



NOVEMBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- 100th Year Celebration
- Fall Festivities
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- District News

Important Dates

December 13 – Professional Development Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.

December 23–31 Winter Recess Schools & District Closed

January 1- New Year's Day Schools & District Closed

January 2- Schools Reopen

January 20- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Schools & District Closed

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100th Year Celebration Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

Toussaint L'Ouverture - Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 proudly opened its doors for Alumni Night. The evening marked the commencement of a yearlong celebration honoring 100 years of success. Guests enjoyed a guided tour of the historic building, an inspiring keynote by former NJ State Historian and alum Dr. Linda Epps, and a warm reception in the gymnasium. Alumni Night was attended by many individuals connected to the school, including graduates dating back to the Class of 1951 as well as current and former educators with over 35 years of service to School No. 6.

It was an amazing opportunity for alumni to catch up and sign up for future events such as the Spring Playground Project. Here's to a century of impact and community—and many more to come!



For more photos of this wonderful event, please visit [Toussaint Louverture Marquis de Lafayette Celebrates 100 years](#)

FALL FESTIVITIES

George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1



School No. 1 hosted a *Fall Harvest* event for students. Various stations were set up outside in the courtyard for students to enjoy. The stations included a bounce house, mummy wrap, face painting, ghost knock down, spider toss and an eyeball race. PTO parents volunteered and took the lead in the various activities. George Washington Scholars had a fantastic time.

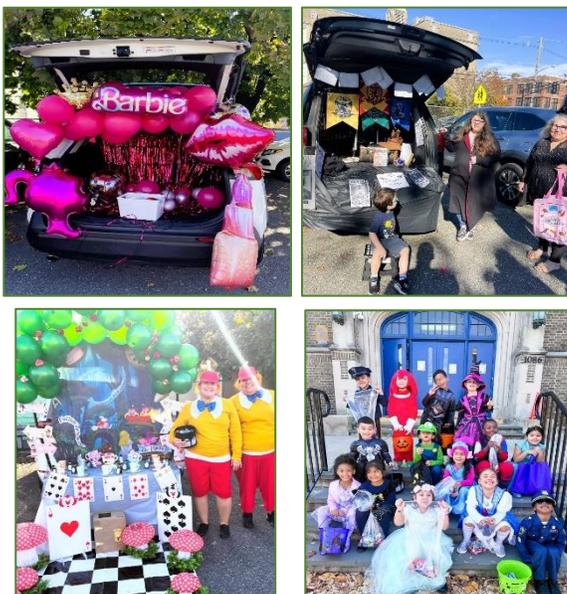
Woodrow Wilson School No. 19



School No. 19 kicked off its first-ever *Trunk or Treat* event, bringing together the enthusiastic efforts of the PTO and dedicated teacher volunteers. The parking lot transformed into a festive wonderland as parents and teachers handed out candy from their creatively decorated cars, delighting students with their imaginative displays. From spooky to silly, the decorated vehicles were a feast for the eyes, sparking excitement. As the students paraded in their Halloween costumes, their laughter filled the air, creating a fun, safe atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. The event was a hit, and it's sure to become a beloved annual tradition at School No. 19!

Madison-Monroe School No. 16

School No. 16 transformed its parking lot into a vibrant Halloween trunk or treat event, filled with excitement and festive spirit. The lot was adorned with spooky set-ups and sweet treats, creating a delightful atmosphere that captivated all the students. Dressed in their imaginative Halloween costumes, students eagerly explored the various vehicles, each uniquely decorated by the dedicated parent volunteers. The creativity and effort put into the decorations sparked joy and admiration, as students marveled at the innovative designs that brought the Halloween spirit to life.



FALL FESTIVITIES

Victor Mravlag School No. 21



School No. 21 held their annual *Haunted Hallways* event. Eighth grade students and the PTA worked together to make this event spooktacular. A special thanks to parents and guests who joined in this wonderful event.

Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51



Pumpkins were delivered by Thor from Anderson Farms. With their generous support, the Fall Harvest Festival was a success. A special thanks to Anderson Farms.

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



FALL FESTIVITIES

Nicholas S. La Corte – Peterstown School No. 3



Students, staff and community neighbors BOOgied their way along Second Avenue for their annual Trunk or Treat event. Hungry zombies, royal kings and queens, superheroes and cartoon characters first held a parade for students in the hallways and then moved on to nearby O'Brien field where parents and school neighbors were frightfully excited to see them. Next was a Trunk or Treat with staff members and eighth-grade students at car displays that included a giant shark, a Zombie store and school mascot, Tiger Tate's den. Everyone embraced the Halloween spirit—truly, a spooktacular time was had by all!



Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Students participated in the initiative *Treats for Kids*, which provides candy to some of the elementary schools in the district for their Halloween celebrations. This year they sponsored Winfield Scott School No. 2, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 and Benjamin Franklin School No. 13.

The Halloween Helpers were honored to deliver these treats to the schools. It brought them great joy and pleasure to know the students will be filled with excitement as they enjoy the celebration.

JVJ STEM Academy

The students from Ms. Christodoulou's class were invited to pick pumpkins in the mini pumpkin patch from the STEM garden on behalf of their teachers and the Agricultural Engineering Club. Students were then given the opportunity to paint their pumpkins in art class in celebration of the fall mini harvest/Halloween.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50



The students worked with *Operation Gratitude* to create pictures and notes for our Veteran's. The teachers did lessons appropriately explaining what veterans do for our country to the students. PE teacher, Mr. Chacon, arrived in uniform and spoke to the children.

Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51

Teachers hosted the workshop 'Reading is Knowledge, Knowledge is Power' for parents. The information provided to the parents focused on how to use reading as a tool to promote language development. This workshop was hosted in two different sessions, in English by Mr. Kong, and in Spanish by Mrs. Liquori. Several other teachers modeled how to foster both expressive and receptive communication, develop vocabulary, and introduced techniques to engage parents during thoughtful reading practices. In addition to promoting language development, parents' participation in this workshop highlighted the importance of building strong partnerships between families and educators.



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



The children participated in their annual *Fall Harvest Fest*. The children enjoyed activities that incorporated math, fine motor skills, musical games, and physical components. Pumpkin decorating, sand and water table scooping, leaf rubbing, musical chairs, wagon hayrides, and web volleyball were just some of the activities offered. Many parents and relatives willingly volunteered their time to help with the Fall Harvest Festival.

ELEMENTARY

Elmora School No. 12

A school-wide mock election was held on November 4th. The day started with chorus members singing The Star Spangled Banner over the intercom during morning announcements. Eighth grade student Abigail Theodore posed as Kamala Harris and seventh grade student Juan Escobar posed as Donald Trump. The two candidates greeted voters waiting in line with a handshake. Uncle Sam waved the American flag and thanked students and staff members for taking the time to vote.

At the end of the day, the votes were tallied. It was a close election. Kamala Harris received 315 votes and Donald Trump received 291 votes. On Wednesday, students arrived at school excited to tell their teachers and administration that they watched the news on Election Day because they were eager to find out who the next president would be. Even though the prediction was incorrect, the students learned the importance and value of voting.



Joseph Battin School No. 4



Eighth grade students were excited to participate in the 2024-2025 Student Council Election process! Students that showed interest in a Student Council office position, completed preliminary interviews, campaigned and addressed the Middle School student body in hopes to become Joseph Battin's President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. On November 6, sixth through eighth grade students entered the voting booth to cast their votes for their 24-25 Student Council. Throughout the process, students learned about civic participation and the importance of voting.

Robert Morris School No. 18

Students participated in their 2024-2025 Student Council election this month under the guidance of their eighth grade ELA teacher Mrs. DePasquale. Sixteen eighth grade students participated in this middle school election by creating and presenting their speeches to their classmates asking for their vote in the following categories: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. A vote took place immediately following and winners were announced at the end of the school day. Congratulations to this year's winners!



ELEMENTARY

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31



The third grade ABL class practiced their right to vote before this year's Presidential Election. Students tapped into their International Baccalaureate Learner Profiles and spent the week making inquiries on the topic. Through this process, the class became knowledgeable about the voting and election process. Before casting their vote, they reflected on their choice of candidates and made their decision.

Madison Monroe School No. 16



Pre-K through 8th grade students were recognized for their exemplary efforts in promoting compassion, respect, and a culture of anti-bullying. Mr. Luciano, the school social worker, emphasized the importance of always spreading kindness and harmony in the lives of others. Principal Mrs. Gaeta, the Vice Principal Ms. Ferrera, and Guidance Counselor Mrs. Cabrera congratulated students for their unwavering commitment to fostering a harmonious and inclusive school community.

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

Mrs. Camuccio and Ms. Coachman's Middle School Performing Arts RLS classes performed in a Staged Workshop of the social satire "The Day The Internet Died" by Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello. The play hilariously explores what would happen if our infrastructure were down and we were suddenly forced into a world where the internet no longer existed.

As expected, chaos ensues! Students auditioned for their roles at the end of September and engaged in rehearsals twice a week over a six-week period. They performed for a select audience of other middle school students and invited family members.



ELEMENTARY

Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28

Unity Day is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention month. It continues to grow every year to spread the universal message that our world wants to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. The goal of Unity Day is to bring together our school community to emphasize the message that bullying is not acceptable.

All students deserve to be safe in school, online, and in the community. Unity Day emphasizes different values including friendship, kindness, giving, courage, dreaming, unity, success, and uplifting. Most importantly, they united together as School No. 28.



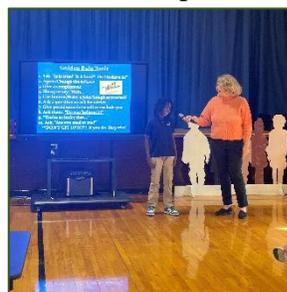
Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



On November 1, School No. 5 hosted a joyous celebration honoring students who excelled in the NJSLA. District personnel, parents, and students gathered to mark this significant achievement. Students were awarded pins for each content area they passed, along with certificates, and enjoyed a celebratory breakfast. The enthusiasm and pride of students and parents alike made the event truly unforgettable. School No. 5 looks forward to celebrating many more amazing accomplishments with the school community.

John Marshall School No. 20

During Kindness Week, students celebrated with a spirited week of activities. The team had the privilege of hosting Ms. Connie Palmer who presented the *Bullies to Buddies* workshop for 4th and 5th grade students. In addition, Detective Gonzalez engaged our middle school students in the Youth Empowerment Program. The Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation sponsored gift card prizes to the Kindness Poetry Contest winners. Mariane Wilson's generous contribution to our John Marshall students exemplified what kindness truly means.



ELEMENTARY

Benjamin Franklin School No. 13



School No. 13 held their Math and Science Fair! Whether you're a budding scientist, a math whiz, or simply curious about the world around you, this event was for you! Parents and students explored innovative projects from students of all grade levels and engaged in hands-on activities. We were inspired by the creativity and enthusiasm of our young innovators.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

School No. 27 started a new school-wide positive reinforcement initiative called "Shark Bites". "Shark Bites" are rewarded to students who are consistently demonstrating good decision-making behavior, respect, and kindness. Students trade in their "Shark Bites" to the guidance office during "Treasure Trading Time" for a token to access the new book vending machine. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the book vending machine took place during all lunch periods on November 4. Students watched with excitement and voiced their eagerness to win a "Shark Bite" award and have the opportunity to pick a new book!



Jerome Dunn Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 9

The Italian Heritage Committee hosted the first annual A Taste of Italy. The committee shared food and culture with their peers from different regions of Italy and Sicily. The seventh grade Bilingual ELA students participated with the help of Mrs. Guerra and Ms. Fleurimond in researching and drawing various spots in Italy.



Also, Leaders Of Technique(L.O.T.) members from School No. 9 celebrate American Education Week by reading to select Kindergarten and first grade classrooms. All chosen books had a common theme of confidence and self-respect.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

SMART was established at New Jersey Medical School in 1991 as a health and biomedical professions pathway program. SMART is a pre-college enrichment program designed to cultivate students' interest in health science and research. Culminating in enhanced competitiveness, this program aims to expand the pool of economically and educationally disadvantaged students interested in pursuing health-related professions. SMART focuses on youth development and academic excellence and provides opportunities to students to gain the knowledge and experiences necessary to maximize their potential for success. Ms. Nathanson, Development Analyst, presented to Hamilton juniors and seniors encouraging them to apply to the winter program.



Also, the Hamilton Academy junior and senior male students were selected to attend this amazing symposium. Working to change the narrative of high school students who do not see a path to college, Montclair State's [Educational Opportunity Fund](#) (EOF) will host students during this academic year to build a bridge to higher education via the 2024 Inaugural Manhood Symposium.

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

J. Christian Bollwage Academy Scholars Genesis Melendez, Vladimir Castillo, Jasiyah Holley, and Jaebreer Finch visited Trinitas Regional Medical Center in the community and brought encouragement and get-well notes letters to Cancer patients being treated in the cancer unit. Scholars also brought holiday ornaments and flowers to brighten the patients' days!



HIGH SCHOOLS

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



Halsey Academy's MCJROTC (Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp) program celebrated the Marine Corp's 249th Birthday (November 10th). Senior Cadet Sergeant Major Gael Jean Marie started the proceedings with the Corp standing for the presentation of colors and the national anthem. The color guard, in full regalia, posted the colors. The cadets were then treated to a video presentation celebrating the Marine Corps 249th Birthday. The video laid out the history of the Marine Corp and shared an inspirational message to the Halsey cadets. A Prayer was given by Cadet Executive Officer Ashley Carranza (Class of 2025). Cadet officers marched in and presented arms with their swords in a show of pride for the Marine Corp. Finally, a huge, decorated birthday cake was unveiled. The ceremony concluded with an inspiring speech by a veteran of the Marine Corp and current Halsey faculty member Mr. John Costello. After the ceremony, the cadets then enjoyed the birthday cake.



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