

# CONNECTION

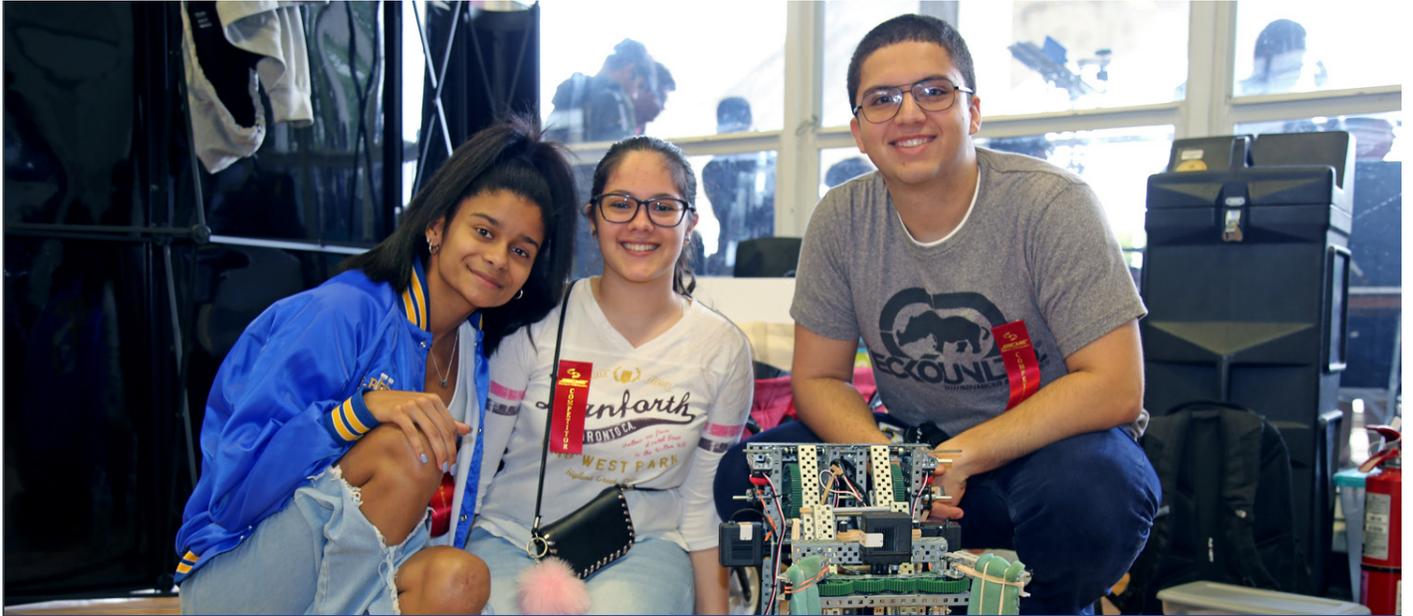
A NEWSLETTER FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS

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- Florida Prepaid College Plans
- A Parent Guide to the Novel Coronavirus

February 2020

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More than 25,000 participants gathered at the STEAM Expo to challenge their creativity, ingenuity & problem-solving skills.

## VANESSA M. VALLE NAMED M-DCPS TEACHER OF THE YEAR, KALYN LEE ROOKIE TEACHER



Vanessa M. Valle, an English Language Arts teacher at Hialeah Gardens Senior High School, has been named the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year. Valle has been teaching at Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 15 years, and much like her school's mascot, considers herself a gladiator willing to fight towards making student dreams

become a reality. She says that 75 percent of her work as a teacher is challenging students to believe in themselves; the other 25 percent is implementing active learning practices for content acquisition. This philosophy, along with heart, perseverance and dedication has allowed her to create an enjoyable and engaging atmosphere where students are transformed. A deeply

committed advocate for young people, Valle is a mentor and sponsor of the Take Stock in Children program and the "Real Talk" mental health support group at her school. She spearheaded the inception of the very first National Academies Foundation Law Academy in the nation and has worked tirelessly to bring a campus courtroom to her school.

The runner-up is Stephen M. Pereira Jr. from School for Advanced Studies – Wolfson Campus.

Kalyn Lee, a teacher at Miami Carol City Senior High School, is the 2020 Rookie Teacher of the Year and Alexander Chumbley from MAST @ Homestead is the runner-up.

# M-DCPS HONORS MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS VICTIMS WITH DAY OF LOVE AND KINDNESS



To commemorate the second anniversary of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) joined its neighbors in Broward, as well as school districts across the country, in honoring the 17 victims who lost their lives on that fateful day. The entire district observed a moment of silence at 10:17 a.m. on Friday, February 14.

M-DCPS' Values Matter Miami Initiative will focus on kindness

during this month and all schools were asked to promote "Love and Kindness Day" on Valentine's Day. Activities included a Kindness Corner, a Be Kind Scavenger Hunt, a Kindness Chain, and a Kindness Tree.

In addition, the District's Department of Mental Health Services provided each school with resources and services that support mental wellness efforts.

## PARENT E-TIPS

### Primary:

**Make Reading a Social Activity**

<http://bit.ly/39cBN1u>

### Secondary:

**Learning is About More Than Grades**

<http://bit.ly/2SrXrYC>

## IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

**March 23 – 27**

Spring Recess

## FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PLANS



It's never too early to save for college. In fact, the earlier a family begins saving, the lower the cost per month. We want to make sure you know about an affordable, flexible option for college savings that is guaranteed by the State of Florida,

and has already helped more than 500,000 students attend college. Florida Prepaid College Plans offers prepaid tuition plans for a variety of budgets during Open Enrollment, which runs through April 30, 2020. You can lock in tomorrow's tuition

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**March 11**

10 a.m.

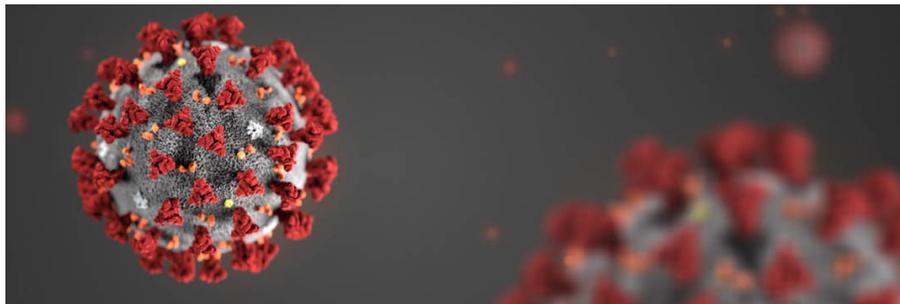
Instructional Material Public Hearing

**March 18**

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting

costs with guaranteed plans starting at \$44 per month, the lowest pricing in five years. Enroll today at [myfloridaprepaid.com](http://myfloridaprepaid.com)!



guardians are encouraged to keep children home when sick.

According to the CDC, proper handwashing with soap and water is one of the best ways to prevent illness. Demonstrate proper handwashing for 20 seconds and have your child visit <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html> to watch a video on proper handwashing. Demonstrate to your child how to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. They should throw the tissue away after use and wash their hands. If a tissue is not available, THEY SHOULD NOT USE THEIR HANDS. They should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve. Children should avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth as germs spread this way. If possible, avoid people who are sick and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces or objects.

For additional questions or concerns regarding the 2019-nCoV, parents/guardians can call 311.

Due to increased concern in the community about the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Miami-Dade County Public Schools wants to ensure that parents/guardians have the correct information about the virus, how to protect yourself and your child, and what to do if you suspect a possible case. The 2019-nCoV is a new respiratory virus originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province China. It is being closely monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Reported illnesses of 2019-nCoV have ranged from infected individuals with little or no symptoms to individuals who are severely ill and dying. Public health officials are unclear as to how 2019-nCoV spreads from person to person.

The symptoms include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty

breathing. Having these symptoms alone does not mean that someone has the virus. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. According to the CDC, the greatest risk of infection is for individuals who have traveled to Wuhan China. These symptoms mimic flu-like symptoms and there are currently no specific treatments for 2019-nCoV. However, preventive measures for the 2019-nCoV are similar to other respiratory viruses such as the flu. Flu symptoms can include a cough, sore throat, fever, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills, feeling tired and may include vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with the flu may not experience all these symptoms. If your child has these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately. Don't wait for symptoms to worsen! Parents/

## SOCIAL MEDIA



@MDCPS  
@EscuelasMDCPS  
@MiamiSup



@MiamiSchools  
@AlbertoMCarvalho1



@MiamiSchools  
@MiamiSup



@MiamiSchools



[www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)

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