



Jack and Jill Center's mission is to strengthen children and families through innovative education, supportive programming, and community engagement.

Jack & Jill Center rebrands the PTA and makes an exciting return, students road test new Early Education bicycle track, MHA 5th grade scholars prepare for middle school, and more! Stay *inTouch* with us, as we kick off 2023 with so many exciting updates!

January eNewsletter

January 23rd, 2023



New Bicycle Track on Early Ed Playground

We are excited to share that our Early Education playground now boasts a Bicycle Track! Our scholars will be able to explore and build their motor skills while riding on the track in their amazing outdoor space.

Biking helps improve gross motor skills by working on a child's coordination, endurance, and strengthening. Riding a bike also helps with full-body sensory awareness along with visual stimulation.

This activity also helps children with their attention by focusing on the task given to them. When children ride bikes they are not just "playing," they are building a strong set of social skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Jack & Jill Center Partners with LENA

Just as babies need healthy food to help their bodies grow and develop, they also need "language nutrition" from caregivers to help their brains grow, develop, and reach their full potential. Thus, our Early Education team is so excited about their recent partnership with LENA!



Language Environment Analysis (LENA) is a national nonprofit on a mission to transform children's futures through early talk technology and data-driven programs. LENA helps communities all over the world provide programs for parents and teachers that couple actionable feedback with coaching to make proven, sustainable improvements to children's language environments.

They do this by measuring conversational turns, which are simple back-and-forth alternations between a child and an adult. [LENA technology](#) counts that a turn has occurred when an adult speaks and a child follows, or vice versa, with no more than five seconds in between. Conversational turns are LENA's proxy for quality "serve and return" interactions. They may sound simple, but conversational turns are incredibly powerful and are among the most predictive metrics of child outcomes.

We are beyond excited to begin to incorporate LENA into our Early Ed classrooms within the next month and measure the growth of our students!



FAMILIES AS PARTNERS

Jack & Jill's "PTA" has officially made its return and has been rebranded as "Families As Partners"! The goal of *Families As Partners* is to ensure the voices of our parents are heard and influence organizational decisions.

Our first meeting this year, took place earlier this month. The goal of the group is to cultivate a space for our parents to come together, and provide input on activities and events held on both campuses, share what they would like to see more of (or less of), discuss curriculum, and provide feedback on the matters that are important to them.

During the most recent Families As Partners meeting, the official logo for Families As Partners was selected -- take a look above at what they selected!

If you are a Jack & Jill Center Early Ed or MHA parent, we'd love to see you at our next meeting! Meetings occur every 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 5:30pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for February, 15th.



MHA Hosts Middle School Showcase for Graduating 5th Graders

Madelaine Halmos Academy hosted an amazing evening featuring four local middle schools where representatives came to speak with our 4th grade & 5th grade graduating scholars and their parents about their various educational opportunities.



Middle school representatives provided scholars and their families with tons of information and resources to assist them in the next step of their journey. The evening was organized to help prepare our families and help them feel comfortable and confident in their decision post-MHA.

The night also included raffles and a table to continue to build our family engagement programs.

Upcoming Events

Jack & Jill Center's Winter Open House

Tuesday, January 31st, 6:30pm

Prospective families are invited to join us on Tuesday, January 31st at 6:30pm for our Winter Open House. This is an amazing opportunity for new families to explore Jack & Jill Center's Early Education Program and our state-of-the-art Elementary school, Madelaine Halmos Academy and see why Jack & Jill is the perfect fit for you and your family!



We are currently enrolling 6 weeks-VPK4 & Grades K-5! If you or anyone you know are interested in attending, Click [here](#) to RSVP.



Jack & Jill Center's First Annual Winter Carnival

Sunday, February 5th, 12pm-4pm

Join the Friends of Jack & Jill Center as they host the 1st Annual Winter Carnival!

The community event will feature a fun-filled day of carnival rides, games, arts & crafts, signature carnival food, face painting, photo opportunities, a live DJ, and much more. Activities will include a Dual Lane Inflatable Slide, Ballistic Swings, Rock Climbing, Bounce

Houses, a Four-In-One Sports Center, Phantoms Revenge, and more. Open to all ages!

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets or sponsorships!

Annual Sistrunk Parade & Festival

Saturday, February 25th, 9:00am

Cheer us on as Jack & Jill Center marches and represents our school at the Annual Sistrunk Parade and Festival. The parade features several local businesses, schools, ROTC, steppers stepping, drill teams twirling, decorated floats and more!

The Parade represents the richness of Broward's multi-cultural flavor, strong traditions, and features fun and excitement for the entire family! Throughout the Sistrunk Parade, you will also have an opportunity to support local vendors. Don't miss this amazing community-unifying event.



If you are interested in volunteering and/or participating with Jack & Jill Center in the Sistrunk Festival, please contact Amber Binford (abinford@jackandjillcenter.org).



2023 Flip Flops on the Dock

Saturday, March 18th, 6:30pm-10:30pm

Voted the Best Nonprofit Fundraiser of 2021 by Fort Lauderdale Magazine – the 18th Annual PEDIATRIX Flip Flops on the Docks will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023!

Tickets are now on sale! Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets!

For more information, please contact Director of Special Events, Jennifer Swercheck, at jswercheck@jackandjillcenter.org

or (954) 463 - 8772, ext. 206.



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