



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – January

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**

Meetings from late December through mid-January follow.

I am continuing to meet with school leadership teams in school budget carousels in preparation of the FY18 school budget process. It is an opportunity for me to meet with each school leader, school support teacher and parent coordinator to learn more about each school's progress over the past year. It has been an enlightening and productive experience.

In mid-December, I met with Andre Ellis. We discussed how more parents and community organizations can get involved with Lafollette school and the Boys and Men of Color programs.

I had a lot of fun taping a promotion for the upcoming *City Review 2017*. The BMO Harris Bradley Center will host the event and Gruber Law Offices and Voya are the major sponsors. All members of the MPS family and the community are encouraged to attend!



United Way's closing reception took place in December. It's exciting to report that our goal was met and exceeded! Thank you to all of the generous MPS employees and members of the Board who helped us raise \$237,485. This exceeded our goal of \$225,000! MPS also participated in United Way's Seasons of Caring. Together we clocked 21,124 hours of volunteerism, which was above and beyond our goal of 16,750, and included a classroom activity at 28 MPS elementary schools.

I met with members of the Milwaukee delegation and State Superintendent Tony Evers to discuss the ESSA and ongoing efforts within MPS.

The Milwaukee Art Museum held their Winter Art and Music Fest in December. The Milwaukee High School of the Arts Paganini Quartet, Reagan IB High School Chamber Choir, and Rufus King's Gospel Choir performed.

My team and I met in early January to discuss the efforts of a group of African-American leaders in Milwaukee who want to raise funds to send 10,000 of our students to the movie *Hidden Figures*. A \$10,000 donation has already been made, and the MPS Foundation is taking the lead on plans to raise the remainder needed. It is a wonderful opportunity and I know we will make it happen. We are collaborating with Marcus and the Boys & Girls Club and developing curriculum connections that are aligned to our grade level standards.



I attended the second Milwaukee American Heart Executive Leadership Team (ELT) meeting. Peter Feigin is chairing the team. We are planning an exciting event, a Heart Walk in high schools on a Friday evening in April. We are looking for one high school to promote a heart walk onsite at their schools campus so the students can raise dollars for the Heart Association while learning more about living a heart healthy lifestyle. Funds raised will support groundbreaking research and life-changing educational and preventative programs.

The M3 Executive Sponsor and Oversight Committee continues to meet to guide the work on behalf of students to increase FAFSA completion, boost high school graduation rates, prepare more MPS graduates to succeed in college and engage the student voice and commit to equity/inclusion for all students. M3, the partnership between Milwaukee's three largest public education institutions (MPS, MATC and UWM), is working to drive economic growth in the city by defining and strengthening a clear, affordable, effective educational pipeline for the community's youth. The leaders of these three institutions also sit on the Bradley Tech Commission.



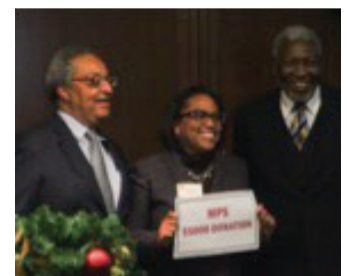
Recently appointed president of Alverno College, Dr. Andrea Lee, met with me to gain an understanding of the MPS vision, challenges and opportunities.

## Awards/Recognition/Announcements



**Gina Bianchi, Milwaukee French Immersion School Principal**, was officially recognized as *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*—Knight in the Order of Academic Palms. The honor was conferred by Denis Quenelle, Cultural Attaché to the French Consulate. The Order of Academic Palms is a national order of France for distinguished academics and figures in the world of culture and education. It was established in 1808 by Emperor Napoleon to honor persons who make major contributions to the expansion of French language and culture. In Bianchi's nomination, she was credited for her passion for French language and culture and her passion for teaching, along with her near-flawless spoken French. The award recognized Bianchi's energy and commitment to her students—children who would not otherwise be exposed to French language and culture.

**Marvin Pratt Elementary School** was awarded a \$5,000 grant from MKE Fellows. Realizing a need to support, grow and retain diverse workforce talent in Milwaukee, MKE Fellows was founded by Milwaukee business leaders and philanthropists. The grant will directly impact African American boys and youth and supports MPS' *Eight Big Ideas* to Improve Student Success – Educate the Whole Child initiative.



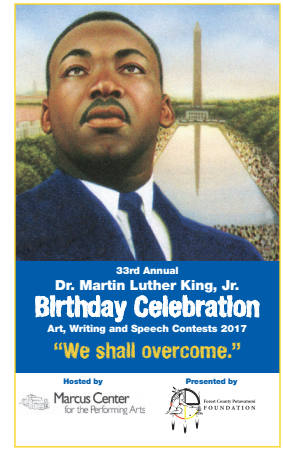
**Zeynab Ali**, a Somali refugee and **Rufus King High School** senior, self-published a book, *"Cataclysm: Secrets of the Horn of Africa."* Part history of Somalia and part personal memoir, her book deals with the traumatic extremes of the modern refugee experience.

Zeynab is active in Safe & Sound and was honored with its annual, *Youth Leader Award* a year ago for her activism for safe communities. Four weeks ago, the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee awarded Zeynab its *Young Adult Leadership* award.



Nearly 40 Milwaukee Public Schools students earned awards in their grade level categories in the **33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech, Art, and Writing contests**. The goal of the speech contest, sponsored by We Energies, is to strengthen reading, writing and public speaking skills of students, and encourage learning and support of the dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's theme was "We Shall Overcome." Students delivered their award-winning speeches and all winners of the speech, writing and art contests were recognized at the 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.



### Art Contest Winners:

Place	Grades	Name	School
1	2	Bryssleidy Santos	Vieau Elementary School
2	2	Elda Castillo	Vieau Elementary School
3	2	Tatiana Nydahl	Vieau Elementary School
1	4-5	Aniyah Bean-Hinton	Elm Creative Arts School
2	5	Alana Sanchez	Alcott School
3	5	Michaela Peters	Alcott School
1	8	Leader De	Story School
2	8	Kylie Bowen	Milwaukee School of Languages
3	8	Alexa Serrano	Wedgewood Park School
1	12	Brian Jameson Jr	Milwaukee High School of the Arts
2	12	Sheyenne Wilson	Milwaukee High School of the Arts
3	12	Grace Williams	Milwaukee School of Languages

### Speech Contest Winners:

Place	Grades	Name	School
1	K-2	Imajyne Robertson-Hodges	Elm Creative Arts School
2	K-2	Matthew Pitts	Hawthorne Elementary
3	K-2	Praise Ayodabo	Eastbrook Academy
1	3-4	Maurice Willis	Dr. Martin Luther King School
2	3-4	Benji Johnston	Eastbrook Academy
3	3-4	Jordan Cameron	Hawthorne Elementary
1	5-6	Terynn Erby-Walker	Golda Meir Upper Campus
2	5-6	Xavier Smith	Oriole Lane School
3	5-6	Samara Summers	Trowbridge Street Elementary
1	7-8	Amillia Bell	Golda Meir Upper Campus
2	7-8	Angela Gorton	Cooper School
3	7-8	Elijah Anumolu	Home School
1	9-10	Ameen Atta	Salam High School
2	9-10	Ariana Cawthorn	Eastbrook Academy
3	9-10	Malee Lor	Hmong American Peace Academy

1	11–12	Maranda Brown	Eastbrook Academy
2	11–12	Biluge Ntabala	Milwaukee High School of the Arts
3	11–12	Daniel Montalvo	Reagan International Baccalaureate

### Writing Contest Winners:

**Grades K–1 Group Writing Contest Project Winner:** Burbank, Grade 1, Room 165, *Teacher:* Christine Sylvester; *Students:* Adon Adricula, Eh B Aye, Gabriel Brito, Arianna Erkins, Lamurreion Hoover, Shanna Lee, Elias Maresch-Vonachen, Jonathan Martinez-Gallob, Alexander Oo, Sehdari Powers, Malia Robinson, Angel Rodriguez, Labriyah Rollins, Ummur P Shamsul Haque, Kandyce Vang and Kaedyn Wilson-Genous

Place	Grades	Name	School
1	2–3	Lydia Fleisher	La Escuela Fratney
2	2–3	Mairyn Leon Albiter	Academy of Accelerated Learning
3	2–3	Gracelyn Domino-Brown	La Escuela Fratney
1	4–5	Nikiyah McGee Williams	Ralph Waldo Emerson
2	4–5	Naseer Hussaini	Salam
3	4–5	Rhiona Cook	Clement Avenue
1	6	Janine Qoraan	Salam
2	6	Lucas Swanson	Golda Meir
3	6	Sandra Park	Keefe
1	7–8	Mia Monte	Victory
2	7–8	Israa El Shakra	Victory
3	7–8	Daisy Kiekhofer	Golda Meir
1	9–10	Aye Moh	Hmong American Peace Academy
2	9–10	Maisue Vue	Hmong American Peace Academy
3	9–10	Layal Khreis	Salam
1	11–12	Yasmeen Atta	Salam
2	11–12	Quanteesia Hart	Riverside University High School
3	11–12	Samantha Miller	Ronald Reagan College Prep

**Kohl's** and Associate volunteers made a surprise visit to gift \$50,000 in AdoptAClassroom.org gift cards to Milwaukee Public Schools teachers to help them check off their classroom wish lists this holiday season. The gift cards will help **Whitman** school teachers fund classroom essentials they might otherwise purchase with money from their own pockets. From art supplies to notebooks, pencils and even clothing for students, the donation will allow teachers to select the most needed items for their classrooms to ensure their students have everything they need to be successful in the classroom.

Kohl's also surprised **Ben Franklin, Humboldt Park, Project STAY, New School for Community Service,** and **Kilbourn,** giving away a total of more than \$50,000 to teachers.



Author James Patterson, in conjunction with Scholastic, Inc., recently announced the winners of his 2016 School Library Grants. Patterson committed \$1.75 million of his personal funds to support school libraries and promote a love of reading among children. Two MPS schools will each receive an award for improvements in their school libraries—**Gaenslen** will receive \$5,000 and **Kagel** will receive \$4,000. Scholastic will match the cash awards with its own book points so each library can order new books for its shelves.

**Gaenslen School** will use its grant to construct a 256-square-foot “reading forest” in its library. The centerpiece of the forest will be a 10-foot sugar maple tree that children can sit in and around while reading. Local artists, in collaboration with Arts @ Large, will create a tactile forest environment that will invite students to use all their senses as they physically enter a space dedicated to exploration through reading. Gaenslen, which is specially equipped to support children with special needs such as autism, low vision, blindness, and exposure to trauma, proposed the forest as a means to fully immerse children with disabilities in a stimulating literacy environment.

**Kagel School** has proposed extended library hours for parents during its after-school program. Extended hours would allow families more time to read and borrow books and have computer access. To stimulate participation, the grant from James Patterson will fund a library makeover, replacing outdated furniture, rugs and earth tones with comfortable seating and workspaces in cheerful colors. Staff at Kagel will encourage parents to use the library to help their children with homework and select books for their personal reading. Kagel also received a \$1,000 grant from the National Education Association’s Read Across America program to purchase new books.



## Events/Programs

The Hilton Milwaukee City Center has “adopted” **Kagel School** through Milwaukee Public Schools’ Adopt-A-School program. The partnership with the Hilton officially began at the start of the 2016–17 school year, but the seeds were sown when the general manager of the hotel volunteered at the school the previous year.

Hilton has donated school supplies and backpacks, and many employees volunteer to tutor and mentor students. At Christmas, the Miller Time Pub and Grill, collected warm sweaters for students. The hotel’s executive pastry chef also made and hand-decorated 300 cookies to give away at the school’s holiday party.



Over 3,200 Milwaukee Public School elementary school students at 28 different schools participated in a volunteer project through United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County’s Season of Caring. The volunteer project consisted of a one-hour classroom activity. The goal for this event is to educate children about the importance of caring for and sharing with others, both inside and outside the classroom through a literacy lesson and hands-on-activity; to engage students in an age appropriate reading and story comprehension activity and inspire interactive conversation about the related topics; and to offer students an easy but meaningful volunteer activity that they can complete inside the classroom.



United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County is supplying a book for the children that highlights the importance of caring and sharing. The book will be read aloud by the teachers with a corresponding activity that highlights the key messages of caring and sharing. Students will then complete a volunteer

activity — making and coloring birthday cards, get-well cards, and meal program placements, which will be distributed to United Way’s local agency partners.