

# Sovereign Avenue School News



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## *Sovereign Avenue School bids farewell to Ms. Rosa!*

On December 21, 2023 the Sovereign faculty and staff honored Ms. Rosa for over 40 years of service. We will miss you and your delicious lunches! Enjoy your retirement!



# An Interview with the Teacher of the Year



## Mr. Michael Holloway

*Mr. Holloway sat down with 8th graders and Student Voices members, Quetzali Robledo Cruz and Lisa Farha for an interview. Tune into the January edition of the Sovereign news for the full interview.*

**Quetzali:** Hi, Mr. Holloway! How are you?

**Mr. Holloway:** I am doing well, and yourself?

**Quetzali:** I am good. How long have you been teaching?

**Mr. Holloway:** 21 years.

**Quetzali:** Whoa!

**Mr. Holloway:** I look young, right?

**Quetzali:** What is your favorite thing about teaching and what is your favorite subject to teach?

**Mr. Holloway:** My favorite thing about teaching is that I can reach children...I can reach all the minds. Change their minds. Get them thinking about being independent, getting them writing independently, reading independently, and being successful in life. What I like teaching most - I like teaching math. Loved math. That's my favorite subject. The last few years I have been teaching Reading Recovery. I enjoy that too. I get to see students who may be struggling a lot in reading and writing...I get to see their progress.

**Quetzali:** What is your favorite teaching memory?

**Mr. Holloway:** I think my favorite teaching memory might have been when you were in my class.

**Quetzali:** Oh, really?!

**Mr. Holloway:** Yeah. You used to be so quiet. You did your work. You were a great student, but you were so quiet. You were so different from your older sister. But to see you now, you're interviewing me. All of these years later. Here you are in eighth grade now. I had you six years ago. And now you are interviewing me. So you came out of your shell. I enjoy that.

**Quetzali:** How do you feel about being Teacher of the Year?

**Mr. Holloway:** I am honored. Believe it or not, I was the Teacher of the Year at MLK when I taught there eight years ago. It's an honor to be recognized by my peers.

**Quetzali:** How would you describe SAS in one word?

**Mr. Holloway:** Rock. Sovereign Avenue School works hard and we are on a solid foundation. You know, it's hard to crack a rock. The students are great, the teachers work together, the parents are wonderful, the administrators are great. So we have a solid foundation. We are solid as a rock.

**Quetzali:** What is a New Year's resolution that you have this year?

**Mr. Holloway:** A New Year's resolution for this year is to be more intentional about what I want in life. I love going to school. I love learning things. So, I want to go back to school and maybe do ESL. I want to continue to be the best teacher I can and learn even more. I want to continue to be a great husband. Oh, and also I want to get back into the gym.

**Quetzali:** Out of all of the classes you have taught, which one is your favorite?

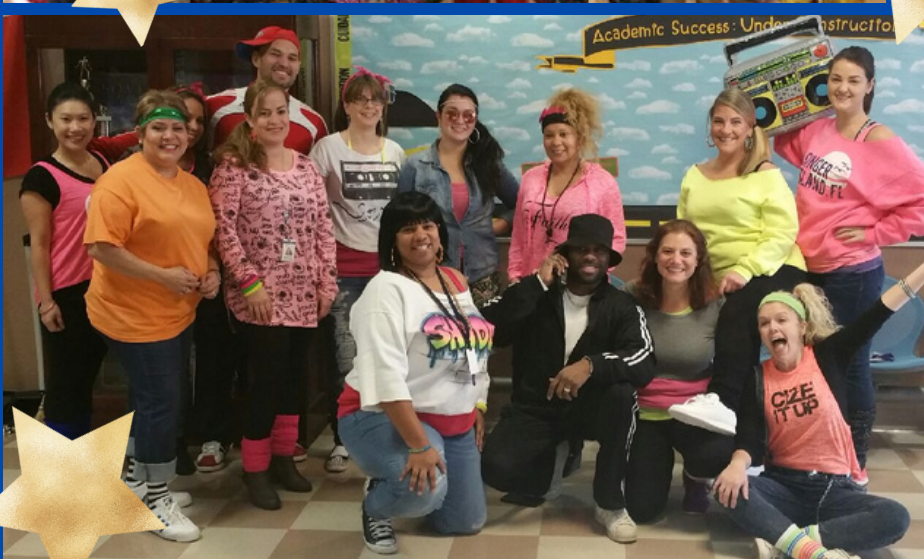
**Mr. Holloway:** Your class!

**Quetzali:** Really?

**Mr. Holloway:** It was the best. It was a lot of fun. This year your grade is graduating. I really enjoyed your class. I really enjoyed how hard you guys were working. And to see so many of you in Gifted and Talented says a lot. You really took what I taught you and you used it all through the years to eighth grade. Continue that success when you go to high school. I am proud of you.



# Highlights from Mr. Holloway's Career

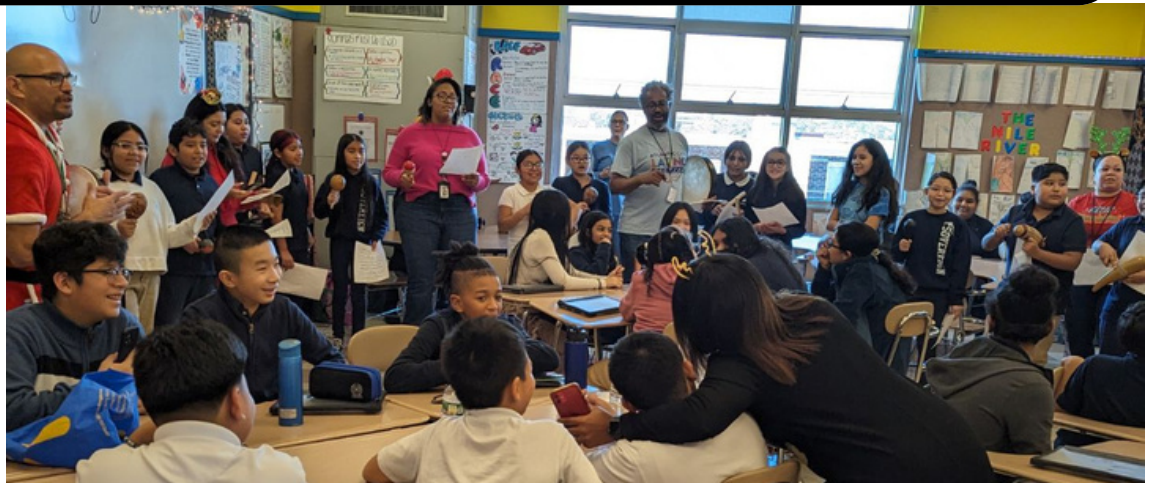
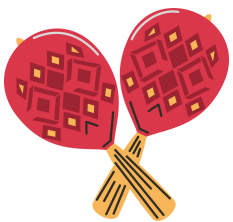




# Parranda Navideña



A parranda is a Puerto Rican music tradition that takes place in Puerto Rico during the Christmas holiday season. Parrandas are often spontaneous events and traditionally occur anytime from the late evening to the wee hours of the morning, visiting targeted extended family members or friends in their homes and intentionally waking them up to the parranda music. At Sovereign, the Multicultural Committee organizes an annual Parranda.





# Santa Visits Sovereign





# NJHS Presents Gingerbread Houses



Mrs. Mattner and members of the National Junior Honor Society did an amazing job organizing building-wide gingerbread house making over the course of several days in December 2023. A fun and delicious time was had by all!





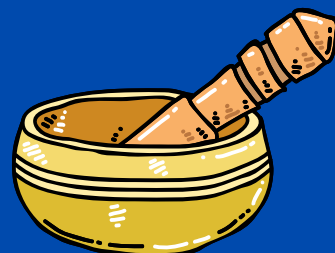
# Asian Club Holiday Parade



## "Teacher Recharge" Professional Development



Konscious Youth Development & Service visited Sovereign for a Teacher Recharge workshop on December 19th, 2023. KYDS hails from Asbury Park, NJ and offers holistic wellness programming for educators.





# Winter Concert



The music department hosted a fantastic Winter Concert!

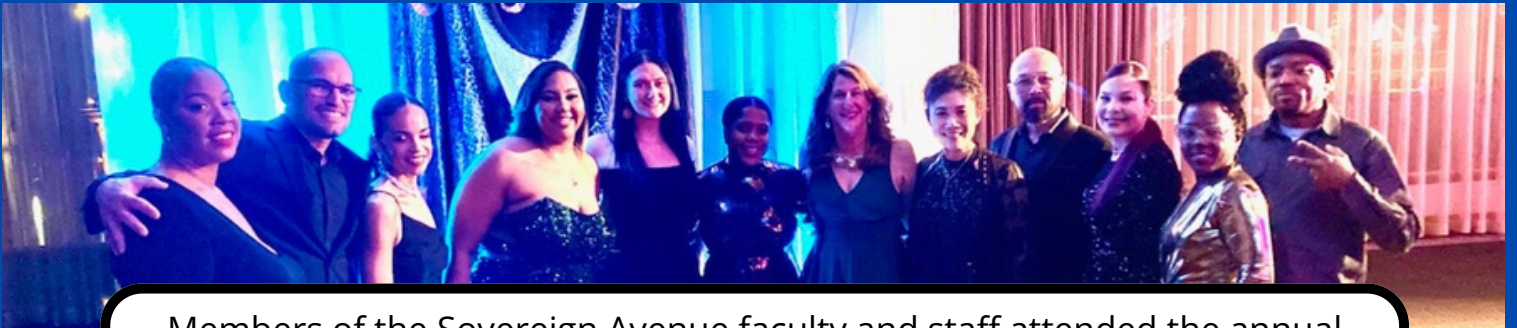


# Shop with a Cop



Students were selected to "Shop with a Cop".

# ACPS Holiday Party



Members of the Sovereign Avenue faculty and staff attended the annual Atlantic City Public Schools Holiday Party on December 15, 2023 at Resorts Hotel Casino.

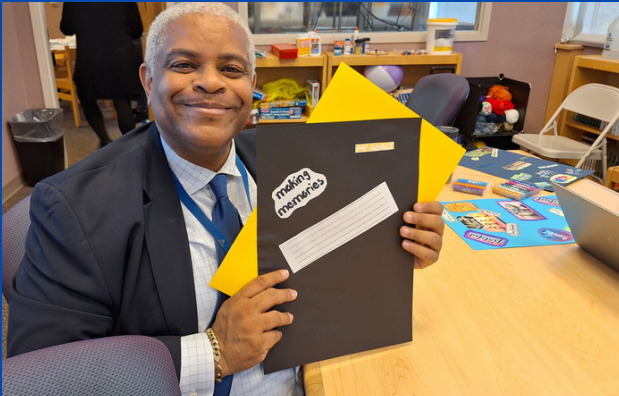


oh what  
**FUN**





# Teacher Vision 2024



ViSiON BOARd



Faculty and staff attended a Vision Board Workshop to set goals and intentions for 2024.



# Student of the Month

## Sovereign Ave. Student of the Month



PK-3  
Mateo Barbosa



PK-4  
Zella Garland



Kindergarten  
Amelia Roa Encarnacion



First  
Israth Aleena



Second  
Anthony Martinez Cardona



Third  
Kyle Tran



Fourth  
Jayden Satchell



Fourth  
Geoger Varnado



Fifth  
Ashley Guero-Bruno



Sixth  
Anzu Anika



Seventh  
Bakhtir Abid



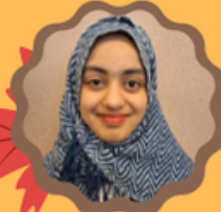
Seventh  
Junior Garcia Matos



Eighth  
Shadman Uddin



Eighth  
Jonathan Maldonado Vargas



Specials  
Maseeha Yousaf

# November 2023

## SEL Focus: Problem Solving

Problem Solving is the  
process of achieving a goal  
by overcoming obstacles.