

THE TIGER'S DEN

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: GRADUATION EDITION

The Atlantic City School District



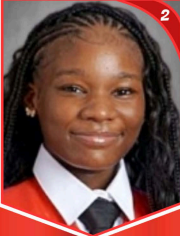
ISSUE #10

JUNE

Aniyah Muhammad



Skye Bright



Aziyah Heyward - Faulkner



Tygea Deal - Goddard



Haleema Ceaser



Zah'irah Johnson - Witherspoon



Amir Demby



Lucero Cuadrado



Jayden Mercedes



Ashlee Varela Zuniga



Tayla Perry



TOP 10

ISSUE AT A GLANCE

MONDAY FUNDAY



2025 8TH GRADE GRADUATION



The PETTING ZOO Comes to MLK





MLK SETS THE PACE AT DISTRICT TRACK MEET



Earlier this month, student-athletes from middle schools across the district came together at Atlantic City High School for the annual **Middle School Track Championships**, celebrating a full season of dedication, teamwork, and athletic excellence. The event brought together 5th through 8th grade boys and girls, and our school was well-represented by a team that gave it their all on the track and in the field.

Every participant gave an outstanding performance, with many students earning ribbons and medals for their efforts. A special congratulations goes to our **5th and 6th grade girls team**, who delivered a stellar showing and proudly took **third place overall** in their division!

Individual highlights include:

- **Kem Reynolds** – 1st Place in **Shot Put**
- **Khalilah Williams** – 1st Place in the **Girls' 800 Meter Race**

We are incredibly proud of all our athletes for their hard work this season. A heartfelt **thank you** goes out to our dedicated coaches who guided our teams every step of the way:

- **Boys Team Coaches:** Mr. Jones and Mrs. Sanders
- **Girls Team Coaches:** Mrs. Fuller-Williams and Ms. Days

Thank you for a fantastic season, and congratulations to all our track stars for finishing the year strong!

FINISH LINE

2025 MLK TRACK



MONDAY FUNDAY

RAIN CHECK? MORE LIKE FUN CHECK! MONDAY FUNDAY SAVES THE DAY

Each year, our school wraps up the academic calendar with a well-deserved celebration: MayDay Funday—a tradition that rewards students for their hard work, dedication, and participation throughout the year. But this year, Mother Nature had other plans. After two consecutive rainouts in May, the beloved event was rescheduled for the first Monday in June. And just like that, Monday Funday was born!

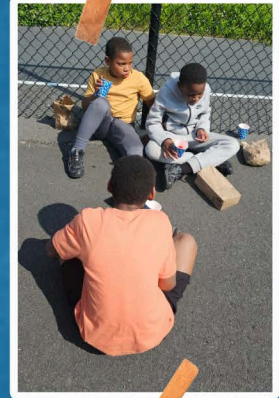
Despite the date change, the event—expertly organized by Ms. Days and her fantastic MayDay Committee—delivered all the excitement and energy we've come to expect. From the moment students stepped onto campus, they were surrounded by a wonderland of fun, featuring dozens of giant inflatable attractions, games, popcorn, sweet treats, snow cones, and endless activities.

The fun didn't stop there. Students enjoyed arts and crafts, classroom movie lounges, trivia contests, and a new 6th–8th grade Talent Show. Meanwhile, the 3rd–8th grade kickball game took center stage at the new beautifully renovated Pop Lloyd Stadium, where students showed off their school spirit and sportsmanship.

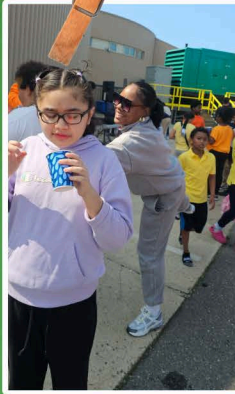
But the biggest twist came at the end of the day: the debut of the 8th Grade vs. Teachers Dodgeball Game! For years, Funday would traditionally end with a Students vs. Teachers Basketball Game—a matchup the teachers have dominated for 12 straight years. Tired of the losing, students this year voted to switch things up. Unfortunately, the result was the same. The teachers swept the dodgeball tournament 4–0, proving once again that experience (and maybe a bit of strategy) wins the day.

Whether it's May or June, sunshine or rain delays, one thing's for sure—our students will always get the celebration they deserve. Monday Funday was a smashing success, and who knows? It might just be a new tradition in the making.

MONDAY FUNDAY



MONDAY FUNDAY



MONDAY FUNDAY



CUPCAKE CREATION



The

PETTING ZOO

comes to MLK

EARLIER THIS MONTH, MLK PRE-K STUDENTS ENJOYED AN EXCITING VISIT FROM A TRAVELING PETTING ZOO. THE EVENT OFFERED A HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE AS STUDENTS INTERACTED WITH A VARIETY OF BELOVED FARM ANIMALS, FOSTERING CURIOSITY AND DELIGHT. THE CHILDREN'S FACES LIT UP AS THEY PETTED GOATS, SHEEP, AND OTHER FRIENDLY ANIMALS, MAKING IT AN UNFORGETTABLE AND EDUCATIONAL DAY AT SCHOOL.



2025 8TH GRADE GRADUATION

As the school year comes to a close, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex proudly celebrated the graduation of its 8th-grade class—an inspiring group of students now preparing to embark on their next journey in high school. The ceremony, held in front of a packed audience, was a moving tribute to hard work, resilience, and the bright futures that lie ahead.

The event began with a stirring musical performance by Mr. Andrews and the MLK School Band, setting a joyful and celebratory tone. The 8th-grade class then performed a heartfelt rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” a powerful and unifying anthem.

District Director of Human Resources, Diane Saunders, delivered the opening remarks, followed by a warm and welcoming message from student Mu’tazz Muhammad on behalf of the graduating class.

A highlight of the ceremony came with the exceptional speeches from Valedictorian Aniyah Muhammad and Salutatorian Skye Bright, both of whom spoke with wisdom and hope about the lessons of the past and dreams for the future. Their words were followed by student reflections shared by Janellis Juan, Amir Demby, Da’Ema McCall, and a powerful, heartfelt message from Tygee Deal-Goddard, who spoke eloquently about overcoming hardships and the importance of perseverance.

The musical interlude “Good Old Days” was performed by the class, filling the room with nostalgia and gratitude. Sixth Grade Teacher Bryan Griffiths then gave a touching and insightful Grade Level Speech. This was followed by inspiring messages from Principal Jodi Burroughs and Vice Principal Cherie Burroughs, both of whom shared words of pride and encouragement for the graduates.

The presentation of certificates and awards recognized the outstanding achievements of the class, including the announcement of the school’s Top 10 students:

1.) Aniyah Muhammad, 2.) Skye Bright, 3.) Aziyah Heyward-Faulkner, 4.) Tygee Deal-Goddard, 5.) Haleema Ceaser, 6.) Zah’irah Johnson Witherspoon, 7.) Amir Demby, 8.) Lucero Cuadrado, 9.) Jayden Mercedes & Ashlee Varela Zuniga (tie), 10.) Tayla Perry



2025 8TH GRADE GRADUATION

CONTINUED

A series of special awards—each named in honor of individuals who helped shape the school and district—were also presented:

- Principal's Award: Aniyah Muhammad & Skye Bright
- Chaune Jennings Award (Kindness, Citizenship, Sportsmanship, Academics): Dominique Handy
- June Carson Award (Selfless Helper): Haleema Ceaser & Angel Taveras Gomez
- Brook Castaldi Challendar Award (Joy of Reading and Living): Umayma Simms
- John Bucci Award (Kindness and Overcoming the Odds): Tygee Deal-Goddard
- William Porter Award (Love of Sports and Sportsmanship): Brionne Jones
- Michael McKenty Award (Resiliency and Determination): Sarah Kotokpo
- Noreen Watson Award (K-8 MLK Attendance): Hilton Abdullah, Skye Bright, Haleema Ceaser, Jilaal Clark, Lucero Cuadrado, Tygee Deal-Goddard, Brionne Jones, Janelis Juan, Da'Ema McCall, Aniyah Muhammad, and Eric Torres

After receiving their diplomas and officially becoming 8th grade graduates, the ceremony concluded with a final musical performance—a touching rendition of "7 Years Old".

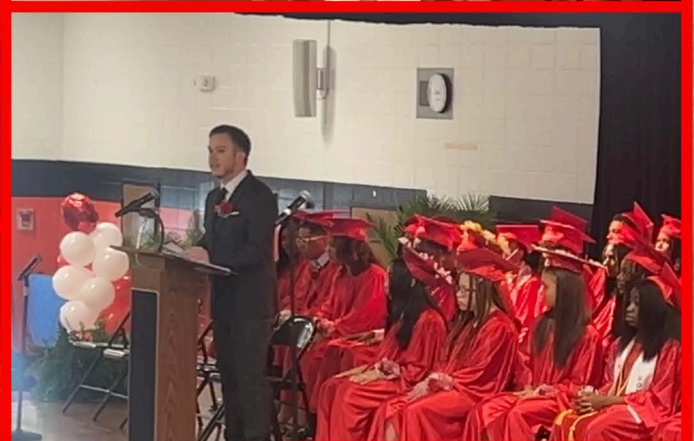
To the MLK Class of 2025—thank you for your contributions, leadership, and spirit. We are incredibly proud of you and excited to see all you will accomplish in high school and beyond. Congratulations!



2025 8TH GRADE GRADUATION



2025 8TH GRADE GRADUATION



BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

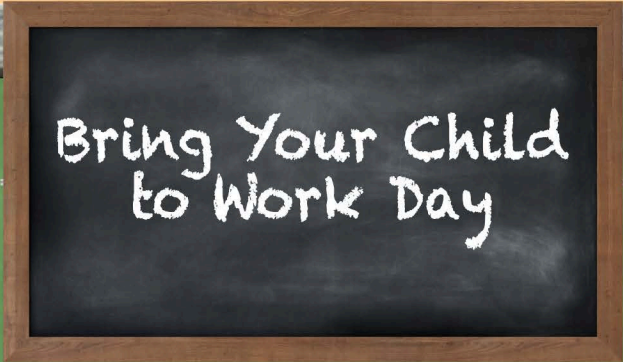
Last week, our school welcomed some very special visitors—our teachers' and staff members' children—for our annual Bring Your Child to Work Day! Although the event was pushed later in the year due to spring break, the fun certainly didn't miss a beat.

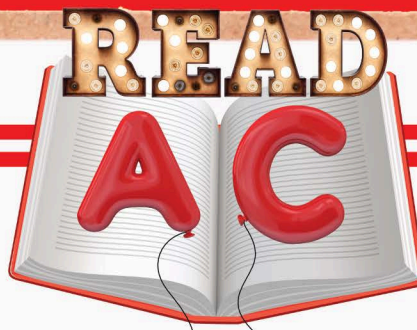
The building was filled with excitement as the children got a firsthand look at the many different roles that keep our school running—from teaching and counseling to tech support and administration. It was a great opportunity for them to learn, explore, and experience a day in the life of their hardworking family members.

The school provided plenty of fun throughout the day, including games, arts and crafts, a cozy movie screening, and a delicious lunch. But the highlight came at the end of the day: a fast-paced and laughter-filled game of pin dodgeball, led by Mrs. Hornbaker, Mr. Mahler and Mrs. Seaver. In a fun twist, the children of employees teamed up with 7th grade students, making for a spirited and friendly match that had everyone cheering.

Bring Your Child to Work Day continues to be a heartwarming tradition that brings our school community even closer together. It was a day filled with learning, laughter, and lots of memories—and we're already looking forward to next year!







MLK SCHOOL EARNs BEST-EVER FINISH IN READ AC CONTEST

Earlier this month, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex proudly participated in the Annual Read AC Reading Comprehension Contest, an exciting academic event where student teams from across the district compete by reading a curated selection of books and answering detailed questions to test their comprehension.

This year marked a historic achievement for MLK School, as the team earned second place out of the nine competing district schools—the school's best finish to date. This impressive result follows last year's third-place showing, demonstrating steady growth and dedication from both students and coaches.

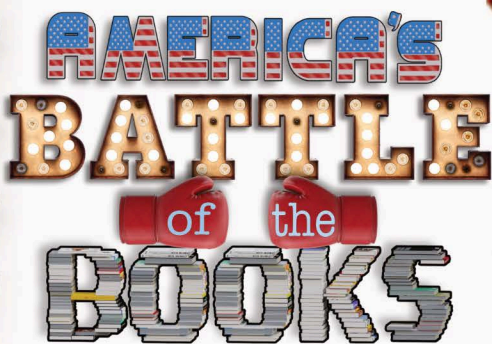
The MLK team, coached by the dedicated Mrs. Fuller Williams and Ms. Wallace, spent months preparing for the contest. Through focused reading sessions, strategic study routines, and a commitment to excellence, the team sharpened their skills and developed a deep understanding of the texts.

"It all came together beautifully," said Coach Fuller Williams. "The students worked hard, supported each other, and stayed focused. We couldn't be more proud of what they've accomplished."

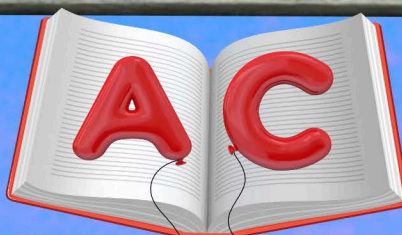
The 2025 Read AC Team from MLK School included: Tayla Perry, Harmoni Edmondson, Tahiyah Perry, Joshua Lara-Mejia, Mia De Castro De Ana, and Nevaeh Ward—a remarkable group of students whose teamwork and love of reading helped bring this honor home.

This achievement is more than just a trophy—it's a celebration of literacy, determination, and the academic spirit that thrives at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex.

Congratulations to the entire team and their coaches on this outstanding accomplishment!



READ



ROUND 3

READ AC

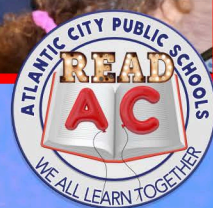
QUESTION 3

In which book does the narrator learn to blend her past and present selves while navigating a new culture and community?

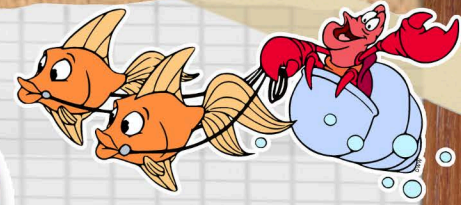
Standards: 6.2-8.2

Click for Answer

AMERICA'S
BATTLE
of the
BOOKS



Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID JR



MLK STUDENTS WOW AUDIENCE WITH MAGICAL PERFORMANCE OF THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.

ON JUNE 5TH, THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOOL COMPLEX WAS TRANSFORMED INTO AN UNDERSEA WONDERLAND AS THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTED A STUNNING RENDITION OF THE LITTLE MERMAID JR..

WITH A PACKED HOUSE OF PROUD PARENTS AND FAMILIES, THE LIGHTS DIMMED AND THE MAGIC BEGAN. FROM THE VIBRANT SETS AND SCENERY TO THE LIVELY CHARACTERS AND HEARTFELT SINGING, THE STUDENTS DELIVERED A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE FROM BEGINNING TO END.

THE PRODUCTION WAS A TEAM EFFORT LED BY DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS MRS. LYNERIS KELLY, MS. MINGO, MR. MORRIS, AND MR. SMITH, WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY TO GUIDE THE LARGE CAST. THEIR HARD WORK AND PASSION WERE EVIDENT IN EVERY SCENE— BUT IT WAS THE STUDENTS WHO TRULY BROUGHT THE SHOW TO LIFE WITH THEIR ENERGY, TALENT, AND ENTHUSIASM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTIRE CAST AND CREW ON AN AMAZING SHOW!



THE LITTLE MERMAID JR IMAGES



HAPPY RETIREMENT

Earlier this month, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Complex community came together for a heartfelt celebration in honor of eight incredible individuals who are retiring after years of dedicated service. The event, held at the beautiful Harbor Pines Country Club, brought together colleagues, friends, and families to say thank you and farewell to some of the most cherished members of our school family.

The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and emotion. With music, dancing, dinner, touching speeches, and even 3D photo booths, it was a true celebration of the lasting impact these educators and staff have made on our school.

We honored and celebrated:

- **Monica Bell**
- **Michele Green**
- **Milagros Howard**
- **Muriel McFadden**
- **Sandra Motley**
- **Karen Mozee-Wittcock**
- **Luz Rodriguez**
- **Alondra Woodard**

These eight remarkable individuals have each played a vital role in shaping the spirit and success of MLK. While they will be sorely missed, their legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come.

A special thank you to the Retirement Committee for planning such a meaningful and unforgettable event. Your time, effort, and thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed and made this celebration truly special.

From all of us at MLK, thank you for your tireless dedication, your passion, and your love for our students and school community. We wish you nothing but happiness and fulfillment in your next chapter. We love you, and we will never forget the difference you made.

