



**Mi Escuelita Preschool**  
 P.O. Box 191487  
 Dallas, Texas 75219-9998  
 www.miescuelita.org  
 (214) 526-0220

### Key Dates

**Winter Break**  
 December 21<sup>st</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Spring Break**  
 March 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

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## What's New and Exciting in the Classroom

At Mi Escuelita, we are thrilled about integrating new technology and curriculum focused on STEM into our Pre-K classrooms. This engages children's learning while increasing school readiness skills such as early literacy, print knowledge, phonological awareness, emergent writing, mathematics and approaches to problem based learning. Here is a quick look at what's new at Mi Escuelita:



### Smart boards

New for 2015-2016 school year, MI Escuelita introduced digital TeachSmart interactive whiteboards into the classroom, which increases school readiness skills and dramatically reduce the number of children who are under prepared for Kindergarten. Teachers and children are enjoying researching topics together, taking virtual field trips, and making real world connections. As the children have become familiar with the "smartboard" they have shown significant gains in many areas.

### STEM

STEM learning is in full force this school year. STEM is an acronym for science, Technology, engineering and math education— in an interdisciplinary and applied approach hands on problem based learning. It's another great supplement that Mi Escuelita is using to significantly increase school readiness skills.



# Mi Escuelita PRESCHOOL

*fuel their dreams!*

Fly your paper plane with our special #WingsForDreams challenge

Tell us who inspired you to reach for the skies and post a video of your plane in flight.



### Mission Statement

*Mi Escuelita teaches English to children from all cultures and prepares them for academic success.*

Have you joined the #WingsforDreams Movement yet? Many Mi Escuelita volunteers, board members and even the Dallas Cowboys rookies have, so what are you waiting for?

#WingsforDreams is Mi Escuelita's new early childhood education awareness campaign developed by long-time partner agency Dieste Inc. The movement focuses on increasing people's awareness about the Mi Escuelita mission, by allowing participants to thank mentors, professors, parents or friends who inspired them.



### Join the Movement! Give #WingsForDreams

- ① Visit [www.wingsfordreams.com](http://www.wingsfordreams.com) to download your plane.
- ② Record a video flying your plane
- ③ Share your video using #WingsForDreams and challenge your friends to do the same.





## Cena Success

Mi Escuelita's Annual Cena de la Mariposa had a new look, new venue and set new records! Honorary Chairs Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Monica R. Alonzo and Dallas City Council Member Jennifer Staubach Gates, and Event Chairs Flora and Michael Hernandez were joined by more than 450 Mi Escuelita friends and supporters to board Mariposa Airlines at the Frontiers of Flight Museum to raise \$380,000 in a spectacular evening.

The youngest members of the Mariposa Airlines flight crew greeted sponsors and guests as they arrived. Briggs Equipment returned as the Cena's title sponsor and NBC DFW's Deborah Ferguson served as a delightful emcee as Mi Escuelita recognized Tony Dieste, a Hispanic entrepreneur and founder of

Dieste Inc. with their highest honor award: the Monarch Award. Dieste is a long-time sponsor and supporter of Mi Escuelita, helping the entity to grow and serve over 500 children each year in Dallas. Other awards included Corporate Volunteer of the Year FedEx, Volunteer of the Year Judy Bruton and Distinguished Alumni Aracely Rios.

All funds raised at La Cena de La Mariposa are used for scholarships to Mi Escuelita. "Each year, 95% of our graduating children qualify to transition directly to English speaking classrooms. This wouldn't be possible without the gifts from our incredible supporting community," said Gayle Nave, President & CEO, Mi Escuelita.

## Mi Escuelita Alumn Bryan Castillo Overcomes Language Barriers

Like many of his classmates at Mi Escuelita Preschool, Bryan Castillo only spoke one language: Spanish. What made Bryan different was that he also had a speech deficiency.

"When I came to Mi Escuelita Preschool, I just spoke Spanish," explains Bryan. "But what I felt was more of a challenge was that I couldn't even speak Spanish clearly."

Mi Escuelita referred Bryan's family to a speech therapist and through the encouragement he received at home and in the classroom, he eventually overcame his speech deficiency. Bryan would go on to excel at school subjects that he previously struggled with - like math. He credits his parents for helping him excel.

"I used to come home and my mom would help me with my vocabulary and my dad would make up math problems for me to solve," explains Bryan. Last school year as a Junior at A. Maceo Smith New Tech High School, Bryan was ranked 3rd in his entire class and he intends to study accounting in college. Eventually, Bryan hopes to use his skills to start a coffee roasting company.

### Mi Escuelita Board of Directors

**Luis Veras, Chair** - Pizza Hut/ITL Management     **John Martillo, Vice Chair** - SignaPay  
**Aracely Rios, Treasurer**, Weaver, LLP     **Frances Knipp, Secretary** - Community Volunteer

Ricardo Barrenechea Frito Lay	Pam Doeppe Sammons Enterprises, Inc.	Mary Jo Gartner Community Volunteer	Mark Guckian Heartland Automotive Services	Lourdes Lugo Parent Representative
David Martinez DM2 Financial Services	Paul Musgrave Tenet Health System	Martha Rocha Community Volunteer	Roberto Siewczynski EVP, Strategy & Business Development	Erika Toledo Burford & Ryburn, LLP
		Lynn Smith Community Volunteer		

## Volunteer Highlights

Mi Escuelita has had a great start to the 2015-16 school year, complete with visits from lots of volunteers. We have dedicated individual readers, as well as wonderful volunteer groups from local businesses, alumni groups, church groups, universities and local high schools. These volunteers brighten our days, beautify our campus and make Mi Escuelita the best we can be for our students. Thank you volunteers!



Texas Instruments taught us about bike safety and science with fun hands-on experiments. We can't wait to grow up to be sciencTI-ists!



McCarthy Building Companies built new playhouses for our St. Matthews location, as well as cleaning up the playground and beautifying our campus - inside and out!



The Dallas Cowboys Rookies celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by volunteering and teaching our students about healthy eating. Then they took the #WingsforDreams Challenge!



Ursuline & Jesuit Students help our teachers and students at all of our sites every week. They read to our students and help us learn.



Atmos Energy visited our sites with their friends Gary the Gas Meter and Wanda the Water Heater. What a fun way to learn about natural gas and how to stay safe at home.



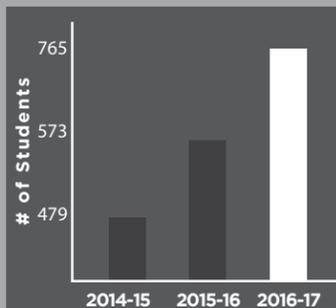
Fossil volunteers designed and painted a bright beautiful mural at our Good Shepherd location. It makes us happy and thankful for wonderful volunteers every day.



Frito Lay & Pepsi beautified our Good Shepherd site by building a rock garden so we won't have to walk through mud anymore.

## Mi Escuelita is growing!

With more than 30,000 Head Start eligible children in Dallas unserved, the need for high quality early childhood education has never been greater.



Mi Escuelita has been thoughtful about this expansion as the Diaz Center, near Webb Chapel and Walnut Hill, is an area of high need with few resources for families living in poverty. The neighborhood is largely comprised of low-income, newly-immigrant Hispanics who live in densely populated, multi-family units and single-family homes. It is a baby and toddler-rich community. It is the Dallas County zip code with the highest percentage of children age 0 - 3. Almost one in ten Bachman Lake residents is under the age of three.

Mi Escuelita is thrilled to continue its partnership with KIPP DFW with the planned 2016 opening of KIPP DFW's new location in the Pleasant Grove area. The success of the partnerships at KIPP Destiny Elementary and KIPP Truth Elementary, has strengthened the program offered by KIPP and allow Mi Escuelita to educate more students and impact more families in Dallas.



Mi Escuelita is expanding to serve an additional 150 children in 2016 - with the opening of the Diaz Center in the Bachman Lake area and the new KIPP Elementary campus in the Pleasant Grove area.

150 more children served

700 total children served in Dallas

