

THE PROPEL PERSPECTIVE



MAY 2024

EMPOWERING FUTURES

April brought no fools but instead, impactful leaders.

PROPELIANS GO TO PROM...

Prom season is always exciting! We had the honor of sending off six Boca High seniors to prom at the Boca Resort. While it's a bittersweet experience, PROPEL was thrilled to be part of such a significant milestone. "I haven't even begun to peak yet," said Dennis Reynolds, and this quote perfectly captures the spirit of our young adults. As our seniors grow up and enter a new phase of their lives, we see this event as the kickoff to their bright futures. It isn't the end but rather just the beginning.

TALKS & TACOS w/ COACH GARVEY...

This month, Coach Garvey hosted another cooking day where the kids made homemade tacos with customized toppings. This event was a hit among both middle and high school students, and it was a treat for our coaches as well.

PICASSOS...

The coaches put together a painting day for the kids, supplied canvas, paint, paint brushes, and allowed their creativity to flow. The kids enjoyed it and so did the coaches!

LOOKING AHEAD...

GRADUATION

SLIME & TIE DYE

FAREWELL PICNIC

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

PROPELIAN
SPOTLIGHT



 propelyourfuture

 propelboca

POETRY SLAM...

We also hosted a Poetry Slam, giving students a platform to express themselves through spoken word. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their creativity and connect with their peers on a deeper level.

FINE ARTS w/ COAN BOCA...

Eleven PROPELIANS joined the Legacy Youth at Fine Arts, where students from all over Florida came together to develop their gifts. Major shout-out to our students and leaders for all the hard work and dedication that went into preparing for these performances.

LIFE SKILLS...

April marked the start of our Life Skills program, aimed at teaching high school students essential everyday skills. Our coaches conducted a life skills trivia to assess the students' existing knowledge and then covered topics like job interviews, washing clothes, cleaning supplies, and time management. This program will run until the students' last week of school, ensuring they are well-prepared for the future.

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PROPELIAN SPOTLIGHT...



We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on Nedjie "Gigi" Aurlien, who is set to graduate from Atlantic High School. Gigi has been a part of the PROPEL family since the 3rd grade, showcasing an incredible journey marked by dedication, growth, and numerous achievements.

From her early days at PROPEL to the cusp of high school graduation, Gigi's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. The commitment and hard work she has demonstrated throughout her academic career have not only led to personal success but have also made her a role model for her peers.

One of Gigi's remarkable accomplishments includes writing her first book, *Nesting Dolls*, all while being dual enrolled and applying to colleges. This feat highlights her exceptional time

management skills and unwavering determination. We reflect on Gigi's time with PROPEL with immense gratitude, acknowledging the significant impact the program has had on her development.

As she prepares to step into the next chapter of her life, she carries with her the lessons, values, and experiences that Propel has instilled in her.

Congratulations, Gigi! We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to seeing all the amazing things you will achieve in the future.

Nesting Dolls

By: Nedjie Aurelien

Price: \$15.00

Take me apart. Piece by piece. Shell by shell. Layer by layer.

Pay close attention. Look at my size.

Am I big or am I small?

As you lay out my pieces, don't overlook my orientation (*Top and bottom, front and back*).

You'll need to know this for when you put me back together.

Arrange my shells in increasing and decreasing size order.

Alone, they may feel hollow. But together, I promise you they hold some weight.

At the end of play, assemble me again, placing the smaller dolls into the larger dolls until there's only one doll left.

Until you forget you've only seen the surface.

 [PayPal Buy Now](#)



"So this book specifically, *Nesting Dolls* it's a collection of poetry and you know like with the Russian nesting dolls, it's a doll inside another doll. So each doll is a different layer of my life and each of them are holding a distinct object so that relates to their specific chapter, but at the end of the whole book essentially the message I'm sending is that despite them being distinct parts of my life they all come together and make me as a whole."

~ Nedjie Aurlien

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRATITUDE....

PROPEL extends its heartfelt thanks to Jeff and Jeanne Johnson for their unwavering support and dedication to our community. Your generous donation of food and feminine hygiene products to our facility has significantly impacted the lives of those we serve. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated and exemplify the spirit of community and collaboration essential for our work with the youth.

Your contributions and active involvement serve as a valuable resource, reinforcing the idea that it truly takes a village to foster growth and development in young lives. Your support does not go unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful. We look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership and hope to see you again soon!

We also wish to express our special thanks to Mississippi Sweets for their delicious food and ongoing support. Your generosity continues to nourish both our bodies and spirits, and we are truly thankful for your commitment to our mission.

Additionally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Yaira "YaYa" Gurman for preparing a wonderful homecooked meal featuring steamed vegetables, grilled chicken, and eggplant lasagna. Your culinary contribution brought warmth and comfort to our PROPEL family, and we are incredibly grateful for your efforts.

Together, we are making a difference!



PROPELIANS FINDING THEIR CREATIVE
INSPIRATION THRU MISSISSIPPI SWEETS



DELICIOUS HOME COOKED MEAL CATERED BY YAIRA "YaYa" Gurtman

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Jonathan



Valencia



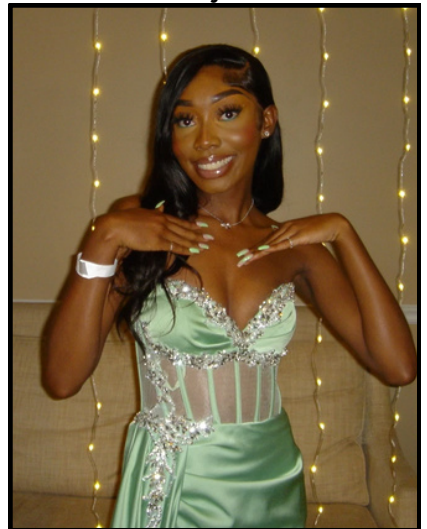
Talyah



Ja'Mya



Jayme



Nedjie



Angelina



Nicole



Dynisha

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PROPEL & COMMUNITY PARTNER COAN Boca SHINE IN ORLANDO...



Coaches Androff and Cooper and eleven PROPELIANS journeyed to Orlando to compete and showcase their diverse talents against various youth groups from across Florida. The event was a resounding success, with several notable performances and victories.

The hip-hop dance crew R3VELATION, composed of Sophie, Lily, Nandine, Lordie, and their peers, took home first place for their outstanding performance. Their

dynamic and energetic routine captivated the judges and audience alike, solidifying their status as top performers in their category.

Gabby delivered an inspiring short sermon, demonstrating both her confidence and eloquence. Angelina captivated the audience with her powerful hip-hop solo, showcasing her impressive dance skills and stage presence.

The musical theatre group R3VIVED—featuring Gabby, Sophie, Lordie, Arielle, and Nandine delivered a memorable performance that highlighted their versatility and teamwork. The Promise Troopers added to the excitement with a compelling step routine that was both precise and rhythmic, earning them accolades for their coordination and energy.

Rounding out the event, the 4th AVENUE Choir...

consisting of Valencia, Frahima, Gabe, Arielle, Sophie, Gabby, Lordie, Nandine, Lily, and Angelina—delivered a heartfelt and harmonious performance, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Overall, the event in Orlando was a testament to the hard work, talent, and dedication of the PROPEL and COAN Boca participants, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved.



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PROPEL COACHES: The Heartbeat and the Glue of PROPEL

At the core of PROPEL's mission lies a group of dedicated individuals who bring life, energy, and cohesion to the organization: the PROPEL Coaches. These coaches are not just facilitators or mentors; they are the heartbeat and the glue that bind the entire initiative together.



MJ: My journey with PROPEL has been nothing short of transformative. From being a student, benefitting from its unwavering support in academics and life skills to now serving as the Program Director, the impact it's had on my life is immeasurable. As an alum, I experienced firsthand the sense of belonging and community that PROPEL fosters, providing me with a safe space to navigate life's challenges and discover my potential. Transitioning from a student to a coach felt like a natural progression, as I drew inspiration from the exemplary leadership of my mentors. It taught me invaluable lessons in creativity, adaptability, and attention to detail, qualities I now bring to my role as program director.

My time at PROPEL has ignited a passion within me to give back even more. Currently pursuing my degree in social work at FAU

and working as a registered behavior technician, PROPEL has taught me to shoot for the moon instead of the stars. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities it has provided me and the perspective it has shaped, guiding me towards a future where I can continue making a meaningful difference.



Hi, my name is **Tanisha**. I've been a PROPELIAN for a whole decade now! Being a part of this family has blessed me in ways beyond measure, from invaluable relationships to endless opportunities. I am honored to now serve as a mentor/coach to high school students in the surrounding areas, graced to witness and nurture the purity and limitless potential of our youth.

I graduated cum laude from Florida Atlantic University and I'm also a current student, soon to graduate and be licensed in cosmetology. Surmounting my own shortcomings and courageously starting over is my testimony, one that this program and my students are experiencing alongside me.

In encouraging them daily, I too am encouraged to strengthen my strengths, fearlessly live my life and never underestimate the unyielding power of community. I'd love to paint a beautiful picture of who I am and where I am going but it is an image I am not yet privy to. To whoever is reading this thank you for supporting the community that is funding my dreams of love, peace and joy.

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Hello, my name is **Gibril King**. I joined propel in my sophomore year in high school with myself being a little bit closed off to a few people starting but as time went by, I realized that I have joined a place where the staff members and my fellow peers are a family.

I've run multiple organizations at my high school campus Boca High, but nothing has made my day greater than getting on the PROPEL van and heading to my second home. As I graduated, I was offered a job to become a coach for 9th and 10th graders. I immediately said yes. I wanted to build the same connection as the people who coached me through high school such as Nora Douglas and Tanisha Paul.

In my first year as a coach, I love the bonds that I have built with these kids. I see them as more than just students. I see them as my younger siblings that I never had. PROPEL will always be home and a family for these kids as we will always try to open the door to opportunity for them.



My name is **Isabella Marchitello**. I am 24 years old and currently enrolled at Palm Beach State getting my degree in social work. I plan on carrying on and getting my masters in psychology so that I can eventually work with children in the foster care system and in need of extra assistance and care in all aspects of life.

I began at PROPEL about eight months ago, and I've had one of the most fulfilling and exciting jobs that I've ever had in my life. The incredible kids that we get to work with on a daily basis helped me recognize that this is what I want to do for as long as I am able to. I currently am PROPEL's IEP coordinator, and with that I take care of all of the kids grades and our interactions with their teachers. I have been incredibly blessed to find a second family in this job amongst not only our staff but also the kids.

I look forward to the next step with PROPEL and staying with this program for as long as I am able to.

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My name is **Androff Cesar**; I'm a current undergrad student majoring in Ministerial Leadership at Southeastern University. I plan to graduate and one day enter into full-time ministry as a Pastor at a church, specifically working with the youth. What I love about PROPEL is that it isn't just the building that we go to; PROPEL is truly about the students who enter through the doors. With my experience as a tutor/coach at PROPEL, I've not only gained experience working with students one-on-one but

also have gotten the rewarding opportunity to build personal relationships with them by getting to know who they really are. Whether it's mentoring a student or just a daily check, our interactions with PROPEL students really go a long way! For some of these students, PROPEL may be the only place where they feel peace or at ease from the things that they face outside our doors, and I'm honored to be a part of the team that gets to make it happen!



My name is **Garvey Antoine**. I am 21 years old and graduating from FAU this fall, I am going to Gainesville this summer to finish my schooling as well as an internship for criminal justice which I am very excited to start.

I have worked with students in the past and have had my ups and downs. I can say my time at PROPEL has offered me one of the most pleasant work experiences I have ever had as I began to create bonds that I didn't believe I could. I came in not knowing what to expect or how to really navigate my duties but was shown overwhelming love and support from not only my staff but the wonderful students I had the pleasure of working with.

All in all my time at PROPEL has been unforgettable because not only was I given the freedom to interact and create a structure within my class but there was an external structure throughout the whole program that kept me balanced as well. As someone who did not grow up in the program everyone made me feel right at home and for that I say thank you.

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PROPEL DRIVERS: More Than Just Drive... They Help Our Kids Thrive

In our bustling community, PROPEL drivers are making a remarkable impact beyond the wheel. These dedicated individuals are not just transporting our children safely, they are mentors, friends, and positive influences who contribute to the overall development and well-being of our kids. From offering a listening ear to providing encouragement and support, PROPEL drivers are playing a crucial role in helping our PROPELIANS thrive in more ways than one.



Meet **John**... Since joining us in September 2020, he has been a cornerstone of our operations, ensuring smooth transportation and coordination. His commitment to excellence and attention to detail make him a standout member of our team. Outside of work, his accomplishments and diverse interests paint a picture of a dynamic and dedicated individual. We are proud to have him as part of our PROPEL family.

John attended Erie Community College and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. His diverse educational background laid the groundwork for his multifaceted career.

When he's not ensuring students are safely picked up and dropped off, he indulges in a variety of hobbies. John enjoys participating in and watching most sports. Has a deep appreciation for music from the 1970s. Owner and breeder of Standard bred horses, participating in sulky races.

John is a Bowling Aficionado: A seasoned bowler with impressive achievements. He achieved an outstanding 15 perfect 300 games, all sanctioned by the American Bowling Congress (ABC) and the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). On the Historic Night of December 21, 1999, he bowled two sanctioned perfect games in a single series, scoring 300-225-300. AND... His highest sanctioned series stands at 847, just 53 points shy of the maximum possible score of 900.



We would like to give a big shout out to our amazing driver, **Ms. Daniels**, for her exceptional dedication and kindness during her first year with PROPEL. Ms. Daniels is a pillar of our community, deeply connected and always ready to lend a helping hand. During this busy season, she has gone above and beyond for our kids, bringing them doughnuts and even providing two dresses to our girls needing extra assistance in preparation for prom this year.

Ms. Daniels' thoughtfulness shines through not just in what she provides, but in her loving attitude and kind heart. She has been a great addition to our PROPEL family. Thank you, Ms. Daniels, for all that you do!