



## OCTOBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Homecoming 2024
- Early Childhood
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Elementary
- Week of Respect
- High School
- District News

### Important Dates

**November 5 – Election Day**

Schools & District Closed

**November 7&8– NJEA Convention**

Schools & District Closed

**November 11- Veteran's Day**

Schools & District Closed

**November 20-Parent-Teacher Conference**

Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.

**November 27-Thanksgiving Recess**

Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.

**November 28-29-Thanksgiving**

**Recess** Schools & District Closed

### Quick Links

**School District Website**



**District Social Media**



**Back To School Resources**



**Career Opportunities**



## EPS Homecoming Court Pageant 2024

Elizabeth Public Schools' high schools hosted the annual Homecoming Court Pageant Reception at the Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy gymnasium on October 4. The ceremony included the crowning of the king and queen of each participating high school and their public presentation during halftime of the football game between Elizabeth and Bridgewater/Raritan at Williams Field. The Homecoming Court consisted of King Jordan Torres and Queen Jasiyah Holley from **J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy**, King Gean Gavilanes and Queen Ivette Tavares Rodriguez from **John E. Dwyer Technology Academy**, King Yazmine Soto and Queen Chris Quintanilla from **Thomas Edison Career and Technical Academy**, King Zoe Pardo and Queen Emmanuel Núñez from **Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS-FJC)**, King Jayleen Barrett and Queen Liliana Pertuz from **Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy**, King Chris Mokak and Queen Reyana Trail from **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy**, King Kevin Batista and Queen Samyah Thompson from **Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy**, and King Ryan Bueno and Queen Avrianna Perez from **Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson (JVJ) STEM Academy**.

Among those in attendance at the ceremony included City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage; Elizabeth Board of Education Members Jerry Jacobs and Stephanie Goncalves Pestana; Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Cedeño; School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Principals John Byrne (Bollwage), Sulisnet Jimenez (Dwyer), Danny Ortiz (Edison), Christopher VanVliet (Halsey), George Mikros (Hamilton), and Dr. Mona Wanis (Jefferson); Vice Principals Jecenia Solorzano-Castro (EHS-FJC), Alexandra Mickens (Jefferson), Gabrielle Richa (Jefferson), and Juan Camilo Metro Sanchez (JVJ); Senior Class Advisor Brian Sullivan (Hamilton), and Teacher In Charge-of-Student Activities Tatiana Gallego.

***Congratulations to all the Kings and Queens!***

For more photos of this wonderful event, please visit

[Homecoming Court Pageant 2024 \(epsnj.org\)](https://epsnj.org)

# Homecoming 2024



## EARLY CHILDHOOD



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

The students celebrated the Week of Respect with a variety of activities. Students listened to stories about friendship and wore their favorite hats to *Take their Hats off to Respect*. They also wore their favorite team jersey to *Team Up Against Bullying*.



### Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51

The children had a special visit from their local heroes – The Elizabeth Fire Department and their Rig! They shared valuable lessons on fire safety. Their dedication to keeping the community safe truly shines, and School No. 51 is so grateful for their time and effort. The children learned the importance of fire prevention, how to create and follow an escape plan, and the proper way to use fire safety equipment. From the “Stop, Drop, and Roll” technique to understanding smoke alarms, the firefighters provided crucial tips that can make a life-saving difference in emergency situations. Thank you EFD for the visit!



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



## EPS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, several schools engaged in a range of lessons and activities from September 15 to October 15 that emphasized the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

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



### Nicholas S. LaCorte- Peterstown School No. 3



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



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



## Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



Guillermo Gonzalez  
Camarena



Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
"Cien años de soledad"



Alma Flor Ada



Antonia Novello



Diego Velasquez  
"Las Meninas"



Frida Kahlo



Fernando Botero



Ellen Ochoa



Julia Alvarez



Diego Rivera



Miguel de Cervantes  
"Don Quixote"

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



## Benjamin Franklin School No. 13



## Abraham Lincoln School No. 14



## Robert Morris School No. 18



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



## Victor Mravlag School No. 21



## William F. Halloran School No. 22



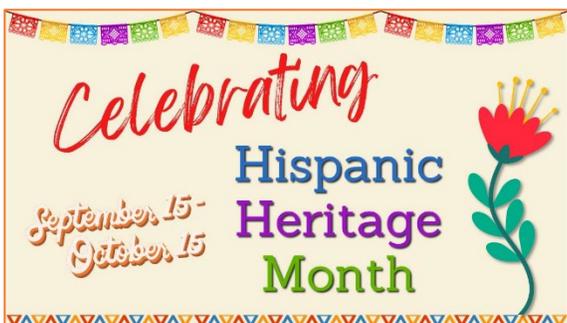
# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



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



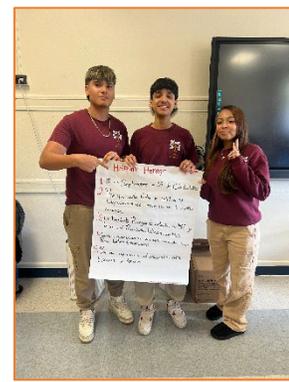
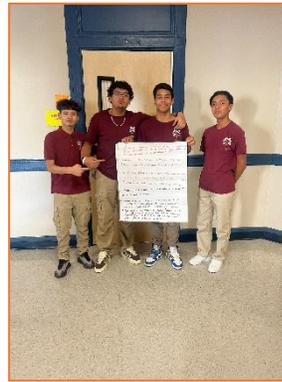
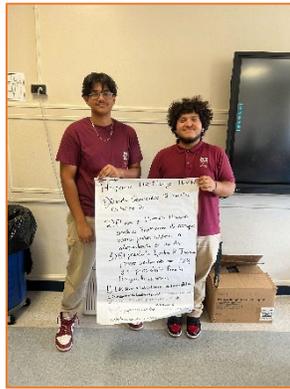
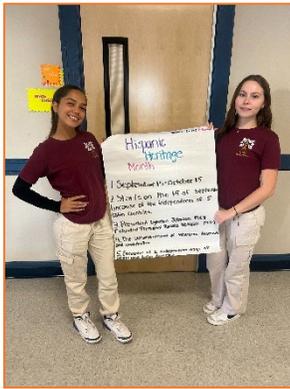
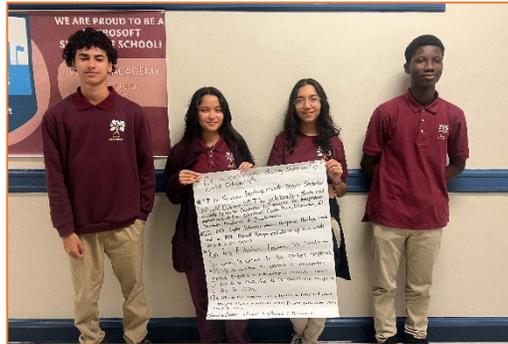
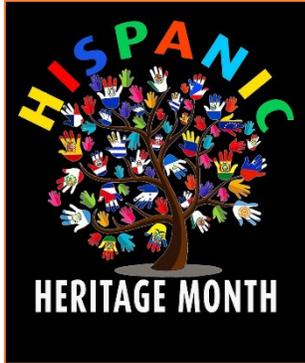
## Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



## Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson (JVJ) STEM Academy



## Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy



## ELEMENTARY

### Winfield Scott School No. 2



The school community celebrated the retirement of beloved custodian, Ilse Collazo. Ms. Ilse, as she was known to everyone, served Elizabeth Public Schools students for 15 years, with 10 of those years being at School No. 2. Ms. Ilse will now use some of her free time to continue to train and run marathons. The entire School No. 2 community celebrated and wished Ms. Ilse a happy retirement with a luncheon and a "clap out" for all she did for the building, team members, and students.

### Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



Terence C. Reilly welcomed guest speaker Carlos E. Gonzales, Elizabeth alumni and professional Broadway performer, to share his incredible story of success with the Multi-Language learners and Performing Arts students. Students listened to a presentation of his life and career and then engaged in a question-and-answer session.



## ELEMENTARY



### John Marshall School No. 20

On October 15, Engine 3 & Ladder 2 from the Elizabeth Fire Department visited K-1 students to deliver an engaging and educational fire safety demonstration. The visit aimed to discuss the topics of fire prevention and to teach the children the importance of fire safety. The presentation began with the firefighters introducing themselves and sharing their experiences in the field. They emphasized the vital role that fire safety plays in keeping families and

communities safe. Students were excited to see the firefighters in their uniforms and learn about their life-saving work. The firefighters explained the different parts of the fire engine and the students were given the opportunity to walk around and view the outside and inside of the fire engine.



### Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

The future of botany can be found in Ms. Hanafy's fourth grade science class. The students explored how plants transport water and nutrients by planning a test using celery stalks and colored water. Students worked in groups and observed over a course of a few days the colorful changes of the celery stalks. The fourth grade students now have a better understanding of the internal structures of plants which allows them to take in and transport water.



## ELEMENTARY

### Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



School No. 5 held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the book vending machine. September Students of the Month, from grades K-8, were given a coin. Students took turns selecting their desired books from the vending machine. Students were celebrated for their hard work and dedication to excellence.



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

Team members and students raised awareness for *Dyslexia Awareness Month* by wearing red. Dyslexia affects up to 20% of the population and is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, spelling, and decoding abilities. Despite these challenges, people with dyslexia often excel in creative thinking, problem-solving, and are known for their unique perspectives. Through their red attire, the school community emphasized the importance of inclusivity and support for all learners.



### Christopher Columbus School No. 15

On October 9, School No. 15 held their 1st Annual "Fathers Walk" where dads and father figures came together to walk with their children in a show of unity, support, and love. This special day was not just about the walk—it's about strengthening family bonds and fostering community connections.

At the event, Detective Gonzalez and the Elizabeth Police Department presented a Youth Empowerment Program that offers students opportunities to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and reach their full potential. These initiatives aim to inspire our scholars, paving the way for a stronger, brighter future.



## ELEMENTARY

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



School No. 28 celebrated *Walk & Roll to School Day* with students walking, biking, and even using their scooters to get to school. Students and adults celebrated the benefits of walking and bicycling to school. Feelings of joy, independence, and a sense of adventure were all present on this day. The School No. 28 community took the initiative to have healthier habits, contribute to a cleaner environment, and promote safety.

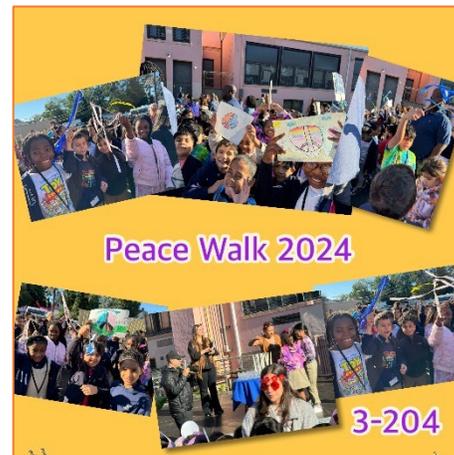
### George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1 & Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9

Schools Nos. 1 and 9 held their Annual Peace Walk. It united students, team members, and visitors, for a moment of peace, reflection and unity. Students held peace signs, together with their teachers they danced as they walked around Jefferson Park for *Peace*. Board President Charlene Bathelus, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Cedeño, and Councilwoman-At-Large Patricia Perkins-Auguste joined in this wonderful walk. For more photos of this event, please visit [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)



# WEEK OF RESPECT

## Elmora School No. 12



*Week of Respect* brought upon peace and harmony school wide. Mrs. Pedulla, school counselor, and Mrs. Carrero-Iglesia, social worker, visited classrooms to present various lessons on respect. The story “How Full Is Your Bucket?” was read to students. Students shared examples of how we can fill each other’s buckets while demonstrating respect and kindness every day to everyone. Students were provided with a heart where they wrote their kindness and respectful ideas. Students’ hearts are displayed in the cafeteria by The Elmora School No. 12’s Week of Respect bulletin board.

As a culminating activity, the entire school participated in a Peace Walk and assembly on the school playground. Eighth grade students read poems about peace, fourth grade students danced and sang to “Peace Like a River,” sixth grade students sang “Count on Me,” as the entire school sang along. The assembly closed with a candle ceremony to remind everyone of the importance of peace, harmony, and respect within the School No. 12 Family.

## Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 and No. 23 Annex

The schools celebrated the *Week of Respect* during the first week of October. Both team members and students dressed up by having crazy hair or wearing crazy hats, mismatched or crazy socks, or jerseys of their favorite sports teams. They also were able to sit with someone new during lunch. The Butler Gems learned the importance of actively thinking about how to treat others with kindness and consideration.



# WEEK OF RESPECT

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



During the *Week of Respect*, students created a culture of mutual respect and encouraged students to treat each other well, where students feel safe, motivated to learn, and, of course, respected. Students demonstrated thoughtfulness and kindness by wearing a sports jersey, to be a team player! They treated each other as teammates, valuing, respecting and encouraging everyone to be on the same team together.

## iPrep Academy School No. 8

A list of events was coordinated to focus on how as a school community, they can be more mindful and respectful of each other.

Monday 10/7/24 : "**Wear Blue**" to show Respect and Stomp Out Bullying!

Tuesday 10/8/24: "**We are better together**" - Dress like someone in your class and "Twin with Them"

Wednesday 10/9/24: "**Wear a Jersey with a Number**" to show that EVERYONE COUNTS!

Thursday 10/10/24: "**Wear Pink**" to show respect for everyone battling cancer.

Friday 10/11/24: "**Hats Off to Being Kind and Respectful**" - Wear your favorite hat to school.

iPrep students also participated in the annual signing of the Pledge of Respect that encompassed everything they've learned through the week.



# WEEK OF RESPECT

## Madison-Monroe School No. 16



School No. 16 celebrated the *Week of Respect* by respecting emotions inspired by the movie *Inside Out 2*. Throughout the week, students engaged in various theme days designed to help them understand and embrace their emotions. Each day focused on a different emotion, such as joy, sadness, anger, fear, and disgust. The week fostered a supportive and empathetic environment, encouraging students to appreciate and respect the diverse range of emotions that make us human. Mr. Luciano, the School Social Worker, and Mrs. Cabrera, School Guidance Counselor, also visited various classrooms and discussed the importance of respecting others and being kind.

## Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

A Peace Parade was held in celebration of *Week of Respect*! This school event promoted unity, harmony, and kindness. School No. 30 conveyed a message of peace through a peaceful walk, carrying signs with uplifting messages. This walk represented the dedication to promoting kindness, respect, and harmony within the school and broader communities.



## HIGH SCHOOLS

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



This month, the school was filled with positivity as students celebrated the *Week of Respect!* One of the most heartwarming activities involved placing affirmations on students' lockers, giving each of them a special message to brighten their day.

As students walked down the hallways, they were met with uplifting words that sparked smiles, laughter, and a real sense of community. It was a simple gesture that created a wave of kindness, reminding everyone just how valued and appreciated they are, setting a wonderful tone for the entire week.

### Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson (JVJ) STEM Academy

For *Week of Respect*, students learned about NJ artist Therese Ojibway who created fairy houses as a bonding experience with her autistic son. Using natural materials, they created a now permanent installation of fairy homes such as the Fairy Trail at the South Mountain reservation. As part of a newly established contest in Union County, students are given an opportunity to be included in that installation. The winning student/group will move on to an overall competition for Union County with all high schools included. Sculpture class students had to plan and work together in groups to construct a fully completed fairy house using mostly natural materials. Administration voted on the selected home to move onto competition while the other homes will be displayed in the school's Agricultural Engineering Club garden in the spring. The winning house was created by Junior Gianna Castle.



## HIGH SCHOOLS

### J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy



Scholars Daniel Torres, Jordan Torres, Nixon Amaya Calles, Cesar Sanchez, Jaqueline Flores Ochoa, Sofia Sorto, Christine Sejour, Jennifer Penafiel Arias, Mathews Figueiredo, Ashley Vazquez, Jesisai Alfaro Muinos, Alain Cotdemiey, Maria Galarza, Hailey Amezquita, and not pictured, Jasiyah Holley were accepted into the New Jersey Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) program, a scholarship program that offers free tuition at any community college in New Jersey for students who graduate in the top 15% of their class. The NJ STARS scholars are the highest achieving students in their class and have completed a rigorous high school course of study. NJ STARS students graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.

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



In a genuinely exciting experience, the Halsey MCJROTC cadets had the honor of supporting the United States Navy's commissioning of the USS New Jersey, a Virginia-class nuclear submarine!

The cadets not only toured the submarine, gaining a behind-the-scenes look at life aboard such an incredible vessel, but also had the opportunity to meet and interact with active-duty service members. To top it all off, they proudly presented the colors during the unit's formation and commission ceremony. It was a thrilling and inspiring day, one that left the cadets beaming with pride and excitement for the future.



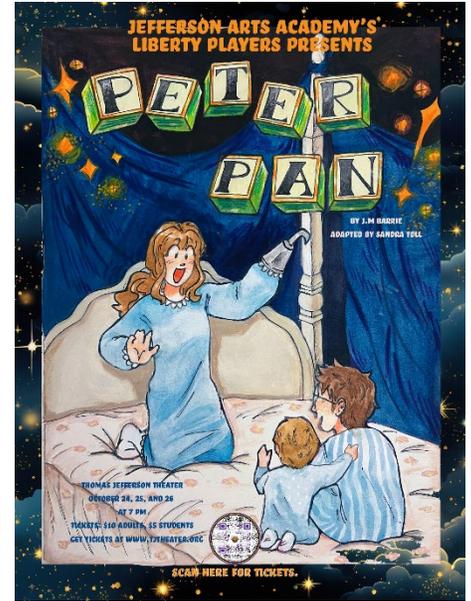
# DISTRICT NEWS



**ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Every Child, Achieving Excellence*

## After School & Saturday PROGRAMS

For more information on the After School & Saturday Programs,  
please visit: [After School and Saturday Programs \(epsnj.org\)](https://www.epsnj.org)



**ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Every Child, Achieving Excellence*

*celebrate*

Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 13	World Kindness Day
Nov 21	National Parental Involvement Day
Nov 28	Thanksgiving
Nov 6-12	National French Week
Nov 18-22	American Education Week
Nov 24-30	National Family Week
Whole Month	Native American Heritage Month
Whole Month	Puerto Rican Heritage Month
Whole Month	National Family Literacy Month

*in the month of*  
**November**

***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](mailto:enews@epsnj.org)**



## ELIZABETH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Charlene Bathelus**  
**President**

**Stanley Neron**  
**Vice President**

**Diane Barbosa, Maria Z. Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Jerry Jacobs**  
**Rosa E. Moreno-Ortega, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Isaias J. Rivera**  
**Board Members**