

Support Quality EDUCATION

QUARTERLY UPDATE FY2018

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MLK Celebration

In classrooms across Arlington during the month of January, students will learn more about what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. meant by "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve."

January 12-15, 2018, will be the 29th year of the Arlington Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, and thousands of people will enjoy the four-day event.

For information about community events, visit www.arlington-tx.gov/mlk.



L to R winners of the 2017 Art Contest: Bithia Dantoumda (11th grader at Sam Houston HS/3rd place); Daylon Franklin (11th grader at Lamar HS/2nd place) & Kaylee Kim (9th grader at Martin HS/1st place).

MLK Contests

As one of the sponsors, the City of Arlington enjoys seeing students participate in many ways - from the MLK Youth Musical Extravaganza to the MLK Day of Service (2017 photo at left), and the art and essay contests (2017 art contest winners above).

Based on this year's theme of "Continuing the Dream: Moving Toward Unity, Justice and Peace," students could win \$500, \$750 or

\$1,000 scholarships by submitting entries by 5pm, Fri., November 17:

- MLK Art Contest open to junior high and high school students attending Arlington schools or residing in the city limits
- MLK Essay Contest open to high school seniors attending Arlington schools or residing in city limits

Contest rules are on the website: www.arlington-tx.gov/mlk.



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www.arlingtontx.gov | www.myarlingtontx.com

MAYOR'S YOUTH



MYC Officers (terms ending May 2018)

Seniors

- President Peyton Reine
- Vice President Abdallah Alsafi
- Parliamentarian Tina Nguyen
- Treasurer Meredith Reilly
- Secretary Liam Horne
- Events/Games Coordinator Kayla Estrada

Juniors

- Jr. President Amanpreet Kaur
- Jr. Vice President Megan McCurdy
- Jr. Parliamentarian Izora Kolic
- Jr. Treasurer Logan Smith
- Jr. Secretary Tatum Baffa
- Jr. Events/Games Coordinator Christina van Waasbergen

Elections are held every May! Anyone interested in running for an officer position can be nominated to run for one position only. Intentions to run in the election must be told to the Staff Liaison before the May meeting.

All offices are for a one-year term with no limit to the number of terms.

Highlights

Mayor's Youth Commission

Now in its 11th year, the City of Arlington Mayor's Youth Commission has not only grown in numbers, but also in presence in the community and City Hall. In May 2006, under the direction of city leaders and Mayor Robert Cluck, the Mayor's Youth Commission was formed as an effort to bring students together from multiple areas and schools in Arlington. This provided the students a forum to discuss concerns and hot topics with their peers in a safe, structured environment.

Over the past decade, members have spanned across the various junior high and high schools. They continue to provide constructive feedback for City leaders regarding issues concerning today's youth. This group allows Arlington youth to engage their community while providing a forum for them to express their views while initiating meaningful change in the city.

Addressing the versatile make-up of Commission members, **Megan McCurdy** says, "I think having such great diversity in our Commission really proves the statement that different ethnicities and religions can come together as one and work together and support each other." Megan, a sophomore from Martin High School is beginning her third year as a Commission member and Junior Vice President. She followed her sisters, who also held officer positions. Megan also adds how MYC members "support one another."

A goal of the Commission is to invite community members to speak about issues that pertain to youth. The Commission also aims to discuss matters that affect their representative schools, discussing both positive and negative. The Commission is currently made up of a wide-range of representatives from all Arlington ISD high schools, two charter schools, two junior high schools and several homeschooled students. Led by a peer and

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L to R: Heidi Estrada (Sam Houston HS) & Kayla Estrada (Arlington Collegiate HS at TCC-SE)



Mayor's Youth Commission (cont'd)

youth-elected Executive Committee, the Commission works toward implementing service projects, hosting speakers, and creating activities that pertain to the suggested theme for the year. This theme must be voted and implemented by a majority vote. Throughout the school year all events revolve around this topic. **Liam Horne**, MYC Secretary and junior at Summit International Preparatory, notes that, "Our theme and service are aimed to positively affect those who are in need." Most service projects are planned for weekends so these students are consistently going above and beyond to positively represent the Commission and give back to the community by choosing to dedicate their own time serving in the community.

Monthly meetings are fun, interactive and informative. Inspiring and dedicated leaders in our community have addressed the Commission. Some notable speakers from past meetings have been ACH Family and Child Services, the River Legacy Science Living Center, APD officers, leaders in the faith community and educators for AISD.

Tina Nguyen, a senior at Seguin High School, has been a member for two years and was elected as this year's Senior Parliamentarian. Tina was excited to become more involved with MYC since she is very involved at her school. However, she is especially passionate about the Commission and states, "Since it is a YOUTH commission, the organization is meant to benefit the youth by giving them an outlet for their opinions." She adds that the Commission "benefits the city because it allows City Council to be

aware of the problems concerning minors in our community."

Continuing to build dedicated community leaders and knowledgeable youth who are experienced in interacting with diverse groups is a main goal of the Mayor's Youth Commission. Reaching passionate, outspoken students will help continue the growth of the group and is vital to propelling us into the future. Continuing this great momentum, whether it's literacy, environmentalism, teen homelessness, or acts of kindness, MYC members have done it all, and there's no stopping them now.

For more information about the Mayor's Youth Commission, including the application process, please visit our website at www.arlington-tx.gov/myc/ or call Krissy Crosier, MYC Sponsor, at 817-459-6499.

"Social media is changing the way we communicate and the way we are perceived, both positively and negatively. Every time you post a photo, or update your status, you are contributing to your own digital footprint and personal brand."

Amy Jo Martin, Founder/CEO of Digital Royalty

Be a part of the conversation on social media @CityOfArlington:

#SupportQualityEducation



Mayor Williams pictured above with the 2017-2018 Mayor's Youth Commission, and Mission Arlington Executive Director Tillie Burgin (pictured center below) with (L to R) Autumn Pelfrey (Martin HS graduate), Jennifer Israelow (Martin HS), Krissy Crosier (MYC Sponsor) and Mayra Guardiola (MYC Liaison).



Arlington Public Library (APL)

Adult Education and Training

APL is a subrecipient of a Texas Workforce Commission grant awarded to the Tarrant County Adult Education Literacy Consortium. TCAELC is comprised of local educational groups also including Arlington ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Birdville ISD, The Learning Center of North Texas and Tarrant Literacy Coalition. Together with APL, these institutions provide a cohesive network for adults struggling due to limited education.

The grant of \$180,507.85 will enhance APL's Arlington Reads adult education programs offered as part of TCAELC.

Arlington Reads has provided quality adult education throughout the City since 2009. Library staff and volunteers lead English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency (formerly GED), and citizenship classes. Students learn in small groups and can study at home through online learning resources. More than 80% of students increase their knowledge or meet educational goals after taking classes with Arlington Reads.

Grant funding allows Arlington Reads to reach more students. ESL, HSE, and citizenship classes are now offered during fall, spring, and summer semesters. Arlington Reads also offers casual learning environments, such as discussion groups for English learners and book clubs for new readers.



APL and Arlington Reads are ready to support adult learners as they work toward the American dream.

"I'm starting a whole new life now," says Jimmy, an Arlington Reads student who earned his high school equivalency diploma in 2017. His plan for the future includes writing a memoir of his life, because he hopes to inspire others.

Early Literacy

The APL offers storytimes, themed kits to check out, and reorganized picture book sections that allow parents to search by themes for babies and young children. Because parents and caregivers are a child's first and most important teacher, the APL expanded its early literacy workshops focusing on simple early learning activities to boost brain development.



Recent parent and caregiver classes include the following events:

-In September 2017, 27 local childcare providers attended a two-hour workshop led by APL children's staff on early literacy and the Whole Book Approach to reading books.

-Tummy Time, a four-week workshop for babies six months and younger and their caregivers, also began in September 2017. Caregivers enjoy meaningful conversations, learn to incorporate reading into their child's daily life, and discover new songs, rhymes and resources. Tummy Time

will continue into FY18, including an English-Spanish bilingual workshop meeting in October.

-The APL's Family Place Libraries program continues to connect parents and caregivers of children ages four and younger with childhood development experts. More than 600 patrons have attended Play Days since the APL was certified a Family Place Library in 2016.

-Library staff are hosting Early Learning Matters at seven AISD

schools this fall. Early Learning Matters is a five-week storytime series that teaches parents early literacy skills.

-The Literacy LiNK outreach van brings early literacy resources to area schools, childcare locations, and community events. Children and their caregivers can enjoy storytime, check out materials, and learn from library staff.

Find more resources at arlingtonlibrary.org/children