



## School Mission

The Luis Muñoz Marín Elementary School ensures a safe, progressive, social and emotional environment where students are engaged in academic rigor and excellence to reach high school and college readiness.

Contributors: Courtney Johnson, Tiffany Arce, Rashena Land and Diana Sotillo- Gonzalez.

## Welcome Back from Principal Maria Ortiz

As principal of Luis Muñoz Marín (LMM) School for Social Justice, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another successful academic year. The LMM staff are excited and readily anticipate the arrival of our 1,000 scholars and counting.



We trust that you will stay connected via our school website, Twitter and Google Plus accounts, Blackboard messaging and monthly newsletters. The school calendar which features upcoming events and community activities will be distributed during the Back to School Night on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

I am honored to serve as instructional leader of LMM and look forward to working collaboratively with stakeholders to provide a world class education for each learner at this site. Once again, welcome back. Let's make this the best year ever!

## Gearing Up to Make This The Best Year Ever

The LMM Faculty and Staff reported back to work on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> to launch the school year. During the professional learning program teachers engaged in intensive training in literacy, mathematics, science, bilingual, the arts, special education and digital learning provided on and off campus to enhance instructional practices. Principal Ortiz urged staff members to actively engage in each professional development session to strengthen skills, talents and demonstrate commitment to our scholars.

Memorable experiences from the LMM Summer Professional Development Session included witnessing the total solar eclipse and attending a staff retreat. Staff members observed the scientific phenomenon following operational training with the administrative team. Mrs. Brunquell shared her DIY Solar Eclipse Viewer while Vice Principal Cooke distributed solar eclipse glasses for the staff to view the historical experience. The last occurrence dates back to March of 1979. On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Team Marin, nearly 90 strong, embarked on the Green Chimney's Clearpool Campus of Carmel, NY to participate in team building exercises and goal setting to promote collaborative and positive school culture. This unique opportunity was made possible via sponsorship from the Newark Trust Fund; who previously supported school wide initiatives, like the Therapeutic Learning Centers which focuses on the social and emotional development of students.

The intense two weeks of training and fellowship closed with establishing great momentum for making this the best year ever!



**Team Building**



# My Sister's/Brother's Keeper Gets Fully Funded

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the contribution of a donor from Kentucky made the *My Sister's/Brother's Keeper Inspirational Project* a possibility at LMM. Courtney Johnson, School Operations Manager, submitted the grant proposal in April to promote academic, social and emotional development of middle school students by creating vision boards to memorialize goals set at the beginning of the school year. This collaborative project will be managed by members of the Student Support Team: Diana Gonzalez, Stacey Smith and Ashley Jiles and respective middle school homeroom teachers to lead character education activities with students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The vision boards will be placed on display outside of each homeroom as a constant reminder to remain focused on achieving personal goals as a school community.

*DonorChoose* is an online website, established in 2000 by Charles Best, where teachers can post requests for sponsors to support classroom projects. To date, over 600,000 projects have been fully funded via this platform; three of which are from our very own school community:

- [Make a Wish](#) (4/20/15) by Ashley Jiles – received *Chromebooks* to support literacy, math, science and social studies centers.
- [Read and Spell to Excel](#) (1/2/17) by Rachael Safier – received magnetic letters, puzzles and enrichment materials to assist students with early reading and spelling skills.
- [A Class Full of Excellent Work](#) (4/6/17) by Theresa Wilson – received classroom supplies to support special projects.

For more information, check out <https://www.donorschoose.org>.

## Promoting Student School Readiness

Luis Munoz Marin  
@LMMarinNPS

NJIT annual Service Day with LMM!!!  
#80studentvolunteersstrong  
#schoolreadiness @NPSvoices  
@LMMarinNPS @yolymendez



Luis Munoz Marin  
@LMMarinNPS

WholeFoods Newark proud supporter of the LMM Family/Community BBQ!  
@NewarkNJPatch @WholeFoods @NPSvoices



Luis Munoz Marin  
@LMMarinNPS

DEA donated 110 backpacks to our LMM scholars. Thank you! @LMMarinNPS @NPSvoices #schoolreadiness



On August 31<sup>st</sup>, over 500 participants attended the LMM Family BBQ. The event was held to promote school readiness. Numerous community partners: Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Bricks for Kids Essex County, Newark Conservatory, Newark Public Library, Whole Foods of Newark, Newark Trust Fund, LapCorp, White Castle, NJIT, YMCA of Newark and Vicinity, Suzy Ques, New Jersey Transit, United Way, Zolnier Graduate Supply LCC, ACC Soccer Academy, Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center, Newark Board of Education Members, Pastor Pablo of Lighthouse Assembly of God and other local dignitaries attended to meet with students and their caregivers. This amazing fellowship also granted students the opportunity to meet their teachers and visit their new classrooms.

- *New Jersey Food Bank donated 100's of school supplies!*
- *White Castle and Whole Foods distributed delicious food samples!*
- *New community partner, LapCorp donated 25 backpacks that were full of school supplies!*
- *NJIT hosted another Service Day on the LMM campus consisting of 80 student volunteers who assisted teachers with preparing for opening day.*
- *On September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Drug Enforcement Administration maintained an annual commitment of donating over 100 backpacks to our young scholars!*
- *National Valley Bank donated \$500 dollars to our school community!*

The LMM community is truly appreciative of our enduring and new partnerships as we collectively serve students and the local community.



## Check Out Our Upcoming Events

9.15.17	Hispanic Heritage Month
9.18.17	Afterschool Program begins
9.26.17	Back to School Night
9.28.17	Supreme Dream Catchers Football Tournament
9.29.17	Latina Luncheon
10.05.17	Progress Report Distribution
10.09.17	School Closing-Holiday
10.13.17	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
10.15.17	Making Strides of Newark Event
10.16.17	ELA Interim Assessments
10.18.17	Math Interim Assessments
10.25.17	Staff Development Day