

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-07 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2001 AS SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

School library media centers are an integral part of the total educational program in public schools. The American Library Association (ALA) annually designates April as School Library Media Month to focus citizens' attention on school library media center resources such as books, computers, and other educational materials that help students learn and grow throughout their lives.

This special month corresponds with National Library Week, April 1-7, 2001, sponsored by the American Library Association. The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners will be passing a resolution proclaiming April 1-7, 2001, as National Library Week for the Miami-Dade Public Library System. The public libraries will sponsor numerous events throughout the month, including several activities in conjunction with M-DCPS schools. For instance, Bent Tree Elementary students will participate in storytime and book talk activities with the Kendall Public Library librarian. Richmond Heights Middle School students will take a field trip to the Coral Reef Public Library and the South Miami Public Library librarian will speak to students at J.R.E. Lee Opportunity School.

Today, more than ever, school library media centers provide activities that help students of all ages read, learn, and connect with resources needed for school, work, or personal fulfillment. This year, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' theme for School Library Media Month is ***Check Out the Magic @ the Library.***

During School Library Media Month, schools are being asked to highlight reading-based activities that showcase the many resources and programs available in library media centers, including the Internet-based research databases purchased by the District. Parents, school board members, and community leaders will be asked to share their reading experiences with students as part of this initiative that also supports the District's Comprehensive Reading Plan. ***Check Out the Magic @ the Library*** activities also support research findings that children who read along with parents and other caregivers develop a love of reading and an appreciation for literature that will remain with them throughout their lives.

Many library media centers also provide community access to library resources before and after school and during evening hours. Consequently, parents and students have access to a variety of resources, including Internet access for information retrieval. To further this goal, eight schools were recently awarded the Extended Access to School Library Services Grant sponsored by the Florida Department of Education. These schools will provide extended library hours for students and parents, including reading and study activities.

During April, Library Media Services will host a meeting for library media specialists, curriculum support staff, administrators, and community leaders (i.e., public and academic library personnel). At that time, brochures and other materials will be distributed that highlight a variety of District-sponsored reading activities and suggestions for library media programming.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-07 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proclaiming the month of April 2001 as School Library Media Month, in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

JHM:cm

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-07  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
PROCLAIMING APRIL 2001  
AS SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH  
IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the quest for knowledge by school students is stimulated and developed through the use of educational resources and services provided by school library media programs; and

**WHEREAS**, school library media programs provide access to a wide variety of necessary educational materials such as books, magazines, audio and video tapes, laser discs, instructional television, computer software and information databases, as well as the technology needed to utilize these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, school library media programs are vital to building a nation of readers and creating a lifelong love of reading among our children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, school library media programs provide learning activities designed to enhance reading motivation and establish the information literacy skills necessary for lifelong learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the full potential of school library media programs is dependent upon trained professional library media specialists whose varied skills assist teachers and students in effectively using this wide range of information resources; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting that special recognition be given to school library media programs and the role of school library media specialists in education throughout the state and the nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-07 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proclaiming April 2001 as School Library Media Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this 14th day of March, A.D. 2001

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary