



## **Martin Luther King Literacy Initiative Abstract and Picture Pages (2004-Present)**

In promoting literacy for New York children, Project Flight from Buffalo State College founded in partnership with the Governor's Office and the Office of Children and Family Services to establish the Martin Luther King Literacy Initiative entitled "Leaders Are Readers" program. The literacy drive was started in 2004 that was held in New York City, Albany and Buffalo, representing the 3 areas of the state. For this literacy drive, state agencies are asked to collect new books for children from pre-k through high school. For Buffalo, the majority of the books donated during the MLK literacy drive are from Project Flight and distributed to children in the schools selected based on their application. In 2014 The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library joined Project Flight as a major partner to honor Dr. King in the "Readers are Leaders" literacy initiative. For 2016, the schools selected were West Buffalo Charter School, Windermere Boulevard Elementary School, North Collins Elementary School, P.S. 415 Middle Early College High School, Maryvale Intermediate School, and A. J. Schmidt Elementary School. In the spirit of Dr. King, Project Flight and the New York State Martin Luther King commemoration committee asked the question, "Why is reading important, and how does it change people's lives?" Some say that, "A book can change the way a person looks at the world." Isabel Allende said, "Books are the vehicles that move us from ignorance to understanding, from indifference to compassion, from disdain to respect." Dr. Cappella states that the "Legacy of Literacy is Democracy and Freedom. Dr. Martin Luther King always emphasized the importance of reading, and education. He talks about being judged by the "...content of your mind, not by the color of your skin." The importance of reading cannot be overstated. The chart below indicates the recipient school(s) for all participating years.



Martin Luther King Literacy Initiative Abstract and Program Pictures

**A List of the Martin Luther King Literacy Initiative Recipients (2004-2016)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
2004	Martin Luther King Jr. Multicultural Institute #39
2005	School #18
2005	Futures Academy #37
2006	Highgate Heights #80
2007	Hamlin Park Elementary #74
2009	Harriet Ross Tubman School #31
2010	D'Youville Porter Campus School #3
2011	School # 19 Native American Magnet School
2012	School #45 The International School
2013	St. Mary's Elementary School
2013	Nativity Miguel Middle School of Buffalo-St. Monica Campus
2013	Nativity Miguel Middle School of Buffalo-St. Augustine Campus
2014	Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy #76
2014	Charter School for the Applied Technologies Elementary School
2014	Lafayette High School #204
2014	Early Childhood Center #17

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
2014	Al-Rasheed Academy
2014	Lovejoy Discovery School #43
2014	Discovery School #67
2014	PFC. William J. Grabiarz School of Excellence #79
2015	Frank A. Sedita Academy
2015	Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School
2015	John T. Waugh Elementary School
2016	West Buffalo Charter School
2016	North Collins Elementary School
2016	Windermere Boulevard Elementary School
2016	P. S. 415 Middle Early College High School
2016	Maryvale Intermediate School
2016	A. J. Schmidt Elementary School

**The Martin Luther King Library for the Visually Impaired at D'Youville Porter Campus School**



(Left to Right) Ivan Gonzalez, Maria Baker (the boy's mother) and José Gonzalez.



(Left to Right) Ivan and José Gonzalez sitting behind a display of some of the Braille books donated by Project Flight.



Our group of concerned citizens. This includes the two women that brought this group together, Dr. Betty Cappella (Center-Blue Blazer) and Dr. Geraldine Bard (Far Right-Red Blazer). These two ladies are the co-directors of Project Flight.



(Left to Right) Evelyn Pizarro (former School #3 principal). Jodi Johnston (Former WGRZ Channel 2 News anchor) and Silvia Baines (School #3's former principal).



(Left to Right) Jolee Manns, Ivan's aide, Ivan Gonzalez, José Gonzalez, and Kathy Maldonado, the boys visually impaired teacher. Ms. Maldonado transcribes all of the boys material into Braille for them. She works throughout the Buffalo school district.

**Martin Luther King Literacy Initiative Recipient- Martin Luther King School**



Here at the Martin Luther King School children gather in the auditorium to receive a book from Dr. Geraldine Bard, Co-Director Project Flight (green blazer center picture) while at the podium on stage is Dr. Betty Cappella, Co-Director of Project Flight (center picture) speaking on the importance of literacy.

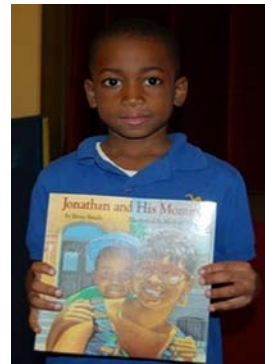
**Martin Luther King Literacy Initiative at BPS #31 Harriet Ross Tubman School**



Dr. Betty Cappella, Co-Director of Project Flight, speaks volumes on the importance of literacy.



Seen here is a larger portion of the 32,950 books Project Flight donated to the Buffalo Public School #31 at an estimated cost of \$228,389.00.

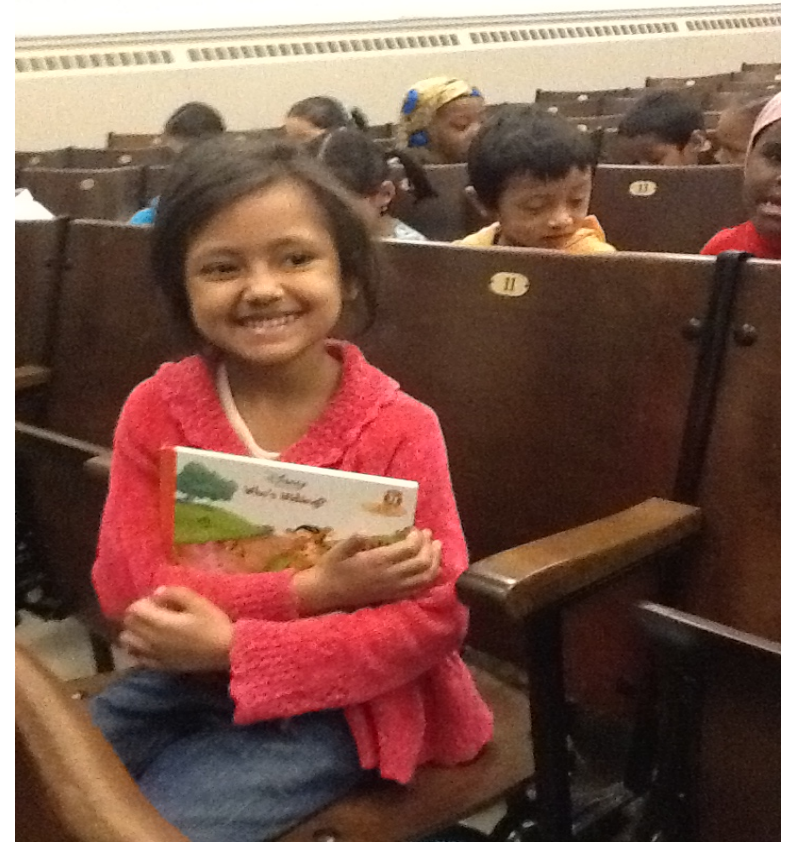


Two young students enjoy several of the many nice new multicultural books that were donated to the school by Project Flight.



Children from School #31 picking out books to take home with them. Project Flight stresses the importance of children having books in the home.

Dr. James Williams, Superintendent of the Buffalo Public Schools, and students at Harriet Ross Tubman School showing their book selections.



Children receiving books at MLK Recipient School~ School #45 International School