

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

2024 Women's History Month Celebration

The 2024 Women's History Month Celebration hosted by the Elizabeth Board of Education at Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 prominently featured students from several district schools. EBOE President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely welcomed everyone to the event that also celebrated Gifted and Talented Student Month, National Nutrition Month, Read Across America, and Youth Art Month and introduced Board Member Maria Carvalho who is sponsoring the district's Women's History Month initiative. As emcee of the event, Carvalho shared past Women's History Month events in which she has participated and current ones that she is planning for EPS students.

Additionally, she introduced administrators from each of the participating schools to come forward to describe their students' acts. The performances for the evening included "Classical Bits and Pieces", arranged by Michael Story and "Wizard of Oz", Dance Macabre by Camille Saint-Saens, performed by students from William F. Halloran School No. 22, "In Our Reading Era", performed by students from Abraham Lincoln School No. 14, "Once Upon A Mattress – In a Little While" by Allen Case & Anne Jones, performed by students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, "Youth Art Celebration – Animal African Masks" created and performed by students from J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy, "The Giant Peach, Jr." by the Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Musical Theater Department, performed by students from School No. 7, "Women – Her Story - Art Gallery", created by students from Joseph Battin School No. 4, and "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton, performed by students from Madison-Monroe School No. 16.

Among the individuals and groups recognized by the Board were Supervisor of Food & Nutrition Frank Cuzzola, Elizabeth Police Department Detective Jennifer L. Perez, the Elizabeth Lady Minutemen varsity girls basketball team, and team members of the Office of the Superintendent. Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer recognized the women members of the Board in recognition of Women's History Month for the incredible work they do and the countless hours they dedicate to the Elizabeth Public Schools and presented each of them with roses.



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Women's History Month
- Read Across America
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- Mark Your Calendar

Important Dates:

Month of April

National Autism Acceptance Month Jazz Appreciation Month National Poetry Month

April 2

World Autism Acceptance Day

April 1-5

National Principals Week

April 21-27

National Volunteer Week

April 22

Earth Day

April 24

Administrative Professionals Day

April 26

Arbor Day

School Closings for April

April 1 - Schools and District Closed - Easter Recess

April 2- Schools Closed - Easter Recess

April 3- Schools Closed - Easter Recess

April 4-Schools Closed - Easter Recess

April 5- Schools Closed - Easter Recess

April 10- Schools and District Closed -

Observance of Eid al-Fitr

Quick Links:

School District Website



District Social Media



Back To School Resources



Career Opportunities



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

























WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - FIRST RESPONDERS

In celebration of Women's History Month, Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education invited women of the **Elizabeth Police Department**, **Elizabeth Fire Department**, **and Elizabeth Fire EMS Division** to visit eight high school academies to speak to female ninth and tenth-grade students during the week of March 18 – 22, 2024 as part of the series Women Leaders in Law Enforcement, Fire and Crisis/Emergency Management.

A special thanks to all of the first responders who took time to speak to our tenth-grade female students.





















For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Victor Mravlag School No. 21



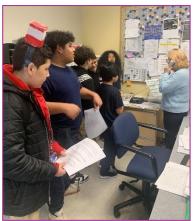


In celebration of Women's History Month, Bridget Anderson, Business Administrator for the City of Elizabeth, recently took time out of her busy schedule to meet with seventh grade students at Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Mrs. Anderson engaged in lively conversations with students that included discussions of the origins of Women's History Month as well as her current job responsibilities. The experience allowed students to interact with a woman who is making a positive impact on their community and overall quality of life. Students left the classroom inspired as they were introduced to the possibility of a career in public administration.

Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25







Students took part in creating focal points to lift up the ways in which women have contributed to bettering our world. They decorated the gym doors with quotes made by their school's namesake displaying so many of Justice Sotomayor's wise words. During Women's History Month, a quote was read over morning announcement in English and Spanish. Students then placed the pictures of famous women along with their quotes at the front desk so that everyone who enters our building can see how proud we are of the *Women Who Run the World*!

Elizabeth Public Schools Celebrate Reading and Dr. Seuss

Elizabeth Public Schools joined school districts throughout the United States in celebrating Read Across America, an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Elizabeth Board of Education members, Elizabeth Public Schools central administration members, Elizabeth community members, and local and regional elected officials visited schools throughout the district to read to students as part of Elizabeth Public Schools' Read Across America activities.





























































George Washington School of Science & Engineering School No. 1

School No. 1 celebrated reading books that inspire scholars to dream big and expand the limits of their imagination, encouraging them to increase their learning through literature. Students participated in daily tag days and activities, including Twin Day, Crazy Sock Day, and Crazy Hair Day. They listened to stories on growth mindset, kindness, and friendship through various guest readers including Board Member Jerry Jacobs, Elizabeth City Councilman Carlos Torres, the Elizabeth Police Department, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Cedeño, and Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs Dr. Kathleen Badalis.



















iPrep Academy School No. 8

Students celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday during Read Across America week. The whimsical week began with students dressing as their future selves and imagining the many places they will go. On Tuesday, students dressed as their favorite superhero. Later in the week, students brought in their favorite book to share with their classmates.

For the arts, students drew and painted the Cat in the Hat and designed their own silly Dr. Seuss hat to wear around the school. The month of March ended with students celebrating St. Patrick's Day by decorating beautiful four-leaf clovers and learning about women's history.







Winfield Scott School No. 2

To celebrate Read Across America week, Winfield Scott School No. 2 had many readers visit the elementary classrooms. The readers included Elizabeth Police Officers, Elizabeth High School Football Coach John Fiore, the Cat in the Hat provided by the EEA, Supervisor of Special Projects Julia Lehman, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy students, and Elizabeth Board of Education Member Jerry Jacobs. Winfield Scott School No. 2 sixth grade students Angel Torres and Sa'nai Hall won an essay writing competition and were the school's Vice Principal and Principal for the day, respectively. Vice Principal Torres and Principal Hall met all of the esteemed readers, assisted in walking them to their classrooms and also read to a second-grade classroom.



Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

Miss Smutek's class participated in the eighth grade Spirit Week! Tuesday's theme was Twin Tuesday. The class decided on wearing red polos to twin as a class. Vice Principal Mrs. Koll joined in on the fun. Spirit Week brings students together to participate in fun themed days. Students enjoy the week as a chance to show off their creativity, school pride, and unity, as well as the necessary social and emotional support needed to achieve academic success.



Christopher Columbus School No. 15







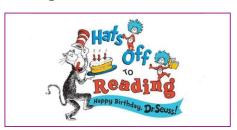




Throughout the month of March, students were empowered with unique lessons that incorporated the importance and fun found in reading. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program joined in the festivities with fruit, vegetables and fun recipes that recreated Dr. Seuss characters such as the Lorax.

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14-Annex

Ms. Sousa's second-grade class was honored to have Elizabeth Police Chief Giacomo Sacca read to them. In addition, students were able to take part in a question-and-answer session with Chief Sacca, on his duties and responsibilities as the Chief of the Elizabeth Police Department.







Madison-Monroe School No. 16 Annex

What do fish prints, Dr. Suess, and Read Across America have in common? They were all part of the Read Across America celebration in Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth grade classroom.

The class fish prints symbolize prosperity in Chinese culture, which is depicted in *The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, one of the core novels being read by our class. No real fish were harmed during the activity, as a fish decoy was used. Students also learned to write and read the Chinese numbers from one to ten by painting them with ink, just as children do in China.

Victor Mravlag School No. 21







In celebration of Read Across America, School No. 21 held their first *Book Swap and Shop*. Prior to the event, students and staff brought in books that their families were done reading. These books were then organized into a "shop" full of books with such a diverse range available that there was truly something for everyone. Every student in grades PreK – 3 was able to find at least one "new to them" book to take home and enjoy. It was a fun and sustainable way for students to discover new genres and authors and to foster a love for books that we hope will continue beyond this event. Principal Dr. Wansaw and Vice Principal Mrs. Casserly would like to give Miss Dietz a special shout out for organizing the event.

Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

School No. 13 buzzed with excitement as they celebrated Read Across America! The annual event aims to ignite a love of reading in children, this year focusing on *Diverse Readers*. The week started with an interactive read aloud of *Green Eggs & Ham* with a surprise visit from the Cat in the Hat. Classrooms welcomed guest readers from the Varsity Boy's Football Team and Varsity Girl's Basketball Team. A buddy reading program was implemented, pairing older students with younger classes. The older students, acting as reading mentors, guided their younger buddies through stories, fostering a sense of responsibility and camaraderie. The younger student in turn benefited from the positive role models and the extra attention. Jeremiah Laporte, Board of Education Student Representative from JVJ STEM Academy also came to share his book, *The Haze of Poetry* with the eighth graders.









EARLY CHILDHOOD - READ ACROSS AMERICA

Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50

School No. 50 celebrated Read Across America with many guest readers.

Officers from the Elizabeth Police Department visited classrooms and read to students.

Ms. Leone's class also received a visit from the Cat in the Hat.





Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51



School No. 51 participated in numerous activities that were designed to promote literacy among young children. In honor of this event, the school commemorated some of Dr. Seuss' wonderful books by creating birthday cards for the author, wore silly hats and socks, among other activities. On March 7th, students and team members wore pajamas to school for Reading Under the Stars and listened to lullabies sung by their music teacher Mr. Kukla. The multipurpose room was transformed into a stargazing extravaganza using flashlights as shooting stars flew overhead.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52

As a special Read Across America celebration, students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Liberty Players dressed as Cat in the Hat, Thing 1, Thing 2, Princess Dauntless and Prince Winnifred. They visited several classes and read to the children of Quad 1 – the classic story, *The Princess and the Pea*. Their enthusiasm and theatrical excitement was shared by all.







Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31

Two students from Ms. Flynn's homeroom were chosen as winners of the Union County Dental Health Poster Contest. Students created their own artwork to demonstrate this year's theme, "Healthy Habits for Healthy Smiles" as part of National Children's Dental Health Month. Genesis Galeano and Christian Medranda were both awarded gift certificates and special ribbons at an awards ceremony held on March 20.

Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

On March 20 students and team members were encouraged to design costumes inspired by vocabulary words of their choice. They had the opportunity to parade their vocabulary word costumes through the school halls, while their peers and teachers cheered them on in support. This engaging project aimed to promote literacy and parental involvement, offering a creative and enjoyable learning experience for the entire school community.



Nicholas S. LaCorte Peterstown School No. 3

The family that plays together gets fit together and team members at School No. 3 made that happen during Family Fitness Night on March 14.

Between staff volunteers, students, parents and guardians, the gym was bouncing to the beat of some 200 exercise enthusiasts.

Participants were able to rotate through stations including indoor "skiing," bowling, yoga, and the giant parachute. Additionally, adults were able to practice CPR techniques on CPR mannequins while watching a training video.

Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29





In Science class, second grade students are studying how different events can quickly change the Earth's surface. They learned a volcano can quickly change the Earth's surface by causing new land to form when lava hardens. The students explored, modeled, and observed what happens during a volcanic eruption by creating an active volcano model and writing down their observations. Students then made a claim about how a volcano causes fast changes to the Earth's surface and supported that claim with evidence.

Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts No. 9



School No. 9 brought the community together to share the power of literature on *Family Reading Night*. The authors Renaee Smith, Avalon Brown & J.W. Mettle inspired students to dream big through their passionate storytelling.

A special thanks to the educators, community leaders, students, families, and the Elizabeth Public Library for being part of a magical evening.



Elmora School No. 12

On March 21, School No. 12 revalidated their AVID National Demonstration status and hosted an AVID Showcase. Many Elizabeth Public Schools team members, including out of district educators from White Plains, Delaware, Trenton, Highlands, and Christina School District, visited Pre-k to 8 classrooms to observe WICOR strategies.

Southeast Associate AVID Director and Validator Shanda Martin applauded the



School No. 12 family for the school's vibrant college culture along with students' bravery to participate in Philosophical Chairs, Socratic Seminars, and share their binders with guests. During the College Café question and answer, students explained how they take daily focused notes in all classes, as well as how AVID has helped them improve both academically and socially. As per validator Shanda Martin, Elmora School 12 exudes college and career readiness and it is evident that the entire staff shares the belief that all students will leave Elmora University with a clear goal to graduate high school and move on to college, ready for their future careers.

Avid Teachers Mrs. Lopes, Mrs. Sandholm, and Mr. Maldonado, along with AVID Coordinator Mrs. DeFillippis, have been instrumental in ensuring Elmora School No. 12 reached the goal of being validated once again as an AVID National Demonstration School. Their perseverance and commitment to the AVID system is admirable.

Woodrow Wilson School No. 19

Woodrow Wilson Warriors had an opportunity to exercise their creativity and learn in creative magical and positive ways. All work displayed was marked by a sense of joy, pride and accomplishment.

March was an eventful month where students learned about the following: St. Patrick's Day, Women's History, Family Trees, Read Across America, and Dr. Seuss (Author Theodor Geisel).







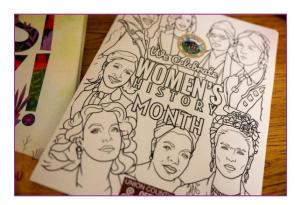






Joseph Battin School No. 4 Annex





On March 26, Union County Board of County Commissioners Vice Chairwoman Lourdes Leon made a special trip to Joseph Battin School No. 4 Annex to kick off the "Inclusive Book Program" sponsored by the Union County Board. Vice Chairwoman Leon met with School No. 4 Principal Hollis Mendes and School No. 4 Annex Vice Principal Christina De Simone to discuss the initiative and deliver a very special book "Just Ask", written by Sonia Sotomayor, to School No. 4 Annex. The book is one of two complimentary books School No. 4 Annex will receive from this initiative. In addition to the complimentary books, an additional 3-5 books will be supplied to School No. 4 Annex through the "Inclusive Book Program". Vice Chairwoman Leon also delivered another book, a coloring book depicting famous women in history, in celebration of Woman's History Month.

School No. 4 appreciated the time Vice Chairwoman Leon took to visit their school and deliver the books. Thank you!

Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5

On March 21, School No. 5 hosted their annual Family Night. The air was filled with curiosity as families explored interactive stations and engaged in hands-on learning experiences. Beyond the activities and entertainment, what truly made the night special was the sense of community that enveloped everyone. Overall, the night was filled with excitement, laughter, learning, and cherished memories that the school community will treasure for years to come. *For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org*





Chessie Dentley School No. 30



Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy was pleased to welcome distinguished guests to the school to discuss their careers with middle school students. A special thanks to the following: Elizabeth Board of Education Vice President Stan Neron and Board Members Iliana Chevres and Isaias Rivera, Union County Commissioner Vice Chairwoman Lourdes Leon, Elizabeth City Councilwoman-at-Large Patricia Perkins-Auguste and Councilman Carlos Cedeño, and local police, fire, and corrections officers. Miss Jasmine Swaggerty discussed retail management while Mrs. Andrea Orellana discussed careers in education. Students were able to listen and ask questions of our guests to learn more about future career paths that will help guide them to make the appropriate high school and college choices.





Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

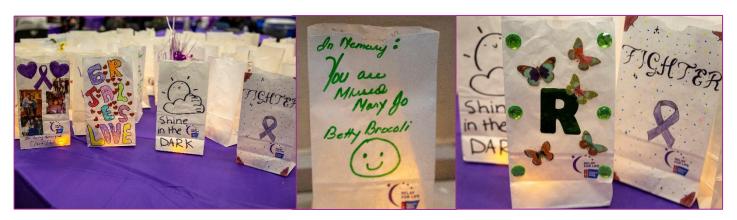
The annual *College and Career Day* was held on March 20. The event brought together a diverse group of professionals from the local community and also displayed research for over twenty different colleges and universities.

Chiropractors, NJ State Troopers, First Responders, Architects, Pilots, and Entrepreneurs were just a few of the many guests who shared their journeys and insights with the students.

Through interactive presentations, students learned about the educational paths needed for different careers, the daily tasks involved, and the most rewarding aspects of each profession. By meeting real-world professionals, students were able to gain a better understanding of how their interests and skills can translate into fulfilling careers. A special thanks to Board Member Jerry Jacobs for attending this wonderful event.



Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy



On March 22, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy hosted its annual Relay for Life event, raising over \$40,000.00 for The American Cancer Society. National Honor Society Advisor Mr. Guido Morsella and The EHS National Honor Society hosted cancer survivors as students walked throughout the night, held vigils, and played games to raise money for the event. The event was precluded by a 5k Run/Walk at Nomahegan Park on March 16 sponsored by the EHS National Honor Society to support Relay for Life. The events were attended by State Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth Board of Education President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely and Board Members Ileana Chevres and Jerry Jacobs, and Councilman-At-Large and Elizabeth Public School's Chief of Operations Frank Cuesta. On behalf of the entire school community, Mr. Guido Morsella and the National Honor Society deeply appreciate the kind support they received from the state, county, city, Board of Education leadership, school district, and community.

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Two students at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy in Elizabeth have earned recognition in this year's

Young Playwrights Competition through The Theater Project, a theater company based in Union County. Sophomore Karma Beech-Wilson earned second place for her play, "Again Tomorrow" while senior Jaylen Mingo third place for his play titled "The Death Gamble" and. Their plays were read aloud online during the 22nd Annual Young Playwrights Awards and Performance. They also received monetary awards along with The Joseph M. Curka Award for Young Playwrights.





The goal of the competition is to encourage the next generation of theater practitioners and audience by honoring their work and bringing it to life. High school students get professional feedback on their work and winners see their plays performed in a staged reading. The Theater Project is committed to the concept that participation in the arts builds fundamental skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. st, second, and third prize winners receive a cash gift and see their work performed at the March awards ceremony.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Students from Mrs. Diana Valente's Multicultural Club attended a trip to the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Redbank, NJ on March 1. There, they viewed the amazing performance of the musical *Ragtime*. The musical highlighted the history of America in the 20th century as experienced by immigrants, African Americans, and a wealthy family in the suburbs of New York. After the show students enjoyed a delicious fondue lunch in the Melting Pot Restaurant. Students expressed their gratitude for having had an opportunity to enjoy a show and a good lunch.











Also, in other news, the Hamilton family would like to congratulate Ms. Valerie Hendon for being awarded Counselor of the County by the New Jersey School Counselor Association. Principal George E. Mikros honored this great accomplishment stating that "Ms. Hendon is an amazing counselor that goes above and beyond to provide exceptional services to students, parents, and school community."

Counselors are selected because of their ability to deliver an effective school counseling program which focuses on academic development, career counseling and personal/social support. Congratulations. Ms. Hendon!



JVJ STEM Academy

As the month of April nears, students are getting ready for Earth Day and are getting a head start on helping the planet beginning in school. Seniors Reynaldo Paulino and Juanita Hoyos, recognized that schools are missing a recycling component and worked with local representatives to create a plan to potentially roll out a city-wide recycling program. The hope is to pilot the program at JVJ and get a system that can be copied at other Elizabeth schools, then once successful at the district level, expand it to the city itself. The goal would be to have visible recycling next to each garbage can to minimize waste.

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy

To celebrate Women's History Month, Mrs. Valencia's ESL students decided to honor the great women of history! Each student highlighted the significance and value of all women across all cultures. This project presents the wisdom, passion, vision, obstacles, results, lessons, and more that these women left in society. Whether past or present, each amazing woman's footprint will show the pathway to a stronger future.



Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy Annex

Did you know that like humans, strawberries have DNA too? Biology students conducted an experiment where they extracted DNA from a strawberry! Gianna Hernandez, a Halsey Annex biology student, reflected on her experience.

Gianna stated, "Our teacher, Mrs. Santana assigned us the challenge of stripping DNA from a strawberry. Recently we have been learning about DNA and RNA, so we did this to understand further that all living organisms contain DNA. Mrs. Santana went over the instructions of what we were going to do and gave us the materials we needed. When it came time to separate the strawberry and see the DNA, I remember everyone in class laughing and thinking it was so cool how the DNA immediately



separated from the contents of the strawberry. My favorite part was being able to manipulate the DNA and move it around. At first, the sample looked like a booger-like substance and the further you played with it, the more it would clump up and become more visible. Eventually the DNA sample started looking like a small piece of cotton. At the end of the lab, we were able to put the DNA in a small vile and take it home. Biology class can consist of lectures and note taking, but this activity helped me, and my peers to visually see how specific substances stripped the DNA from its living organism. I am excited for further hands-on investigations and greatly enjoyed being able to participate in this activity!" GO HALSEY!



Elizabeth High School Color Guard

Congratulations to the Elizabeth High School Color Guard for their first-place win at their eighth competition. They received a score of 86.03 at Monroe Township High school in Monroe, NJ. Elizabeth High School competed against 10 teams and gained 2.22 points from their last competition.

Elizabeth High School Indoor Percussion

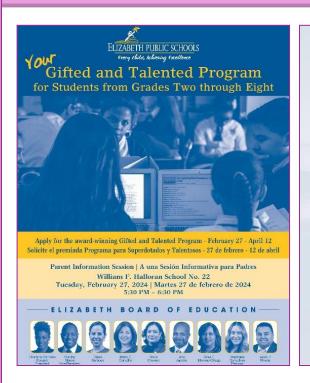
Congratulations to the EHS Indoor Percussion for making history in competing in their first ever WGI Percussion Regional. The group not only qualified for the finals out of 26 groups, but also continued in their success finishing in the top 10 with a score 82.463.







MARK YOUR CALENDAR



HIGH SCHOOLS WELCOME CENTER

Your Registration and Customer Service

In an effort to ensure that all the needs of Elizabeth's students, parents and guardians are addressed, the Board of Education has a "High Schools Welcome Center" - your registration and customer service center for our eight high schools.

600 Pearl Street Elizabeth, New Jersey tel: 908.436.5278

Open Mondays through Fridays: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Evening Hours 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm April 9 and April 16

Items needed for High School registration (for students NOT currently enrolled at Elizabeth Public Schools):

- Proof of Birth: Birth Certificate or Passport

- Proof of Birth: Birth Certificate or Health Records High School Transcripts from previous school or report cards Standardized testing information Proof of Elizabeth Address: Two utility bills AND
- - (one from below)

 Copy of tax bill if you own your home

- Copy of tax bill if you own your nome
 Copy of lease or
 Statement from landlord
 (must be notarzed)
 Parent/Guardian and student must be present for registration



Who should register for one of our eight high schools?

- Elizabeth residents not currently attending Elizabeth Public Schools who wish to transfer to one of our high schools

Students currently enrolled in one of our high schools wishing to explore other excellent choices should consult with their guidance counselor prior to registering.



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



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