SCHOOL SCENE

Three students nominated as presidential scholars in the arts

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The National YoungArts Foundation announced that several local students high school seniors were nominated for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students who excel both academically and artistically.

Local YoungArts nominees include Kyle Ventura from Design & Architecture High School and New World School of the Arts students Catarina de Luca Figueiredo and Destiny Moore. Students were nominated for their artistic achievement in the organization’s annual National YoungArts Week, which recently concluded in Miami on Jan. 12.

Now, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars will select 20 high school seniors to be recognized as U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts for their artistic accomplishments, leadership, community service, outreach initiatives and creativity.

In June, the winners will be recognized in Washington. They will receive a Presidential Medallion and present their work at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during a special exhibit and performance.

“We are proud to continue partnering with the Department of Education to acknowledge our nation’s most accomplished artists graduating from high school each year and to honor the sublime artistry and talent of each of the 2020 nominees, who have shown leadership and skill in their respective disciplines,” said Sarah Arison, YoungArts Board Chair. “We look forward to announcing the selected arts scholars this spring, and to seeing what all the nominees achieve as they move forward.”

EVENT FOR CHILDREN ON AUTISM SPECTRUM

Gulliver Preparatory School students recently participated in their school’s annual Get Out and Love Soccer (GOALS) event, which was created to provide a safe environment for children within the autism spectrum and other related intellectual disabilities.

GOALS aims to encourage families and volunteers to work together to support autistic children and their parents. Event activities include warm-up exercises, soccer, football, Jenga, and more. During this month’s event, the school’s Chinese Club celebrated the Chinese New Year by performing a Dragon Dance in the gym.

The next GOALS event will be held on Feb. 22 at the school, 6575 SW 88 St., in Miami. For information, visit www.GulliverSchools.org.

TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT FINANCIAL LITERACY

Thanks to two high school seniors at Scheck Hillel Community School, the school’s Capstone Senior Seminar will now feature a student-designed class that aims to prepare students for college and their careers.

The class is called Introduction to Adulthood and was created by Michael Berenstein and Alex Wagenberg to bring real-world professionals from various fields into the classroom to share lessons and values that helped to shape their professional and/or entrepreneurial journeys.

The class is taught by Cristina Florez, experiential learning and internship coordinator, and it teaches students how to build a budget, identify and manage investments and how to build and sell a company.

“Alex and Michael are amazing young men. They came in with a big idea, and we made it happen,” said Christopher Johnson, director of Scheck Hillel’s High School. “It is great to see our students bringing the Scheck Hillel community, one of the strengths of our school, into the classroom. I am very proud of them.”