

FLI News

Future Leaders Institute Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue...

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Always reference the calendar posted on the school's website for the most up-to-date info

CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT

Check out spotlights of what our students are currently learning as well as other important information.

EXTENDED DAY SPOTLIGHT

Get a more in depth look at key components about our Extended Day program and the classes offered.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The students are the center of it all. Hear all about what's happening at FLI from the perspective of our students.

INSIDE THE COMMUNITY

Learn about FLI's core values, the foundation of our community, and how we will be celebrating throughout the school year.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FLI wants to help fulfill any needs that you might have outside of the school community. This section will always communicate opportunities and resources offered in or around the neighborhood.



Thank you to our Career Day presenters! 6-8th grade students enjoyed hearing about a variety of careers including EMTs, lawyer, social worker, and more!



GREETINGS FROM...

Jody Flowers
Principal

Dear FLI Families,

I would like to start by thanking all of our families for their continued support. Last month we completed the final pieces as it relates to FLI's renewal process. A special thank you to all of our families who joined for the in-person meeting with the DOE and the virtual public hearing. We look forward to hearing the results of our renewal by mid March. Once we receive an update, we will share it with all members of the FLI community.

During the week of February 2nd, we celebrate Guidance Counselors Appreciation Week. A huge thank you to Ms. Rossi and Ms. Ruhiyya for the tremendous work that they do supporting our students mentally and emotionally, while providing a safe space for students to discuss personal challenges, address social issues, and develop coping strategies.

Did you know the 100th day of school for FLI is coming up at the end of February? That means we are close to more than half way through the school year.

Have a wonderful month ahead!

FLI School Calendar

1. [Click here for FLI's School Year Calendar - Website](#)

-Or-

2. Scan below for FLI School year calendar - FLI website



This link or QR code will take you to FLI's Calendar for the 2025-26 School Year. Dates are subject to change. Please use this calendar to plan ahead for the year when it comes to major school events, parent teacher conferences, school closures, major assessments and much much more.

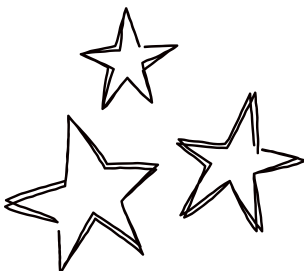
FLI Monthly Calendar

1. [Click here for FLI's Monthly calendar](#)

-Or-

2. Scan below for FLI's Monthly calendar

This link or QR code will take you to FLI's Monthly Calendar for the current month. This calendar will included the most up to date information with even more detail.



Curriculum Spotlight

"Curriculum should help children have deeper and fuller understanding of their own experience."

...STAY IN THE KNOW



K/1 Students exploring body systems during Ms. Katja's reading centers which take place every Friday!



A Message From...

Natalie Gonzalez
Assistant Principal of
Curriculum & Instruction

Hello FLI families! During the month of February students in grades 3-8 will be taking a short simulation for the computer-based New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics tests. Students in 5th and 8th grade will also be taking the simulation for the computer-based science test. The purpose of these test is for students to familiarize themselves with the platform by using the available tools (e.g., calculator, highlighting, elimination feature) given that all students in testing grades will be taking their state exams online in the spring of 2026. In preparation for these exams, all students in grades 3-8 have access to digital texts, workbooks, and assessments to build their computer skill fluency in the classroom.

BOOK OF THE MONTH...

In the text Stories of Ancient Rome, 3rd grade students are introduced to an ancient civilization whose contributions can be seen in many areas of our lives today. Students learn about the culture of ancient Rome- including religion, food, education, legends, social class structure, and entertainment. They will learn about Roman geography and history, government, major leaders, monumental battles, and the rise and decline of the Roman Empire. Students will also learn about ancient Rome's influence and contributions to our society today.



A LOOK AHEAD...

- **March 3rd**, ELA ANet Benchmark 2: Grades 7-8
- **March 4th**, ELA ANet Benchmark 2: Grades 3-6
- **March 5th**, Mathematics ANet Benchmark 2: Grades 7-8
- **March 6th**, Mathematics ANet Benchmark 3: Grades 3-6



MONTHLY SUBJECT FOCUS: SOCIAL STUDIES

Scholars in grades K to 8 learn the New York State Social Studies Standards through the NYC Department of Education Passport to Social Studies curriculum. Through these lessons students learn the geography, government, and history of countries and continents throughout the world!

Check out our current units of study:

Kindergarten/First: The Community

Second: Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities

Third: Egypt Case Study

Fourth: Colonial and Revolutionary Periods

Fifth: Mexico Case Study

Sixth: First Humans and the Neolithic Revolution Early River Valley Civilizations

Seventh: A New Nation: The United State Constitution

Eighth: World War I and the United States Between Wars



Extended Day Spotlight

"Curriculum should help children have deeper and fuller understanding of their own experience."

...STAY IN THE KNOW



A MESSAGE FROM...

Ms. Nadijah

Extended Day Coordinator

In Extended Day here at FLI we are always working on finding new ways to have students display their work. On February 27th, we will have an opportunity for parents to join us as students showcase some of the work they have done. Additionally, students will assist other students, parents, and staff in learning new techniques from their classes. We look forward to having all parents come and experience a little of Extended Day with our students on February 27th at 3:15 PM in the GYM!

REMINDERS

Important Dates

- February 13th: No Extended Day (2:30 Dismissal)
- February 16th to 20th: No School (Mid Winter Break)
- February 23rd: Extended Day Resumes
- February 27th: Extended Day Exhibition

Pickup time is 4:45 PM for Extended Day

- Early pickup from Extended Day ends at 4:15 PM. If you arrive after 4:15 PM you must wait till 4:45 PM.

Attendance

- To keep your child's seat in the Extended Day program, your child must maintain at least a 90% attendance rate.

A colorful poster for the Extended Day Exhibition Day. It features a collage of photos showing students working on projects, including a chess game and a display of student work. The text is bold and celebratory, with balloons and confetti graphics. The event is scheduled for Friday, February 27th, from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM in the GYM. It encourages parents to come explore and celebrate their children's work.

EXTENDED DAY

EXHIBITION DAY

**FRIDAY
FEB 27TH
3:15 PM TO
4:15 PM**

Location: GYM

COME EXPLORE, CELEBRATE, AND BE INSPIRED BY THE AMAZING WORK OUR STUDENTS HAVE CREATED DURING **AFTER-SCHOOL HOURS!** THIS SPECIAL EXHIBITION SHOWCASES THEIR CREATIVITY, EFFORT, AND IMAGINATION

For more information email: nfarquharson@futureleadersinstitute.org

Student Spotlight

"Developing the children of today to be the leaders of tomorrow."

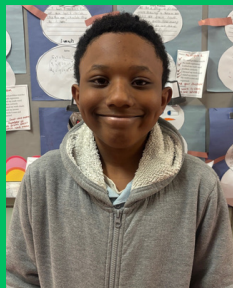
...LOOK WHO'S TALKING

This month's spotlight is on Mr. Gonzalez's 4th Grade class! We asked students, **"February is Black History Month. Who do you look up to?"**



Garrett

I look up to Harriet Tubman because she helped a lot of people. It was painful but she stepped up.



King

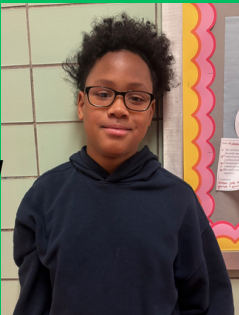
I look up to Martin Luther King Jr. because he did good things for our country and helped everyone.



Skylar

I look up to Rosa Parks because she led people to not ride the bus and went to jail for it.

I look up to Muhammad Ali because he's a great boxer and really tried his best to help people.



Terrance

I respect Harriet Tubman because she helped her people escape from slavery and was very brave.

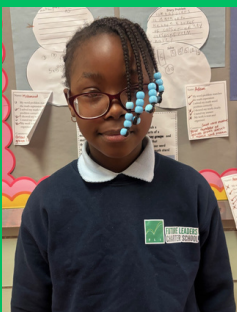


Jia

I look up to Rosa Parks because she didn't give up her seat to a white man and she was brave and helpful.

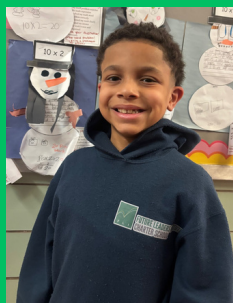


Loriel



Parfaite

I respect Tupac because he's an activist and a great rapper. He went through hard times but was joyful.



Thabias

I respect Martin Luther King Jr. because if it wasn't for him we wouldn't be in a classroom like this all together.



Jailys

I look up to Martin Luther King Jr. because if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be with anyone except my own skin color.

Inside the Community

COMMUNITY AND VALUES...

*"Teach the child,
not just the curriculum"*



FLI Monthly Core Value Recipients

For the month of January we did not focus on any specific core value, rather we spent the month rebuilding community, setting New Year's goals and resetting for the rest of the school year. We look forward to having students nominated for the months of February, March, April and May.

Community Circles

Each month FLI hosts both a lower and middle school community circle organized by the school guidance counselors, reading specialist and school dean. Community Circle embodies the style of a true morning meeting where as a group we take part in a greeting, share and activity. For the month of January, we brought back an all-time favorite: a relay race. The lower school students geared up for winter by racing to put on winter clothing, then running to the other side of the gym before tagging their teammate. MS played a game around community building which went along with our month's focus. Both activities were a great success; students loved cheering each other on and staying active during this time of year!

January Perfect Attendance - Honorees

While FLI wants to honor all recipients of January's Perfect Attendance accomplishment, there are just too many to fit on the page! Check out the recipients on our website!

FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL

CORE VALUES

Leadership

Compassion

Responsibility

Respect

Effort

Truth

Community Resources

OFFERINGS IN AND AROUND HARLEM



FUTURE LEADERS IS HERE TO HELP AND SUPPORT

FLI wants to help fulfill any needs that you might have outside of the school community. This section will always communicate opportunities, resources and school needs offered in or around the neighborhood. Also, please let us know if you come across any resources available for us to share.

INSTAGRAM - ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?! [**fli_charter_school**](#)



Follow FLI's instagram account to catch all the fun that is taking place inside the school community and show us your love!

Other Resources

Keep scrolling to find the following information/resources:

- Parent Involvement Committee
- FLI Student Referral Program
- Tax Preparation Assistance
- Construction Training Program
- Justice Without Barriers
- Community Food Programs

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE



JOIN the Parent Involvement Council (PIC) at FLI! We Need you

The Parent Involvement Committee is a formal organization of FLI Family members and staff intended to facilitate and encourage family participation at FLI.

Join us to...

- Advocate for students and families
- keep updated on events/ issues about the school
- Assist with communication
- Lead & participate in activities for students & families (including, but not limited to fundraisers, field trips, class/school-wide celebrations, workshops, & more!)

Who can be a member of the PIC at FLI?

As a parent or guardian of a child at FLI, you're automatically a PIC member! PIC meetings are open to all!

- All Parents/ Guardians, including step parents, foster parents, etc.
- Grandparents
- Aunts, uncles
- Godparents
- older adult siblings of FLI students

PIC Meetings during the 2025- 26 school year will be held in person at FLI, starting at 8:45AM.

Breakfast will be served.

Friday, October 24, 2025

Friday, December 19, 2025

Friday, February 13, 2026

Friday, April 24, 2026

Friday, May 29, 2026



INVOLUCRAMIENTO DE LOS PADRES

COMITÉ



¡VEN al Consejo de Participación de Padres (PIC) en FLI! Te necesitamos mucho.

El Comité de Participación de Padres es un grupo formal de familiares y personal de FLI que tiene como objetivo ayudar y promover la participación de las familias en FLI. Únete a nosotros para...

- Defensor de los alumnos y las familias
- Mantente al tanto de los eventos y problemas de la escuela.
- Ayudar con la charla
- Dirigir y participar en actividades para estudiantes y familias, como recaudaciones de fondos, excursiones, celebraciones de clase o de la escuela, talleres y mucho más.



¿Quién puede unirse al PIC en FLI? Como papá, mamá o tutor de un niño en FLI, ¡ya eres parte del PIC! ¡Las reuniones del PIC son para todos!

- Todos los papás y mamás, incluyendo a los padrastros, padres adoptivos, y demás.
- Abuelos
- Tías, tíos
- Padrinos
- hermanos mayores de estudiantes de FLI

Las reuniones del PIC para el año escolar 2025-26 se realizarán en persona en FLI, comenzando a las 8:45 a. m.

Se ofrecerá el desayuno.

Viernes 24 de octubre de 2025

Viernes 19 de diciembre de 2025

Viernes 13 de febrero de 2026

Viernes 24 de abril de 2026

Viernes 29 de mayo de 2026

FLI Student Referral

\$300 - GIFT CARD

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED!

- FLI is actively enrolling new students from Kindergarten to 8th Grade for the next school year!
- Please let us know if any of your family or friends are interested in enrolling their children at FLI.
- Any current FLI community member that refers a new student will receive a \$100 gift card (per referral) once the new student completes each of the three trimesters of next school year. If your referral stays all 3 trimesters, you will receive \$300 total!
- Make sure your family/friend lists you as a referral when they complete their application and follow up with us after each report card of the current school year to collect your \$100 gift card.
- Applications are posted on our website -OR- have your referral contact the main office @ 212.678.2868 for further assistance.



NYC FREE TAX PREP



Tax Season Is Coming!

Morris, 80E. 181st Street
Workforce, 550 E. 142nd Street
Twin Parks, 365 E. 183rd Street
NYC Hospital Tremont, 1920 Webster Ave.

Montefiore Hospitals:

Moses, 111 E. 210th Street
Wakefield, 4141 Carpenter Ave.

For More Information:

Email: Taxes@bronxworks.org
(718) 993-8880
(929) 581-1742



<https://bronxworkstaxes.as.me/schedule.php>

**CLAIM
EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)
& RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF \$2,300 IN
COMBINED EITC BENEFITS**

**CLAIM CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC)
FOR CHILDREN UNDER 17
WORTH UP TO \$2,200**

**OTHER SERVICES INCLUDE:
FINANCIAL COUNSELING
ITIN APPLICATION**

ELIGIBILITY

- Income of \$68,000 or less without dependents
- Income of \$97,000 or less with dependents

TAX PREPARATION DOCUMENT LIST

- Photo ID for you and your spouse
- Social Security card or ITIN for EVERYONE
- Child-care agency's ID, or the name and Social Security number of the child-care provider
- Voided check or bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of your refund
- W-2 forms for all jobs you held in the prior year
- 1099 forms (if paid in cash or checks)
- 1099-G Unemployment benefits
- 1095-A Health Insurance Marketplace
- 1098-T if you paid tuition for post-high school education
- Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

Training Dates: Feb 2 2026 - March 27 2026



ENROLL IN ACI's FREE GREEN CONSTRUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM

CERTIFICATIONS

NYC DOB 10-Hour Site Safety Training Card (SST)
30-Hour OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training
NYC DOB 4-Hour Supported Scaffold User
NYC DOB 16-Hour Suspended Scaffold User
NYC DOT 4-Hour Flaggers
2-Hour Silica Awareness Training Course
GPRO-M
EPA 608 Refrigerants

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Interest in the construction industry
Seeking full-time work in energy efficiency related jobs
Ability to communicate in English (read & write)
18 years old and older
Comfortable working at heights
Comfortable with regular public speaking

WHAT WE OFFER

Rigorous preparation in general construction and building restoration
Safe Construction Practices
Intensive work readiness curriculum
Proficiency in operating power/hand tools
Understanding of multiple trades, including Building Restoration and Green Construction
Hands-on training focused on insulation and air barriers, pointing, patching, caulking, waterproofing, bricks and stucco placement
Building/Dismantling Supported Scaffolding
Using/Operating Suspended Scaffolding
Externship experience during the program
Access to Community Hiring and Job Fairs

To learn more, contact:

Lysbeth Leger | Vocational Coordinator
E: lysbeth.leger@andromedainitiative.org
T: 929-233-7621

ANDROMEDA
ACADEMY OF CONSTRUCTION TRADES LLC

ACI 
**ANDROMEDA
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVE**

49-12 31st Place
Long Island City, NY 11101



DOB Certifications provided by Andromeda Academy of Construction Trades LLC (4Q04)
A Workforce Program for Green Construction/Building Operations
www.andromedainitiative.org



JUSTICE WITHOUT BARRIERS

Workshops & certifications for the justice-impacted

Digital Foundations

Learn basic computerskills, how to create& use email, and internet safety

Tuesdays January 20th, January 27th, February 3rd & February 10th | **1-3PM**

Queensbridge Tech Lab 10-43 41st Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101

Financial Literacy

Learn the fundamentals: budgeting and debt repayment strategy; credit repair strategy and identity theft; investment accounts and retirement planning.

Thursdays February 5th, February 12th, & February 19th | **2-4PM**

Central Library, Cyber Center 89-11 Merrick Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11432

Fatherhood Workshops

Embrace fatherhood as a core identity, explore emotional connections with their children, and define the legacy they want to leave.

Wednesdays March 4th & March 11th | **5-6PM**

Virtual Program, Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/jwb-fatherhood>

Cannabis Career Exploration Certificate

Earn a 15-hour certificate from Cannabis Workforce Initiative. Learn about cannabis legislation, interview prep for cannabis jobs, ancillary career opportunities, & more.

Tuesdays February 17th, February 24th, March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th | **1-5PM**

Ravenswood Learning Center 35-32 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11106

Earn While you Learn! Receive a **\$60 Visa gift card** for perfect attendance (*fatherhood sessions excluded*)

RSVP required for stipend eligibility: <https://forms.gle/bKhbwjxPNh3jiqU5>

Email reentry@queenslibrary.org or call (917)667-4915 for more workshop information

Training Series for Bronx-Based Community Partners

Winter and Spring 2026 Calendar

January

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Beginner Grant Writing P.1*

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Beginner Grant Writing P.2*

February

Thursday, February 27, 2026
10 to 11:30 a.m.

How to Develop a Program
Evaluation Plan

March

Wednesday March 11, 2026
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Beginner Grant Writing P.1*

Wednesday March 18, 2026

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Beginner Grant Writing P.2*

Tuesday March 31, 2026

10 to 12pm

The Power of Collaboration

For more information or to register for a training, contact 347-714-1923 or rlopez6@health.nyc.gov. Trainings are offered in English, but if language services are needed, contact us at least 72 hours before the training.



April

Thursday, April 9, 2026
10 a.m. to noon
Storytelling for Fundraising,
Advocacy, and Grant Writing

Thursday, April 16, 2026

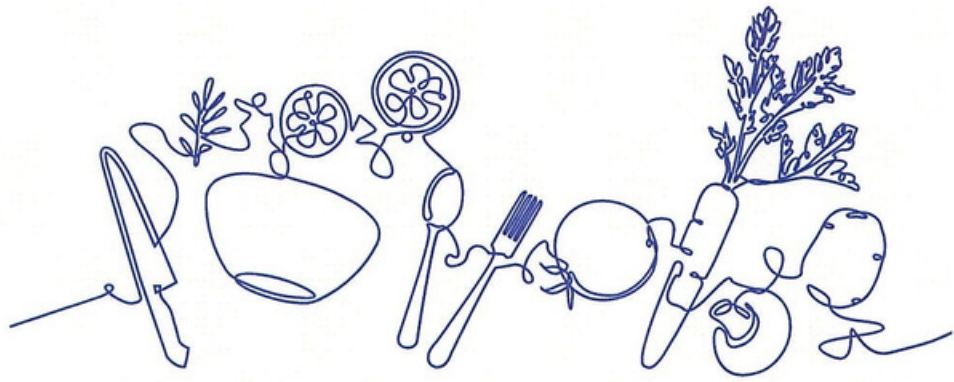
10 a.m. to noon
Advocacy 101

*Please note you must commit to both sessions
for the Grant Writing Classes.





Community Food Security Initiative



EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care is here to help those in our community who are facing challenges with food insecurity.

Stop by EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care's upcoming food distribution events and low-cost farmers markets throughout New York City. Pick up fresh fruits, vegetables, and pantry staples to support your family's health and wellness.* These events are free and open to the public. Registration is required.

February 2026

Southern Blvd (Food Distribution)

Tuesday, February 10 | 10 to 11:30 a.m.
932 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10459

East New York (Farmers Market)

Wednesday, February 11 | Noon to 2 p.m.
101 Pennsylvania Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207

Fordham Road (Food Distribution)

Thursday, February 12 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.
254 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458

Crown Heights (Farmers Market)

Wednesday, February 18 | Noon to 2 p.m.
546 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Clove Road (Food Distribution)

Thursday, February 19 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
1050 Clove Road, Staten Island, NY 10301

Southern Blvd (Food Distribution)

Tuesday, February 24 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.
932 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10459

Crown Heights (Food Distribution)

Thursday, February 26 | Noon to 3 p.m.
546 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11225

About EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care

EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care is open to the public and provides connections to community resources, free wellness classes to help the entire community learn healthy behaviors, and in-person customer support for EmblemHealth plan members.

For more information, email neighborhood@emblemhealth.com
or call 800-274-2950 (TTY: 711).

*Free with no obligation to enroll, while supplies last.

View more upcoming events at
emblemhealth.com/events.

