



February 13, 2026

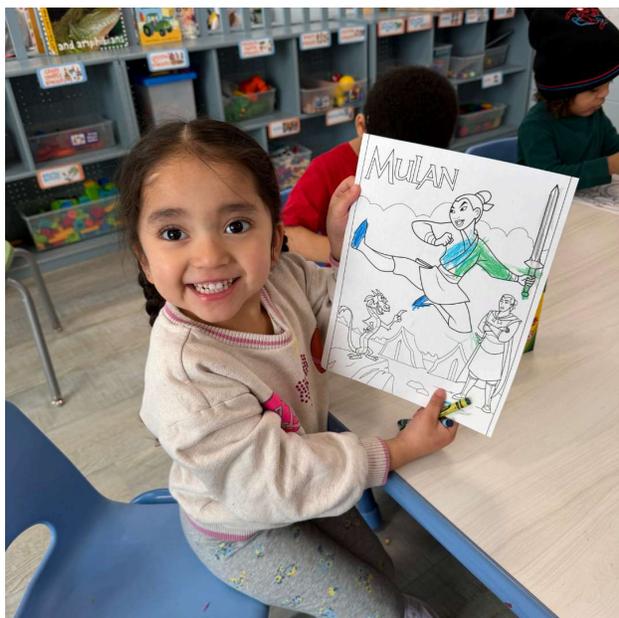
Learning about Floyd Norman



Our preschool students continued their Black History education this week by learning about **Floyd Norman**, the first black animator at Disney (he's now 90 years old, and still active on [Instagram!](#)).

His talents brought him to Pixar and Hanna-Barbera as well, and he worked on many classic films and shows beloved by multiple generations like *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Jungle Book*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Mary Poppins*, *Toy Story 2*, *Robin Hood*, *The Sword in the Stone*, *Mulan*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Scooby-Doo*, *The Smurfs*, *Sesame Street*, and *Fat Albert and The Cosby Kids*.

Representation matters, and it's important to shine the spotlight on black creators like Floyd Norman during Black History Month and beyond. We are so proud of our preschoolers!



Celebrating over 5,000 kids

It's time to celebrate because **we've officially registered over 5,000 children in Newport County for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library since the program launched in 2020.**

The program mails a free book every month to registered children from birth to their fifth birthday. Early exposure to books is crucial for language development and helps children learn to read on their own. This program is provided for the children in Newport County thanks to the generosity of the Bazarsky Family Foundation.

Interested in registering? [Click here](#) to send an email to our Imagination Library Coordinator, Judy Hall.

A celebratory graphic with a yellow background and confetti. At the top are logos for 'DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER' and 'DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY'. The word 'Celebrating' is written in large blue letters. Below it, the number '5000' is formed by five circular images of diverse children reading books. At the bottom, the text reads: 'Children Registered for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Newport County!'

A celebratory graphic with a yellow background and confetti. At the top are logos for 'DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER' and 'DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY'. The word 'Celebrando' is written in large blue letters. Below it, the number '5000' is formed by five circular images of diverse children reading books. At the bottom, the text reads: 'a 5000 niños inscritos en la Imagination Library de Dolly Parton en el condado de Newport!'

Spots Available in The Kids' Wonder Lab

We still have open spots in our afternoon session of The Kids' Wonder Lab! **There are five weeks left in this winter session, which is held every Monday at the Center from 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

This program offers sensory learning for children ages 18 months to 4 years of age to enhance socialization and promote crucial early childhood development. Children and their parents explore immersive activities that include sensory tools such as light tables, kinetic sand, music, arts and crafts, playdough, and more. The kids sometimes explore different tastes with a variety of snacks and foods!

Through these sensory experiences, children develop language, problem-solving, cognitive, fine motor, and creative skills, as well as emotional regulation. This program is offered to families in Newport County free of charge thanks to the Bazarsky Family Foundation.

Leslie, a Newport mom, raves about the program. **See what she has to say in the image below**, and if you would like to register for one of the open spots in this session, reach out to Erin Patel, our Community Programs Manager, by [clicking here](#) or calling 401.846.4828 x124.



We might have future Winter Olympians on our hands!

Our students in After School are showing their enthusiasm for the Olympic Games in Italy by making their own materials for a paper curling activity!

Their competitive spirit shone, and they didn't want to go home when their parents came to pick them up because they were having so much fun.



You helped more than 50 kids get the clothes they need

This week, we partnered with our friends at the [**Four Hearts Foundation**](#) to offer a Kids' Clothing Drive and Giveaway. We're grateful to our donation site partners [**Common Fence Point Community Center**](#), [**Newport Indoor Golf**](#), [**Portsmouth Nursery School**](#), the [**Evangelical Friends Church of Newport**](#), [**Island Art Spot**](#), and you, of course! Over 60 bags of clothing were donated.

The photos below show some snapshots of the event, with clothes prepared for parents to pick out the right items for their kids, and a kind message written on a donation box. Parents found outfits for everyday and for birthday parties, Valentine's Day, and Easter celebrations, too.

More than 50 kids in Newport County benefited from the drive. Thank you to all who donated; you made a real difference for these families.



Feeling the Love this Valentine's Day



Love is certainly in the air this week at the MLK. Our preschoolers were paired with a homebound person who receives monthly grocery deliveries from our Food 2 Friends program. Each child made a special valentine for their new friend, who will receive cards addressed to them, made with love, with their next grocery delivery. We hope it makes their day, and we wish a very happy Valentine's Day to all!

Celebrate with Valentine's Day with us, **join us for our special lunch today, Friday February 13th, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Surf and turf is on the menu! Thank you to George and Laura Loftus of Pelham Strategies for sponsoring the meal making this community celebration possible.



The poster features a decorative border of red hearts at the top. The main text is centered and reads: **♥ MLK Valentine's Day Lunch ♥**, **Almuerzo de San Valentín de MLK**, *Friday, February 13 Viernes, 13 de Febrero*, and *11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.* Below this, it says: **Join us for a special Valentine's Day lunch featuring baked salmon, steak, Greek orzo pasta, baked potatoes and kale salad!** and **¡Únete a nosotros para un almuerzo especial de San Valentín con salmón ahumado, filete, pasta orzo griega, patatas asadas y ensalada de col rizada!** The sponsor information is: *Sponsored by Patrocinado por* **George and Laura Loftus of Pelham Strategies**. At the bottom, there are five food icons: a bowl of salad, a plate of steak, a bowl of orzo pasta, a plate of salmon, and a baked potato. The background of the bottom section is red with a repeating heart pattern. The logo for **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER** is centered at the very bottom.

**Explore the history of black founders
and activists in Newport
at Senior Lunch & Learn**

Join us on Wednesday, February 18, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. for Senior Lunch & Learn with the **Rhode Island Slave History Medallions**.

They will lead a discussion on historical, influential African-American founders and community activists, followed by a round of trivia. Oh, and as always, there will be a delicious meal shared with friends!



SENIOR & LUNCH & LEARN 

Join us and the Rhode Island Slave History Medallions for a delicious lunch, a discussion on the history of African-American founders and community activists in Newport, and Trivia!



Wednesday, Feb. 18 @ 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
@ MLK Community Center,
20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.,
Free and open to all in Newport County!

Join our team!




**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

**OPEN
POSITIONS:**

- **DEVELOPMENT AND DONOR
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR**
- **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
ASSISTANT**
- **OUT OF SCHOOL TIME
PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

email us your resume at jobs@mlkcenter.org

Do you want to be part of a team that helps more than 8,700 people a year and counting? Are you passionate about supporting the education and growth of future generations? What about being a part of a 104-year-old legacy?

If that sounds like you or someone you know, we are hiring for the positions shown to the left, and we'd love to have you on our team.

[Click here to learn more about our available roles and apply through our website.](#)

MLK Black History Month Trivia

Congratulations to **Pauline Perkins Moyé** for being the first to correctly answer last week's trivia question. The MLK Community Center was renamed in honor of Dr. King following his tragic assassination in **1968**. Ready for more?

The MLK Community Center has a long history of sports and recreational activities. Before we had the Juneteenth basketball BBQ, we had basketball programs for both girls and boys. What was the name of this championship-winning team from 1948 - 1949 at the Center, or The Rec, as it was known back in the day? **[Click here to email your answers to our Marketing and Communications Coordinator](#)**, Anna Downes, for a chance to get a shout-out in next week's enews and socials, and of course, for the bragging rights!

MOMENTS IN MLK HISTORY



Beep! Beep! Here Comes the Mobile Food Pantry!



The Mobile Food Pantry is coming your way! Here are next week's Mobile Food Pantry Locations:

Tuesday 2/17/2026:

- Apple Creek Apartments, 700 Windwood Dr. Tiverton RI 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Bourne Mill, 1 Mill St. Tiverton RI 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Thursday 2/19/2026:

- Quaker Estates, 2368 E. Main Rd. Portsmouth RI 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Anthony House, 51 Middle Rd. Portsmouth RI 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- **Residents Only**

All are welcome. You do not need to reside in the neighborhood to use the Mobile Food Pantry, unless otherwise advised. Please remember to bring your reusable bags.

Download Our Monthly Calendar

Download February Calendar in
English

Descargar Calendario de Febrero
en Español



Our Contact Information

- *{{Organization Name}}*
- *{{Organization Address}}*
- *{{Organization Phone}}*
- *{{Organization Website}}*
- *{{Unsubscribe}}*

Volunteer

Give



You are receiving this email because you opted in to join our email newsletter list.
We promise to never share your information with third parties, or spam you.