

Morris-Union Jointure Commission
Developmental Learning Centers

Superintendent's Spotlight

January 2021

Happy New Year!



We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with those in your “bubble.” As we start a new year, please know that the MUJC administration and DLC staff look forward to working with you and your child in 2021 and wish you a wonderful new year filled with joy, health, and happiness.



What's Happening at the DLCs

The theme during January for **DLC – New Providence** students is “Celebrating Diversity and Multiculturalism.” The **week of January 4** is “**Emotion Week**” during which DLC students will make and laminate pictures of themselves with different facial expressions. These laminated pictures will be placed in the hall, and classes will take turns posing with these emotions. **January 12** is **Picture Day** at the DLC – New Providence. Students participating in virtual instruction will have the opportunity to come to school to have their pictures taken if they wish. Marcel Studios does a great job taking students’ pictures and your principal will give you additional information. DLC students and staff will be invited to **dress in their favorite color to celebrate diversity on January 13**. A **Week of Service** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held during the **week of January 18**. DLC students will be sending cards and working on “no sew blankets” to donate to the homeless. **January 21** is Inauguration Day and students will be participating in a **Brain Pop Activity** to learn more about this important day. For **National Opposite Day on January 25**, students will use brain breaks that practice identifying opposites, doing things in a reverse order, and participating in other activities that feature opposites. The **culminating activity** for January will highlight all the cultures represented by students and staff at the DLC – New Providence. Students and staff will share pictures of items or events representative of their culture, such as foods, rituals, icons, or traditions. Classrooms will make a collage with pictures to share with other classes and post in the hallway. January is a busy month!

DLC – Warren is pleased to announce that Victoria Seavey, school nurse, has joined the DLC – Warren Health Office team. Please join us in welcoming her! Marcel Studios will be taking **school pictures** at the DLC – Warren on **January 13, 14, and 15**. A schedule will be sent home with the date and time for your child’s picture. Students receiving virtual instruction are invited into school on the designated date to have their pictures taken. Throughout the month of January, DLC – Warren students will be participating in various learning opportunities focused on winter activities. Some of the fun activities include **snowman games**, such as Build A Snowman Challenge, Happy Snowman Exercises, and Snowman Avalanche. Be sure to look for pictures of our students participating in these exciting activities! DLC – Warren students will be participating in formal **yoga instruction** offered virtually by The Center for Special Needs. Students will be instructed in developmentally appropriate poses, breathing, stretching, and relaxation movements during 30-minute virtual classes. Look for your child’s yoga class schedule beginning in January. This is

the DLC – Warren’s second year participating in the program which increases students’ strength, flexibility, and body awareness while relaxing the nervous system, easing sensory issues, and encouraging communication, positive feelings, and focus. Finally, the DLC – Warren is thrilled to be the recipient of a **2020 – 2021 Artist in Education (AIE) Residency Grant!** For the 2020 – 2021 school year, this residency will focus on providing students with instruction in photography. Our artists will instruct groups of students virtually once a week at the DLC – Warren for 16 weeks. Throughout the residency, our students will become familiar with photography techniques including lighting, aspect ratio, and perspective. The students will also learn how photography can tell a story. We look forward to providing you with updates and photographs throughout the school year.

COVID-19 Dashboard



We are pleased to announce that, as of January 4, 2021, you can find a link to aggregated data on the homepage of the MUJC’s [website](#) for all positive cases of COVID-19 at the MUJC.

Winter Weather



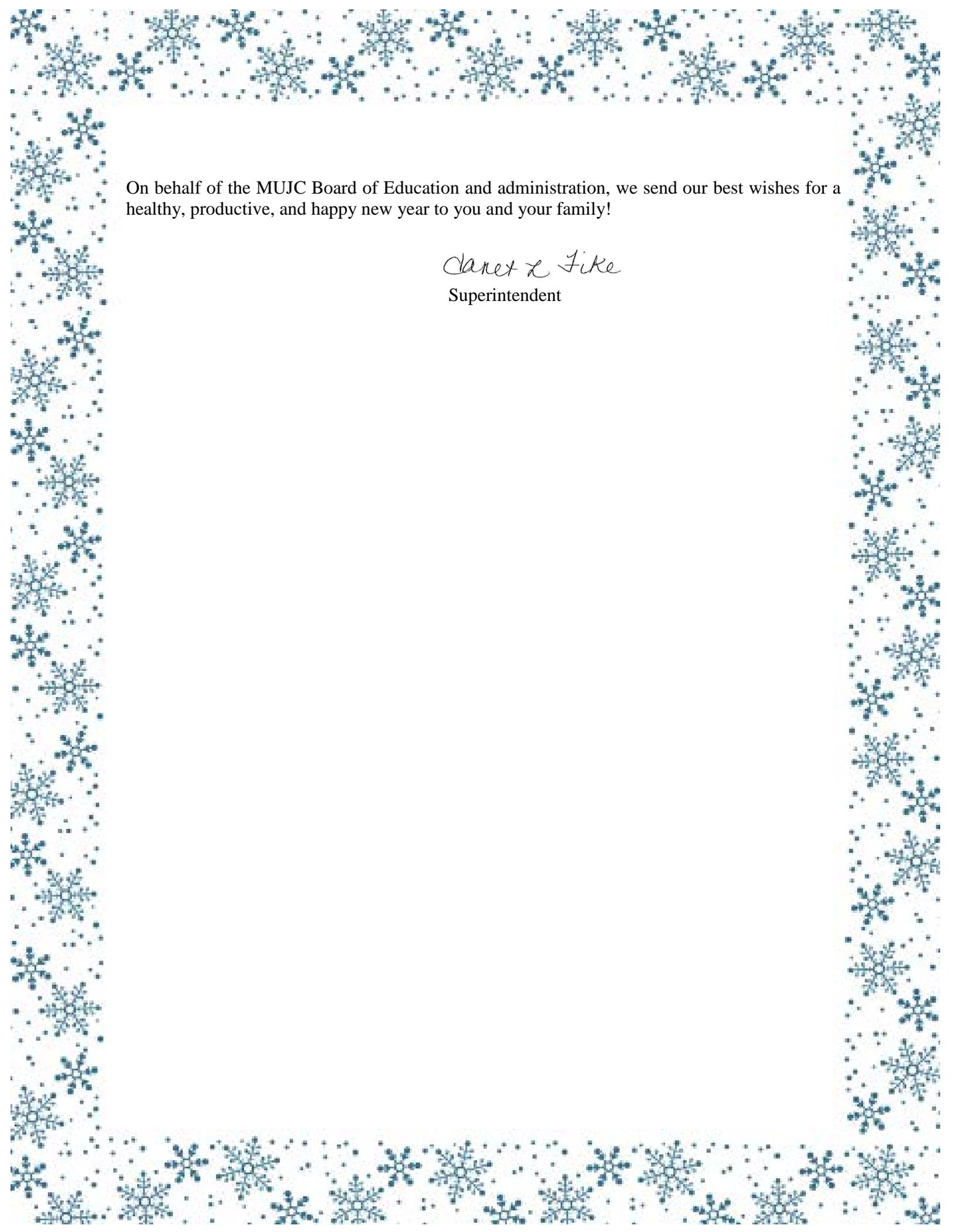
With the winter months upon us, I want to remind our MUJC family about our inclement weather procedures. You will receive a telephone call via Instant Alert no later than 6:30 a.m. if the DLC will have a “remote instruction day,” in which students will be instructed virtually by our staff, or if the DLCs will have an “emergency closing day,” when there is no remote instruction and the day will be added to the school calendar. Please be sure to listen for the Instant Alert call on days in which weather is a concern. Please ensure that you have updated your contact information (home telephone number, cell telephone number, and email address) if there have been any changes. This can be done via the MUJC website (www.mujc.org) by clicking on the “Parent” tab at the top of the page. Click on “School Closings and Delayed Openings,” which will bring you to the Instant Alert link. Our remote instruction days or emergency closing days are also displayed prominently on our website, Facebook, and Twitter as well as on the voicemail message at the MUJC Central Office number, which is 908-464-7625, or at the telephone numbers of the Developmental Learning Center sites (DLC – New Providence: 908-508-1345; DLC – Warren: 908-762-5600). Remember, if you have received an Instant Alert phone call or text message saying that the DLCs are having a remote instruction day or are closed, please do not have your child get on the school bus if it arrives at your house. Finally, emergency closing days will be listed on WNBC – TV (Channel 4) and nj.com.

Mark Your Calendar



The MUJC will host two Live Q&A Sessions as part of the **Parent Training Series Modules** during the month of January. On **January 6 at 12 noon**, please join Dr. Debbie Kiraly, MUJC school social worker, for a discussion on **Social Emotional Learning** and on **January 13 at 1:00 p.m.**, please join Matthew MacDougall and Ramon Colon, MUJC transition coordinators, for a discussion on **Transition**. Both sessions may be joined via a Google Meet link located on the MUJC [website](#) under the Parent tab.

Finally, school will be **closed on Monday, January 18, 2021** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



On behalf of the MUJC Board of Education and administration, we send our best wishes for a healthy, productive, and happy new year to you and your family!

Janet L Fike
Superintendent