

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL 3318 FOREST HILL BLVD., C-306. WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406 (561) 434-7335 FAX: (561) 434-8652 www.palmbeachschools.org Hotline: (855) 561-1010

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### MEMORANDUM

TO:

Honorable Chair and Members of the School Board

Dr. Donald E. Fennoy, Superintendent

Chair and Members of the Audit Committee

HIC

FROM:

Lung Chiu, Inspector General

DATE:

March 6, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 

Transmittal of Final Investigative Report

Case # 19-0002-I Fundraising/Crowdfunding

In accordance with School Board Policy 1.092, we hereby transmit the above-referenced final report.

The report addresses an allegation regarding a Jupiter Middle School Teacher setting up donations through a non-district approved crowdfunding site to raise funds for purchase of books. The allegation was substantiated.

The results of this investigation were referred to the Office of Professional Standards for appropriate action.

The report is finalized and will be posted on the Inspector General's website; <a href="https://www.palmbeachschools.org/departments/inspector general s office">https://www.palmbeachschools.org/departments/inspector general s office</a>.



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Donald E. Fennoy, II, Ed. D. Superintendent

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

K. Lung Chiu, CPA Inspector General

**Case Number:** 

19-0002-I

**Date of Complaint:** 

December 17, 2018

### **Complainant:**

Lynne Martella, Parent

### **Subject:**

Donalda McCarthy, Teacher, Jupiter Middle School

### Witnesses:

Lisa Hastey, Principal, Jupiter Middle School LeShante Henderson, Treasurer, Jupiter Middle School

Type of Report: FINAL

### **AUTHORITY**

School Board Policy 1.092 provides for the Inspector General to receive and consider complaints, and conduct, supervise, or coordinate such inquiries, investigations, or reviews, as the Inspector General deems appropriate.

This investigation was conducted by Senior Investigator Veronica Vallecillo in compliance with the *Quality Standards for Investigations, Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General*, promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

### **INTRODUCTION**

On December 17, 2018, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint regarding Jupiter Middle School Teacher Ms. Donalda McCarthy. The complainant alleged Ms. McCarthy required students/parents to purchase the book "Copper Sun" then later discovered a crowdfunding site (Donors Choose) was set up to receive donations to fund the purchase of 31 "Copper Sun" books.

### **BACKGROUND**

Jupiter Middle School is a public middle school in Jupiter Florida serving sixth through eighth grade. The school has approximately 1,400 students enrolled.

Donors Choose is a not for profit corporation that allows schools and teachers to raise funds for school supplies, books, and other materials.

### **ALLEGATION AND FINDINGS**<sup>1</sup>

Jupiter Middle School Teacher Donalda McCarthy set up online donations through a non-district approved crowdfunding<sup>2</sup> site to raise funds for the purchase of books. *Substantiated*.

### **GOVERNING DIRECTIVES**

- Florida Department of Education Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools Chapter 8.
- School Board Policy 2.16 Fundraising Activities Relating to Schools.
- District Internal Accounts Manual Chapters 7, 8, 19.
- District Bulletin #P 19-012 CFO FY 19 Mandatory Internal Accounts Training for Teachers and Account Sponsors Available in eLearning Management.

### ALLEGATION: EVIDENCE & TESTIMONY

Allegation: Jupiter Middle School Teacher Donalda McCarthy set up online donations through a non-district approved crowdfunding site to raise funds for the purchase of books. Substantiated.

### **Testimony of Lynne Martella, Parent**

Ms. Martella explained that her child's teacher, Ms. McCarthy, provided a class syllabus that included the novel "Copper Sun". Ms. Martella stated that Ms. McCarthy let parents and students know that the book needed to be purchased or obtained online by the beginning of school year 2018/19. Ms. Martella confirmed she purchased the book for her child at Barnes and Noble for no more than \$10.00.

Ms. Martella stated that she received emails from Ms. McCarthy addressed to parents and copied to Principal Hastey and Assistant Principal Marino requesting donations. In the email, Ms. Martella noticed a link to Donorschoose.org that referenced Ms. McCarthy's classroom. Ms. Martella went on the website and determined it was a site where Ms. McCarthy was requesting donations for classroom projects. Additionally, Ms. Martella noted that the website reflected "Copper Sun" had been fully funded since August 14, 2018.

Ms. Martella stated she asked her child about the website and the child stated he had no knowledge of the site. Ms. Martella also asked her child if Ms. McCarthy has ever asked for money. Her child told her Ms. McCarthy has not asked the class for money, but has told the class to tell their parents to donate.

### Testimony of Lisa Hastey, Jupiter Middle School Principal

Ms. Hastey confirmed that she was aware of a "Save Trees" project fundraiser Ms. McCarthy had on the Donors Choose website prior to Ms. Martella's complaint letter. Ms. Hastey explained that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The OIG findings were determined using the standards that appear on the signature page at the end of this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Per School Board Policy 2.16, crowdfunding is raising small amounts of money from a large number of people or businesses via an online platform to support a project or activity.

she first learned about Ms. McCarthy's project through an email Ms. McCarthy sent her in November 2018, that included the link to the website. Ms. Hastey stated she was only aware of the one project, and was not aware that Ms. McCarthy had other projects posted on Donors Choose.

Ms. Hastey noted that prior to October or November 2018, she did not realize there was an issue with teachers using Donors Choose. Ms. Hastey stated that she attended a Principal's meeting sometime in either October or November 2018, where crowdfunding was mentioned and it was explained that the only acceptable site for crowdfunding is "Find It Fund It". Ms. Hastey explained that she saw Ms. McCarthy in the school hallway that same day and advised her to only use "Find It Fund It," and to discontinue use of any other platform to raise funds online. Ms. McCarthy said "okay". Ms. Hastey noted she subsequently checked the website for further activity, but did not see any additional activity.

Ms. Hastey requested a list of fundraisers from School Treasurer LeShante Henderson. Ms. Hastey also inquired with Ms. Henderson regarding her knowledge of any teachers using Donors Choose for fundraisers. Ms. Henderson told her that no teachers were using the site. Ms. Hastey added that to her knowledge no other teachers at her school have used Donors Choose or "Find It Fund It" school year 2018/19.

With regard to the "Copper Sun" book, Ms. Hastey stated that classes usually have 25-30 students; therefore, it is a possibility that the 31 books purchased reflected on Donors Choose may be a class set that is used by all her classes.

Ms. Hastey stated she has not received any other complaints or concerns regarding the purchase of the "Copper Sun" book.

### Written Testimony of Donalda McCarthy, Jupiter Middle School Teacher (Exhibit 1)

Ms. McCarthy learned about Donors Choose through emails received from other staff reflecting successful fundraisers via Donors Choose.

Ms. McCarthy explained that she used Donors Choose this school year (2018/19) to set up two fundraisers for a class set of books "Copper Sun" and a document scanner.

Ms. McCarthy indicated she may have asked for approval from the Principal, but she was not able to confirm. Ms. McCarthy noted that she emailed Principal Hastey to let her know one of the projects had met its goal. Ms. McCarthy explained that she inquired via email with the treasurer regarding having to complete any paperwork.

Ms. McCarthy explained that Donors Choose requires verification of the school address. Ms. McCarthy noted that purchases are made directly through Donors Choose using Amazon Business.

Ms. McCarthy determined her goal for each project based on the price of the books and scanner listed on Amazon Business. Ms. McCarthy explained that once a project goal is met the items are ordered from Amazon Business and shipped directly to the school. Ms. McCarthy stated she did not directly receive any money from Donors Choose.

Ms. McCarthy confirmed that both project goals were met and the items were received.

Ms. McCarthy sent the Donors Choose project links to friends, family, parents, staff, and also posted on the Donors Choose Facebook page.

Ms. McCarthy stated the 31 copies of "Copper Sun" remain in the classroom for students to use. Ms. McCarthy confirmed she instructed parents/students to purchase the book if the student wanted their own copy. Ms. McCarthy noted that all parents and students were told verbally and in writing via email, Remind 101, and Google Classroom that all students have access to the books in her classroom before school, during study hall, and during class periods. The book could also be borrowed from the school or county library.

Ms. McCarthy explained that during the shipping process of the scanner, Principal Hastey verbally told her that Donors Choose was no longer approved and to only use an approved source.

### **Testimony of LeShante Henderson, Treasurer**

Ms. Henderson stated she is not aware of any fundraisers Ms. McCarthy has done during school year 2018/19. To Ms. Henderson's knowledge, Ms. McCarthy has not submitted any fundraising applications during this school year.

Ms. Henderson stated she is not familiar with Donors Choose. Ms. Henderson added that she has heard of "Find It Fund It" during the District Treasury meetings, but has not used it. Ms. Henderson explained that she does not know the procedures in place for "Find It Fund It", but knows the procedures exist.

#### **Documentation Reviewed**

The OIG reviewed the Donors Choose website and determined that Ms. McCarthy does have an account set up as "Teacher Miss-Donni's Classroom". The account reflects she is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Jupiter Middle School and has two projects associated with her account (Exhibit 2 & 3). Below is a summary of the two projects:

Title	Description	Submission Date	Completion Date	Funds Raised
Learning U.S./Florida/African- American History Via Fellow Teens' Perspective	"My students need their OWN copy of our class novel, "Copper Sun" by Sharon Draper"	7/30/18	8/14/18	\$313.00
Save Trees-But-Keep Writing!	"Help me give my students a more Green classroom whilst providing them handwriting, old-school learning. We need a Fujitsu Document Scanner (high volume) along with Staedtler Lumocolor Non-Permanent Markers to accomplish both goals. My teenagers write DAILY!"	10/27/18	11/27/18	\$623.00

The Donors Choose website highlights the following:

- Only teachers at verified schools post projects on the site
- Every single project is vetted by verifying the value of the items

- Requested items are ordered and shipped to the school
- School addresses are verified
- Cash is never sent
- School principal and registered teachers are alerted in advance of every shipment
- Teachers report on how items are being used in their classroom

District email records indicate that on August 19, 2018 and November 27, 2018, Ms. McCarthy received confirmation emails from Amazon reflecting the items purchased and the shipping address as Jupiter Middle School (Exhibit 4).

The OIG visited Ms. McCarthy's classroom on January 16, 2019, and observed 31 "Copper Sun" books and a Fujitsu scanner with the matching model number as what was reflected on the Donors Choose website to have been purchased.

School Board Policy 2.16 (2a) Fundraising Activities Relating to Schools states:

Acceptable methods of fundraising shall be either crowdfunding or school/classroom based. The use of a District approved solution for crowdfunding is strongly encouraged. Online fundraising conducted via any other platform shall not be construed as being conducted, funded, hosted or sponsored by the School Board or any District School.

School Board Policy 2.16 (4a) Fundraising Activities Relating to Schools provides for crowdfunding applications to be routed to the principal from the sponsor via a District approved fundraising website.

Chapter 19 of the District Internal Accounts Manual states that the "use of other crowdfunding platforms cannot reference the School District or a District's School Name since those monies raised are not controlled by the School or District until deposited to an Internal Account. The only District approved crowdfunding site is Find It Fund It."

Ms. McCarthy sent emails to Principal Hastey reflecting information about the project, but they were after the project was set up (Exhibit 5). Ms. McCarthy provided an email exchange between her and Treasurer Ms. Henderson on November 27-28, 2018, reflecting the order information from Amazon Business for the items. Ms. McCarthy sent Ms. Henderson an email on November 27, 2018, inquiring about paperwork requirements for the donations. Ms. Henderson did not specify that there were any requirements (Exhibit 6).

Although Principal Hastey did have knowledge of the project site and Ms. McCarthy did inquire with Ms. Henderson regarding procedures, it occurred after the initial set up of the first project on July 30, 2018. Based on the testimony and documentation obtained during the investigation, the OIG has determined the allegation that Jupiter Middle School Teacher Donalda McCarthy set up online donations through a non-district approved crowdfunding site to raise funds for the purchase of books is *Substantiated*.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bulletin #P 19-012 CFO FY 19 Mandatory Internal Accounts Training for Teachers and Account Sponsors Available in eLearning Management states "all teachers/sponsors who transact business within school internal accounts must view the appropriate presentation sessions prior to beginning the specific activity." Fundraising is one of the sessions available.

PeopleSoft training records indicate that as of January 28, 2019, Ms. McCarthy has not completed the fundraising training.

The OIG obtained the presentation slides for the fundraising training from the District's accounting webpage. The presentation includes information regarding procedures for crowdfunding.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The OIG **recommends** that Ms. McCarthy complete the appropriate sponsor training and ensure that, in the future, only District approved crowdfunding sites are used.

The OIG **recommends** the Superintendent review current policies and procedures regarding crowdfunding and provide guidance and clarification to schools on which crowdfunding sites are approved for use. Additionally, the OIG **recommends** the Office of Professional Standards review the violations and findings of this report.

### AFFECTED PARTY NOTICE

In accordance with School Board Policy 1.092 (8)(b)(iv), on February 4, 2019, Ms. Donalda McCarthy was notified of the investigative findings and provided with an opportunity to submit a written response to these findings.

On February 27, 2019, the OIG received a response from Ms. McCarthy, as reflected below (the attachment referred to in the response is **Exhibit 7**).

RESPONSE: This is written on the introduction page of the donation site: "Inclusive of English language learners, from low-income households, or living in group homes, owning a whole book that can be their own are so important to my students and are truly valued. I am U.S. and Florida History teacher in a well-to-do area that busses in impoverished, financially disadvantaged, and migrant children. Watching all of the students be able to engage in learning without feeling crippled by a Have or Have Not status is uplifting."

The classroom set of novels was always made available to every student. The option to obtain their own novel was recommended for enjoyment, marking up, or just for those who required additional time to read based on their own reading level.

The option to students to obtain their novel via purchase, school library, county library, or free Kindle download was always at the option of the student. There was

no requirement to purchase the novel. Ms. Martella notes she received or saw [on the class website] the syllabus including the novel's inclusion and that her teenager, while unaware of the fundraising website, was aware of the fundraiser for his classroom. Ms. Martella's teenager did, Ms. McCarthy observed, have his own copy of the novel early in the Semester. When his "Reading Check" scores began to drop, Ms. McCarthy consulted with her student and learned that he had lost his copy of the novel. The students' grade were not affected by whether they had their own copy of the novel or not, rather if they were participating in the reading. Ms. Martella's teenager did not use the classroom set of novels once he lost his own copy even though the option was offered to him.

Ms. Martella displayed a history of targeting the teacher, Ms. McCarthy. Ms. Martella's teenager has a 504 Plan that includes a requirement that "Extended Time for Assignments" and "Organization Skills by Teachers" are to be put in place and given assistance in monitoring. Ms. Martella has sent lengthy, accusatory and veiled threatening emails to Ms. McCarthy whenever her teenager's grade dropped and that the teacher had no right to question how they organize their teenager's at-home culture to assist the steps the school takes according to the personal education plan. Mr. Marino, the Grade 8 Assistant Principal, Mr. Albano, the grade 8 Guidance Counselor, and Mr. Materi, the campus police officer, were notified of these emails that also contained language including notification that she had obtained Counsel and that she owned a Concealed Weapons Permit. She canceled one parent-teacher conference. The second was canceled by the school due to the necessitation of the additional staff members, including the School Police, to be present during the pending conference. Mr. Albano met with Ms. Martella. The teenager was removed from Ms. McCarthy's class.

RESPONSE: Ms. Martella is the sole parent who complained of the notices about the classroom fundraiser.

There is a culture within the school of utilizing DonorsChoose.org to fund classroom projects that was in place prior to Ms. Hastey and Ms. McCarthy joining the staff. So strong is the culture of utilizing this website to offset classroom funds, that when Ms. McCarthy inquired about options for funding the classroom set of novels to the school Media Specialist, Ms. Deal, and the Social Studies Department Head, Ms. Previte, both advised McCarthy to use DonorsChoose.org. Both worked at the campus for years prior to the hiring of Hastey and McCarthy.

There are currently multiple open projects across the district for DonorsChoose projects. (see attached) Emails are also sent to the entire staff of teachers who are or have used Donors Choose to get their classroom projects funded.

The District newsletter even prints successful funding of classrooms throughout the District funded via Donors Choose on their website. The statement 'Ms. Hastey stated that she attended a Principal's meeting sometime in either October or November 2018, where crowdfunding was mentioned and it was explained that the only acceptable site

for crowdfunding is "Find It Fund It". It appears this policy has not been widely shared.

Response: This should not be Substantiated as the two Donors Choose projects took place 7/30/18 and 10/27/18 prior to the conversation with Principal Hastey informing her to use only 'Find It, Fund It'. Ms. McCarthy did not use the site after being informed. When was the policy created? How were teachers notified? School Board policy currently states "Acceptable methods of fundraising shall be either crowdfunding or school/classroom based. The use of a District approved solution for crowdfunding is strongly encouraged." This does not mandate, it is 'strongly encouraged'. There is a District Internal Accounts Manual referred to, how would teachers know about this manual? It cannot be located on the school board nor district website.

Again, the real concern and issue is Ms. Martella displayed a history of targeting the teacher, Ms. McCarthy. Ms. Martella has sent lengthy, accusatory and veiled threatening emails to Ms. McCarthy whenever her teenager's grade dropped. Mr. Marino, the Grade 8 Assistant Principal, Mr. Albano, the grade 8 Guidance Counselor, and Mr. Materi, the campus police officer, were notified of these emails that also contained language including notification that she had obtained Counsel and that she owned a Concealed Weapons Permit. She canceled one parent-teacher conference. The second was canceled by the school due to the necessitation of the additional staff members, including the School Police, to be present during the pending conference. Mr. Albano met with Ms. Martella. The teenager was removed from Ms. McCarthy's class.

The findings of this report will remain the same. School Board Policy 2.16 (2a) Fundraising Activities Relating to Schools states the use of a District approved solution for crowdfunding is strongly encouraged. However, the policy also states that online fundraising conducted via any other platform shall not be construed as being conducted, funded, hosted or sponsored by the School Board or any District School. Ms. McCarthy's account and projects with Donors Choose reflected information about Jupiter Middle School.

As discussed in the Additional Information Section of this report, as of January 28, 2019<sup>3</sup>, Ms. McCarthy had not completed the required fundraising training per *Bulletin #P 19-012 CFO FY 19 Mandatory Internal Accounts Training for Teachers and Account Sponsors Available in eLearning Management*. The training reiterates what the School Board policy 2.16 and explains that the District has partnered with the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County to offer Find It Fund It.

With regard to the location of the District's Internal Accounts Manual, the manual is located on the District's Accounting Services webpage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> PeopleSoft training records indicate that as of March 3, 2019, Ms. McCarthy has not completed the fundraising training.

### **OIG Case # 19-0002-I**

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The OIG will include an additional recommendation that the Superintendent provide guidance and clarification to the schools regarding crowdfunding procedures.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

Palm Beach County School Board Members Donald Fennoy, Superintendent Audit Committee Members Office of Professional Standards OIG file Investigation Conducted by:

Veronica Vallecillo, CIGI

3.6.19 Date

Investigation Supervised by:

Oscar Restrepo, CIGI, Director of Investigations

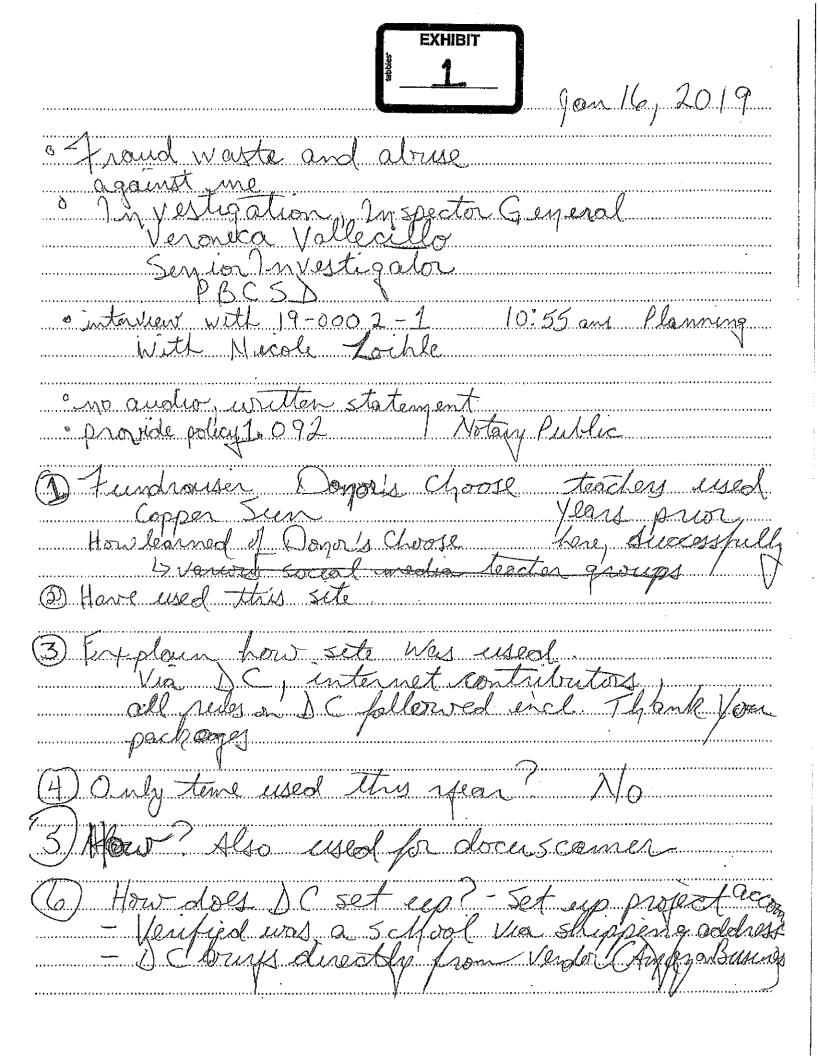
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Investigation Approved by:

K. Lung Chiu, CIG, Inspector General

3.1.10 Date

The evidentiary standard used by the School District of Palm Beach County OIG in determining whether the facts and claims asserted in the complaint were proven or disproven is based upon the preponderance of the evidence. Preponderance of the evidence is contrasted with "beyond a reasonable doubt," which is the more severe test required to convict a criminal and "clear and convincing evidence," a standard describing proof of a matter established to be substantially more likely than not to be true. OIG investigative findings classified as "substantiated" means there was sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the actions occurred and there was a violation of law, policy, rule, or contract to support the allegation. Investigative findings classified as "unfounded" means sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the actions did not occur and there was no violation of law, policy, rule, or contract to substantiate the allegation. Investigative findings classified as "unsubstantiated" means there was insufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the actions did or did not occur and a violation of law, policy, rule, or contract to support the allegation could not be proven or disproven.



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To support the learning of all the students us the students had access to the books. The books are spept in the classroom. The books gad access to the books. o before school odining A.R. (a k a stroly hall) odining some class periods 3. Was approval attained prior to the feurdraiser aspect of for principal may have been aspect organistration has sent organist not ) had any paperwork I fad to do for the undraiser als funds would not be coming hertefly to me or the school of asked Gave print out of receipt from D from my especil confirmation. 14. Jes, was given Copper Sun reading on Explaires opy of emeil was printed showing free option Sworn before me on January 16,2019.

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Help



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# Teacher Miss-Donni's Classroom



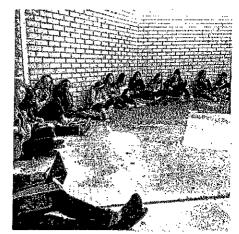
8th grade
Jupiter Middle Schoot
Jupiter, FL

More than a third of students from low-income households

\$



Make a donation Teacher Miss-Donni can use on their next classroom project.



Thanks for cyber-visiting our energetic History classroom! Miss Donni is also a theatre director and bring her love of Americana into 3-dimensional play when possible. A world-traveler herself, she loves to show us multiple versions of maps that increase our global perspective of our world and, thus, how we fit into it as a positive, contributing member. As a result of our multiple HANDS-ON PROJECTS (like the full Moroccan marketplace she had us create to understand how TRADE works), we are always in search of recycled materials, glue, tape, Ziploc freezer baggies, and spray paint! Thanks for keeping us in mind next time you have material or buckets you're cleaning out of your



# Foster learning with a monthly donation

Teacher Miss-Donni will be able to use your donations for their future classroom projects.

Give monthly

**Projects** 

Supporters 22

PAST PROJECTS 2

### Save Trees-But-Keep Writing!

Funded Nov 27, 2018

it is completely amazing to have your support to make our classroom more Green and more efficient whilst continuing to challenge the writing prowess of my teenagers. We have a technology-blended classroom, yes, but hand writing information, such as notes, still proves to be the most salient form of comprehension. This machine will allow access for both of the modern students' needs!"

With gratitude, Teacher Miss-Donni

### Learning U.S./Florida/African-American History Via Fellow Teens' Perspective

Funded Aug 14, 2018

with immense and sincere gratitude, I get to announce that our American History reading project has been FULLY FUNDED! Soon, my students will be reading the perspective of fictional Get updates from this classroom

SHARE THIS CLASSROOM







Teacher Miss-Donni (teacher) | DonorsChoose.org

teenagers who lived through the Colonial Period of our country. Sharon Draper is an incredibly popular HistoricalTeenFlc author who specializes in building empathy through relatable experiences."

With gratitude, Teacher Miss-Donni

### Supporting teachers and students since 2000

DonorsChoose.org makes it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need. Public school teachers from every corner of America create classroom project requests, and you can give any amount to the project that inspires you.

3.562,145 SUPPORTERS

1,324,919

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\$313 GOAL

HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Keep the momentum going! Make a donation to Teacher Miss-Donni for their next project!

\$



# Learning U.S./Florida/African-American History Via Fellow Teens' Perspective

My students need their OWN copy of our class novel, "Copper Sun" by Sharon Draper

### My Students

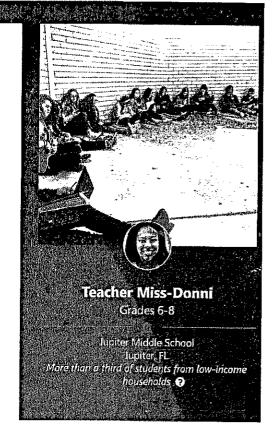
Do you remember getting unwittingly hooked on a book assigned by your teacher? The trepidation of "required reading" met with a gutwrenching opening to a historical character that was so like yourself that you discovered you couldn't even put the novel back in your backpack because you wanted to keep reading it during lunch break. And then getting IN TROUBLE because you read ahead under the covers with a flashlight?! And you could... because the book belonged to you.

My students are wonderfully typical teenagers who are indelibly interested in the world around them.

Inclusive of English language learners, from low-income households, or living in group homes, owning a whole book that can be their own are so important to my students and are truly valued. I am U.S. and Florida History teacher in a well-to-do area that busses in impoverished, financially disadvantaged, and migrant children. Watching all of the students be able to engage in learning without feeling crippled by a Have or Have Not status is uplifting. The teenagers participate and engage in the process... and withOUT a screen in front of them.

### My Project

Teenagers learn best when they are a) not told \*how\* they should learn something and b) able to relate it to their own lives. COPPER SUN is a beautiful, gritty, horrific story. The characters that popular TeenFic teacher-author Sharon Draper introduces are complex but still real and relatable. Families may find the violence and cruelty that the two teenage girls, one an African slave and the other an indentured servant, a challenge to read about, but the story does succeed in connecting





4 donors have given to this project.

This project will reach 140 students.

Jupiter, FL Grades 6-8

More than a third of students from low-income households

History & Geography

Literacy

SHARE TEACHER MISS-DONNI'S PROJECT







modern teens to a period in time that many view from the jaded distance of a textbook,

Even more amazing for my Florida teenagers, this novel brings the Underground Railroad escape by our two main characters not north, but SOUTH into their own state!

As such, another layer of American history is absorbed. We meet the Native American tribes of Florida who resisted the Trail of Tears and, thus, more relatable heros and heroines (and FOOD) that make up the unique culture of our very own state.

### Where Your Donation Goes

·			
MATERIALS	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Copper Sun • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$7,48	30	\$224,40
Copper Sun • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$7,48	1	\$7.48
Materials cost			\$231.88
Vendor shipping charges			FREE
State sales tax			\$0.00
3rd party payment processing fee 🐒			\$3.48
Fulfillment labor & materials 🗇			\$30.00
Total project cost 🐠	•	•	\$265,36
Suggested donation to help DonorsChoose.org reach more cla	ssrooms	<b>©</b>	\$46.83
Total project goal 🚳			\$312,19
Still needed 69 View calculation		• •	\$0.00

Our team works hard to negotiate the best pricing and selections available. 🚳

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## **Project Activity**

If you donated to this project, you can sign in to leave a comment for Teacher Miss-Donni.

#### Supporting teachers and students since 2000

DonorsChoose.org makes it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need, Public school teachers from every corner of America create classroom project requests, and you can give any amount to the project that inspires you.

3,599,892 SUPPORTERS **1,348,498** PROJECTS FUNDED

**32,625,151** STUDENTS REACHED

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16 DONORS

\$623 GOAL

HOORAY! THIS PROJECT IS FULLY FUNDED

Keep the momentum going! Make a donation to Teacher Miss-Donni for their next project!

\$



# Save Trees-But-Keep Writing!

Help me give my students a more Green classroom whilst providing them hand-writing, old-school learning. We need a Fujitsu Document Scanner (high volume) along with Staedtler Lumocolor Non-Permanent Markers to accomplish both goals. My teenagers write DAILY!

### My Students

Benefits of Going Paperless in a Teen's Classroom

A) Saves Time

Time spent filing, organizing, and searching for paper documents crumbled on the bottom of a book bag is time that could be spent on more productive learning. Digitized documents are stored in a central repository, which is basically a well-organized digital filing cabinet where all of your documents live. Teachers are able to use this extra time on more interest-generating projects.

### B) Saves Space

Paper takes up a lot of space – as do filing cabinets and space to store those filing cabinets. Digitizing files allows you to store all documents either on an on-premises server or in the cloud.

#### C) Saves Money

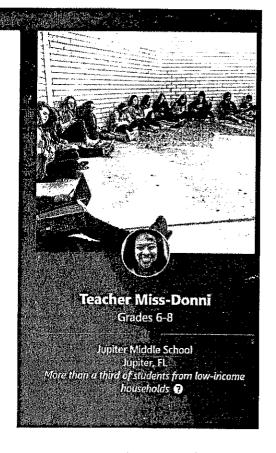
In today's public schools, families of students are required to donate the consumable classroom supplies like spare pencils, tissues, sanity wipes, and, goodness knows, PAPER REAMS!

We are a 1:1 Chromebook classroom, however, psychology proves students still learn best "old school" by hand writing their notes.

### My Project

Technology has become so prevalent in our lives that it is almost impossible to get anything done without the help of a computer (including grading & storing assignments).

Writing by hand really connects you with the words and allows your brain to focus on them, understand them,



Section of the

16 donors have given to this project.

This project will reach 140 students.

Jupiter, FL Grades 6-8

More than a third of students from low-income households

History & Geography Social Sciences

SHARE TEACHER MISS-DONNI'S PROJECT







### and learn from them.

According to plenty of different studies, there are brain-friendly benefits of writing out notes, essays, or journal entrees by hand that you can't get from typing. (Also, LESS SCREEN TIME)

The Fujitsu Scansnap IX1500 Document Scanner and Staedtler Non-Permanent Markers in our classroom will embrace BOTH needs! The teenagers will be able to produce their DAILY writing assignment and notes whilst doing our part to keep our classroom as Green as possible. The additional benefit--- no dogs eating homework!

### Where Your Donation Goes

MATERIALS	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Fujitsu ScanSnap iX500 Color Duplex Dask Scanner Mac PC  • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$419.9	9 1	\$419.99
Set of 10 Black Micro-Pen Fineliner Ink Pens, Anti-Bleed & Waterproof Archival Ink,Brush & Calligraphy Tip Nibs - Artist Illustration, Office Documents, Scrapbooking, Technical Drawing • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$11.99	6	\$71.94
Materials cost			\$491.93
Vendor shipping charges			FREE
State sales tax			\$0.00
3rd party payment processing fee 🖏			\$7.38
Fulfillment labor & materials 🏖			\$30,00
Total project cost 🚱			\$529:31
Suggested donation to help DonorsChoose.org reach more class	srooms (	9	\$93,41
Total project goal 🚷			\$622,72
Still needed 💰 View calculation			\$0.00

Our team works hard to negotiate the best pricing and selections available.  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{D}}$ 

Show less

## **Project Activity**

If you donated to this project, you can sign in to leave a comment for Teacher Miss-Donni.

NOV 27, 2018



**Dot,** a volunteer at DonorsChoose.org, purchased the **resources** for Teacher Miss-Donni's classroom and notified the school principal of delivery

NOV 27, 2018



Teacher Miss-Donni posted an update

it is completely amazing to have your support to make our classroom more Green and more efficient whilst continuing to challenge the writing prowess of my teenagers. We have a technology-blended classroom, yes, but hand writing information, such as notes, still proves to be the most salient form of comprehension. This machine will allow access for both of the modern students' needs!

With gratitude, Teacher Miss-Donni

NOV 27, 2018



Good news: Project fully funded!

NOV 27, 2018

KARA HEBERT from JUPITER, FL gave

Hi Miss Donni - I am so happy to donate to your classroom because Trip and I think you are the best teacher!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for the kids. We love you!



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

YYYYAAAYYYYYY! What a rockstar fam! THANK YOU, Heberts!

. . . . .

NOV 26, 2018



A donor from Minnesota gave

The DonorsChoose.org Community & W. Kamau Bell matched this donation

The DonorsChoose.org Community is excited to welcome W. Kamau Bell fans to our community to support projects like yours!



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Thank you thank you to you BOTH!

NOV 26, 2018 Sandra Feliciano from Florida gave



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Thaaaaanks Nick's Mom!!! We're so lucky to have you

NOV 26, 2018

Connie Smith from Florida, a classroom parent, gave



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

MANY MANY THANKS, Ms. Smith! It's great to have the support of our community!

NOV 26, 2018

Tracy Wodraska from Florida, a classroom parent, gave



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Thaaaaank you, Mrs. Wodraska for always being a huge supporter of my classroom. It's been a joy educating your sons!

NOV 20, 2018 Gerald Waish from Florida gave

Sarah is my GRAND daughter, ( MY SUNSHINE) I want Sarah to conquer all her goals. Shine on Sarah



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

What a lovely attribute! And we think she's amazing, too. Thank you for the contribution to our classroom.

1/29/2019

Save Trees-But-Keep Writing! | DonorsChoose.org project by Teacher Miss-Donni

NOV 16, 2018 **Alberta Perry-McCarthy** gave in memory of **Grandma** Dorothy Perry



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

What an incredible gesture. Thank you, Mom!

NOV 12, 2018

Brett Wilson from Florida gave

Miss Donni is an excellent teacher who wants to see her students succeed. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!



Teacher Wiss-Donni responded

Eeeeexcellent!!! Thank you so much!!!

NOV 7, 2018

Leslie Streeter from Florida gave

Because I believe in Miss Donni,



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

. I want this SUNG for ussss! Amazing and thank you!

NOV 7, 2018 Kim Williams from West Virginia gave

You are a lucky group of students to have Miss Donni as your teacher. She cares about you & wants the best for you! Pay attention and you will learn lessons you can use for your entire life. I have worked with Miss Donni and known her for years. Kim Williams



Teacher Wiss-Donni responded

Thank you TONS, Ms Kiml I appreciate you appreciating technology in our classroom as well as for the loving shout out.

NOV 7, 2018

Annie from Oregon gave

Happy birthday to Miss Donni, an amazing teacher!!



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Thank you TONS, Annie! I appreciate you appreciating technology in our classroom.

NOV 7, 2018

Tony Everett from New York, a friend, gave

Happy Birthday Miss Donnil



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Hey HEY hey! Thank you so much, Mr. Everett. I know you appreciate streamlining.

NOV 6. 2018

Jody Glassman from Florida gave

No one can ever take away your education 🤎 💚





Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Too true, Ms. Glassman! You would KNOW!

NOV 6, 2018



Ben Guerin from Florida gave



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Thank you TONS, Ben! I appreciate you appreciating technology in our

NOV 6. 2018

Sylvia Isaacs from Jupiter, FL, a classroom parent, gave

Thank you Miss Donni for supporting our children AND the environment! The Isaacs Family



Teacher Miss-Donni responded

Absolutely my pleasure, Ms. Isaacs!

OCT 28, 2018



Kathy, a volunteer at DonorsChoose.org, verified the cost of the requested resources and posted this project

OCT 28, 2018



Kathy, a volunteer at DonorsChoose.org, reviewed the project essay and sent follow-up questions if needed

OCT 27, 2018



Teacher Miss-Donni submitted this project

### Supporting teachers and students since 2000

DonorsChoose.org makes it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need. Public school teachers from every corner of America create classroom project requests, and you can give any amount to the project that inspires you.

3,599,892 SUPPORTERS

1,348,498 PROJECTS FUNDED 32,625,151

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Dalio Foundation

Ознкозн







Carol Rupers Whalen Memorial Pand

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From:

Amazon.com <no-reply@amazon.com>

Sent:

Sunday, August 19, 2018 2:00 PM

To: Subject: DONALDA.MCCARTHY@PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG Order #J004012434419721 was successfully placed.

amazon

Your Account

# Order Information

Purchase Order / Reference: J004012434419721

# Hello Miss Donni,

Thank you for shopping with Amazon.com. Your order has been successfully placed and will soon be shipped. Specific order details are below. If you would like to view the status of your order, please visit <u>Your Orders</u> on Amazon.com.

Buyer Details	Order Summary	
Miss Donni Bought on behalf of DonorsChoose	Items (2):	\$266.60
Dangin an Danata	Shipping & Handling:	\$0.00
	Promotion Applied:	\$0.00
	Total before Tax:	\$266.60
	Estimated Tax:	\$0.00
	Order Total:	\$266.60

# Items that will be shipped

Order # 111-4417284-0765042

Request received on Sunday, Aug 19, 2018

This shipment will go to

I. Miss-Donni, Deliver to the Front Office Jupiter Middle School 15245 Military Trl Deliver to the Front Office Jupiter, FL 33458 United States **Estimated Delivery Date** 

Tuesday, Aug 21, 2018 - Wednesday, Aug 22, 2018

Your Shipping Speed Two-Day Shipping

Items		Price	Qty	Total
400	Copper Sun	\$8.60	1	\$8.60
	Copper Sun	\$8.60	30	\$258.00

If you want more information or need assistance, contact <u>Business Customer Service</u> or call (888) 281-3847.

Thank you for shopping with Amazon.com.

From: Sent: Amazon.com <no-reply@amazon.com>
Tuesday, November 27, 2018 3:51 PM

To: Subject: DONALDA.MCCARTHY@PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG Order #J017772437321161 was successfully placed.

amazon business

Your Account

# **Order Information**

Purchase Order / Reference: J017772437321161

### Hello Miss Donni,

Thank you for shopping with Amazon.com. Your order has been successfully placed and will soon be shipped. Specific order details are below. If you would like to view the status of your order, please visit <u>Your Orders</u> on Amazon.com.

Buyer Details	Order Summary		
Miss Donni Bought on behalf of DonorsChoose	Items (2);	\$497.93	
Bodgitt on Bollottolicooc	Shipping & Handling:	\$0.00	
	Promotion Applied:	\$0.00	
	Total before Tax:	\$497.93	
	Estimated Tax:	\$0.00	
	Order Total:	\$497.93	

# Items that will be shipped

Order # 113-6635345-0611452

Request received on Tuesday, Nov 27, 2018

This shipment will go to

I. Miss-Donni Jupiter Middle School 15245 Military Trl Jupiter, FL 33458 United States Estimated Delivery Date

Friday, Nov 30, 2018 - Saturday, Dec 1, 2018

Your Shipping Speed Two-Day Shipping

ltems		Price	Qty	Total
Mary 186	Fujitsu ScanSnap iX500 Color Duplex Desk Scanner for Mac and PC (PA03656-B305)	\$419.99	1	\$419.99
	Set of 10 Black Micro-Pen Fineliner Ink Pens, Anti-Bleed & Waterproof Archival Ink,Brush & Calligraphy Tip Nibs - Artist Illustration, Office Documents, Scrapbooking, Technical Drawing	\$12.99	6	\$77.94

If you want more information or need assistance, contact <u>Business Customer Service</u> or call (888) 281-3847.

Thank you for shopping with Amazon.com.



Lisa Hastey < lisa.hastey@palmbeachschools.org>

EXHIBIT

### Help me build a better classroom

1 message

Im Miss-Donni <no-reply@donorschoose.org>

Reply-To: DONALDA MCCARTHY@palmbeachschools.org

To: "lisa.hastey@palmbeachschools.org" <lisa.hastey@palmbeachschools.org>

Sun, Nov 18, 2018 at 1:49 PM



DonorsChoose.org

I want to make sure my students have the materials and experiences they need to succeed, so I just created a request for my classroom at DonorsChoose.org:

Save Trees-But-Keep Writing!.

If you chip in to help my students, you'll get awesome photos and our heartfelt thanks.

Thanks so much, Im

P.S. If you know anyone who may want to help my classroom, please pass this along!

I sent this on DonorsChoose.org. You haven't been added to an email list. Please respond to me directly by emailing me at DONALDA.MCCARTHY@PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG.

Received from Ms. Hosky on 1/16/19. Email Sent by Ms. McCartny regarding Dominschoose.org.



Donalda McCarthy ≺donalda.mccar

EXHIBIT

### Order #J017772437321161 was successfully placed.

6 messages

Amazon.com <no-reply@amazon.com>
To: DONALDA.MCCARTHY@palmbeachschools.org

Tue, Nov 27, 2018 at 3:51 PM

Your Account

# amazon business

# Order Information

Purchase Order / Reference: J0177724373/1161

### Hello Miss Donni,

Thank you for shopping with Amazon.com. Your order has been successfully placed and will soon be shipped. Specific order details are below. If you would like to view the status of your order, please visit <u>Your Orders</u> on Amazon.com.

Buyer	Details
-------	---------

Miss Donni

Bought on behalf of DonorsChoose

# **Order Summary**

Items (2):	\$497.93
Shipping & Handling:	\$0.00
Promotion Applied:	\$0.00
Total before Tax:	\$497.93
Estimated Tax:	\$0.00

Order Total:

\$497,93

### Items that will be shipped

Order # 113-6635345-0611452 Request received on Tuesday, Nov 27, 2018

### This shipment will go to

I. Miss-Donni Jupiter Middle School 15245 Military Tri Jupiter, FL 33458 United States **Estimated Delivery Date** 

Friday, Nov 30, 2018 - Saturday, Dec 1, 2018

Your Shipping Speed

Two-Day Shipping

Items

Price Qty

Total

34 16 1

Fujitsu ScanSnap (X500 Color Duplex Desk Scanner for Mac and PC (PA03656-B305)

\$419,99 1

\$419.99



Set of 10 Black Micro-Pen Fineliner Ink Pens, Anti-Bleed & Waterproof Archival Ink,Brush & Calligraphy Tip Nibs - Artist Illustration, Office Documents, Scrapbooking, Technical Drawing

\$12.99 6

\$77.94

If you want more information or need assistance, contact <u>Business Customer Service</u> or call (888) 281-3847.

Thank you for shopping with Amazon.com.

Donalda McCarthy (Miss Donni) <donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org> Tue, Nov 27, 2018 at 4:17 PM To: Lashante Henderson <lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org>, Lisa Hastey lisa.hastey@palmbeachschools.org>

Do you need to record this anywhere that were raised these funds through this organization?

Here's the receipt. They're shipping everything directly to us via Amazon business.

Warmly,

"Miss Donni"

Donalda A. McCarthy U.S.History, Grade 8

CLASS WEBSITE: http://bit.ly/MissDonni-USHIstory
CLASS DONATIONS https://www.donorschoose.org/MissDonni

CERTIFIED Educator

Gwigle for Entremus

Jupiter Middle School of Technology 15245 N. Military Trail Jupiter, FL 33458 Phone 561.745.7200 Fax 561.745.7242

Ms. Lise Hastey, Principal

Lashante Henderson <a href="mailto:lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org">lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org</a>
To: Donalda Mccarthy <a href="mailto:donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org">donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org</a>
Co: Lisa Hastey <a href="mailto:donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org">donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org</a>

Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 7:54 AM

Hi Donalda,

Can you please stop by bookkeeping? I don't know what's going on

Thanks

Come to the edge," he said.
"We can't, we're afraid!" they responded.
"Come to the edge," he said.
"We can't, We will fall!" they responded.
"Come to the edge," he said.
And so they came.
And he pushed them.
And they flew."
— Guillaume Apollinaire

LaShante Henderson Treasurer II Jupiter Middle School 561-745-7202 / PX 57202 ph. # 561-745-7242 / PX 57242 fax #



[Quoted text hidden]

**Donalda McCarthy (Miss Donni)** <a href="mailto:carthy@palmbeachschools.org">donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org</a> To: Lashante Henderson <a href="mailto:lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org">lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org</a>

Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 9:02 AM

What are your questions?

We are receiving a donation. Is there any paperwork that we need to fill out to to notate it?

Warmly,

"Miss Donni"

Donalda A. McCarthy U.S.History, Grade 8

# CLASS WEBSITE: http://bit.ly/MissDonni-USHistory CLASS DONATIONS https://www.donorschoose.org/MissDonni



Jupiter Middle School of Technology 15245 N. Military Trall Jupiter, FL 33458 Phone 561.745.7200 Fax 561.745.7242

Ms. Lisa Hastey, Principal

[Quoted text hidden]

Lashante Henderson <a href="mailto:lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org">lashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org</a>
To: Donalda Mccarthy <a href="mailto:donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org">donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org</a>

Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 9:25 AM

Not that I know of.

Come to the edge," he said.
"We can't, we're afraid!" they responded.
"Come to the edge," he said.
"We can't, We will fall!" they responded.
"Come to the edge," he said.
And so they came.
And he pushed them.
And they flew."
— Gulllaume Apollinaire

LaShante Henderson Treasurer II Jupiter Middle School

# 561-745-7202 / PX 57202 ph. # 561-745-7242 / PX 57242 fax #



[Quoted text hidden]

**Donalda McCarthy (Miss Donni)** <a href="mailto:donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org">donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org</a> To: Lashante Henderson <a href="mailto:dashante.henderson@palmbeachschools.org">donalda.mccarthy@palmbeachschools.org</a>

Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 9:35 AM

Ok, thanks.

Warmly,

"Miss Donni"

Donalda A. McCarthy U.S.History, Grade 8

CLASS WEBSITE: http://blt.ly/MissDonni-US/History
CLASS DONATIONS https://www.donorschoose.org/MissDonni



Jupiter Middle School of Technology 15245 N. Military Trail Jupiter, Fl. 33458 Phone 561.745.7200 Fax 561.745.7242

Ms. Lisa Hastey, Principal

EXHIBIT seign

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West Palm Beach, FL

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West Palm Beach, FL ×

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1 DONOR SO FAR

\$527 STILL NEEDED



### Snacks for FSA Testing

"Help me give my students water and potato chips that will motivate and push them to do their best on the upcoming Reading, Math, Writing, and Science test."

BE THE FIRST TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

\$662 STILL NEEDED