

# EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Elizabeth



Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy students had the opportunity to participate in the 15th Annual Taste of Elizabeth. The TECTA culinary students prepared delicious bite-sized hors d'oeuvre consisting of grilled, sliced, grass fed filet of beef over a halved duck fat fried Yukon gold potato, then drizzled with roasted chili chimichurri. The TECTA baking students made mini pastry tartlets with vanilla bean pastry cream and raspberry coulis. Both were praised as top dishes by the event attendees!



Students also worked as servers and sous chefs to assist local restaurants with their dishes. TECTA enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to showcase what its Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs can produce and took great pride in representing their community as part of the event.



### NOVEMBER 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- World Kindness Day
- Harmony Power Day
- American Ed. Week
- Samaritan's Purse
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- Upcoming Events

### Important Dates:

**November 22**

Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.

**November 23-24**

Thanksgiving Recess

Schools & District Closed

**December 4**

Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.

For Students

### Quick Links:

School District Website



District Social Media



Back To School Resources



Career Opportunities



# WORLD KINDNESS DAY

## Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25



Middle school students enjoyed World Kindness Day by reading books on Kindness to the lower grade students. The lower grade students enthusiastically raised their hands to answer their upper classmates' questions and eagerly participated in discussions on kindness. Kindness Day was so well received that we put in place a program called Adopt a Class. Each middle school homeroom will be assigned a particular lower grade classroom to continue sharing kind acts with each other throughout the remainder of the school year. *Together We Soar!*

## Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29

School No. 29 celebrated World Kindness Day with a Harmony Power Pep Rally and a celebration of those students who displayed kindness toward their fellow classmates, teachers, and staff. The celebration kicked off with a performance by the Dr. Albert Einstein Drumline and continued with the character education song, Believe in Your SELFIE, performed by the Joyful Sounds chorus. The pep rally concluded with students receiving Harmony awards and a dance performance by the Einstein Dancers. The pep rally was a great way to promote the spreading of KINDNESS and to highlight and encourage kindness as a way of life.





# HARMONY POWER DAY

## George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1



Scholars celebrated Harmony Power Day on November 15 by inviting community members, who have a profession that creates harmony in the community, to visit for an assembly. Students learned about different career opportunities and how those career paths can provide unity, peace, and spread support for the City of Elizabeth. Students were also invited to dress up as the *Career of Their Future*, with one of the second-grade students dressing up as their very own School Principal, Mr. Black. Hallways were filled with future doctors, lawyers, teachers, police officers, YouTube stars, and future change makers. The future of George Washington Academy scholars is bright, just as it is harmonious!

## Christopher Columbus School No. 15

On November 15, students celebrated Harmony Power Day by dressing up in 70's themed outfits to promote *Peace and Respect* in school. Teachers recognized and awarded students who have demonstrated positive behavior and kindness to others throughout the first marking period. Students had the opportunity to vote for and award the classmate who wore the best 70's themed outfit. Christopher Columbus team members and students took time to recognize support staff (secretaries, security, custodians, kitchen, and nurse) with a parade throughout the school hallways as it was also National Educational Support Staff Day and the support staff is critical to the positive school culture.





# HARMONY POWER DAY

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



Jerome Dunn Academy proudly hosted Harmony Power Day to promote harmony and balance in the school community. Students were encouraged to use their power to stand up against bullying. Learning that their power can be used positively has encouraged students to spread love and not hate. The Harmony Power celebration showcased students who were empowered to steer away from negative influences while embracing positivity, love, and understanding.

## William F. Halloran School No. 22



School No. 22 celebrated Harmony Power Day with a Husky Harmony Walk where students had the opportunity to walk around the field, listen and dance to music, and to show off their colorful grade level clothing. During homeroom, students made cards for patients and doctors/nurses at Trinitas Hospital and for Detective Gonzalez and the Elizabeth Police for their work with the Youth Empowerment Program. During homeroom, students also took the Harmony Pledge and created a list, together as a class, of five things everyone pledges to do in efforts to make school and the world a more harmonious place.

## Robert Morris School No. 18

School No. 18 celebrated Harmony Power with an assembly to recognize students who were nominated for awards by presenting them with certificates. Students also participated in an afternoon activity where they placed painted handprints on a school banner for Harmony Power to represent leaving their mark in a positive way.





# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

## Abraham Lincoln School No. 14

Career Day was a featured activity for American Education Week. Students in Mrs. Oquendo's first grade bilingual class dressed up as future doctors, firefighters, and police officers.



## John Marshall School No. 20

In celebration of American Education Week, School No. 20 proudly sponsored the annual *Special Person Luncheon*. On November 14, students selected family and/or friends to join them for a special lunch. Excitement filled the cafetorium as the event fostered the school's commitment to family/community involvement.



# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

## Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6



The School No. 6 American Education Week celebration was filled with many activities. One of the favorites was *Dress for Success- Dress as Your Future Career*. Students enjoyed seeing their peers who modeled a profession they would like to pursue dressed for success!

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

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela*

American Education Week inspires us during the academic year by celebrating the achievements of public schools and honoring those who have contributed to improving education in the U.S. The PTO president, vice-president, and parents/guardians of the school Leaders Of Technique program read books with the common theme of GOOD CHARACTER to younger students during American Education Week. Modeling the example that reading is fun and cool is a priority for the L.O.T. program. The educators and team members at JDA School No. 9 inspire students to believe in themselves and to never give up! All of the staff and educators continue to be Educational Rockstars everyday!





# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

## Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

American Education Week began with heartfelt gestures of teacher appreciation. Students took the initiative to express their gratitude by crafting thoughtful cards dedicated to someone special within the school community. These cards were delivered personally, creating a sense of connection and recognition for the educators who play a significant role at School No. 23.



## Woodrow Wilson School No. 19

School No. 19 kicked off American Education Week Woodrow Wilson Warriors style. Students and staff participated in many events to show gratitude to educators and team members alike. Parents were also celebrated and honored. Furthermore, dressing up for career day, dressing up as a superhero, creating thank you hats for parents and creating classroom quilts (showcasing what students love about school) were just some of the fun activities that took place at School No. 19.

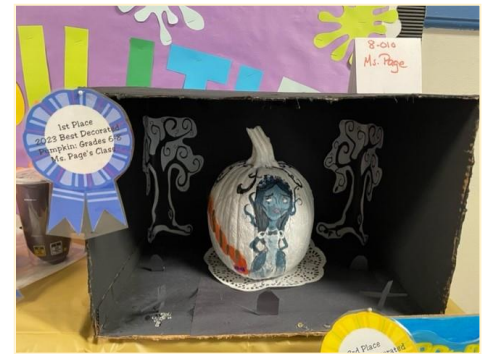
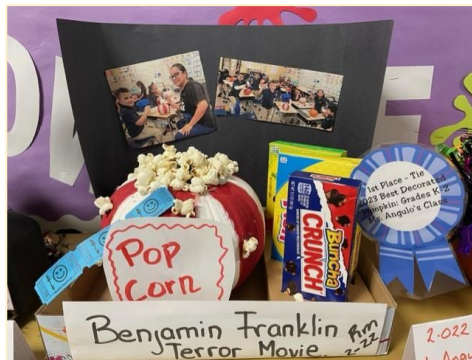




## FALL FESTIVITIES

### Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

School No. 13 held their 1st Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest to foster classroom and school collaboration among students and staff. All classes participated and the results were impressive. In addition to being a fun and creative activity, the pumpkin decorating contest also helped to build a sense of community and healthy competition. Students of all ages worked together to decorate their pumpkins and learned from each other's ideas. The winning homerooms received an ice cream party!



### Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31

Mrs. Pires' Student Government class hosted a Halloween Spooktacular for the kindergarten through fourth grade students. Students and teachers had a grand time playing bingo, making crafts, trick-or-treating, participating in a costume contest and so much more!

Student Government is comprised of middle school students who planned and organized the activities along with dedicated teachers who helped run the event! All were rewarded by the happy faces, laughter, and pure excitement of the elementary students.





## FALL FESTIVITIES

### Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy



Students from Mrs. Valente's Multicultural Club hosted the school's first movie night of the year on November 1. The popular movie "Coco" was selected as part of the many activities of the night celebrating the Mexican Holiday *Dia De Los Muertos* or Day of the Dead. This holiday is a day that honors those that have passed with joy and fun. Students learned that *Dia De Los Muertos* help people understand that death is a natural part of life and not something to fear. They learned that it also connects families with their ancestors and their culture. Students from grades 9-12 participated in traditional face painting, took pictures in photo booths, won prizes for their efforts, and even tried traditional sweet bread called *Pan De Muertos*, made fresh by *Santiago's Bakery*, a local Mexican bakery in Elizabeth. Students expressed how much fun the event was and that they couldn't wait for the next one!

### Madison-Monroe School No. 16

School No. 16 hosted its Trunk or Treat event with the assistance of their parent volunteers. Parents handed out candy to the students and let them check out their decorated vehicles. Students enjoyed seeing the creative ways the parents decorated their vehicles. Students also showcased their Halloween costumes while enjoying a safe and fun time.





## FALL FESTIVITIES

### Victor Mravlag School No. 21

Halloween was in the air! With the help of the PTO and team members, School No. 21 hosted their annual Haunted Hallway and Trunk or Treat. Both events are a staple for the Victor Mravlag community. It was an exciting way for the community, parents, and team members to come together and have some fun.



### J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

At J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy, students work hard and play hard! To build school spirit and a sense of community, student government president, Ibn Baker, in collaboration with the student government advisor, initiated, planned, and executed an amazing "haunted" evening of fun and "horror" for both staff and students. Over 70 students and numerous team members participated in Haunted Hallways! Even Principal Byrne was spooked!!





# SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

## Joseph Battin School No. 4



Amidst a time when empathy and selflessness appear to be waning, you'll find young selfless minds taking the initiative to help others during the holiday season. The bilingual fourth and fifth grade students from Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Fontaine's classes led a schoolwide initiative to provide a memorable Christmas for deserving children around the world. The Battin community came together and filled shoeboxes with gifts that will bring a smile to nearly 60 children. Not only will this Samaritan's Purse event titled *Operation Christmas Child* bring a smile to someone in the global community, but it also brought smiles to the local community!

## Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

For the third year in a row, Jefferson Arts Academy has partnered with Samaritan's Purse International to donate toys for all children in need all over the world through *Operation Christmas Child*. Students fill shoeboxes with toys, gifts, hygiene items, books, and sports equipment. These items are sent to a collection center and then shipped to many countries overseas to arrive by Christmas morning for children who would otherwise not have a gift for Christmas. This year, the Jefferson Arts community have 150+ shoeboxes thanks to the help of Mrs. Mary Rivera and Ms. Judith Rodriguez.





## EARLY CHILDHOOD



### Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Annex

Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Annex recognized National Parental Involvement Day.

Families were invited into their Pre-K children's classrooms to make turkeys and to visit and experience a snapshot of what their child does each and every day in their classroom setting. Families and students were so happy to spend this special time together.



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

School No. 52 celebrated American Education Week by hosting a parent training on *Meaningful Play* as a Learning Tool. School Psychologist, Jennifer Fandino, and LDT-C, Dawn Luc, presented the workshop. Parents engaged in hands-on experiences reinforcing the importance of play and learning strategies for supporting the development of language, cognition, motor skills, and social/emotional skills through play. According to the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, play allows children to learn how to work in groups, share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, and learn self-advocacy skills.



The children also showed appreciation to all of the School No. 52 support staff, including bus drivers, bus aides, lunch aides, security guards, custodians, kitchen staff, and secretaries.

Members of Classroom 123 showed School Secretary Gret Sheehy appreciation for all her hard work and dedication to School No. 52. Students decorated a paper clip with crayons and then glued them to a poster that read: "thanks for holding our office together."



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50



American Education Week was filled with a variety of fun activities. Students wrote thank you notes to substitute teachers and dressed as their favorite community helpers.

Also, to celebrate National Family Literacy Month, parents were invited to read to their child's class on November 20. The parents were overjoyed to be back in the school participating in their child's education.

### Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51

Parents were invited to a workshop titled *Reading is Knowledge, Knowledge is Power*. During the workshop, team members provided information on how to use reading as a tool to promote language development. This workshop was provided in two different sessions and over 120 parents participated. Afterwards, the parents were invited to their child's classroom to put into practice what they had learned.





## ELEMENTARY

### Elmora School No. 12



School No. 12 held an AVID Induction Ceremony and Parent Information Night. It was a great night full of information, celebration, and recognition. AVID students were able to present information about the AVID elective class. The highlights of the night were the two guest speakers and former students of Elmora School No 12, Ashly Caraballo and Amira Caraballo. They talked to the students about how AVID played an important role in their education. They stressed how lucky they were to be enrolled in AVID during their years at School No. 12 and how this elective helped them flourish at Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Amira and Ashley both received scholarships from Kean University and

NJIT. The night ended with each AVID student being recognized and receiving a pin to induct them into the AVID elective class.

### Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

This November, the middle school students visited The Newark Museum, the largest museum in New Jersey! During their visit, they explored the *American Stories* gallery where many perspectives were reflected in American Art. Topics included Civil War, slavery, and multi-cultural heritages learned in their history courses. Students also were invited inside the planetarium, an immersive experience in Mayan art, science, mythology, and astronomy followed by a sky tour locating planets, stars, and galaxies!



### Juan Pablo Duarte - José Julián Martí School No. 28



To celebrate *National Support Professionals Day*, students in the MD program at School No. 28 made cards during their speech-language therapy sessions to express how grateful they are for the assistants in their classes.

They used sign language, assistive technology, or verbal language to say thank you and let support staff know how special they are.

## ELEMENTARY

### Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31

Mrs. Campbell's Studio Arts classes selected book covers from popular children's books to decorate the windows in the library of School 26. The students (Abrielle Beasley, Natalia Cardona, Lesly Pena Compres, Rosmely Fernandez, Devin Garcia, Christopher Goris, Daniel Mateo-Enriquez, Deimar Mena Villa, Domenica Segovia and Victoria Tenorio) chose the books they wanted to illustrate and created larger than life paintings which can be viewed both inside and outside of the school. The younger children are thrilled to recognize favorite characters adorning their library.



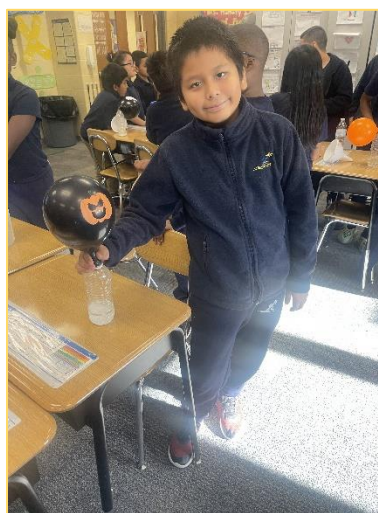
### Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23



Students showed their solidarity and respect for their teachers' alma maters by proudly wearing the collegiate colors associated with their educators' former school. This was a wonderful way to honor their teachers' educational journeys and legacies while also fostering a sense of camaraderie within the school community.

### Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

States of matter, matters to the fifth-grade students in Ms. Hanafy's science class. The 5th-grade students had an opportunity to demonstrate to Ms. Llano's second-grade bilingual class how a chemical reaction can inflate a balloon. Both classes had a great time learning from each other. The second and fifth graders now have a better understanding of how matter affects our daily lives!





## ELEMENTARY

### Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



Miss New Jersey 2023, Ms. Victoria Mozitis, visited Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 during American Education Week to speak about her job responsibilities as Miss New Jersey, her platform called “LEAP”, women empowerment, and the importance of community service. Inspired by her love for both literacy and the arts, Miss New Jersey established LEAP: Literacy Enhancement, Artistry and Performance, a community service initiative dedicated to improving global literacy through advocating for arts education. She was greeted by third grade performing arts and visual arts students who were intrigued by her journey to becoming Miss New Jersey and her job responsibilities. While sharing her personal story, Miss New Jersey took the time to read a special book to our third graders.

### Robert Morris School No. 18

National Junior Honor Society students from School No. 18 teamed up with third graders as part of a “Big Brother, Big Sister” activity where language art games were played to review previously learned skills. Throughout the year, members of the National Junior Honor Society will continue to work with students in the lower grade levels to provide support. The third-grade students look forward to participating in different activities with their new partners.





## ELEMENTARY

### Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



In Ms. De Cataldo's first grade class, with Election Day just happening, the students learned in social studies about voting, that it gives them a chance to pick something they believe in, and their voice can be heard. If they don't vote, they will not have an opportunity to make a difference and for changes to be made. The students learned they must be 18 to vote in their community, but in school or at home they can vote on things they want and by doing that, it is the fair way to have something picked. The students had such a fun time voting for the best cookie, filling out a ballot and putting it in the voting box, as if they were really at the election polls! They even did some math by making a tally table, a bar graph, and answering questions. The part they loved the most was getting to eat the winning cookie!



### iPrep School No. 8

iPrep Academy welcomed their first 'Thankful Tree' in their very own hallway. The tree stands in the middle of the hallway while the leaves fall throughout the hallway. The students of iPrep Academy were given a leaf to write or draw something for which they were thankful. Most students are thankful for their families and friends, while other students were thankful for their favorite foods and their health. With the help of their incredibly talented art teacher, Mr. Fajardo, the school came together and wrote wonderful things for which they were thankful. The leaves attached to the tree were made by the kindergarten and first grade classes at iPrep during their art classes. We are very thankful for all of our talented students.



## ELEMENTARY

### Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



School families were invited to a parent workshop that ended in *Coffee & Chat*. Parents loved the idea of having breakfast with the principal and her team as it truly strengthens the parents' and school's partnership and collaborations in the success of the Reilly scholars. Following the *Coffee & Chat*, parents participated in an informative and interactive workshop on strategies to help with and teach conflict resolution when at home. The workshop was presented by Ms. Blanca Rosales from Brahn Career Educational Consulting Services. Parents left the workshop excited about all the wonderful things happening at School No. 7.

### Chessie Dentley Roberts School No. 30

On November 2, the organization *Jazz House Kids* generously donated various instruments to the band program. Students will also have an opportunity to engage in master classes with resident artists to improve skills. School No. 30 is grateful for the donation and look forward to expanding their music program.



### Madison-Monroe School No. 16

School No. 16 celebrated the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of school. Students and team members participated by dressing up in their best Roaring 20's attire. This decade spirit day included wearing flapper dresses, feathers, headbands, hats, pinstripe suits, wingtip shoes, long pearl necklaces and many more. Students learned about life during the 20's and enjoyed dancing in the gym to Jazz Music.





## ELEMENTARY

### Benajmin Franklin School No. 13

Students in sixth through eighth grade went to the Prudential Center to attend HISPA: Imagine Day. Students were able to explore their potential and ignite their desire to embrace education and achieve success. The event featured a variety of workshops and activities designed to help students learn about different careers, develop their skills, and connect with Latino(a) role models. Students were able to participate in hands-on activities to develop their skills in areas such as leadership, communication, and problem-solving, skills essential for success in school and in the workplace.



### Chessie Dentley Roberts School No. 30

School No. 30, along with Elizabeth Board of Education Member Stanley Neron, honored and celebrated civil rights activist and author Ruby Bridges today on November 14, also known as Ruby Bridges Day. Ruby Bridges was the first African American to attend an all-white elementary school in Louisiana. To further honor this day with those who commit to public service, School No. 30 inducted their first school Safety Patrol unit.





## HIGH SCHOOLS

### Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson STEM Academy

Students are given the opportunity to participate in the JVJ STEM Club, which is run by Mrs. Preeti Jain. Students are given challenging kits that allow them to explore, discover, build, and troubleshoot scientific problems. Some of the most recent projects have included exploring augmented reality (AR/VR) using Merge cube creation.

Other projects have included building a mechanical globe by engineering a spinning model of the Earth. The STEM Club allows teams of students to collaborate and showcase their work. The goal of the club is to foster student interest in STEM and hopefully motivate them to pursue STEM-related career fields. The STEM club is one of the ways that students can grow in a welcoming and open environment that encourages them to contribute positively to the world.



### Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

On November 17, the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Choir, under the direction of Kelly Cubias, performed at the Union County Courthouse as part of the celebration for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Adoption Day event. The event celebrates the creation of families through the adoption process as well as the agencies and systems in place to support children and families. The choir performed a piece entitled "Coming Home" to highlight the significance of children finding their forever homes with their adoptive families.

[N.J. kids get 'forever homes' at National Adoption Day celebration - nj.com](https://www.nj.com/news/education/story/NJ-kids-get-forever-homes-at-National-Adoption-Day-celebration-2018-11-17.html)



# HIGH SCHOOLS

## Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a practice that involves teaching students specific career skills in middle school, high school, and post-secondary institutions. Elizabeth Public Schools offers a variety of career programs such as Health Sciences, Construction Technology, and STEM to prepare students for their future careers.

The CTE programs at Elizabeth Public Schools provide students with hands-on experiences through work-based learning. Work-based learning (WBL) involves sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in a real workplace setting. During November, the Construction Technology students at Edison Career and Technical Academy, along with their teachers Mr. Westervelt and Mr. Crincoli, collaborated with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark to assist the Salvation Army in renovating their food pantry. This was the first work-based learning experience of the year for construction scholars. The students will continue to work on the pantry renovation, and later in the school year, they will work with Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing in Elizabeth.





## HIGH SCHOOLS

### Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Hamilton Preparatory Academy held their annual Veterans Day assembly. This assembly is held every year to honor those who serve our country and to honor the current seniors that will be enlisting in the military. A special thanks to their very own Mrs. Maravi for her service in the United States Army National Guard and for putting together this assembly every year!



### J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

This month's news showcases one of J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy's most loved & respected teachers: Mr. Randle! Mr. Randle started teaching in 2011 after retiring from the NJ State Police & the NJ Highway Authority. He brings his passion, dedication, and enthusiasm into all his classes and this is best highlighted in this crime scene from his Forensics' class which gives students the opportunity to apply concepts of forensic law, eyewitness accounts, and crime scene analysis procedures. It doesn't get more hands on than that! Student engagement is off the charts in this classroom!



### John E. Dwyer Technology Academy

Twelve students from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who are in tenth through twelfth grade and enrolled in the NAF Academy of Information Technology and Academy of Engineering programs, received career-ready backpacks as donations from Verizon. The backpacks were filled with career readiness supplies, including a wireless keyboard and webcam, by a group of Verizon Business Group volunteers. NAF is a national education nonprofit consisting of education, business, and community leaders who work to prepare high school students for college, career, and future success. Alyssa Milanes, the NAF Coordinator for Elizabeth Public Schools, expressed her gratitude towards Verizon employees and NAF for their efforts in better preparing high school students for their future.






## UPCOMING EVENTS

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presents



**2023**

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**27 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD**  
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