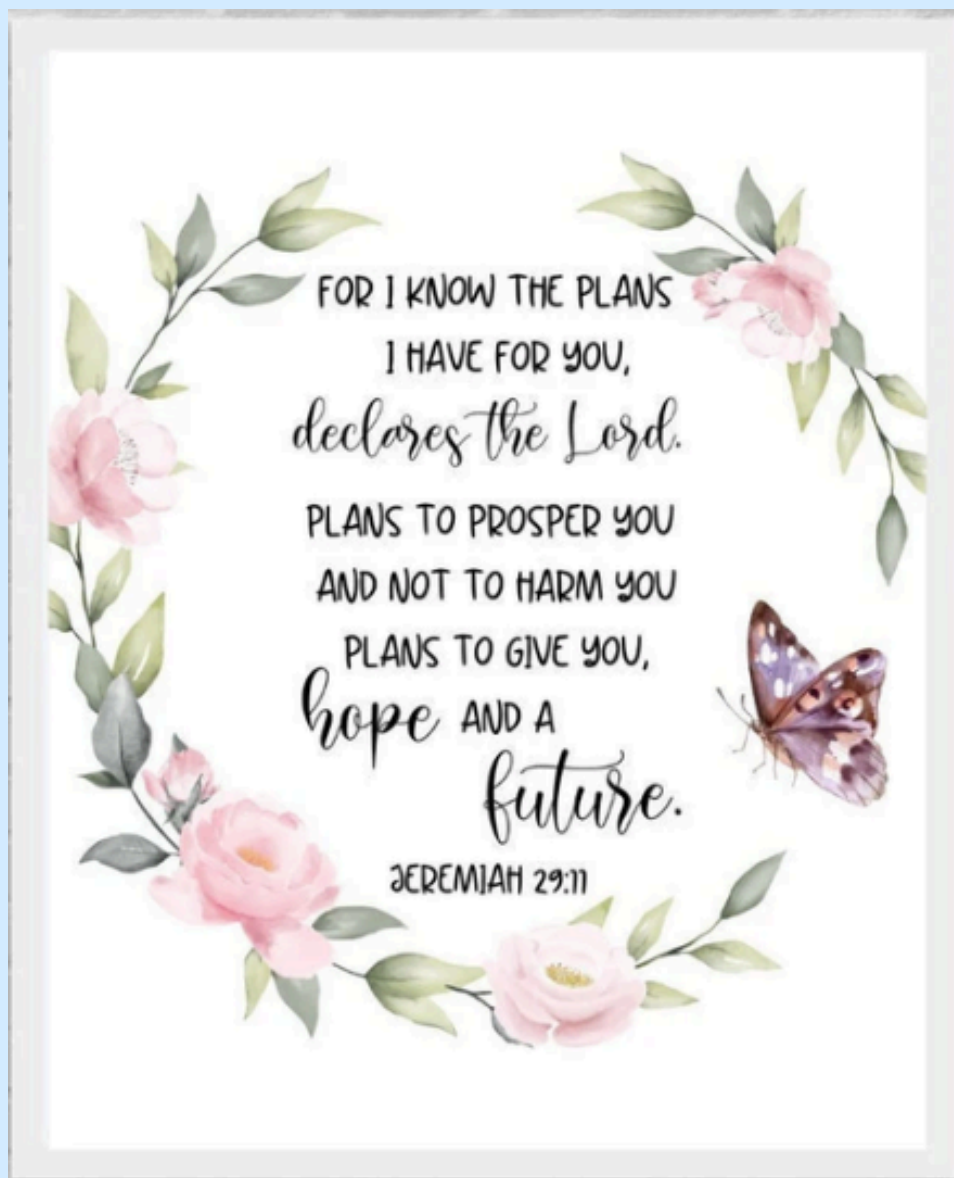


The First SDA Church of Newark
**Education Ministry
Newsletter**

QUARTER I: JANUARY - MARCH 2026



CHRIST'S GREETINGS!

**Welcome to Issue #1 of our
Quartely Newsletter!!**



From the Editor

On behalf of the Education Ministry, I would like to express gratitude to the leadership of our church for the opportunity to launch this new venture to highlight our scholars and the ministry on a whole.

We pray that you will continue to pray for, and support the ministry as we seek to prepare scholars for eternity. May God continue to bless you.

Christ's humble servant
Maria Jones



From the Pastor

Education is the BRIDGE to unlimited possibilities. My favorite author Ellen G. White says, "The love of God is the foundation of all true education." EDUCATION p.13 When the Bible is the textbook in any educational program, knowledge grows and wisdom flourish. "Education is the great engine of personal development" - Nelson Mandela.

Pastor Mario Thorp



About The Ministry

"Church entities operate schools from kindergarten through university levels for the purpose of transmitting to students the Church's ideals, beliefs, attitudes, values, habits, and customs. The source, the means, and the aim of Adventist education are a true knowledge of God, fellowship and companionship with Him in study and service, and likeness to Him in character development." SDA Church Manual p99

Objectives

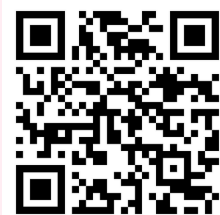
1. Promote Adventist education.
2. Planning meetings & events
3. Communicating with the church
4. Encouraging parents & teachers
5. Raising funds

Advisory Committee

1. Maria Jones - Education Secretary / Chairperson
2. Dawn Charlery - Asst. Education Secretary
3. Olgath Thorp - Conference Liason
4. Ayanna Henry - Communication
5. Emerline Hunte - Special Education Rep.
6. Mario Thorp - Counselor / Senior Pastor

To donate, Scan the QR code. Under "Local Offerings". select Education

To Support the Ministry





Benefits of Adventist Education

Spiritual Focus

Jesus Christ is taught across all subjects.

Favorable Student-Teacher Ratio

Smaller classroom sizes

Academic Achievement

Average achievement of 1/2 a grade above the predicted ability

Tailored Curriculum

High-quality, standards-based curriculum includes biblical perspectives.

Family Atmosphere

Environments -designed to offer close relationships, & mentorship.

Family Involvement

Parents and guardians are welcome to work with teachers.

Fully Accredited

- By The Accrediting Association of 7th day Adventist Schools, Colleges, & Universities

Community Involvement

Students are encouraged to volunteer & be active members of their community

Higher Education Attendance

Students are more likely to attend college—Over 85% of graduates from Adventist academies.

Remediation & Enrichment

activities can be more discreetly arranged than in most traditional classrooms.



POINTS OF PRIDE

ALANNAH

Stewart

St. Joseph's 2025-2026
Outstanding 8th Grader



At St. Joseph's, Alannah assists with morning fellowship, manages the annual school play, and writes and directs this year's Black History Program. She finished the first trimester with a stellar 4.3 GPA.

Dean's List & Principal's
Honor Roll

GABRIELLA

Alabi

In quarter 2, Raritan Valley Community College identified Gabriella as a student with outstanding record (over 93% in all classes, GPA 3.5), placing her on the Academy Principal's Honor Roll, and the Dean's List.



POINTS OF PRIDE

DANIELLA

Alabi

Student Council's Student of the Year Award



Daniella was recognized as The Middle Level Student Leader of the Year at Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School in February 2026.

Quarter 2 Honor Roll

MALIEK

Wright

Maliek was awarded a certificate of achievement for his commitment to his academic success during Quarter 2 at North Star Academy Clinton Hill Middle School.



POINTS OF PRIDE

JADONIQUE

Kelly

Student of the Month &
Homework Superstar



Jadonique attends NorthStar Academy, and was named Student of the Month for 3 three consecutive months, and Homework Superstar for three months in the marking period.

Dean's List & Principal's
Honor Roll

JOEL

GOODEN

Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology recognized Joel for making Honor Roll in quarter 2. Joel also received 3 certificates for participating in the NSDSIT quarter 1 and quarter 2 Math tournaments.



POINTS OF PRIDE

JOSHUA

Bien-Aime

Honor Roll



At Columbia High School, Joshua achieved the distinction of Honor Roll during the 1st marking period of the 25-26 school year.

Academic Excellence & Perfect Attendance

In honor of Shomari's academic achievement at Hillside High School, and his interest in the field of National Security, he is selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum: National Security (Cyber Defense, Diplomacy, & Intelligence) at Georgetown University in Washington DC, Summer of 2026.

SHOMARI

McKenzie



POINTS OF PRIDE

MAKAIO

MEDLEY

High Honor Roll



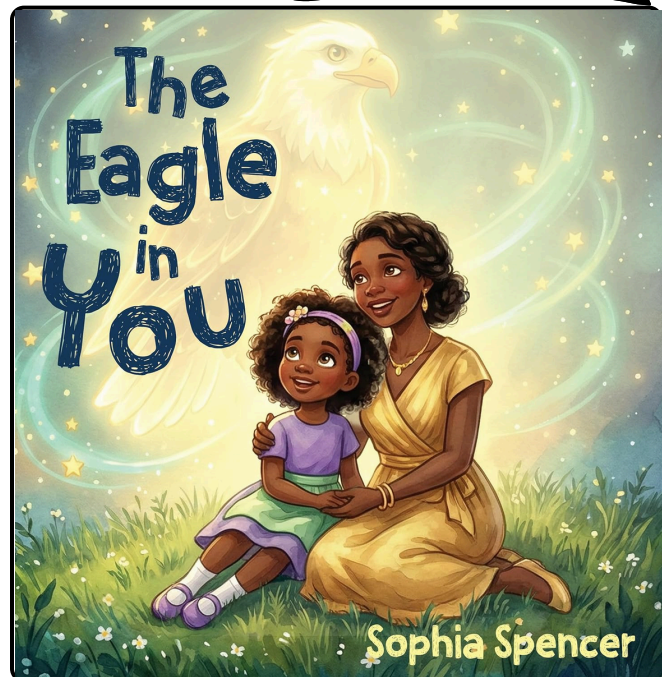
Marion P. Thomas Charter School awarded Makaio the certificate of High Honor Roll for demonstrating high academic excellence in the first quarter of the 25-26 school year.

Children's Book Author

Sophia Spencer has made her debut as a children's book author with this heartwarming and beautifully illustrated tale "The Eagle in You". Perfect for parents, teachers, & counselors, and is an essential tool for Social Emotional Learning. Available on Amazon.com

SOPHIA

SPENCER



Highlights of The Quarter

Annual Black History Gallery Walk



Our youth and young at heart highlighted some influential African Americans whose brilliance, passion and innovation have changed the way we live and function. Many of their inventions have made digital evangelism an effective tool in spreading the gospel.

Annual Black History Gospel Concert



At our Annual Gospel Concert, we were blessed by selections from diverse genres of music such as Negro Spirituals, Traditional Gospel, Contemporary Gospel, and Poetry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fundraiser **Sight & Sound Trip**

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

to see "Joshua"



Contact Maria Jones - 201-694-4075
or Bridget Butts - 973-820-7817

Annual VBS

- **July 20- 24, 2026**
- **Theme:**
"Cactusville"
- **Stay tuned for more details**

Graduates' Consecration Service

June 27, 2026 @ 11 am

This is a community outreach event that is open to all "Class of 2026" graduates from Newark, NJ and surrounding communities.



Tech Time

Negative Effects of Excessive Screen Time

Excessive screen time (defined as over 2-4 hours daily) is linked to significant mental and physical health issues, including increased risk of depression, anxiety, obesity, and poor sleep. Teens with 4+ hours of daily screen time are more likely to report anxiety and depression symptoms than those with lower usage.

Depression/Anxiety: Adolescents spending 5+ hours daily on devices are 70% more likely to experience suicidal thoughts or behaviors. 1 in 4 teenagers (12-17) with 4+ hours of daily screen time reported symptoms of anxiety or depression.

Cognitive Decline: Children with more than 2 hours of daily screen time scored lower on language and thinking tests.

Brain Structure: 7+ hours of daily screen time in children is associated with premature thinning of the brain cortex.

Sleep Disruption: Screen light suppresses melatonin, leading to sleep deprivation.

Obesity & Sedentary Behavior: High screen usage correlates with low physical activity, leading to weight concerns.

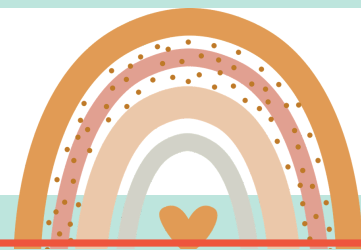
Physical Pain: Increased screen time is linked to "tech neck" or musculoskeletal pain.

Addiction: 54% of parents worry their children are addicted to screens, which can lead to social isolation and reduced attention spans.

Sources: *"Centers for Disease Control and Prevention"*

"National Institutes of Health"

Parent Corner



FREE GED CLASSES

Coming in September 2026, The Essex County Schools of Technology at Newark Tech will be offering **FREE GED classes** to residents of Essex County who did not get the chance to achieve their high school diploma. **Registration opens in August 2026.** Go to www.essextech.org and select Adult Education or see Sis. Maria Jones.

FREE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships.com is a FREE college scholarship search platform that helps students find scholarships they qualify for. This site only lists legitimate scholarships. Go to <https://www.scholarships.com/>

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - NJ

1. Core Academic & Credit Requirements - 120 credits
2. Assessment Requirements (Class of 2024–2026) Must pass the NJGPA in 11th grade with a score of 725 or higher on both ELA and Mathematics.
3. FAFSA: Many districts now require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a NJAFAA for financial aid.
4. Community Service: Some districts (like Newark) have mandated community service hours (e.g., 80 hours).

Parents - contact the school's guidance department to review your student's credit checklist annually.

QUESTIONS?

Parents, is there an education-related topic that you would like to see covered in next quarter's newsletter? Please see a member of the Education Advisory Committee, or send a whatsapp message to Sis. Maria Jones.





Springtime Connections

Spring is for renewal and reconnection. Let's embrace the blooming beauty around us and reconnect with Christ..

"As song -time and springtime and summertime to be,
So is my Lord, my living Lord,
So is my Lord to me." (SDA Hymnal #460)

Encourage!

Take a moment to celebrate our scholars for their hard work. Tell them "Job well done!"

Get Involved

Be a part of the events happening in our church.

- Church cleanups
- Prayer walks
- Volunteer at VBS
- Be a coach for PBE

Wellness Tips

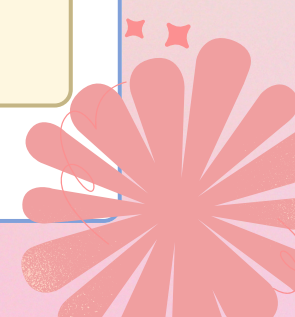
Refresh your mind and body this Spring!

- Take time for outdoor walks,
- Enjoy fresh, seasonal foods
- Practice mindfulness.

Let's nurture our well-being as nature blossoms.

Book Suggestions

Mark chapters 1 - 16
1 Peter, 2 Peter
1 John, 2 John, 3 John



Until Next Quarter. Be Blessed!

To Support the Ministry Scan the QR
code. Under "Local Offerings". select
Education

