



*Superintendent, Anibal Soler, Jr.*

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## Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Community,

Today marks the end of the first full week after the holiday break and the Yonkers Magic was on full display! It was a week filled with meaningful conversations, celebrations of our community, and important work to strengthen our schools as we kick off 2025 with purpose.



**PEARLS Hawthorne School**  
*is Spreading Kindness & Yonkers Magic*

We started the week by celebrating the Three Kings Celebration at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. Events like this remind us of the incredible diversity and traditions that make Yonkers such a special place. It was a joy to see students and families come together to honor this meaningful holiday and the spirit of giving that it represents.

Our Principals Meeting brought together school leaders to focus on literacy best practices aligned with the Science of Reading. These conversations reaffirmed our commitment to providing every student with a strong foundation in literacy, which is essential for lifelong learning and success. I'm incredibly grateful to our principals and educators for their dedication to ensuring excellence in every classroom.

Collaboration was also a key theme this week. The Board of Education held important committee meetings focused on policy, facilities, audit, budget, and instructional affairs. These discussions play a vital role in shaping the future of our district, ensuring we have the resources, strategies, and policies necessary to support our students and staff.

## *Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)*

In line with our ongoing planning efforts, I met with Deputy Commissioner Jason Harmon and the NYSED Facilities Management team to discuss the development of a facility modernization plan. By aligning this plan with our upcoming Strategic Plan, we're taking meaningful steps toward creating innovative, safe, and inspiring learning spaces for all our students.

A highlight of my week was visiting PEARLS Hawthorne School, where I witnessed students enthusiastically tackling problem-solving challenges. Their passion and energy were inspiring and a testament to the power of great teaching and supportive environments. Seeing their excitement reinforced the incredible work happening in our classrooms every day.

As we move further into the year, I encourage families to stay engaged. Please take a moment to [complete the Yonkers Public Schools 2030 Strategic Plan Survey](#) – your feedback is invaluable in shaping our future. I also invite you to join our mentorship initiatives through My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper, where we work to uplift and guide our students toward success.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. Together, we are creating opportunities, celebrating achievements, and making a difference in the lives of our students. Let's keep the Yonkers Magic alive in all that we do.



**Anibal Soler, Jr.**  
Superintendent of Schools



*MBK Student Volunteers Spread Joy in the Community by Distributing Gifts During This Week's Three Kings Day Celebration*

# DISTRICT Digest

Get a front-row seat to what Superintendent Soler has been up to and what Yonkers Public Schools is celebrating this week. From his key moments to exciting activities across our schools, it's all right here!

## Best Practices for Literacy in Yonkers



### Principals Focus on Pre-k to three Literacy Instruction at NYSED Meeting

*During this week's Principals Meeting, school leaders received an update on the Pre-k to three Literacy Instructional Best Practices tool, which aligns literacy interventions with the Science of Reading. This important work ensures that Yonkers Public Schools continues to provide students with the strong foundation they need for lifelong learning.*

## Problem-Solving in Action at PEARLS Hawthorne!



### Students Shine with Creativity and Determination

*Superintendent Soler visited PEARLS Hawthorne School this week, where students tackled problem-solving challenges with enthusiasm and innovation. The visit highlighted the incredible teaching and supportive environment that inspires students to think critically and creatively. Yonkers Public Schools is proud to foster a love of learning that prepares students for future success. Moments like these showcase the Yonkers Magic in action!*



## FAFSA Completion Events: Setting Students Up for Success



Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | Saunders High School  
Thursday, January 9, 2025 | Lincoln High School  
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 | Roosevelt High School  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 | Yonkers Middle High School  
Thursday, January 16, 2025 | Riverside High School  
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 | Gorton High School  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 | Barack Obama School  
Thursday, January 23, 2025 | Yonkers Montessori Academy

### Helping Families Navigate Financial Aid Applications

*This week kicked off the first of eight FAFSA Completion Events across the district, with families at Saunders High School leading the way. These events guide families in completing the FAFSA, a critical step in securing financial aid for college. Register for upcoming events, including one at Lincoln High School, using the link below:*

[Register Here](#)

## Inspiring the Future at City College

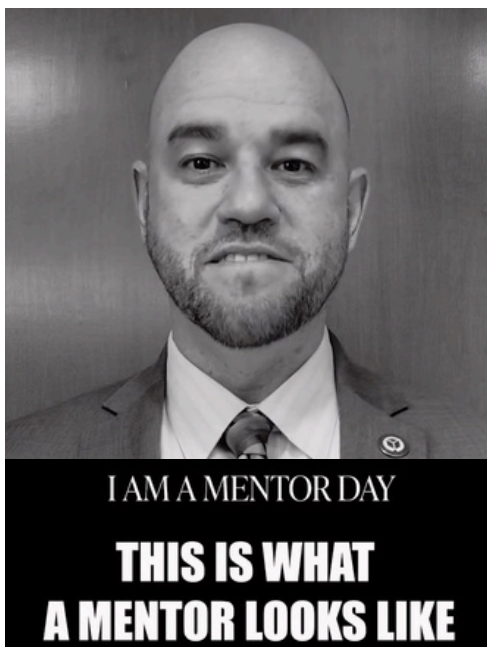


### Yonkers My Brother's Keeper Visits City College of New York

*Dr. Jason Baez, Executive Director of Yonkers My Brother's Keeper, accompanied 16 fifth and sixth graders to City College of New York for an inspiring campus visit. Students toured the campus, attended a panel discussion, and learned about pathways to success through education. The visit aimed to ignite curiosity and show students that higher education is an attainable goal.*

[Read More Here](#)

## Celebrating Mentors on I Am a Mentor Day

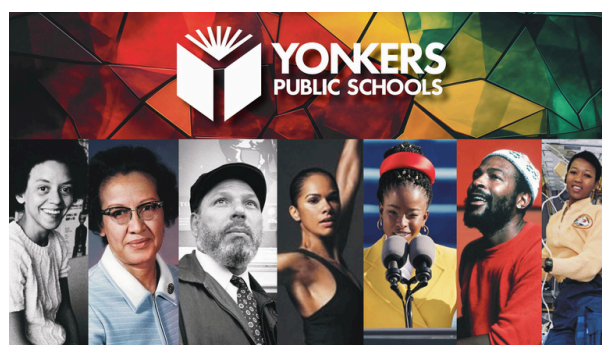


### Join My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper Mentorship Programs

Yonkers Public Schools celebrated [I Am a Mentor Day](#) this week, recognizing the transformative power of mentorship. Mentors inspire, uplift, and guide students toward brighter futures. Join the My Brother's Keeper or My Sister's Keeper movement today to make a difference in a student's life.

[Sign Up Here – MSK](#)

[Sign Up Here – MBK](#)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR DISTRICT-WIDE  
**BLACK HISTORY**  
*Celebration*  
 AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025  
 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
 LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL  
 375 KNEELAND AVE, YONKERS, NY 10704  
 SNOW DATE: Friday, February 28, 2025

THIS EVENT IS A REPRESENTATION OF THE TALENTS AND DIVERSITY OF OUR FAMILIES, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.  
 WE ARE CELEBRATING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS THAT INSPIRED THIS GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEAD AND ACT.

For further information, please contact  
 The Office of Teaching & Learning  
 (914) 376 8231 | [ypsarts@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ypsarts@yonkerspublicschools.org)

### A Celebration of Black History and Excellence

This February, Yonkers Public Schools proudly celebrates Black History Month with an inspiring evening at Lincoln High School. Join us as we honor the achievements, talents, and contributions of African Americans throughout history, showcasing the diversity and excellence of our students, families, and educators. Let's come together to reflect, celebrate, and inspire the next generation of leaders!



## Join Us for the 'Right to Read' Film Screening and Community Conversation

### SAVE THE DATE

#### The Right to Read Film Screening

Saturday, January 25th, 2025  
9:30 am — 12:00 pm

Yonkers Public Library Riverfront Theatre  
1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701



*Presented by Dr. Cynthia Palmer,  
Director of Library Services*



## Highlighting the Importance of Early Literacy With Dr. Cynthia Palmer

*This January, we proudly re-establish The Basics Yonkers with a special screening of The Right to Read film, thanks to iReady Curriculum Associates! Dedicated to parents and caregivers, the event promotes early literacy with tools to support children from birth to age five. Join us for a light breakfast, exhibits, and a powerful film screening to foster literacy and equity in our community!*

## Yonkers Magic Shines at Three Kings Celebration



### Honoring Tradition at the Yonkers Riverfront Library

*Families and community members came together at the Yonkers Riverfront Library to celebrate the annual Three Kings Celebration. The event highlighted cultural traditions and brought joy to students and families as we honored the spirit of giving and community.*



# District Digest

## Superintendent Soler's Week in Review Photos

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# District Digest

## Photos From Across The District



MBK Student Volunteers at the Three Kings Day Event



Young MBK Scholars visit City College



Disney/ Superhero day @ Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School



Students hard at work @ PEARLS Hawthorne School



Leadership & Citizenship Award Winners @ School 30



# YPS STUDENT ARTWORK



Allison Cruz Ojeda, LHS, Gr. 11



Mia Gutierrez, YMA, Gr. 11



Areeba Jamil, Siragusa, Gr. 3



Various YMA students



Liam Damon, YMA, Gr. 11



Franklin Sanchez Tabora, Lincoln High School, Gr. 10