



This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Alex Johnson



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Fall 2016

Welcome to our 43rd academic year!



Hailey Gomez is a junior from the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. She loves studying language and takes both French and Spanish. She plans to double major in business and language in college to prepare for a career in international business. Her family has Dominican roots and she spent a month this summer visiting family in the Dominican Republic. Hailey served as an orientation leader for Link Crew this year, and also participates on Step Team, in Math League, and in Relay for Life. She has a part time job at Feats of Clay and loves to read in her spare time.



Naej Jones, a junior from the Bronx, spent her summer as a hospital intern and enjoyed seeing how all members of the healthcare team work together to care for patients. Her favorite subject is English and she is interested in pursuing a career in architecture. She enjoys singing (her secret talent), reading, and hanging out with friends. At FMHS, she is a member of the Step Team, participates in Relay for Life and Black History month programming, and plans to join Mock Trial this year.

Christelle (Kiki) Pompee, is a sophomore from Brooklyn. Her parents are originally from Haiti and Kiki spent her summer participating in a community group called Making the Impossible Possible (MIPO), where she packaged kits of school supplies and toiletries for people in Haiti who can not afford them. Her favorite subjects are math—



because solving the answer is like putting a puzzle together—and art, because it allows her to express herself. She aspires to become a surgeon or an architect. She likes to read and her favorite color is purple.



Satya Brandon, a freshman from Brooklyn, is a swimmer and dancer. At home she is part of the Victory Music & Dance Company. In Manlius, she auditioned and was accepted as a member of the competition team at The Dance Studio, which she is enjoying so far. She hopes to join the swim team at FMHS and says her favorite event is the 200 fly. Satya's favorite subjects are math and art. She is fascinated by the brain and would like to become a neurosurgeon or neurologist. She is the youngest of four children, and because her dad is from Suriname, a Dutch colony, she can speak some Dutch.

Briana Amador, a freshman from the Bronx, spent her summer doing a law internship through Legal Outreach. She is interested in a career as a lawyer to help “lift people up” and plans to get involved with either debate or mock trial at FM. She is also a member of the Interact Club, which helps fund-raise for community and international organizations. Briana's favorite subjects are history and English. She likes to watch television to unwind and her favorite show is Grey's Anatomy. She has a diverse Hispanic background—her grandmothers hail from Guatemala and Puerto Rico and her father is from the Dominican Republic—and grew up speaking Spanish at home so that she would be bilingual.



2016

In Memoriam

The FM ABC family is deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our scholar, **Alexandra (Alex) Valentine Johnson**, FM Class of 2015. Alex came to FM and from the very start got involved in Track and Field, Cross Country, Relay for Life and step team to name a few. She became an accomplished artist and won best in show at the 2015 Scholastic Art Awards. She built strong connections with faculty and students and was known for her genuine nature, independence and strength. To honor Alex, fellow classmate, Mikayla Ruthig, FM '15, designed and sold t-shirts to raise money, "so that more Alex's could come to FM." The t-shirt message "**Good Morning Sunshine**" are the words Alex shared with her friends via text every morning. Her net was wide and her impact was deep.



She continued to make a difference when she joined the freshman class at Northeastern University. John R. Reynolds, Interim Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, said the following about Alex: "Alex represented the best of Northeastern and all of our core values, from academic excellence to community to leadership."

She was a wonderful individual and a beautiful spirit. A talented honors student, Alex was also a proud member of the Ujima Global Leaders Program, and was influential to the success of the program this past year as both a cohort member and a friend to her peers. She was a vocal and active participant in the Legacy Mentoring and Leadership Program, which she joined as a first-year mentee, and for which she planned to serve as a mentor.

An emerging leader, Alex was elected to the executive board of Northeastern's Black Student Association (NBSA) and was an integral part of the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute community. She could often be found at the Institute, studying in the early morning and sometimes staying late to get her work done. Alex was very passionate about Northeastern and the Institute, and was genuinely committed to helping our community thrive. She quickly became known as a student whom staff and peers could count on for support. Alex frequently volunteered for events and programming and was always ready to provide a helping hand."

Alex embodied what it means to be an ABC Scholar. In her short time with us, she used her intellect and talents to better herself and then turned and offered her gifts in service to others.

Alex will always be remembered and greatly missed by everyone she touched. To honor Alex, we are creating a scholarship in her name. To contribute, send your donation to FM ABC, P.O. Box 355, Manlius, NY 13104 or include it in the enclosed envelope with your donation. Make checks payable to FM ABC Alex Johnson Scholarship Fund. Thank you for helping us keep Alex's memory alive.



Alexandra (Alex) Johnson



2016

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Special Thanks to:

- Genevieve Fridley for the professional photos of the scholars.
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Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to FMABC P.O. Box 355, Manlius, NY 13104 or contributed via our website, www.fmabetterchance.org.



2016

News and Events

The FM ABC program has shown me what resilience, strength, and commitment young people can have, which is truly inspirational to me. I think it's also inspirational to the school community; they show us all how to step outside of our boxes in pursuit of self-improvement and the betterment of society. So often, the scholars share their strong and articulate voices in compelling their peers to think about culture, diversity, race, and - if nothing else - a world outside of Manlius, NY. They are courageous and thought-provoking young women, and I am so grateful that they are part of our community.

- Mary Halloran, English Teacher - FM High School, FM ABC Academic Advisor, Board Member Emeritus

We have loved being a part of the FM ABC Family! Our scholar has felt like a part of our family from the moment she entered our house. We adore her sense of humor, her sweetness and her incredible maturity/wisdom. She constantly blows me away. We love her and we are grateful to the ABC program for bringing her into our family!

Lisa Pilewski, host mom



Scholars sharing their smiles at the September Welcome Back Picnic



Scholars enjoying their extended families! We are so fortunate to have such wonderful host families and academic advisors!



Scholars and Staff reunite at the Annual Picnic
L-R: Carshena Andrews-RA, Jade, Kiki, Hailey, LaRae Martin-Coore-RD, Briana, Satya, Naej, Alexis Bradford-RA



Scholars, staff and board members enjoyed meeting and greeting community members at the 2016 Fayetteville Festival.



Anaren cleaning day at the ABC House

TopSpin December 2015



2016

Alumnae News

Tammy Rosado Gruenberg, FM Class of 1984, is the Medical Director of the Women's Health Pavilion at the Morris Heights Health Center. This year she won the award for "Above and Beyond" and an award for excellence in cervical pathology.

Mayra Rivera Lewin, Class of 1997 continues into her 15th year of teaching in the South Bronx, the district that led her to ABC. She mentors new teachers and gets proposals funded that provide materials to her student

Alanna Forte Boorashingh, Class of 1998, received her national certification for Nurse Anesthesia and is now working at Stoneybrook University Hospital.

Beth Hanson, Class of 1998, is now Beth Hanson Thompson. Beth married Earl Thompson on September 3, 2016, and three FM ABC alumna attended, Alanna Forte Bhoorasingh '98, Kiya Hope '99, and Jenelle Berry Cook '99. Beth shared, "I am really happy to still have such a strong connection to my FM-ABC family."



Aleatha Ealey Perkins, Class of 2002 is still in Milwaukee with her family and they are proud new homeowners! Her sons are now 3 and 1!



Mildred Flores, Class of 2004 was awarded her MBA degree, with a concentration in management, from Mercy College, May 2016.



Shynise Stiff, Class of 2010 teaches science in Dallas, TX and facilitated racial dialogues this summer - a continuation of her social justice and racial identity work from F-M's *Rhetoric of Race*. Shynise feels FM's course gave her the foundational language and empowered her to become an agent of change.



Jenelle Berry Cook, Class of 1999, had twins in May, Stokely and Miles! Congratulations to Michael and Jenelle and big sister Sloane!

Tanaja Stephenson, Class of 2016, is a Freshman at University of Virginia. She is already involved with many activities such as Fashion for a Cause, Black Student Alliance, dance contests and a member of MEL (Memorial for Enslaved Laborers). She passed along that "University of Virginia is perfect for me!" and that she is "beyond grateful that I had FM-ABC to help aid me."

Maribelle Ruiz Hernandez, Class of 2002, has been enjoying her last year in the Air Force in Italy with her family. She shared that, "All of our travel sparked a business venture. Chris and I have been developing a road travel app called Trip Commander. It's available now on Google PLAY and should be on iTunes by the end of winter."



2016

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2016

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UPCOMING EVENTS



TopSpin 2016 is in NYC on December 1! TopSpin is guided by the principle that every child deserves access to a well rounded, quality education. They raise awareness of the educational crisis and provide financial aid to groups of exceptional nonprofits which seek to help underdeserved youth to succeed. They do this by rallying professionals within the sports, entertainment and media industries to donate their time to raise money by participating in a ping pong exhibition. FM ABC is honored to be one of those exceptional nonprofits that receive aid from TopSpin. Please check out topspincharity.org or www.facebook.com/TopSpinCharity. If you would like to donate, remember to select F-M ABC as your charity.

Showboat 2017 at FMHS on April 28th and 29th at 7:00pm. Showboat is a variety show featuring talents of over 100 high school students. Proceeds from Showboat benefit FM ABC.



Fayetteville-Manlius ABC Program, Inc.
P.O. Box 355
Manlius, NY 13104

2016

Website: www.fmabetterchance.org

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E-mail address: fmabetterchance@gmail.com Contact us to find out how you can get involved in our many volunteer opportunities and help provide A Better Chance to our scholars.

REMINDER! TopSpin 2016 in NYC on December 1! To buy tickets or learn about our biggest fundraiser please check out topspincharity.org or www.facebook.com/TopSpinCharity. If you’d like to donate, remember to select F-M ABC as your charity.



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