

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

February 2020

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Elizabeth Public Schools Partners with NJ State Police Host 9th Annual Coat Drive

New Jersey State Troopers distributed approximately 630 coats to students of the Elizabeth Public Schools, during their 9th Annual Coat Drive on January 15 and 17.

The donations, collections and distribution of coats to our students were made possible through the tremendous assistance and support from: Elizabeth Public Schools team members, Notre Dame Central Club of New Jersey, Wakefern, PepsiCo, Adelante, Macy's, Troopers United Foundation, Troop "D" - Newark Station, State Troopers Superior Officers Association (SOA), State Troopers NCO Association of New Jersey, Elizabeth Fire Department, Elizabeth Board of Education, American Plumbing Supply of Elizabeth, along with community friends and families.

The annual community outreach event is reflective of the efforts Troopers make throughout the year: to have a significant and memorable impact on the communities while having a positive and memorable interaction with its youth. Once again, the heartfelt generosity of the New Jersey State Troopers and their partners, will help ensure Elizabeth Public Schools students stay warm during this cold winter season.



New Jersey State School of Character

On January 31st, **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ECC School No.52**, was selected to be recognized as a New Jersey State School of Character.

As a School of Character, the school community intentionally cultivates and implements character education in an effort to develop a more caring atmosphere with substantially higher levels of student and faculty satisfaction.

As a school community, the motto of “caring and sharing” reflects the core values that play a significant role in the preschool setting which are then carried into adulthood.

Teachers are proactive in their approach and implementation of the core values through interactions with students, fellow team members and parents. School No. 52 is also dedicated to helping students comprehend and appreciate the importance of “caring and sharing” through lessons and activities that engage students in meaningful experiences, build social skills and empower them to be successful members of society.



Snowflake Ball

Just as a snowflake is unique so are the experiences that are cultivated at **Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3**. The fourth grade students and teachers sponsored a dance for kindergarten through fifth grade families in the enchanted winter wonderland ballroom.

Families had the opportunity to dance, take photos all while teaching students the journey of teamwork, friendship, and sharing in a good time.



“The Emotional Rollercoaster” Theatre/Dance Showcase

By Zaory Sumaria (7th Gr. Student)



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 held a dance/theatre showcase entitled “The Emotional Rollercoaster” in which dancers performed their own choreographed dances & actors performed their own skits to represent social-emotional learning. Each dance/skit incorporated the topic of different emotions we as human beings experience, from the emotions of happiness and excitement to anger and sassiness. At the end of the skits and dances, the Performing Arts students presented a teaser for their new play “Shrek Jr”, which will begin in April. Overall, it was a “thrill ride” of a show.



Winter Wonderland

Students, from **Frances C. Smith Center ECC School No. 50**, celebrated the winter season by participating in an event, sponsored by the PTO committee.

On January 31st, students arrived to the “Winter Wonderland” and had the chance to meet a *Snowman*, decorate their own snowman using cotton balls and other materials, as well as enjoy milk and cookies. The movie, “Olaf’s Frozen Adventure” played in the background as the children were engaged in the different activities. It was a day to be remembered!

National Junior Honor Society



Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 held the Induction Ceremony for the National Junior Honor Society. There were 34 students who completed an application, received recommendations and demonstrated excellence in the areas of *Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship*.

Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. These are characteristics that build leaders. On this evening students had an opportunity to learn about the value of leadership. Each student will participate in a service project for the year. The Middle School students were excited to share this moment with family and friends. To end the evening, team members from School No. 13 supported the students and their families by serving them dinner.

Mix it Up Day

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., **William F. Halloran School No. 22** joined the international campaign called *Mix It Up Day*.

During lunch periods, students received a number and were then directed to sit based on the number received. In doing this, students were encouraged to sit with peers outside their comfort zone which allowed them to connect with someone new.

The students had a wonderful time getting to know other students they wouldn't normally sit with and make new friends. "It was fun. I got to meet new people", third grade student Luna admitted. "I can't wait to do it again!" School No. 22 will continue these lunch time activities throughout the year.



Scotch College Symphony Orchestra from Australia Visits FJC Academy

Students of **Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy** were given the opportunity to play alongside students from Scotch College Symphony Orchestra, Australia. College, may be included in the name, however the school is not a college in the traditional American idea of a “college.” Scotch College is a private all boys school from Australia.

In the wake of tragedy their country faces right now, the orchestra from the school and staff managed to make their way to America to join forces in this monumental presentation, celebrating arts and music. Playing with the visiting orchestra, were EHS strings orchestra, under the direction of Ms. Ismail and the EHS concert and symphonic bands, under the direction of Mr. Dillon and Mr. Schwartz. The FJC community and beyond came out to show their support, thus truly showcasing a team effort. The EHS student government were there to help guide guests throughout the building and make the special guests feel welcomed.

The student government and Red Cross service students collected a donation of over \$1,200 to help support those affected by the fires. Overall this was a night to be remembered. The students were able to collaborate and share experiences, have fun, all while celebrating the arts and giving to a good cause.



NJAHS Thanks Our Marines for Their Service



Visual Art Teacher, Kristine Downey, held the National Junior Art Honor Society inauguration at **Joseph Battin School No. 4**.

The NJAHS members coordinated with the entire school to create Valentine's Day postcards for the Marines to thank them for their service. By doing this, students gain leadership growth opportunities that will further support their high school and college preparation.

NJAHS emphasizes that Visual Arts Education is essential to 21st century

learning. As a newly established charter, School No. 4 is now digitally connected to thousands of chapters from around the globe to collaborate with and, who are passionate about the integral role of the visual arts in ensuring all students receive a high-quality, effective, and well-rounded education.

What Does it Mean to be a S.H.A.R.K.?

The **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27** community strives for students to become life-long learners and gain the skills to be productive members of society. To ensure this, we set high expectations and provide the necessary, individualized tools and guided feedback for each student.

Students are guided by the S.H.A.R.K. principles which include:

- ✚ **S-** *Setting goals for yourself*
- ✚ **H-** *Hard work pays off*
- ✚ **A-** *Academically focused*
- ✚ **R-** *Respectful to receive respect and Resilient when things don't go your way*
- ✚ **K-** *Kindness is love*



As a new incentive this year, students will be awarded "Shark Bites" when they display S.H.A.R.K. qualities and adhere to the three areas of readiness for learning every day during the week: being present each day, wearing the designated uniform, and display behaviors in accordance with 'The Student Code of Conduct' and behavioral expectations set by the classroom teacher. Students can receive up to three shark bites a week. At the end of each month, a school-wide tally will be accumulated, and a raffle will be done to choose the monthly winners.

Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty



On January 17th, **Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy** hosted its second annual collaboration between the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the Jefferson Arts dance program. This year's production, Tchaikovsky's SLEEPING BEAUTY, played to a packed audience who were thrilled by the beautiful, joint performance.

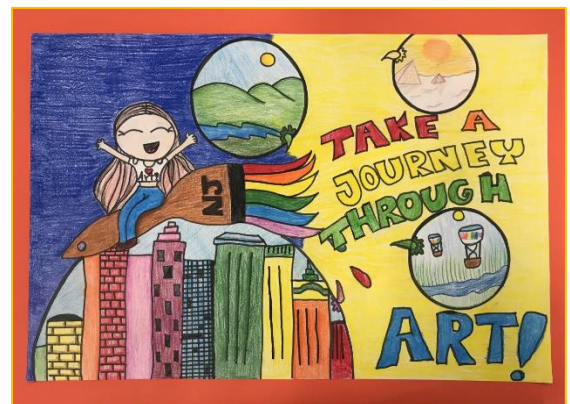
The orchestra, led by CJSO music director Michael Avagliano, prepared for several months for the performance--part of the CJSO's 50th Anniversary Concert Season—whilst the dancers, led by Jefferson Arts dance teacher Fatima Maqboul, prepared throughout the fall semester. The end result was an outstanding collaboration that continued the tradition of offering classical ballet and symphony performances to patrons from Elizabeth and beyond.

2020 YAM Design Contest, *Take A Journey Through Art*

Third grade student, Sofia Moattari's, from **Joseph Battin School No. 4**, has been selected to be used as the t-shirt for 2020 State Youth Art Month!

The t-shirt will be awarded to all students whose work was selected for display at the State Youth Art Month High School Reception in Trenton!

School No. 4 has been recognized several times in the past and have been chosen to exhibit at the State Level as artists, but this is the first time any artwork has been chosen to be printed for the forum in the NJ State YAM Exhibit. School No. 4 is proud of Sofia for her efforts and for participating in this contest.



Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!





Drippy

This painting was inspired by the imagination of 8th grade student, Kaylee Dydzuhn, from **iPrep Academy School No. 8**.

The title of the painting is *Drippy* and the painting focuses on the confusion between reality and the dreamworld. Kaylee used acrylic paint, watercolor and utilized primary colors to help make the painting more vivid. She also incorporated the theme of space.



Cyber Safety for Students

On January 14th, **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14** hosted a student assembly for middle school students on cyber bullying and cyber safety.

Detective Shameko Greene from the Union County Prosecutor's Office (Juvenile Unit) spoke about various apps that are available to them and the dangers in which students need to be aware of. Detective Greene also discussed how the law impacts them in regard to cyber bullying, as well as best practices as to how to keep them safe when utilizing social media and the internet.



Junior ROTC at School No. 28



Middle school students from **Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28** enjoyed an informative presentation by Colonel Robert Golden and Seniors, Sgt. Major Quintero, Captain Emy Morales and First Lt. Janiris Carattini.

Colonel Golden presented an overview of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program that takes place in Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy. Each cadet spoke to the audience about the ROTC's core values and how they have helped them become better individuals and successful students.

Additionally, the cadets addressed the students on the Jr. ROTC Color Guard and Drill Team on how the core values of the Jr. ROTC parallel to School No. 28's core values as a National School of Character.

College Bound

The AVID students of **Elmora School No. 12** have explored college life by already visiting three college campuses this school year.

AVID students had the opportunity to visit Seton Hall and watch a live girls college basketball game. Students also toured the campus of NJIT where students visited college classrooms.

Recently, students visited Kean University where they saw the play, *Warriors Don't Cry*, a novel 8th graders will read this spring.

AVID students enjoyed visiting the various colleges.



Sweet Cases

At **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25**, middle school girls were able to experience an amazing opportunity. The girls raised money and decorated duffel bags called "Sweet Cases" from a non-profit organization called *Together We Rise*.

The sweet cases were filled with toiletries, blankets, coloring books, and a teddy bear. School No. 25 is proud of the girls for taking the time to decorate and fill the sweet cases with pride. No child should ever experience carrying their belongings in trash bags, these duffel bags will be donated to children in local foster care agencies. These girls are spreading kindness and helping others within the community!



The Great Kindness Challenge at School No. 16

At the heart of *The Great Kindness Challenge* week is the simple belief that kindness is strength. **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** students had the opportunity to repeat kind act after kind act toward teachers, classmates and school staff. As kindness becomes a habit, harmony becomes possible. The Great Kindness Challenge motivates all in making the schools, communities, a world a kinder and more a compassionate place. Working together, it proves that kindness matters.





Passing the Test

Eight students, from the Nursing Assistant program from **Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy**, have passed the skills examination section of their New Jersey Department of Health certification requirement.

In May, the eight students will take the next part of the exam, which is a computerized cognitive evaluation.



The Crow and The Dove

Lorena Canizeras, a sophomore student at **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy**, paves the way for many to follow when it comes to writing creatively; her skills cannot be overlooked. After working with Lorena for a few months, Lorena's English teacher, Ms. Litos, encouraged her to enroll in a writing contest hosted by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a nonprofit organization that identifies with teenagers who have exceptional artistic and literary talent. This agency has showcased work submitted by their participants to a national audience since 1923 - a perfect platform for others to witness Lorena's talents.

With much anticipation and great excitement, the results have finally been released. Lorena was awarded **GOLD KEY** in the New Jersey Scholastic Writing Award 'Short Story' category! She submitted her short story piece - "The Crow and The Dove" - a work that has truly blown readers away with literary skills that are absolutely incredible.

Lorena is not only an admirable student; she is a sweet young lady who is so very excited about this accomplishment. Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy is humbled to have Lorena as a part of their student body.



**Scholastic
Art & Writing
Awards**

Alliance for
Young Artists
& Writers

Read Across America Week: For the LOVE of Reading



In anticipation of Read Across America in March, scholars in grades kindergarten through second grades had a special visitor at **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9**.

During an assembly, while first grade teacher Mrs. Robson was reading the book “The Cat in the Hat” to students, the Cat in the Hat himself entered through the auditorium doors to surprise students and teachers. Accompanying the Cat in the Hat were Thing 1 and Thing 2, Mrs. Ruiz and Dr. Rodriguez, School No. 9’s very own speech-language specialists.

Once the story was finished, Principal Torres led the students in pledging the Reader’s Oath. At the conclusion of this event, the Cat in the Hat personally greeted each class and had a photo taken.

NJ School of Character

On January 31st, **John E. Dwyer Technology Academy** was named State School of Character by Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Character.org’s Board Chair and Interim CEO.

In order to receive this designation, schools must demonstrate successful implementation of *The 11 Principles of Effective Character*, which includes promoting ethical and performance values, having a challenging academic curriculum, creating a caring community, fostering self-motivation among students, and character development. JEDTA is now being considered for Character.org’s highest distinction – National School of Character.

Being named a State School of Character is the culmination of a multi-year goal that involved every stakeholder in the community. It is the goal at JEDTA to create a culture and climate that builds better citizens through the empowerment of character development.



The Cat in the Hat

What better way to kick off Read Across America and the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday but with a visit from The Cat in the Hat!

On Tuesday, February 4th, the four-year old students at **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52** began their annual celebration of reading with a visit from The Cat in the Hat.

A special thanks to team member, Bonnie Narciso, who won the NJEA Cat in the Hat Visit raffle during Teacher's Convention last November. Students were engaged in learning by an interactive reading of the book "The Cat in the Hat" by Cindy Lou Who, played by School 52's CDA Jennifer O'Connell, and her sidekicks, Thing 1 and Thing 2, CDA's Roxana Salcedo and Geovani Saavedra.



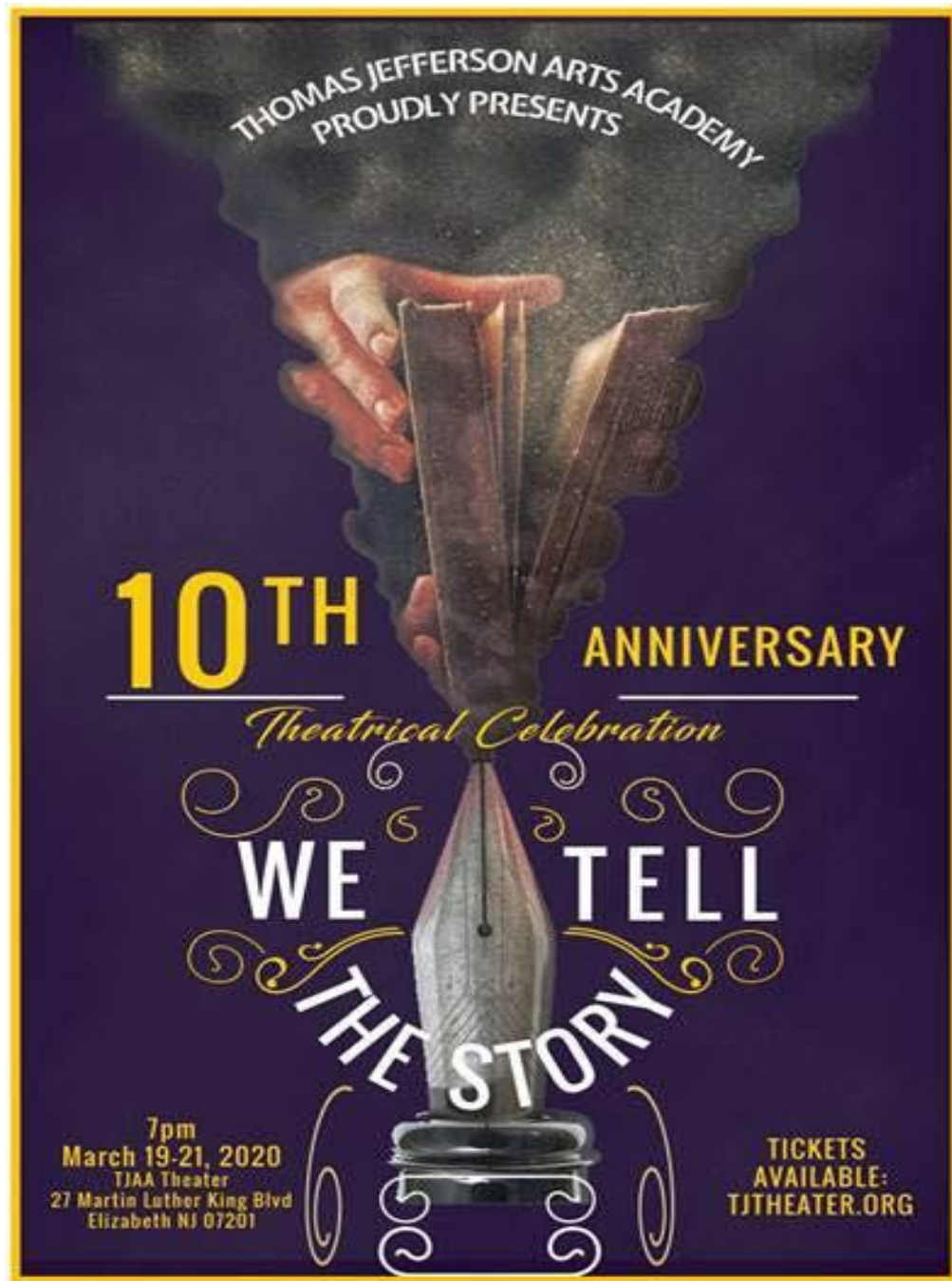
The children were enthusiastically engaged during the event, closing with each child receiving a high five from *The Cat* as they left the multipurpose room.

Dress for Success

During *Dress for Success Day*, students from **George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1** were able to envision their professional future achievements as they were following District's mission to dress appropriately for teaching and learning.

Many students dressed as their role models such as School Principal, Mr. Black and Vice Principal, Ms. Basso. Dressing for success increased confidence and enhanced student behavior.





You are empowered to achieve excellence!

Send us excellent news on the great things happening in your school to: Delilah Sousa

Tel: **908.436.5206** or email: **enews@epsnj.org**

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