This article is dedicated to them and all the organizations in our county that have continued to improve the lives of others, while often jeopardizing their own health and safety.

The Mobile School Pantry is always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering and helping at upcoming distributions, you can visit [mobileschoolpantry.org](http://mobileschoolpantry.org) to receive more information. Together We Can Do So Much!















## Upcoming Events!



### *Migrant Education Program Donation of PPE Supplies*

The Title I, Migrant and Special Programs Department was honored to be the recipient of a generous donation of PPE supplies. Ms. Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Hispanic Lawyers Committee and Director for the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association collected these materials with the support of other community organizations to donate to a deserving local public school where the impact would be the most significant.

Her passion for community service was evident in all her planning and dedication. Robert C. Markham Elementary School has the highest enrollment of Migrant students and was selected as the recipient of this donation. Principal Dukes and his school community are thankful for the generosity shown in this group effort to support our students and staff during this challenging time.



2 - Pictured from L to R: Josh Pollock with Silver Bill Solutions, Mr. Johnny Marshall, Facilities Service Person , Principal Mr. Shedrick Dukes, Elisabeth Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Hispanic Lawyers Committee and Director for the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association, Kemie King the president of the Broward County Women's Lawyers Association.

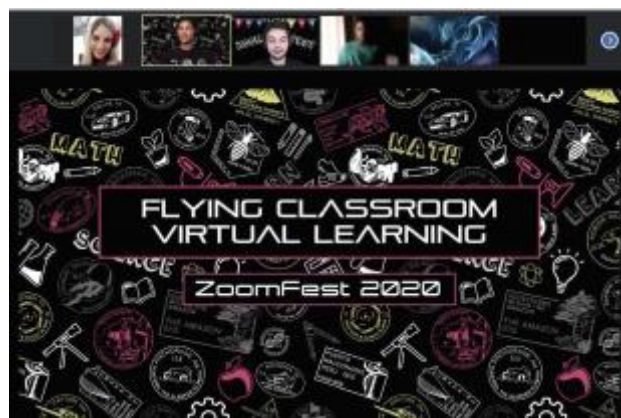
## **Title I Winter ZoomFEST 2020**

Our first virtual ZOOMFest, sponsored by The Title I, Migrant & Special Programs Department in collaboration with The Flying Classroom was held December 19, 2020. This bi-annual event was held virtually this winter and this platform change did not disappoint! During the event, over 300 participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a STEM+ world of learning, with Guinness World Record Holder & National Geographic Explorer, Captain Barrington Irving! Captain Irving is the youngest person and first black pilot to fly solo around the world. The Flying Classroom Virtual Team guided students grades K-8 through Captain Irving's global adventures.

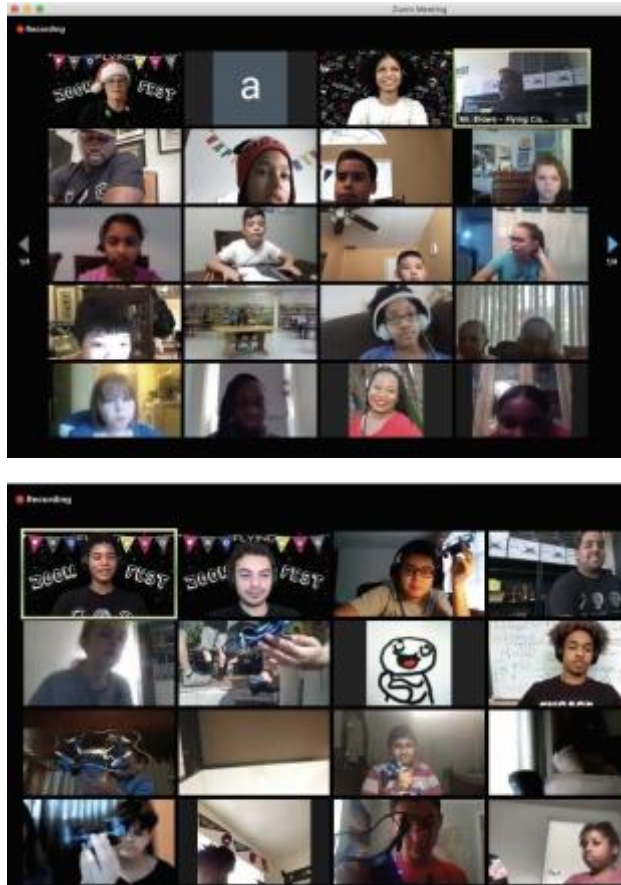
During the second half of the event, students attended breakout sessions where they were able to interact with instructors who led them through engaging sessions. Kits were provided to each participant so that they could follow along and engage in hands-on learning. Aerobic Flight School was delivered to grades K-2 in which they made items fly! Weather and Flight Plan and Water Hydrodynamics led students in grades 3-5 to embark on the building of a boat that floats using unconventional items found in their material kits. Students in grades 6-8 learned about UberAir and got to build their own drones! These drones came with a remote and students had them take off showing their skills!

Each student received a copy of Captain Irving's book, Touch the Sky. When asked about his accomplishments, Captain Irving states, "You can do whatever you set your mind to – all it takes is guts and passion. Regardless of where you come from, what you have or what you don't have, you too can achieve your dream. If I can do it, so can you! You too can dare to DREAM, LIVE, FLY!"

For more exciting photos and to hear about how a school participated, read the article in this newsletter provided by North Lauderdale Pre K – 8. They shared this unique experience with us and we are happy to have their reflection from the day as a spotlight in the newsletter.







## *North Lauderdale attends Title I STEM ZoomFEST 2020*

The scholars of North Lauderdale Pre K-8 participated in an amazing Title I STEM ZOOM event Saturday, December 19th, 2020. Thank you, Ms. Wright our Title I Director, Ms. Canady our Title I Program Specialist and Captain Barrington Irving, for the opportunity to provide our scholars with an amazing chance to experience aviation and the principles of flight through STEM.

Our partnership with Captain Barrington Irving, Experience Aviation, Broward County Schools Title I Department and the North Lauderdale Pre K-8 scholars created a perfect STEM storm. This hands-on STEM ZOOM event was highly engaging, rigorous and relevant for every child who participated!

A few weeks ago, Captain Barrington Irving reached out to me. Without hesitation I invited the students of North Lauderdale Pre K – 8 to our school for hands-on opportunities through Experience Aviation via STEMZOOM, with support from the North Lauderdale staff. Our scholars Kindergarten through Eighth Grade participated in this hands-on event. Several teachers, along with our Intern Principal Nicole Neunie, and our Science Coach Tonya Wallace experienced aviation along with our students.

Each student received a Flying Classroom box valued at \$250.00. Each box contained materials to build the specific project based on the grade level. While being immersed in engineering, scholars were

excited to see the contents of the box come together. Contents included but not limited to duct tape, plastic bottles, scissors, plastic gears, paper plates, scissors, pencils, straws and paper cups.



3 - Our students and North Lauderdale's Commissioner Lorenzo Wood are excited to "Let the STEM begin."



4 - The North Lauderdale team facilitating the STEM ZOOM event.



5 - Complete excitement as students collaborated and engineered their flotation devices.

Mr. Burgess, who is the Coordinator of Mentoring Initiatives with 5000 Role Models, served as a mentor and role model as he assisted our students. As our middle school scholars built drones with Flying Classroom virtual instructors, Mr. Burgess became the student.

Our scholars assisted Mr. Burgess as he flew the drone. The scholars became the teachers!

Many of our scholars who participated are considered academically fragile. They are recipients of free lunch and are coded as ESOL, ESE, lowest 25%, in foster care and struggle emotionally as we continue to navigate through this global pandemic. However, with these opportunities we are continuing to close the achievement gaps! During this Title One STEMZOOM event hosted by Captain Barrington Irving, we witnessed our students go from academically fragile to academically fearless!



**6 - Mr. Burgess (Coordinator, Mentoring Initiatives 5000 Role Models) is learning how to fly a drone from our 8th grade student. Wow! The student has now become the teacher!**

North Lauderdale Pre K-8 scholars were engaged, excited and most importantly, empowered by this hands-on STEM experience. When our students see Captain Barrington Irving, they believe they can break the same barriers and achieve through STEM.

While 300 scholars across Broward County built projects from their homes, we invited our scholars to our school to participate in the virtual hands-on experience. Our scholars in grades K-2 built a plane in their aerobatic flight school. Scholars in grades 3-5 designed and built a flotation device during their water hydraulics class. Finally, our scholars in grades 6-8-built drones and went outside to excitedly fly them.

One of our North Lauderdale Pre K- 8 parents was extremely excited to have five of her children, ranging from Kindergarten to Fifth Grade, attend the Title I STEM ZOOM event. Ms. Whiteside stated, "This was a great day for all of my children who attended today. They loved using math, reading and science to build their boats. Most of all they learned and had fun."



7 - These 5th grade scholars used their STEM kits to build a tornado system.

*Again, thank you for dispelling the Opportunity Myth! Your commitment and dedication to our scholars through Title I and The Flying Classroom is changing lives forever!*



8 - I am so happy to finally see my flotation device work!



9 - Wow, this is so fun. I can make anything!





10 - Can we go and fly the drone soon?



11 - Scholars enjoyed the fruits of their labor. Designing and building a water hydrodynamics device, while these 5th grade students experiment with principles of tornadic systems.



12 - Engineered projects from scholars with big dreams!



13 - "We have motion!"

### ***School Spotlight - Ben Gamla Charter School South***

Every day, dedicated teachers and staff at Ben Gamla Charter School South nurture a culture of fairness, love, and caring. With unwavering focus, we aim to provide a safe learning environment for our students and families, especially amid the uncertainty of a global pandemic. As a Title I school, we are grateful for the fiscal sustenance that enables us to promote academic assistance for our students and parent engagement for our families. In retrospect, as we prepared for the 2020-2021 school year, Title I funds significantly aided our ability to provide our teachers and students with a diversity of digital resources to embellish the curriculum and ease the challenges inherent with virtual learning.

We are awed by the support of our families and the ingenuity of our teachers to provide our students with the best possible educational experience. Whether brick or mortar or through remote live

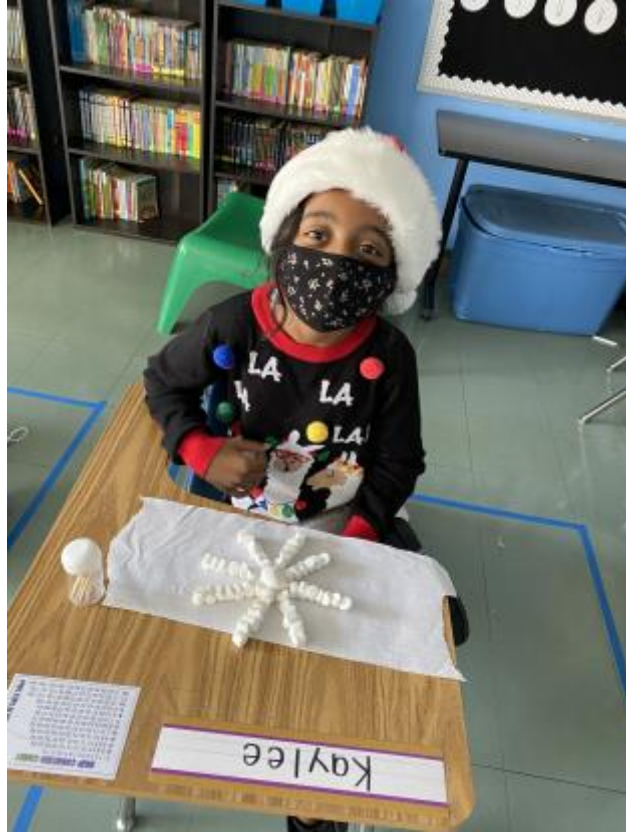
instruction, we aim to grow stronger, challenge our students, and cultivate an open and positive school climate. This challenging time in our nation has helped to illuminate the insurmountable work our teachers do each and every day. They plan lessons, deliver instruction, and track student progress all while nurturing and supporting our children at a time they need it most. From last spring through now, our achievements would not be possible without our families – their involvement in their child(ren)'s education has enabled us to overcome the way this global pandemic has challenged our daily efforts.

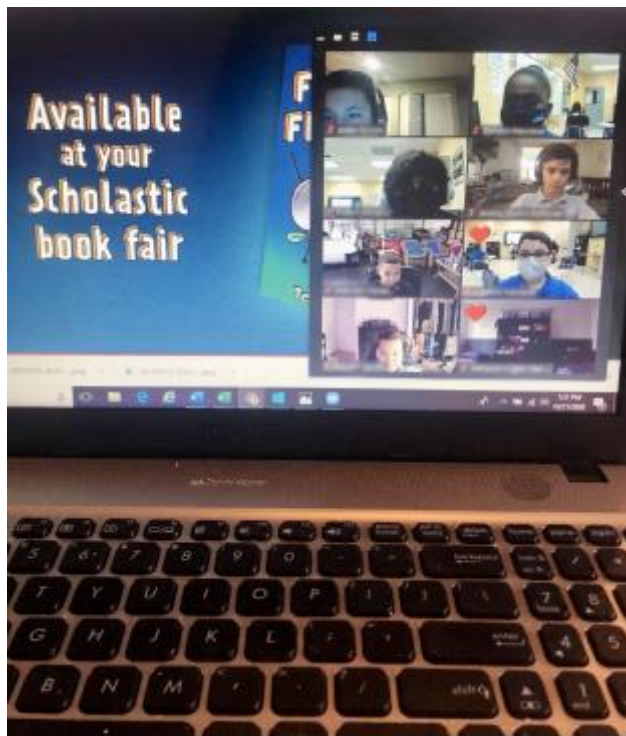
In fact, what further invigorates our educational program revolves around our programming, even online. Some highlights include our:

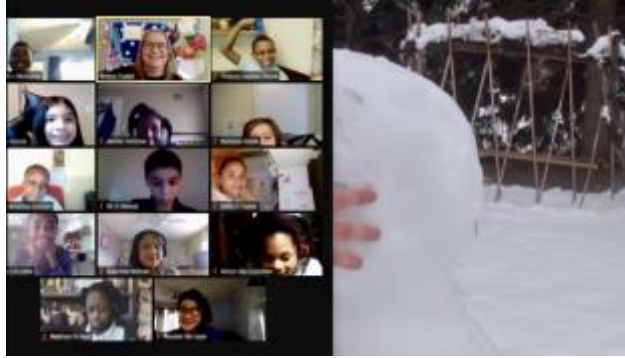
- Spirit Week,
- Story Time with Administration,
- Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Ceremonies,
- Take your Parent to School Day,
- Israel Bee,
- Drive-By Meet & Greet,
- Bingo Night,
- and more.

Finally, we are thrilled to be spotlighted for Broward County's Title I, Migrant Education and Special Programs' newsletter. At the core of our little haven of learning is family so our overarching mission perfectly aligns with Title I's emphasis on parent engagement.









## *Peace and Kindness is Alive and Well at Stirling Elementary School*

Around Stirling Elementary, the third week of September always brings us together to celebrate PEACE and KINDNESS. Although our learning environment may look a little different this year, peace and kindness still permeate our school community. In order to help our students transition into the school year, our faculty and staff decided to continue our previous year's theme of Choosing Kindness.

Thanks to Title One we were able to purchase the Interactive Read-Aloud sets from Fountas and Pinnell for every grade level. These classroom sets contain collections of texts organized into text sets that reflect a global perspective with a diversity of characters, settings, themes and topics. During Peace Week, our faculty read about the importance of kindness and showing empathy with titles such as "Enemy Pie" by Derek Munson, "Under the Lemon Moon" by Edith Hope Fine and "The Boy and the Whale" by Mordicai Gerstein. Our teachers are looking forward to the day that our children return in person and can revisit these books.



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