

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Elizabeth Board of Education, Elizabeth, NJ

January 2023

“In your life’s blueprint you must have as the basic principle the determination to achieve excellence in your various fields of endeavor.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Port Authority Bus Terminal Advisory Council (PABTAC) Poster Contest

The Port Authority Bus Terminal Advisory Council (PABTAC) Poster Contest was open to all students in grades 1 through 12, as long as the students were New York or New Jersey residents. This year’s theme of the 2022 PABTAC Poster Contest is *Where Does The Midtown Bus Terminal Take You?* Two students from the Elizabeth Public Schools won and are representing the New Jersey Transit Bus Terminal Poster Contest. Their artworks were published for all to see in their travels during the holiday season.

Congratulations to all that participated and to the winners!

Ethan Arroyave, 7th Grade – Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

Johanna Sanchez, 7th Grade – Nicholas S. La Corte – Peterstown School No. 3



**PORT
AUTHORITY
NY NJ**
AIR LAND RAIL SEA

A Day of Service in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

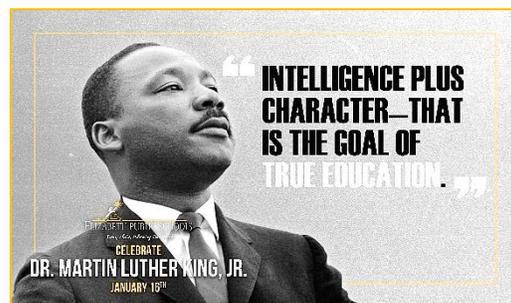


At **Elmora School No. 12**, student Government Students worked closely with Social Studies and AVID Teacher, Mr. Price, to establish a creative way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s humanitarianism, leadership, community activism, and his "I have A Dream" speech. After careful deliberation, Student Government students decided that the best way to honor Dr. King's memory was with deeds and declared a "Day of Action," centered and designed to strengthen and maintain a healthy school environment through community service. On Friday, January 13th, Student Government Students demonstrated leadership and compassion by peer tutoring and participating in SEL activities with students in grades three, four and five. Activities were designed to foster education and to deepen the connection of the school community. Dr. Martin Luther King's Legacy will live forever at Elmora School NO. 12.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy



In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, **iPrep Academy School No. 8** initiated a schoolwide campaign for every student to make a commitment to spread love and peace in the school and community. All classes participated and signed a hand to signify their pledge to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King. School No. 8 honors his work and embody his spirit and dedication to bring unity throughout iPrep Academy.



Students' Dreams

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy's students celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by creating an artistic display of hand cut-outs showing a diversity of colored hands portraying student dreams.



I Have a Dream

Fifth grade students at Woodrow Wilson School No. 19 analyzed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Students worked together to understand the speech and evaluate progress towards the goals set forth. Students discussed the speech and its impact upon society.



Celebrating Dr. King's Life

During the Week of January 16-20, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ECC School No. 52 celebrated the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each day of the week highlighted an event/activity. On Tuesday, students created an "I Have a Dream" rainbow, Wednesday children performed a Winter Concert, Thursday a classroom birthday celebration for Dr. King and ended the week with an "I Have a Dream" festival for students and staff to celebrate. Activities at this event included a Writing/Reading Corner about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Musical Chairs, Fishing for a Dream and video clips of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Throughout these celebrations, all honored Dr. King's pursuit of justice and equality for all **and** reflected on his dream for a better world. Students in Mrs. Sullivan's Pre-K 3 class are creating "I Have a Dream" rainbows and discussing the importance of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

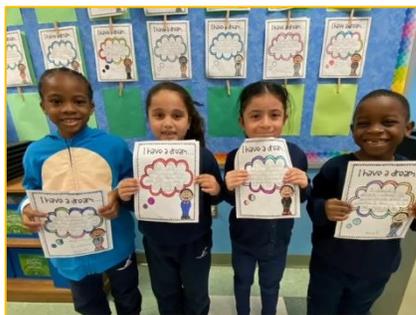
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the students from Mrs. LeFever and Miss Llorente's Pre-K class from **Donald Stewart Center for ECC School No. 51**, drew pictures and talked about how they could be helpful every day. The students reflected on the power of being kind to others just like Dr. King. The students produced great ideas! Ideas included helping others when they are hurt, sharing toys, playing with their friends nicely, and even help the planet by recycling. Donald Stewart School No. 51 motto is "Friends Care. Friends Share.," and they are learning every day to be helpful and kind just like Dr. King.

The Life of Dr. King

At **Robert Morris School No. 18**, students in Ms. Salerno's class were taught about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all his accomplishments. Ms. Salerno's class read about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and talked about the dreams he had about ending segregation. Students were then asked to reflect on some of their dreams, hopes, or wishes for the future. Some explained personal, academic, and family dreams for the near future.



Grade Six Spell Off



Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26's sixth grade class had its 1st Spell Off. Students worked hard and enjoyed this event.

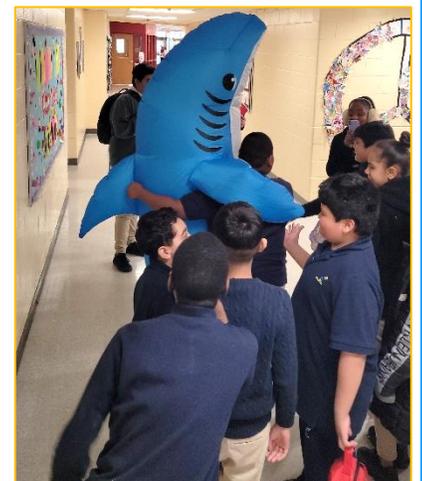
The winners:

1st Place Jayden Borha
2nd Place Lenny Perez
3rd Place Jacob Madrid-Robles

3 Runners Up... Mateo Penuela, Zaira Quaye, and Monica Martinez. Congratulations to everyone that participated!

Special Visit from Upper Classmen

On 12/19, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's Intro to Education students visited Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 with their teacher, Ms. Jennifer Craven. The students visited PreK – 3rd grade classes and read a holiday story to the children at School 27. As a special surprise, one of the Hamilton students dressed as the school mascot Sammy the Shark and visited the cafeteria as well as all of the classrooms.



The students enjoyed the holiday stories and interacting with these future educators. School No. 27 looks forward to seeing the high schoolers again early next year once they begin the student teaching portion of their class. This collaboration with Hamilton has been ongoing for many years and hope it will continue for many more!

Winter Celebrations



George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1's scholars and families experienced holiday cheer all month long this December. The month began with *Breakfast with Santa* for Pre-K scholars where Santa had breakfast with students, while also spreading joy through traditional holiday songs. K-4th grade students got a taste of holiday cheer with *Polar Express Day*. This year, GWA scholars and families received a donation from The Local Long Shoreman Association of over 500 gifts including scooters, dolls, sports gear, and hoverboards. The students' joy beamed throughout the school, as this was the first year that every single student was provided with a gift. The month ended with the annual PBIS Awards, where students were celebrated and highlighted for making good choices with a blind student draw assembly. Christmas was not the only holiday celebrated, also GWA kicked off a new holiday tradition with school wide social emotional lessons and games celebrating Hannukah.

Hot Cocoa Day

Some of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy's students enjoyed many winter festivities.

Students, from Mr. Shumbris class, made a hot cocoa craft, enjoyed hot cocoa and had a special visit from Santa.





Mitten, Hat, and Scarf Drive

During the month of December, **Madison - Monroe School No. 16's** Social Worker, Mr. Luciano led the Mitten, Hat, and Scarf Drive. Students and teachers donated various new mittens, hats, and scarves which were provided to Proceed in Elizabeth. Proceed was delighted to receive the donations which will help keep those in need warm during the winter months. Students learned about the importance of giving back to those in need in the community. This winter season is a lot warmer for many!

The Holidays come to Battin!

Joseph Battin School No. 4 may have a new home, but Santa still found his way to bring some holiday cheer to the staff and students! The holiday sing along led by music teacher, Mr. Modero, gave the school a chance to sing some holiday favorites before the winter break. Not only did Santa find his way to greet the students, but other guests included the Grinch, and the Benedictine Sisters who were able to join in the fun while visiting their former school. Many thanks to principal Mrs. Mendes, vice principals Ms. Desimone & Ms. Ferrara, and the entire staff of Joseph Battin for making it all possible.



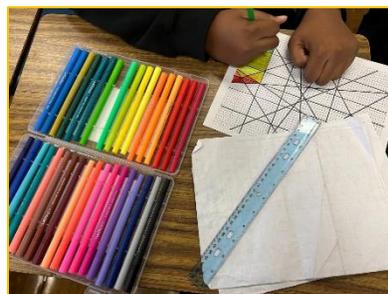
Winter Wonderland

During the last two weeks of December, **JVJ Stem Academy** hosted a Winter Wonderland dance that fundraised for the junior class. In addition, students were treated to a winter games day in which grade levels competed for points to earn rewards towards their grade level. Students were allowed to attend during periods 7th and 8th if they brought a stuffed animal to act as an entrance ticket. This event was hosted by the gym teachers and various class advisors.



Creating Art through Math

At **Toussaint Louverture - Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6**, students from the 8th grade Algebra class are currently working on graphing using the Slope-Intercept Form. Students were given a project where they had to graph 18 equations written in Slope-Intercept Form. The equations had all four types of slopes (positive, negative, undefined and zero). After graphing all 18 equations, students were required to color with their own designs to create a stained-glass window effect. Please see the beautiful creations by the wonderful 8th grade Algebra students.



Giving and Gratitude

At **Madison - Monroe School No. 16**, with a schoolwide focus on giving and gratitude, students and their families donated various nonperishable food items like canned corn, rice, instant potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, macaroni and cheese and canned soups through the month of November. The food drive items that were collected were donated to St. Joseph Community Services in Elizabeth. Mr. Luciano, School Social Worker encouraged students to give back to their community because helping others is an important life lesson which builds the foundation in becoming productive citizens. Students learned that all have something to be thankful for.



9th Graders Discover Art

Mr. Salce, 9th grade World History teacher, set up an Art Museum Gallery at **J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy**. Students were inspired and fascinated with their in-classroom field trip to discover art created from Renaissance times.

This gallery was created as a unit opener to create background knowledge and make connections by discovering the different artistic styles and the most famous artists from the Renaissance.

Students had to walk the gallery to view and critique sixteen of the most influential, controversial, and popular pieces of art from that era.

Students had to identify the name of the piece, the artist, the date and include how the piece evoked their feelings and emotions. The reflection sheets were designed so students were comparing two pieces that had commonalities.



STANJ Governor's Awards



Mrs. Toll and **Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy's** theater students had a great time at the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey (STANJ) Governor's Awards on Saturday, January 7th. The students competed in various theatrical categories such as *Shakespeare*, *Improvisation*, and *Comedic Monologue*. Brianna Martinez won 1st Place and Deborah Pereyra placed as a finalist in the Dramatic Monologue category. Brianna Martinez also won The Governor's Award! Lucas Luchsinger (Mrs. Toll's son), an Elizabeth resident and School No. 7 graduate, won 2nd place competing for UCVTS-APA!

Congratulations to all!

EZ Ride's Bike and Safety Program

On Monday, January 30, **Juan Pablo Duarte- José Julián Martí School No. 28** will have Safe Routes to School (SRTS) presenting to students in Grade 4 & 5 during their gym period. SRTS encourages students to walk/bike to school as often as possible to promote student health and physical activity. EZ Ride's Safety Programs provide complimentary presentations and on-bike skill sessions to teach and put into practice safety procedures to follow. School No. 28 is looking forward to the wonderful presentation and are certain students will gain pertinent information that can be used throughout their lives.



Clap Out Honoring Hamilton Staff

On December 9, 2022, students, teachers, and staff took a few moments from the day to participate in the very first clap out at **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** to honor three special people that recently retired. Mrs. Zenaida Downey, the school nurse has served the Hamilton community for over 25 years and never stopped working even during the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Mrs. Rose Hubbard, an English teacher with a big heart, taught engaging lessons starting at Halsey Academy and ending at Hamilton Academy. Finally, Mrs. Rosa Delgado, a hard-working custodian, showed teachers and staff the meaning of taking pride in one's work.



All three members of the Hamilton family shared one thing in common—a love for the students, staff, and community. Not a dry eye could be seen in the crowd as these three amazing women walked down the hallways of Hamilton Academy as everyone clapped, cheered, and hugged them with gratitude and respect. Congratulations to the three retirees and wish them the absolute best in this next chapter in their lives.

Applebee's Breakfast Event



On Saturday, January 14th, eighth grade scholars from **Victor Mravlag School No. 21** spent the morning “serving” their classmates, schoolmates, and families at the annual *Applebee's Breakfast Event*. The event was an eighth-grade fundraiser, but it provided a great day out for families as well as a taste of the working world for the scholars.

Kids Spreading Kindness



Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 had the honor of having Detective Shameko Greene from the Union County Prosecutor's office Juvenile Unit teach our students about the importance of spreading kindness. Students attended an assembly that exposed them to the dangers of cyberbullying and ways that they can prevent it now and in the future. It was a lesson well worth it! Thank you, Detective Greene.

Families and the School Community Unite

Nicholas S. LaCorte - Peterstown School No. 3 was excited to welcome parents back to schoolwide in person PTO/parent workshops! Sixty families participated in a workshop with presenter Blanca Rosales-Ahn, titled, "Working with your School to Improve your Child's Success". Parents had the opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions, and network with other families. The topics discussed ran the gamut from social emotional concerns like building self-esteem, how to manage student stress and mental health, to academic support, skills for student success and internet safety.

In addition to the benefit of instant feedback from the school's community of educators, guidance counselors and administrators, parents were given the chance to work with the most important school members: their scholars.

At the end of the meeting, students of all attending parents and guardians were invited to stay and complete a holiday craft.



Winter Dance Showcase



Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy hosted a Winter Dance Showcase on Thursday January 12th in the auditorium at 40 Morrell St. Ms. Nicole Lemoine, Dance Teacher, expressed great satisfaction at the success of the event saying that such performances go a long way to

returning us to normalcy after the pandemic and she was very proud of the level of excellence on display in both the choreography and dancing throughout the event.



Gifted and Talented Convocation

On Friday, January 13th, sixth grade gifted and talented students from **William F. Halloran School No. 22** traveled to Union County College for the first G & T Convocation of the year. The students were introduced to Crime Scene Investigation by real CSI detectives. They participated with other students from Union County to investigate and solve the mystery by gathering evidence from various science stations.



Bridging The Gap



The L.O.T. organization is committed to creating a respectful and working relationship between not only the Faculty and the student body, but also younger and older students. Leaders of Technique members from both **George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1** and **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts**

School No. 9 brought both schools together in the spirit of Unity during last month's Student vs Staff competition day. This awesome event featured both a basketball and a soccer game, both of which the staff team took the victory. Also, during School 9's "School Spirit" Pep Rally, L.O.T. members helped organize an assortment of activities for younger students including tug of war, musical chairs, and a SWAG surf competition. Principal Viegas and Mr. Taylor had to show the students how to party with a few dance moves.

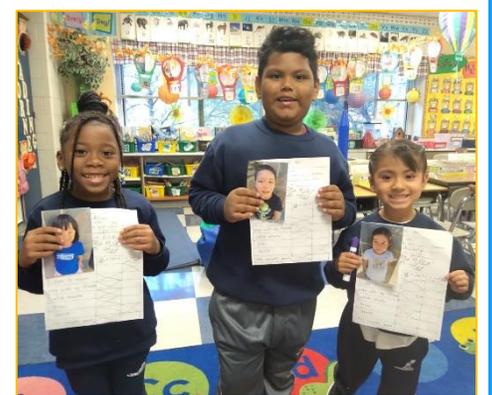


Pen Pals



The students in Mrs. O'Neill's class have been pen pals with students in California for 25 years! Their pen pals are in Ms. Zimmerman's class in La Jolla, California. Ms. Zimmerman was a 1966 graduate of "the new" **Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23**. She has been a teacher at La Jolla Country Day School for 36 years, frequently coming back to visit her hometown of Elizabeth, NJ and School No. 23.

Each year the students write letters of introduction, send art projects, holiday cards, and get a glimpse into the East-West coast connection. In this digital age, putting words on paper has inspired the children's creative expression and formed new friendships from across the country.



National Junior Honor Society Ceremony



Winfield Scott School No. 2 inducted 21 new students at the Annual National Junior Honor Society Ceremony (NJHS) held on January 13, 2023. The NJHS highlights a commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship and helps middle school students develop the knowledge and skills to become well-rounded student leaders in their school, community, and beyond. The NJHS recognizes not only academic achievement but other characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy. Ms. Galvez, Eighth Grade Algebra Teacher, led the event as the NJHS Advisor with the help of Ms. Flores-Torres, school counselor, Ms. Freeman, school social worker and other Middle School team members, Ms. Simoes, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Merino and Ms. Keelen. During the ceremony students presented speeches and lit candles about the 5 characteristics needed as an Honor Society Member. Parents were in attendance and were able to share in the joy of this great achievement. Students were treated to a special lunch after the ceremony.

Scholars Recognized for First Marking Period Achievements



On December 13, 2022, **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex** held an assembly to recognize the academic success their students achieved during the first marking period. During the assembly, students that earned Principal or Superintendent Scholar were given a certificate that identified which Scholar they received. Hamilton Academy Annex applauds the students for their hard work and determination that earned them this honorable recognition!

Spreading Kindness

Christopher Columbus School No. 15 is happy to invite the Kids Spreading Kindness program from the Union County Prosecutor's office to speak to fifth and sixth grade students. The program educates students about ways to protect themselves and peers on the internet and gives them tools to identify and reject bias. Providing students with the tools to safely navigate online and in person interactions is a priority for students' social wellness.



Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



On Monday, January 9th, the students at **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25** celebrated Law Enforcement Appreciation Day by writing "Thank You" letters to the officers at the Elizabeth Police Department. Students were excited to express their gratitude to the officers who help keep the community safe. The students then presented the letters to the school's L.E.A.D. officer, Officer Wilk.

STEAM Challenges



Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29's fifth and sixth grade students in Mr. Mavety's class have been working as young engineers. Mr. Mavety presented students with the task of creating a moving car using only the materials available in a classroom. Students began by asking about the problem, imagining different ways to solve it and then planned how to actually create a moving car. Students explored different materials and in keeping with the engineering design process students improved their projects until all the cars functioned properly and their goal was achieved. Students fueled their curiosity and abilities to think critically when producing ways to fix problems. Students definitely enjoyed the opportunity to be engineers and work full STEAM ahead to solve their problem.



JANUARY IS

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE ELIZABETH SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

You are empowered to achieve excellence!



Send us excellent news on the great things happening in your school to Delilah Sousa email: enews@epsnj.org

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

celebrate

2023

- Feb 2 Groundhog Day
- Feb 6-10 National School Counseling Week
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 20 President's Day
- Whole Month Black History Month
- Whole Month National Children's Dental Health Month

in the month of
February