



# Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

WHERE ARTS & ACADEMICS MEET IN EXCELLENCE

July 2, 2010

## *Jackie Cornelius*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS  
FOR DUVAL COUNTY AND  
PRINCIPAL of DA

## *Lianna Knight*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND  
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER

## *Melanie Hammer*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## *Lashantah Holliday*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### A DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

National Model School of Excellence  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR  
LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

National GOLD Grammy Signature School  
GRAMMY FOUNDATION  
Tenth year

High School Jazz Competition Winner – 2008  
THE ESSENTIALLY DUKE ELLINGTON

FLORIDA A+ SCHOOL  
For seven years

Best Academic High Schools - 2009  
NEWSWEEK  
Eighth year

Top 100 Public High Schools – 2009  
U.S. NEWS and WORLD REPORTS

Florida Music Demonstration School  
2007-2009

Exemplary School Award 2007  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS  
EDUCATION

Community Partnership Award 2007  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS  
EDUCATION

Arts Innovation Award 2007  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS  
EDUCATION

National Leader School  
U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION



Mr. John Forrester  
Bright Holidays

Dear Mr. Forrester:

I had the privilege of working with you for the past two years on the Bright Holidays project and just wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts and experiences.

Each year we asked our Art Directors to provide names of students they felt would benefit from this program. They know their students and their needs. We had no problem compiling a list of names of students that truly needed any assistance available.

Both years this project far exceeded any expectations any of us could have had. Our students were invited to the Administrative Office where their gifts were presented. First, the look of disbelief. They were not aware this was going to be done and had never heard of the program so total and complete disbelief is the only way to describe their reaction. Next came the excitement...I wish there were words that would adequately describe their excitement and with each gift they open, the excitement increases. Gifts were matched to fit needs so perfectly and that was evident in their reactions and comments. I will never forget hearing them say over and over "*how did they know this is just what I needed/wanted?*". It was emotional not only for the students but for those of us who had the privilege of giving the gifts to them. There were few dry eyes...tears of joy on the faces of our kids and tears of joy for those of us who did the easy part...handing them their presents and experiencing their joy.

This is, without a doubt, an outstanding project. For those that contribute in any way, a big **THANK YOU** is in order. I know that it must take months and months of planning and securing funds. For those generous donors, please somehow let them know that they are making a difference ~ a difference in a child's life that may have never had the experience of opening several gifts at one time. Many of them would have had no celebration at all without this wonderful endeavor. That became apparent when several asked if they could take their items home, unopened, to save for the actual holiday.

Again, please let me say that this is a project that all involved with should be proud of. You are making a difference ~ a difference that may well be remembered in the minds of these young people for the rest of their lives.

Though inadequate ~ Thank You.

Sincerely,

*Judy Edwards*

Judy Edwards  
Secretary to Lianna Knight,  
Assistance Principal