

VOL. 6 2021



SPRING ISSUE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ALLIANCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



LITERACY, MENTORSHIP, AND CULTURE COMMITMENT

BY BRITHNEY JOHNSON

Its Springtime -- over a year since we embarked on a new and uncertain frontier of education together. However, the CEA assures you we are still as committed as ever before. As our online presence continues to expand, we encourage you to stay engaged with us as we interact with our CEA schools and community, providing virtual literacy, mentorship and cultural experiences for our youth. Be sure to follow, like and share our social media CEA literacy series read alongs and activities, Kidz Korner online Sunday School lessons and so much more to ensure your child and children in our community stay connected!

LITERACY MENTORSHIP CULTURE

The official newsletter of the
Community Education Alliance

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VOLUNTEER WITH THE CEA

LITERACY BUDDIES

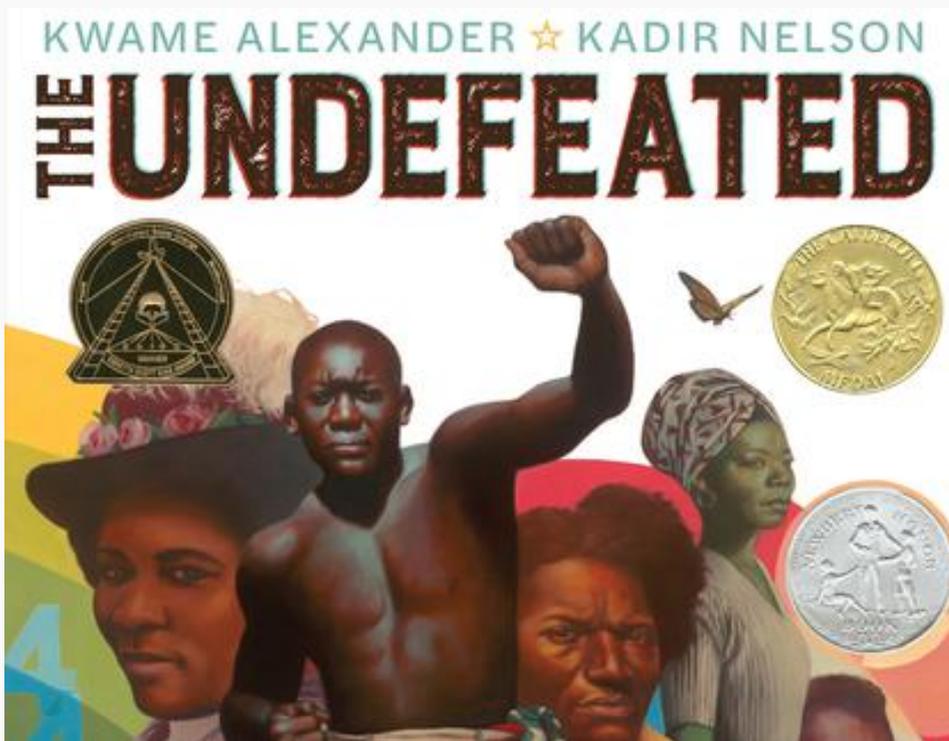
Literacy Buddies provide literacy interventions to students to support classroom curriculum.

MENTORING PALS

Mentoring Pals support social and emotional competencies through consistent mentorship and volunteerism both in the classroom and during after school activities.

FRIENDS OF CULTURE

Friends of Culture provide support for cultural immersion experiences throughout the school year.



CEA WINS BIG WITH WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

February 2021

For the month of February, the CEA kicked off Black History Month participating in World Read Aloud Day. Through this initiative, the CEA joined millions around the globe to celebrate the

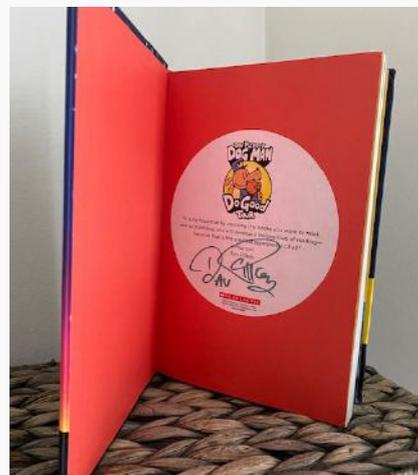
power of reading aloud. World Read Aloud Day is held annually on the first Wednesday of every February. A virtual read aloud of the book "Undeclared" by Kwame Alexander was posted on both the CEA Instagram and Facebook pages. The CEA was also recognized for its Instagram World Read aloud video post and was selected from thousands of posts around the world as a winner of the Lit World (international organizers of World Read Aloud Day) book giveaway using the hashtags #DogmanGiveaway and #WorldReadAloudDay! An autographed copy of the book, "Dogman: Grime and Punishment" by Dav Pilkey was gifted to one of our extremely engaged social media students for their participation in the March literacy-inspired social media challenge.

Dav Pilkey's wildly popular Dog Man series appeals to readers of all ages and explores universally positive themes, including empathy, kindness, persistence, and the importance of being true to one's self. It is a comedic graphic novel series that includes ten books, the first released in 2016 and the latest in 2021.

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."

- MAYA ANGELOU

APRIL 2021



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CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE

In February, in collaboration with one of its major community partners, Positivity Pays, the CEA published the first edition of "GRACE Magazine." The acronym "GRACE" stands for "God's Riches at Christ's Expense and in each issue, readers will find all the riches of community, culture and celebration. The magazine is designed to provide a broader exhibit of the CEA activities as well as bridge the gap between other small businesses in the community.



The very first issue honored Pastor Marcus D. Davidson and First Lady Yvokia Davidson of New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. It highlighted the celebration of their 11th Pastoral Anniversary as well as the extraordinary

philanthropic accomplishments they've achieved in just a decade of leadership. Further paying homage to Black excellence in the community, GRACE magazine also featured the Westside Gazette, as they've reached 50 years as Broward's oldest and largest Black-owned newspaper.

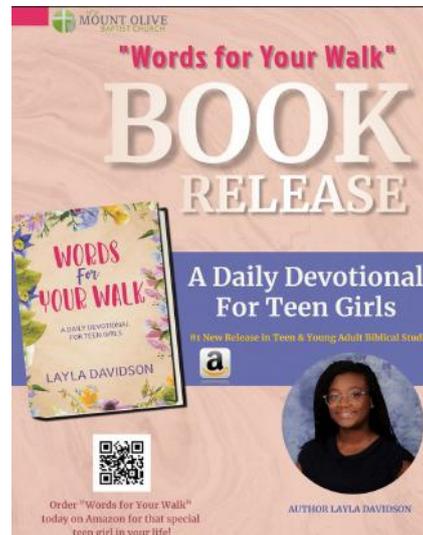
To read more about the people, places, and programs that have had a profound impact in our community, visit www.positivitypays.com. You may also request an electronic copy, information on how to purchase an ad or feature your business, program, or upcoming event in the Spring/Summer issue by emailing gracemagazinesfl@gmail.com. Copies of GRACE Magazine are available at many local businesses and organizations throughout Broward. Don't miss the opportunity to "GRACE" the pages of this phenomenal collaborative community publication!



CEA Youth in Literacy

"WORDS FOR YOUR WALK" BY LAYLA DAVIDSON

The CEA is extremely proud to feature the remarkable accomplishments of one of our community's stand-out "Youth in LITERACY," Layla Davidson. As the daughter of South Florida's power couple and New Mount Olive Baptist Church's First Family, Pastor Marcus Davidson and Yvokia Davidson, Layla has begun to make a name for herself with her exceptional work. With the release of her debut daily devotional book for teenaged girls, "Words for Your Walk," teen author Layla Davidson captures the #1 spot for new releases on Amazon in her first week. Not to mention, within 24 hours, she also became a best-selling author, making her one of the youngest best-selling authors in multiple categories!



"Words for Your Walk" relates the Word of God to a wide range of topics including toxic relationships, body image, and anxiety in a way that is easy to understand and apply. This daily devotional is a teenage girl's guide to tackling challenges with the wisdom and comfort of the Bible. Navigating the pressures of creating a perfect persona for acceptance or the desire to maintain unhealthy competition in this social media era can feel overwhelming at times. These quick and easy-to-read devotionals will assist with obstacles in a quest to become the best version of yourself - a version that would absolutely be pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God. This book provides direction and an unshakable foundation to live a productive, happy God-fearing life.

"Words for Your Walk" is currently only available on Amazon.com. Thanks for your support!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YA!

CEA CELEBRATES ITS 1 YEAR SOCIAL MEDIA ANNIVERSARY

In March, the CEA celebrated one year of social media presence on both Instagram and Facebook. Last year on March 5, 2020, to expand it's presence in the community and coincidentally, at the prelude of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CEA shared its first social media post. The first post introduced the Literacy, Mentorship, and Culture driven non-profit and the various accomplishments attained since the 2019 summer restructuring.

By March 29th, the CEA incorporated its Kidz Korner weekly Bible lessons and #WednesdayWitness follow up sessions. Since then, several other social media initiatives have taken place with up to 10K views for the most popular posts (during our Summer Reading Challenge). In just a little over a year, the CEA has hosted a Teacher Appreciation Week, Summer Reading Challenge, STEM Rocket Launching Camp and much more.

With the success of various social media driven challenges, literacy and cultural activities, the CEA is excited to enhance its innovative and engaging progressive pillar initiatives. Stay tuned for our upcoming summer programming, Senior spotlights, New Mount Olive Baptist Church youth collaborations, and Back to School events.

Have you joined our social media following? The CEA is full speed ahead with both its Instagram and Facebook pages! Follow, like and share the CEA social media pages and stay tuned for virtual enrichment and community service initiatives geared to both students in our CEA schools and in the community!

Follow the CEA:



@communityeducationalliance



@CEA.communityeducationalliance



KIDZ KORNER

Since the implementation of distance learning and virtual worship, the CEA has remained committed to providing weekly Kidz Korner virtual Sunday School lessons, follow up sessions and activities to engage our NMOBC and community youth. Through both our Instagram and Facebook social media pages, students and parents can access mini Bible videos and follow up questions from the lesson every Sunday following the NMOBC 9 am worship service.

Each Sunday Bible lesson includes an interactive activity that is followed up during the CEA #WednesdayWITNESS session. The Wednesday follow up reviews Sunday's lesson and any questions or activities. Additionally, every Sunday, students and parents receive a text and social media post reminder to join a live Zoom session of the virtual Kidz Korner lesson at 2 pm. This session supports the virtual lesson as it teaches the lesson and engages students from the church and the community.

Be sure to tune in every Sunday Morning and Wednesday afternoon for our online #KidzKorner and #WednesdayWITNESS as we provide virtual contributions to the NMOBC "Year of Transformation: Transformed through Witnessing."





CEA GIVES BACK

OLD DILLARD MUSEUM EASTER BASKET GIVEAWAY

This Spring, the CEA was proud to partner with the Old Dillard Museum and a number of organizations to provide Easter Baskets for students at Walker Elementary, Red School House, and other families and children in our community. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, the NMOBC Young Adult Ministry, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and generous sponsors, the CEA donated baskets to help serve over 200 students in the neighboring community of Old Dillard Museum.

Students, school staff and parents showed immense gratitude as they stopped by the Old Dillard Museum to choose from an array of Easter baskets filled with treats, toys, and educational materials for infants to teens.

For the inaugural event that took place Thursday, April 1st, students from neighboring schools received baskets as they walked up to a table prepared specifically to serve them. Walker Elementary School families utilized the designated drive-thru during Pre-K afternoon pickup. Additionally, a walk-up area was organized for neighborhood families to walk or drive up and select a basket for their children. Students enjoyed baskets filled with goodies of their favorite characters, sports teams, snacks, activities, and even beautiful handmade gifts from contributors.

It was an honor to collaborate with Old Dillard Museum and other community partners while continuing to serve families this Easter!

CREATE AND CELEBRATE A NATION OF DIVERSE READERS

READ ACROSS AMERICA - "DR. SEUSS WEEK"

Each year, Read Across America Week is celebrated the first week of March. It is the largest celebration of reading, focusing on motivating children and teens to read through events such as "Dr. Seuss Week" and other reading celebrations and literary resources.

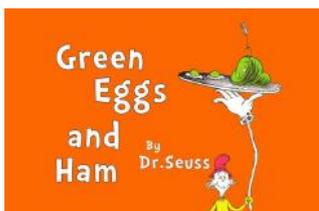
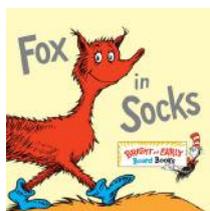
During the week of March 1-5, the CEA launched its social media driven "Dr. Seuss Week,"

honoring the famous children's book author and providing innovative ways to read and enjoy his most notable books.

Each day, the CEA posted creative hands-on activities including arts and crafts and deliciously fun recipes taken from the pages of Dr. Seuss books including "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Cat in the Hat."

Students participated online by posting their very own Dr. Seuss book inspired crafts, "Wacky Wednesday" tongue twister challenge, and even shared photos in their silliest socks.

This was a highly engaging week of events with participants from various ages, grades, and schools throughout our community!



“

SO...

BE YOUR NAME BUXBAUM OR
BIXBY OR BRAY
OR MORDECAI ALI VAN ALLEN
O'SHEA,
YOU'RE OFF TO GREAT PLACES!
TODAY IS YOUR DAY!
YOUR MOUNTAIN IS WAITING.
SO...GET ON YOUR WAY!

- OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

RISE, SHINE, AND SING!

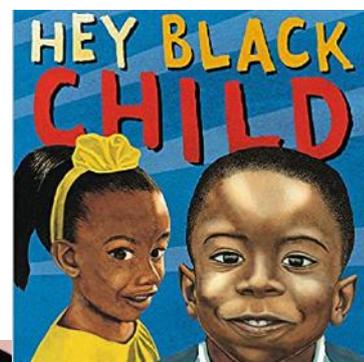
This April, the CEA closed out the 2nd quarter with a monthlong tribute to the art of poetry during National Poetry Month. National Poetry Month is a celebration of poetry which takes place each April. It was introduced in 1996 and is organized by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States.

The celebration commenced with an ode to author and poet, Maya Angelou, who's birthday took place at the beginning of April. The CEA also shared a video of Inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, reading her

poem, "Talking Gets Us There."

The second week of April featured an overview of the traditional Japanese poet form, haiku with poems by Richard Wright and Sonia Sanchez. The CEA also commemorated Earth Day (April 17th) with poetry illustrating the beauty of Mother Earth, nature, and seasons with poems by Langston Hughes, Lucille Clifton and Nikki Giovanni. Online participants were encouraged to share illustrations created to represent each poem.

As a final contribution to our Nation Poetry Month initiative, Inspirational Poetry; poetry that inspired other works of art such as the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was shared. This pivotal poet in history went on to become the Black National Anthem 30 years after being written. Finally, a video presentation of CEA students from our schools and virtual community reciting "Hey Black Child" was presented to further inspire our youth to express themselves through poetry, art and other literary works.



TESTING, TESTING, 1...2...3!

FSA TESTING 2021

With the emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020, Broward Schools was faced with the cancellation of the Florida Standardized Assessment (FSA) for all students. This school year, with Broward School safety protocols in place, including hybrid learning and socially distanced classroom setup, schools were able to plan and prepare students for this year's FSA testing season. In support of student success in not only testing, but overall academic achievement, the CEA featured a book from one of its local children's book authors, Dr. Sherrie Poitier-Liscombe to send some testing encouragement to students.

"The Adventures of Sherrie and Chubbie: School is Cool...Attendance Matters," was featured on the CEA social media pages promoting how the virtue of pursuing education as a key component to success. This book stresses the importance of attendance and how it impacts achievement not only on class work, but on standardized tests.

You can find "The Adventures of Sherrie and Chubbie: School is Cool...Attendance Matters" on www.Amazon.com.



2020-2021 CEA SCHOOLS:

-  Dillard High School 6-12
-  Parkway Middle School
-  Sunland Park Academy
-  Walker Elementary
-  William Dandy Middle
-  Banyan Elementary

CEA QUARTER 2 ACTIVITIES:



- **COMING SOON:** CEA & Positivity Pays publication: **GRACE** Magazine Spring/Summer Issue!
- **ONGOING ONLINE ACTIVITIES:**
[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/communityeducationalliance)
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/communityeducationalliance)
[@CEA.communityeducationalliance](https://www.ceainfo.net)
- **"LIT! KID SUMMER":** Summer 2021 Literacy, Mentorship & Culture



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**THE CEA THANKS YOU FOR YOUR
PARTNERSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, DONATIONS
AND SUPPORT!**

