

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR APRIL 12, 2016 8:28 PM

Miami-Dade students present PIANO SLAM

Music, for many children, is the one constant in their lives. The Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation has brought to Miami-Dade's public middle and high schools an innovative educational program called PIANO SLAM, which uses music to engage students and supports enhanced learning in core subjects.

PIANO SLAM has given almost 70,000 students a voice, teaching them critical skills of expression and communication so vital to thoughtful and robust learning experiences.

Since 2008, live in-school concerts have provided inspiration for students to write poetry and summon the courage to submit their works in the annual PIANO SLAM competition. This program not only presents great piano duos, but also allows parents and teachers to experience young people who stretch themselves beyond their comfort zone.

The curriculum developed by Dranoff expands opportunities for students' academic development and enhances the critical thinking and problem-solving so necessary in today's highly competitive world.

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools family appreciates our successful partnership with the Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation and for the development, commitment and execution of PIANO SLAM. The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts has been a great partner, providing the stage for students to showcase their creativity in a professional performance that is free to the public.

PIANO SLAM has a transformative power, unleashing the potential in children. Highly anticipated each year by students and teachers, PIANO SLAM makes a difference. The culmination of months of work happens tonight at the Knight Concert Hall at the Arsht Center. We will cheer students as they perform in the classical hip-hop spoken word mash-up that is PIANO SLAM.

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO, SUPERINTENDENT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

