



# PURITAS PRIDE NEWSLETTER

January  
2024

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Embracing a New Year of Learning and Growth

Dear Puritas Lion Families,

Happy New Year! I trust this message finds you well-rested and filled with the warmth of family and friends. As we step into January, it marks not just the beginning of a new year but also a fresh chapter in our academic journey.

I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and commitment to Puritas Community Elementary & Middle School. Our school community thrives because of the collaborative efforts of dedicated parents, passionate educators, and, of course, our bright and talented students.

As we embark on this new semester which will be approaching fast on January 26th, let's approach it with optimism, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to fostering a positive and nurturing learning environment. Together, we will continue to inspire curiosity, cultivate creativity, and instill a love for lifelong learning in our students.

In the coming weeks, we have exciting events and activities planned, from attendance challenges to Quarter 2 Rewards to celebrate our students who are demonstrating excellence in leadership with their PRIDE. Your active participation in these endeavors is not only welcomed but encouraged as it strengthens the sense of community within our school.

Please stay connected through our newsletters, Class Dojo, Email, Text Messages, school website, and social media channels for updates on school happenings and important dates. Your engagement is crucial in ensuring a successful and enriching experience for our students.

Wishing you a fantastic start to the year, filled with joy, achievement, and countless moments of learning.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Marshall (Principal) and Mrs. Goss (Assistant Principal)

## MONTHLY CHARACTER TRAITS & PBIS CHALLENGE:

January's trait is fairness/cooperation. Each class will participate in team building between grade levels.

Any student who is suspended will lose 25 points for each day of suspension and every detention earned will lose 5 points.

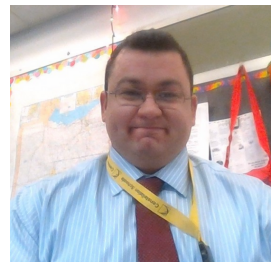
**P**repared  
**R**espectful  
**I**nclude Others  
**D**edicated  
**E**ngaged

# Staff Highlight Corner



## **Florina Toma, Art teacher**

I have been working for Constellation Schools for seven years. This is my first year at Puritas Community and my passion is teaching Art. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I like to paint, to read classic and mystery books, go swimming, and to go for walks when the weather permits.

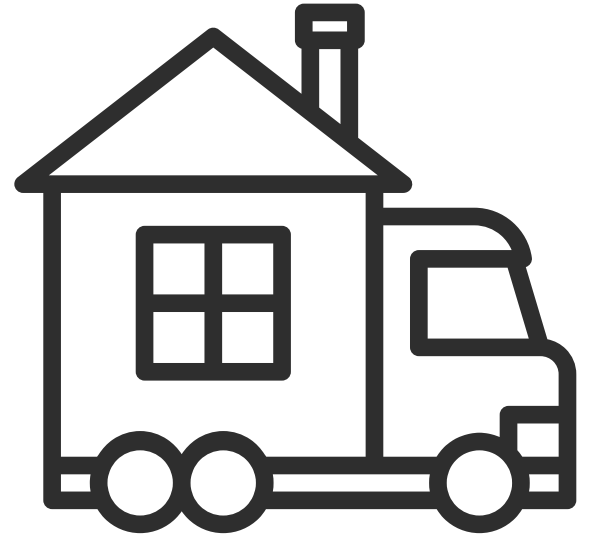


## **Scott McMillen, ELL Teacher**

I have been teaching English to language learners since 2016. I have worked with all age groups from toddlers to senior citizens. Before teaching at Puritas, I worked with adult immigrants in Chicago, helping them to assimilate to life in the United States. I also lived in Japan for two years and worked with learners of all ages and abilities. Though students may find the work challenging, I enjoy teaching English grammar and phonics!

## **CREATING FAMILY MEMORIES**

Reading to your child  
Family Game Night  
Winter Crafts and STEM challenges  
Movie Night  
Make a family cookbook of your favorite recipes



## **A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW LIONS IN OUR PRIDE!**



**Trina Corbin**

Kindergarten Teacher  
Assistant

**Kathia Philogene**

MS Social Studies

### **Remember:**

- If you have moved or will be moving
- If you have a new phone number

**Please notify Ms. Lovelace or Mrs. Zint of your new address and/or phone number!!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS...

# 23-24 SCHOOL GOALS

## January

- 1/3** Classes resume!
- 1/5** December Awards (1:00- KG/5th/6th) (1:30- 1st &4th) (2:00- 2nd &7th) (2:30- 3rd & 8th)
- 1/8** Inservice PD Day/ No School
- 1/9-19** iReady testing
- 1/10** 2nd Quarter ends!
- 1/12** Building Workday / No School
- 1/15** No School MLK Day!
- 1/26** PBIS Reward & 2nd Qtr Awards (1:00- KG/5th/6th) (1:30- 1st &4th) (2:00- 2nd &7th) (2:30- 3rd & 8th) & \$1 Puritas Spirit Wear Day

1. By the end of the 23-24 School Year, 90% of our students will attain at least a 90% attendance rating.
2. By May 2024 at least 65% of the students will meet or exceed the projected growth goal in reading as measured by the 2023-2024 i-Ready Diagnostic.
3. By May 2024 at least 65% of the students will meet or exceed the projected growth goal in math as measured by the 2023-2024 i-Ready Diagnostic.

December  
Attendance Percentage:

**88%**

# SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

For the month of January, your school counselor will visit each classroom once for a school counseling lesson on Fairness & Cooperation. Students will pair up with their buddy classes to play a game of Headbanz. Headbanz is a game where players get a secret word on a card. Each player will not get to look at their word and will thus not know the word and they will have to guess the word by asking questions that give them hints as to what their word might be. Some categories might be animals for the younger kids so that they can participate as well.

