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# WINTER ISSUE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ALLIANCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## LITERACY, MENTORSHIP, AND CULTURE 2.1

BY BRITHNEY JOHNSON

Happy New Year! The CEA is extremely grateful to have made it through one of the most eventful years in recent history, and would like to extend a note of gratitude for your continued support in providing outstanding LITERACY, MENTORSHIP and CULTURAL experiences for the youth in our community! Our impact in 2020 has been a cumulative outcome of the efforts of every individual who has dedicated their time, resources, and participation in the classroom, the community and online. It is our goal that our 2021 ventures will include you and your continued commitment to serving our CEA students and families. Take a look inside this issue to see how you made an impact in 2020 (pg. 6)!

# 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 PARTNERS WITH NMOBC FOR CHRISTMAS FOR THE COMMUNITY TOY DRIVE

During the 2020 Holiday season, the CEA was proud to partner with the New Mount Olive Baptist Church (NMOBC) and a number of nonprofit organizations including the Haslem Children's Foundation, Simply Healthcare, and First Baptist Church Fort Lauderdale to provide toys to help families and children in our community. We experienced first hand that each toy donation put a smile on both the parent's and child's face, as well as encouraged their imagination, and helped them hope beyond their current circumstances.

The CEA received a \$2,000 sponsorship to purchase Christmas toys for children ages 0-18, and donated over 500 toys to the NMOBC "Christmas for the Community" holiday event on Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Students and their families throughout Broward County participated in this drive through toy distribution with hundreds of cars wrapping the NMOBC parking lot. The line even stretched for several blocks throughout the neighborhood! Toys were categorized by infant, youth, and teen categories to ensure each child received an unwrapped gift they could enjoy. Additionally, backpacks were distributed to school aged children to help prepare students for the start of the 2021 semester.

The "Christmas for the Community" event provided over 2,000 toys and served hundreds of families in 2020. The CEA is honored to collaborate with NMOBC and other community partners each year and serve thousands of families through charitable events.

## CEA GIVES BACK



### WALKER ELEMENTARY TOY DONATIONS

As a "Giving Tuesday" initiative, the CEA reached out to its network of over 100 volunteers and community partners to ask for donations of "at least 150 toys to donate to the Walker Elementary Christmas Store to help ensure students are provided at least one Christmas gift prior to leaving for the end of the year Christmas break." That call was definitely answered (and then some), with monetary sponsorships and donations of over 300 toys!

Our dedicated CEA volunteers dropped off hundreds of toys to NMOBC for two weeks leading up to the opening of the on-campus Christmas store. Our partner, Haliczer, Pettis and Schwamm donated a bin full of toys collected at their firm, and the CEA received monetary donations from the Haslem Children's Foundation and the CEI Staffing to purchase and donate toys as well.

With the total amount of donations from the CEA and other organizations in the community, Walker Elementary was able to provide toys to **EVERY** student enrolled at the school this Christmas!



## CEA HONORS

### \$200 CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE

Through its "CEA Honors" initiative, the CEA recognized an outstanding student at each CEA school who displayed academic excellence through the end of 2020. The selection of students at each school was based on both achievements and improvements in the academic year. This included awarding students who made honor roll during the first grading period, maintained perfect attendance, achieved learning gains on literacy and math, or even showed perseverance through the adversity of virtual learning and the impact of the pandemic.



A charitable donation of \$1,200 helped the CEA to provide one honor roll/most improved student from each of our 6 CEA schools a Christmas shopping spree with a \$200 Walmart gift card! Students and their families were invited to the "Christmas for the Community" event at NMOBC and presented the award.





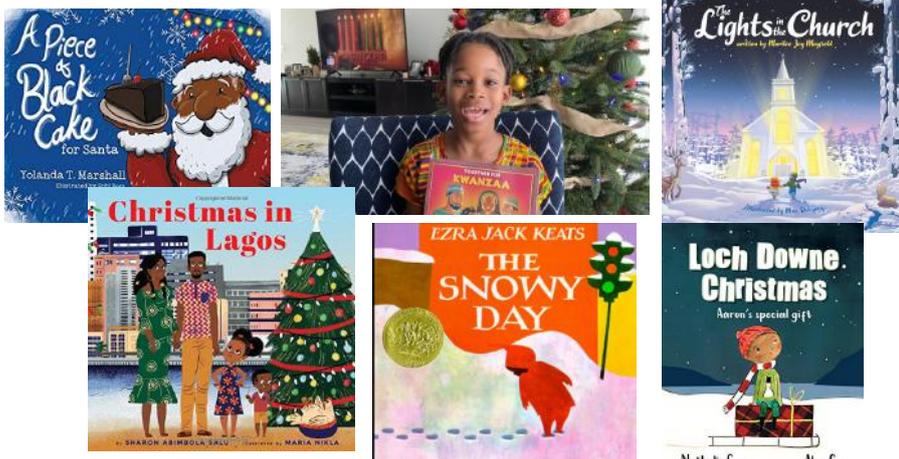
# VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

12 DAYS OF READING AND GIVEAWAYS

At the beginning of December, with the holidays approaching, the CEA launched a 12-day social media Christmas themed read along, book review and giveaway to engage its online community. This initiative, "12 Books of Christmas," was a celebration of literacy through Christmas stories, poems, and traditions. Every weekday, from December 9th through Christmas Eve, the CEA posted stories celebrating winter, holiday traditions, and the true meaning of Christmas!

Online participants tagged and/or posted photos of themselves partaking in a traditional Christmas meal, their Christmas lists for Santa, and even an ugly Christmas sweater. Daily winners were selected and received their very own copy of one of the 12 books as a prize for their engagement. Local and nationally recognized authors and illustrators of the books even participated and shared the virtual read alongs and book reviews with their followers.

The CEA is always excited to provide innovative and engaging progressive pillar initiatives such as literacy and culture to our online community!



## 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."



# 2019/2020 CEA IMPACT

Literacy, Mentorship, and Cultural impact through volunteers, sponsorships, community events, social media engagement, and in-school support.

**3.5K**

3,500 students participated in CEA initiatives in the classroom, in the community, and online

**849**

number of volunteer hours serving students and families in our community

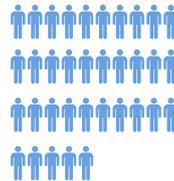
**13.2K**

\$13,250 in charitable donations, grant funding, and sponsorships

**1.2K**

top organic social media post audience

## STUDENTS



## HOURS



## DONATIONS



## ENGAGEMENTS



BE A PART OF THE CEA STORY! Email [bjohnson@ceainfo.net](mailto:bjohnson@ceainfo.net) to sign up.

# THE CEA CELEBRATES "LITERACY WEEK"

JANUARY 25-29, 2021

To kick off 2021, the CEA supported the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) in their efforts to recognize and celebrate literacy for all children. Jan. 25-29, 2021, marked the statewide launch of "Literacy Week" activities and events. This year's theme was "Humanity tells a story: What's YOUR chapter?"

Each day, the CEA provided virtual read alongs and themed posts and prizes on our social media pages. Daily read alongs featured books from local authors as well as books with multicultural characters. Participants from our CEA schools and community were encouraged to join the CEA by reading along, sharing the videos, and participating with the daily themes such as "Read My Shirt" and "Reading Makes your Futures Bright." What did you do to celebrate literacy this year?

**CEA Literacy Week**  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION ALLIANCE

**JANUARY 25-29, 2021**

**MONDAY**  
**READING GIVES YOU SUPERPOWERS:**  
TAG THE CEA IN A PHOTO OF YOU IN A SUPERHERO SHIRT OR CAPE

**TUESDAY**  
**READ MY SHIRT:**  
TAG THE CEA IN A PHOTO OF YOU IN A SHIRT WITH POSITIVE WORDS

**WEDNESDAY**  
**READING MAKES YOUR FUTURES BRIGHT:**  
TAG THE CEA IN A PHOTO OF YOU WEARING COOL SUNGLASSES

**THURSDAY**  
**BE A GOOD SPORT AND READ:**  
TAG THE CEA IN A PHOTO OF YOU IN YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS JERSEY

**FRIDAY**  
**GET LOST IN READING:**  
TAG THE CEA IN A PHOTO OF A DRAWING FROM YOUR FAVORITE BOOK

## CEA ONLINE



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 on Instagram:

**@communityeducationalliance**

Like and Follow the CEA on Facebook:

**"Community Education Alliance"**

## CEA QUARTER 1 ACTIVITIES:



- **CEA BLACK EXCELLENCE:** New CEA/Positivity Pays publication launch: **GRACE** Magazine!
- **CEA MENTORSHIP:** Register to become a mentor to CEA school students at DHS 6-12
- **ONGOING ONLINE ACTIVITIES:**  
[Instagram](#)  
[@communityeducationalliance](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
"Community Education Alliance"

# CALLING ALL MENTORS!!



Dillard High School 6-12 is seeking dedicated volunteers to provide virtual MENTORSHIP to its middle and high school students. Retired teachers, community leaders, business professionals etc. are all encouraged to join our team.

All interested CEA volunteers must complete the volunteer application and receive Level 2\* background screening clearance through BCPS. Returning CEA volunteers with Level 2 clearance must only complete the online application.

You can access the volunteer application here:  
<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NDgyMDplbiTVUw==>

Once cleared through BCPS, select a Dillard High 6-12 and create a schedule that fits your availability!



# GRACE

m a g a z i n e

## 2020-2021 CEA SCHOOLS:

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

