



# THE HUGHES NEWS

LANGSTON HUGHES SCHOOL OF PUBLISHING & FINE ARTS

VOLUME 3  
January 2021

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Happy New Year to all of the Langston Hughes Family. At this time, we still plan to begin in-person instruction at school on March 1, 2021. If this changes, you will receive information on the district's website right away. Please email me at [h.walker@eastorange.k12.nj.us](mailto:h.walker@eastorange.k12.nj.us) if you have any concerns or questions about any school related issue. I check emails at all times, including weekends and holidays. In addition to that, please refer to my statement on page two which references help that has been given to families experiencing severe financial hardships.



Dr. Howard Walker

During the month of January, we honor a very special person. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an inspirational minister who worked very hard to protest and change unfair living conditions for millions of Americans. He consistently preached about the importance of protesting unfair and discriminatory practices in a non-violent way and helped change the country at a crucial time in our history. His extraordinary efforts and achievements led to the establishment of a national Holiday in his name, which is celebrated on the third Monday of January every year. Please find an article about Dr. King on page three of this issue, which I wrote and published in the Hart Herald several years ago.

## STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED

In our December issue, we recognized our 2021 Teacher of the Year and Support Professional of the Year. This month, it is my pleasure to recognize and thank Ms. Daphne Polidor, our Technology Lead Teacher. Ms. Polidor combines a good knowledge of technology with an extraordinary work ethic, which inspires her to help numerous staff members, administrators and parents with technology issues. She willingly comes to school whenever her presence would be helpful and works beyond the contractual workday without being asked to do so. Ms. Polidor managed the loans of devices to over 215 families and keeps a waiting list of families we plan to assist as soon as additional devices arrive in the district. When issues arise with devices, she comes to school to assist parents. Her fellow teachers call on her constantly to assist with technology and always find her willing to help.

One example of Ms. Polidor's work ethic occurred on December 1. I started work on the December issue of the Hughes News at about 6 am on that day, and sent a second draft after 5 pm on the same day, expecting that she would work on that on the following morning. To my surprise, Ms. Polidor sent me the revisions later that evening, and several additional drafts were sent to her. We finally finished work on the issue at about 8 pm!

Ms. Polidor brings an outstanding work ethic to the Hughes Family, which is truly noteworthy. On behalf of that community, this article provides a small token of our appreciation.



Ms. Daphne Polidor

**Happy New Year!**

Dr. Howard Walker

Happy New Year to the entire Langston Hughes Family! The whole world was happy to be finished with 2020, a year that included extraordinary tragedy to so many families in our country and around the globe. If you or members of your family were impacted by tragedy last year, please be aware that we have four counselors on staff who are available to assist your daughters and sons emotionally and academically. We expect to add a new Transition Coach to our staff in the near future who will also serve in this role. If you email me right away, I can arrange for your child to receive emotional support immediately, even before we return to in person learning.

I am also pleased to report that I was able to arrange for some financial assistance to families in need through the Archdiocese of Newark. This is something that was done for Healy families in the past, but since financial needs exploded this year as a result of the corona virus, requests for help also increased dramatically. If you have significant financial needs, please notify me so I can ask that someone from the Diocese contact you to see if they can offer some assistance.

Parents are also encouraged to respond to the survey referenced below so we know whether or not to expect your child(ren) when we return to in-person learning. This information will help us to ensure that students are adequately spaced apart when they return to school in person. Please let us know your plans one way or the other in your response. When schedules are done for in-person learning, please notify me if children in the same household are separated so we can take steps to get them in school together on the same days of the week. Remote /Hybrid Learning survey form: <https://forms.gle/Us1JEJeNWbaAyyqAa6>

Once again, parents are encouraged to contact me via email anytime you have concerns or questions and we wish you a happy, healthy New Year. Please let me know anytime we can be of assistance.

**Peace Month**

Happy New Year, Langston Hughes family. It seems somewhat appropriate that as we transition from the season of “good will and peace on earth to all” that we move into Peace Month, traditionally observed mid-January to mid - February. During Peace Month, educators engage students in activities which allow them to pause and reflect on intentional steps they take to create peace in their “little corner”.

Embedded in Peace Month is No Name Calling Week which is being observed January 18-22, 2021. No Name Calling Week is observed annually and is aimed at involving students in activities to end name calling of all kinds and eliminate bullying.

In former years our school hosted our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr./Peace Month assembly which was the highlight of our Peace Month activities where we focused on the life and work of Dr. King in the promotion of nationwide peace.

While we will not be hosting an assembly this year, I encourage all of our staff and parents to continue to model what peaceful and respectful behavior looks like. Being mindful that “children are great imitators...give them something great to imitate” ([www.verybestquotes.com](http://www.verybestquotes.com)). Have a most productive and rewarding year. Stay safe.

Ms. Carlis Benjamin - School Social Worker/ Anti- Bullying Specialist

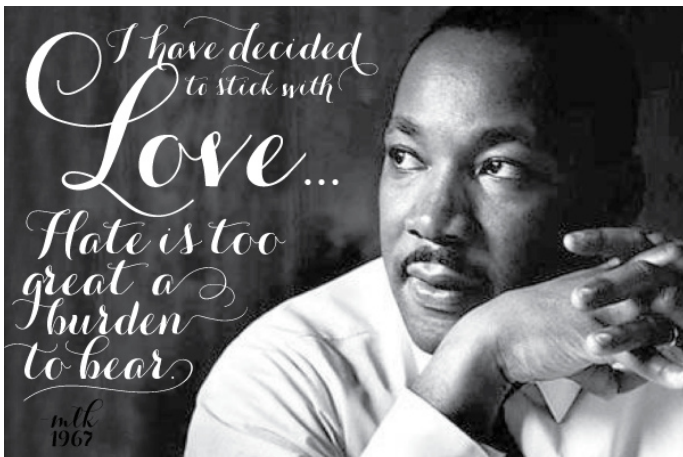
# WHY IS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FAMOUS?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was famous because he changed the course of history. People over 50 years of age (like me) remember Dr. King. Younger citizens learn about Dr. King because he worked tirelessly and sacrificed a great deal to change unjust and harmful laws which were in place in certain parts of the United States so many years ago. He held firmly to principles of non-violence and helped transform a nation without harming or attempting to harm anyone.

Dr. King saw a segregated society and worked with his followers to integrate it. Please remember what both terms mean – a person who believes in segregation thinks all people with different colored skin should live separately from one another. Integration is the mixture of all people. The fact that we have black and white teachers working together in our school to educate you means that we are an integrated school. Dr. King worked very hard to convince people that all of society benefits when everyone works together towards a common goal.

When Rosa Parks was arrested because people who believed in segregation ordered her to move to the back of a bus and she refused, Dr. King could have easily urged his followers to react to this unjust arrest in a violent way. He was too smart to address one unjust action with another unjust action. Instead of calling for violence, Dr. King encouraged all able-bodied people to boycott the buses and walk to wherever they were going. The bus company was punished for their action with significant financial loss.

After awhile, Dr. King's peaceful actions and speeches convinced lawmakers that segregation was wrong. Integration became the law of the land, and Dr. King's role in this was recognized when a national Holiday was declared in his honor by President Ronald Reagan.



This year, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 18, 2021, it is important for all schoolchildren to learn about Dr. King so that you can follow his example and resolve all disputes and injustices peacefully. Treat all people in ways that you would like to be treated. In that way, you can make the dream Dr. King described in 1963 a reality in your life and in the lives of the people around you.

Dr. Howard Walker

## Calling All Fifth Grade Students

Fifth grade students have been afforded the opportunity to apply to and audition for our three very competitive middle schools. Cicely L. Tyson Middle School and Whitney Houston Academy offer programs in the area of performing arts, including vocal music, instrumental music, dance, theater, fine arts and animation. STEM Academy offers programs specific to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. STEM has been ranked as a "Top 100 Best School" in New Jersey, and is listed as one of U.S. News Reports "Best Schools in the Nation." STEM is a New Jersey Certified "Future Ready School" with state-of-the-art STEM labs, from which graduates attend Ivy League & other prestigious Universities following their extensive training and knowledge acquired during their STEM educational experience.

Students should apply online for each middle school they are interested in attending. In addition to the online application, Houston & STEM require two teacher recommendation forms to be completed by two of your child's current teachers. Please contact your child's teachers to complete the recommendation forms for you by the deadline. STEM also requires a School Counselor Recommendation form which can be directed for completion to Ms. Peri, School Counselor at [Elizabeth.peri@eastorange.k12.nj.us](mailto:Elizabeth.peri@eastorange.k12.nj.us).

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IS JANUARY 22, 2021!!!

## Art Exhibition

This month in the Virtual Art room, students in Ms. Elizabeth Garo's 3rd-5th grade classes presented an exhibition at Simon Newport Mall in Jersey City, NJ on the third floor in the food court. The exhibition included 23 Cityscapes created by our students showcased for the month of December until January.



Congratulations to our winners! Our students have shown us that when things around us are falling apart, artists are resilient and welcome the change as an opportunity to create new and exciting things. That is exactly what our young artists at Langston Hughes have done and we are so proud of our students.

Ms. Garo has been teaching students the skills and tools they need to create amazing works of art digitally using the Google Draw platform. "Teaching Art digitally has been a challenge. I saw an opportunity to teach students the foundations of the Graphic Arts, a vastly growing industry today. One benefit of remote learning allows each of our students to have a device making teaching graphic arts possible."



Among the many benefits of experiencing their art being published in a show, students will also be able to build upon their portfolios in fifth grade when applying to the Visual and Performing Arts Programs going into sixth grade. This process has been rewarding for both the students and their teacher, Ms. Garo.





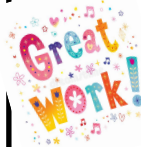
# Student of the Week

Ebubechukwu Ndukwu is a very responsible student who completes all her assignments. She comes to every meet and participates. Ebubechukwu is a kind student who is a great example to all students.



Brielle Wilson has great attendance. She is very self-motivated and friendly with her classmates and teachers. She also participates in classroom discussions and completes her assignments.

King Gilbert is always one of the first students to come to class. He does all of his homework, class assignments, and he actively participates in class discussions. King's reading has improved significantly; in fact, he is one of our class' most active Reading Rock Stars! King takes academic risks and isn't afraid to make mistakes. His growth has been phenomenal! Kudos to King, our Star Student of the Week!



Ebenezer Dungyan is a very intelligent young man. He always raises his hand to respond to questions in class and his answers are usually correct. He is very responsible and works to complete all assignments. He is very polite and follows all the school rules and is a joy to have in class.

Veraliz Velez Ramos always comes to class on time, eager to learn. Veraliz completes all her assignments and is getting more and more confident and independent. I am so proud of the progress she has made so far this school year.



Gabriella Nigriel is a kind-hearted girl in my class. She comes on daily and does her best to complete all work independently. She volunteers to answer questions repeatedly and is an excellent listener. She also motivates her classmates and always has kind words to share to help her friends who are having difficulty with answering a question.

Ariana Hodgson comes to class each and every day. She completes all of her assignments and does her best all at times. She is a pleasure to have in class and is always willing to help others, even virtually.



It is with great pleasure that I announce that my choice for Student of the Week is Marcellous Humphry. Marcellous is an above average student. He is the class "Tech Guru" and assists in helping his teacher and classmates with technology issues.







He was my first pick as Student Assistant. In this role, he monitored the student microphones to make sure they were muted or unmuted as needed. He politely asked students to mute to avoid distractions when I would present a lesson.

Kaylee Thomas is the **Student of the Week** for Pre-Kindergarten. Kaylee Thomas is always prepared for classroom activities. She has made significant progress in our classroom. Kaylee is a positive role model by example. She also follows all of the school rules.



Marcellous always comes to class on time and has not missed a day. He's the first to greet his fellow classmates with a cheery, "good morning classmates." He is a very respectful young man.

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year! 	2
3	4 School Re-opens	5	6	7	8 Mid-Quarter Notices to Parents 	9
10	11	12 BOE Meeting 6pm 	13	14	15	16
17	18 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day School Closed 	19	20 Hughes Parent meeting 5pm 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Early Dismissal Staff Inservice 	28	29	30
31						



## Principal

Dr. Howard Walker  
Email: [h.walker@eatorange.k12.nj.us](mailto:h.walker@eatorange.k12.nj.us)  
Phone: 973-266-5870

## Assistant Principal

Mrs. Ella Tidwell

## Editor in Chief

Mrs. Daphne Polidor

## WEBSITE:

<https://nj02207379.schoolwires.net/Domain/774>

## FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hughesschool.eo/>

Designed by Mr. Patrick Trentacost, Jr. [patrick.trentacost@eatorange.k12.nj.us](mailto:patrick.trentacost@eatorange.k12.nj.us)



## Board Members:

Ms. Terry S. Tucker (President), Ms. Marsha B. Wilkerson (Vice President), Ms. Darlene Clovis, Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr., Ms. Andrea McPhatter, Ms. Tashia Owens Muhammad, and Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr.

## Superintendent:

Mr. Abdulsaleem Hasan

## District Website:

[www.eatorange.k12.nj.us](http://www.eatorange.k12.nj.us)

## East Orange's Vision:

To prepare ALL of our students for college, careers and life in high performing East Orange Public Schools.