
"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." John Dewey

EPS Director of Special Services Receives Union County Women of Excellence Award

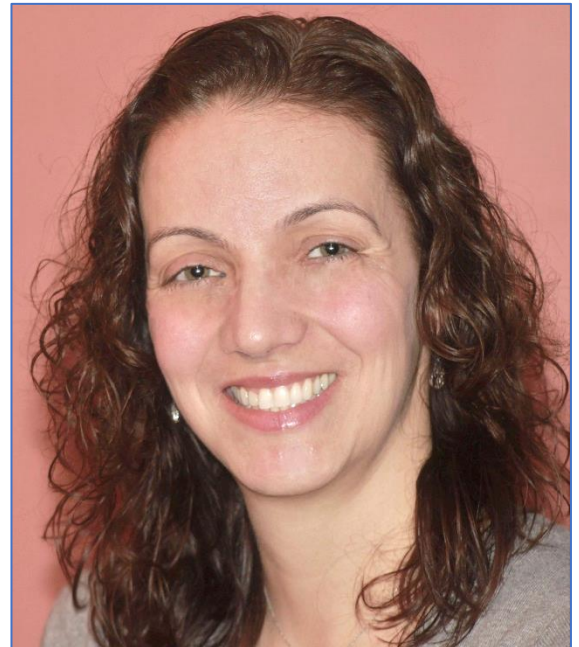
Diana Pinto-Gomez, who received the award for Special Education Advocacy, was among 11 women from throughout the county to be recognized with the Women of Excellence Award. The awards were created to recognize women in Union County for their impact on the community.

"For over 25 years, the Board of County Commissioners has recognized women among us who lead, serve, and inspire. Through their work, they raise awareness about the influence of women in every sphere of the Union County community, from business and legal affairs to public service and education," said County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "We are proud to acknowledge their contributions towards a positive difference in the quality of life for everyone in the County."

The 11 women recognized for the 2020-2021 Women of Excellence Awards will be honored at a virtual event on Friday, June 11 and receive an engraved Women of Excellence plaque and a County Commissioner Resolution in their honor.

As the Director of Special Services for the past four years, Pinto-Gomez has been an outstanding advocate for the district's students with special needs. Under her guidance, the Elizabeth Public Schools Division of Special Services has routinely held information sessions for families through its Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), hosted fairs to provide important resources and connect families of students with special needs with service providers, and participated in unique events such as the ride on Santa's train on the Montclair-Boonton Line created by Railmen for Children to bring joy to special needs and less fortunate children each year.

Elizabeth Public Schools congratulates Diana Pinto-Gomez for this outstanding honor!"

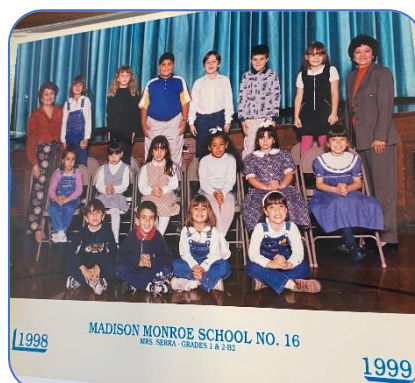
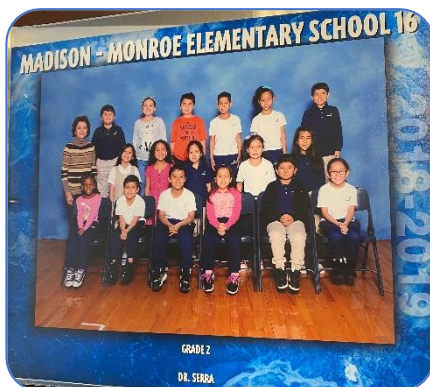


Dr. Serra Serves 35 years at EPS

Tonight, we have the pleasure of honoring Dr. Serra, a Bilingual Teacher who has dedicated thirty-five years to educating children. She is not only an exemplary educator but also mastered three languages – English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Ana was born and raised in Angola, Africa and in 1974, she moved to the United States with her family and was married in 1979. She graduated from Rutgers University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree. Later she attended New York University and earned her master's degree, a Ph.D. and a certification to teach from Kean University. Dr. Serra also taught for 20 years as an assistant professor at Rutgers University.

Throughout her career, she has dedicated countless hours working with our students and their parents whether it was during her preparatory period, lunchtime or in the evening. Dr. Serra has worked diligently with our English Language Learners over the years. She exemplifies all of the exceptional qualities a teacher should possess. Her legacy will live on as a model for all of the new bilingual teachers at Madison-Monroe School No. 16.



AmeriGroup New Jersey Visits Several EPS Schools

AmeriGroup New Jersey visited Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31, and Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 to honor teachers for their outstanding work in educating the students of Elizabeth Public Schools.

The representatives of AmeriGroup New Jersey, walked through the schools and handed out giveaways to teachers. AmeriGroup is a leading managed care company dedicated to improving lives and promoting healthier communities.

Board Members Diane Barbosa and Iliana Chevres, Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Cedenio also were present to celebrate these teachers for the dedication, passion, and expertise they demonstrate each day in educating students, especially while navigating the incredible challenges that have been presented them due to the pandemic.



For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

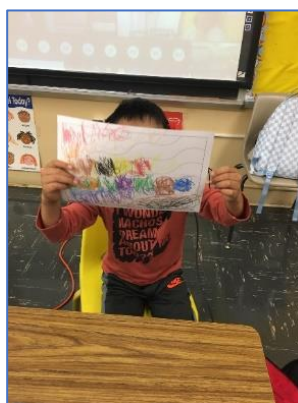
8th Grade Students Stand Up to Anti-Violence

Mr. Marotta's 8th grade Art students, from **Elmora School No. 12**, spent time discussing the topic of peace and anti-violence. Students drew pictures of what anti-violence looks like and collaborated on ways students can communicate their anger and frustrations. Students engaged in conversations of how words are powerful and how using words to express disappointments, fear, and negative thoughts is a healthy solution to resolve any conflict. Mr. Marotta reminded students that their teachers, school Guidance Counselor, Social Worker, support staff members and administration are here to help them through tough times and are always available to listen to their concerns.



Wear Orange

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 stands up for a future free from gun violence. To do so, scholars and team members wore orange and participated in several activities to raise awareness on June 3rd. Students in upper elementary read an article about the impact of gun violence, noted signposts, and drafted a reflection on the text. While young scholars created a Padlet sharing why they wear orange, the youngest students in grades kindergarten and first completed coloring activities around the topic.



Gun Violence in America

During Gun Violence Awareness Month, students at **Christopher Columbus School No. 15** are examining gun violence in America through four different issues: suicide, mass shootings, homicide, and accidental gun deaths. Students are reading articles on all four of these topics, as well as reading specific accounts from individuals who have experienced the issue firsthand. After examining the different issues, students are completing projects choosing one specific form of gun violence to focus in on in more detail. They are creating power point presentations for their examination as well as offering solutions that can be made to help alleviate these real issues. Students will present their projects to their class.

GUN
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH

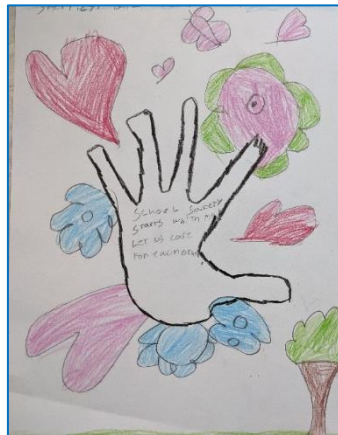
Ending Gun Violence



Teacher, Scott Donner, from **Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy**, led an AP History lesson on voting rights, media literacy, and civic participation with a focus on gun violence. The unit, developed in collaboration with the Democratic Knowledge Project at Harvard University, focuses on two cases of student activism: the 1963 Chicago Public Schools Boycott and the movement against gun violence launched by Parkland high school students in 2018. The two cases differ in terms of social and historical context, organization and strategy, and the consequences faced by student participants.

Parkland students' activism greatly benefited from the use of social media, marking a new high point for young people's civic-political participation in the digital age. The Chicago school boycott, relatively less well known and of a different time, also reveals critical elements of young people's civic-political participation. Both cases offered students the opportunity to reflect on and gain insight into their own civic participation in the world today. When examining each, Mr. Donner asked his class: What did the students want to achieve? What were the risks? Was it worth it? What counts as success? And what can we learn from their example?

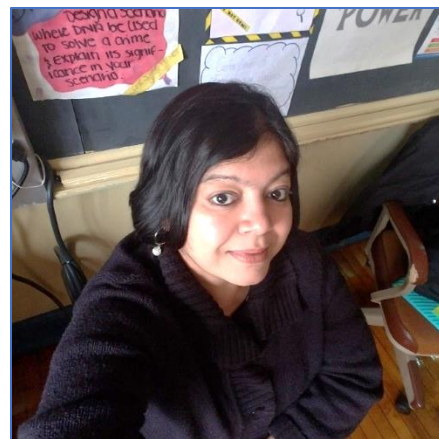
Gun Safety



First and second grade students at **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25** were asked to think about why schools do shelter in place drills and why it's needed to be safe in school. Students talked about how they can make schools safer by caring for one another and being kind. Students traced their hands and pledged to make school safer by caring for one another. Art teacher Adriana Sivera had students make colorful flags to hang in their windows to remind them that caring for each other makes the whole community safer.

STEM Grant Awarded to Teacher at Hamilton Academy

Ms. Ayesha Ali, a teacher of biological science in **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy**, has been awarded a STEM grant by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union. A major part of this grant is to enable students to study the transmission of Covid-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV. Students will use this understanding to combat anti-vaccination attitudes, by using a multi-pronged approach to this problem. Ms. Ali stated that she was very concerned when anti-science attitudes are displayed. She wished to encourage students to get involved in the dialogue for the betterment of the community. This can be done by ensuring that members of the community understand the importance of getting themselves vaccinated, in order to be safe from the disease and also, not to spread it to other, more vulnerable sections of society.



Staff Shout Out

Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 kicked off their spreading kindness campaign with staff shout-out bulletin boards.

Staff shout-out boards were implemented during Teacher's Appreciation Week on all three floors. Staff members, as well as students, have an opportunity to spread some well-needed kindness around. School 30 is looking forward to spreading kindness in their school all year round.



Celebrating Educators

Team members of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52** recognized and celebrated Educators of the Year by presenting them with their Certificates and sharing 'sweet treats' at dismissal for all to enjoy.

2020 – 2021

The Outstanding Teacher: *Mercedes Cras*
The Outstanding Educational Service Professional: *Jennifer O'Connell*

2019 - 2020

The Outstanding Teacher: *Rosa Gonzalez*
The Outstanding Educational Service Professional: *Maria Rocha*



Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!



Planting a Garden



Spring brings warm weather, and this is the time for **Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50** to plant gardens. Families were scheduled to plant separately from one another to avoid close contact. One family left and another arrived to help plant crops and flowers. There were three generations planting – students, parents and even a grandmother. We planted many different varieties of tomato, peppers, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, pepquinos, cabbage, and okra. Many herbs were planted – chamomile, sage, basil, lemon basil, and parsley. Cutting flowers and nasturtium (an edible flower), along with zinnias started from seed by students were planted in the pollinator garden, which is already filled with blooming spring flowers. School learning community looks forward to enjoying and showing off their harvest in the fall!

Union County Kids Dig In!

The Union County Kids Dig In! grant program afforded **John Marshall School No. 20** the *Dr. Thelma Hurd* garden that is being utilized for teaching and learning. Ms. Zingaro's third grade students worked on calculating the area and perimeter of the garden beds to determine how many plants should go in each bed. Students also measured and charted the growth of the plants provided by Groundwork Elizabeth.



JDA is in FULL STEM

The STEM Program at **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9** focuses on the introductory STEM courses, as well as STEM fields and occupations. Each week various STEM activities are presented to the scholars, and they select the activities that pique their interests. The GOAL is to promote STEM learning opportunities in their homes.

Thus far the students have completed the following inquiry-based assignments and activities:

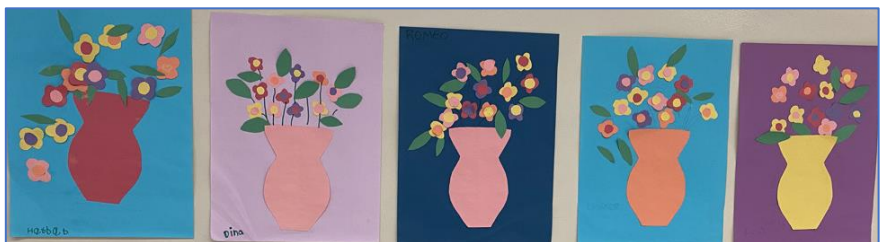
- ✚ Genetics Exploration and Survey
- ✚ Making Ice Cream
- ✚ Making Rock Candy
- ✚ Building Paper Bridges
- ✚ Making Videos of their design process

It has been a pleasure watching the scholars design, explore, and learn new things. The best part of it has been witnessing the pride the students have when presenting their designs and discoveries.



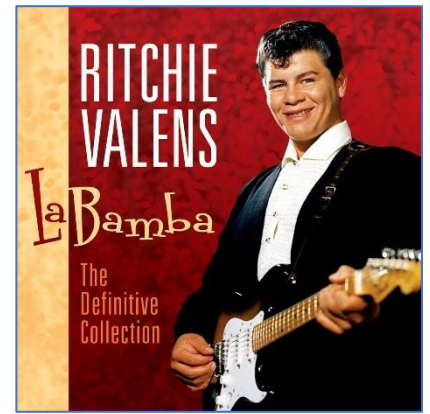
Reopening with Autism Art Classes

Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6's Art classes were an integral part of each student's day as we navigated through teaching art with online learning and following CDC safety protocols when students returned to the classroom. School No. 6's art department was one of the first schools to start hybrid teaching with the Autism Classes. Students returned to a safe environment. Everyone is so eager to go back to some normalcy. Finally, the perilous time is coming to an end, and brighter days are ahead.



Cinco de Mayo

Joseph Battin School No. 4 students celebrated Cinco De Mayo by studying the first Latin Rock star, Ritchie Valens. They learned his rise to fame came quickly in the 1950s and tragedy struck when he was killed in a plane crash.



Students studied one of his most famous songs, *La Bamba*. They learned the ceremonial wedding dance, where the bride and groom tie a ribbon in a bow with their feet, in celebration of unity, as well as the Mexican folk dance Los Machetes. Multicultural awareness and student relatability is vital in education.

Students Represent Their Country



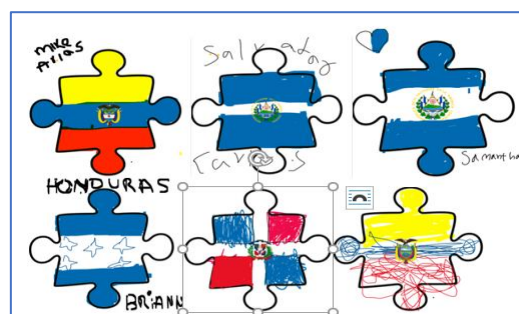
Woodrow Wilson School No. 19 celebrates this year's Multicultural/Bilingual month theme: "We are all pieces of the same puzzle" by having the school community wear traditional clothing that represents their countries.

Students and teachers also decorated their classrooms with artifacts from the country they researched. Students worked on different projects, and we enjoyed seeing the beautiful displays throughout the school.



We Are All Pieces of the Same Puzzle

The students at **Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3** had the opportunity to participate in a variety of in person and virtual events celebrating Multicultural Week 2021. This year's theme is "We Are All Pieces of the Same Puzzle". Students enjoyed activities that included creating flag puzzles, discussions about their favorite ethnic food, wearing traditional clothing, and creating Flipgrid videos for peers. Students in Mrs. Alvarez's class dressed in traditional clothing and Mrs. Calderon's kindergarten class did a fantastic job in creating puzzle pieces!



Celebrating Cuban Independence Day



Ms. Dorta's second grade class and the 6th Multicultural dancers from **Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29** worked together with students from Mrs. Casey's PreK class at **Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50**, Mrs. Millan's 4th grade class from **Elmora School No. 12** and **EHS-Frank J. Cicarell Academy** to perform a virtual dance. Celebrating the rich musical history, numerous contributions of Cubans to the community and engaging in folk tales students learned about this Caribbean Island and its traditions.

The Multicultural Dancers were later invited to performed at the Cuban Flag raising sponsored by the Elizabeth Cubano Lions Club on May 20th in honor of Cuban Independence Day at Elizabeth City Hall. This was a great way to begin the celebration of multicultural month which also included students sharing family recipes, show & tell and map collages.

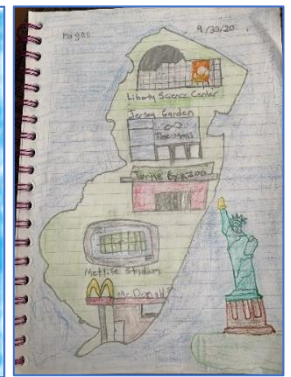
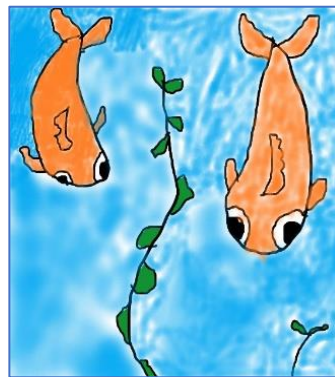
Around the World

Students from **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** participated in Multicultural Week by creating projects about different countries around the world. Students created power points persuading their peers with reason as to why they should visit a particular country. Teachers emphasized the importance of being exposed to different cultural backgrounds, that are represented in the building and around the world. Students also listened to stories online such as *All Kinds of Children* and *The Skin You Live In*. The stories served as a powerful learning tool in helping to enable students and staff to gain a better understanding of their own culture, and recognizing, and accepting others from different ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups.



Traveling Around the World

Joseph Battin School No. 4 art students celebrated multi-cultural heritages by traveling the world with Visual Art Teacher, Mrs. Downey. Students traveled to Europe and visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy then onto Paris, France to see the Eiffel Tower. They made a stop in Holland to gather tulips for Mother's Day. From there they went to China to celebrate with Chinese Dragons and onto Japan to feed Koi Fish. While in Africa they went on a safari and saw elephants. For the conclusion of their voyage, they stopped in Mexico for selfies with Frida Kahlo then headed back home to New Jersey!



Bilingual / Multicultural
Education Month

"WE ARE ALL PIECES OF THE
SAME PUZZLE"

Multicultural Month

At **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25**, students participated in several activities to celebrate Multicultural Month. The theme this year was *We Are All Pieces of the Same Puzzle*.

Mrs. Rodriguez, the school's fourth grade ABL teacher, organized and shared a variety of activities that all teachers used to help celebrate multiculturalism.

Multicultural Puzzle Pieces



After a challenging school year, **iPrep Academy School No. 8** was excited to participate in Elizabeth Public School's annual Multicultural Week to celebrate the cultural diversity of their school. Both students learning in-person and remotely contributed to this year's theme, *We Are All Pieces of The Same Puzzle*. Activities included selecting a diversity/multicultural theme background for their computers, wearing T-shirts and caps representing a country of their choice, and decorating multicultural puzzle pieces that were displayed on their classroom door. Additionally, a video clip was shared to students demonstrating how to create a delicious Spanish flan, with recipe included, for all students and their families to enjoy. The finale was a "show and tell" of the origins and ancestry of teachers and students using Flip Grip or other digital platforms to recognize and appreciate all the many cultures at iPrep Academy, School No. 8. Everyone enjoyed dedicating this special week to learning about multiculturalism in their school and all over the world!

Fun-filled Multicultural Week

Elmora School No. 12 took pride in commemorating *Multicultural Week*. Students and staff participated in various school wide activities. The week started off with Me Monday, where students created posters about their native countries. Diversity was acknowledged on Tradition Tuesday, where read-aloud activities from teachers and parents virtually, read about different cultures and traditions. On Wise Wednesday, students shared famous native idioms. Thrilling Thursday was the most exciting day for students and staff! On Thrilling Thursday, students and staff dressed up in their native clothing. The festivities concluded on Foodie Friday where students shared native recipes through illustrations and technology. Elmora School 12 had a full week filled with excitement and laughter and were reminded of the importance of respect for love for diversity and for all cultures and traditions.



May is Multicultural Month!

Mrs. Arifaj's 2nd grade class from **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** was asked to complete a report about their cultural backgrounds in honor of Multicultural Month. The students did a great job! Students presented their creative posters and reports to the class and enjoyed learning about each other's cultures and diverse backgrounds.

Learning about cultural diversity allows one to become more tolerant and understanding of each other and helps value the beautiful differences that exist between all, but also reminds on how much we have in common, no matter what those differences are.



Pasteis de Nata

Roc's Café in Elizabeth hosted a special event for students from Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy to learn the art of making *Pasteis de Nata*. For more than 300 years, people from throughout the world have been enjoying the renowned custard tart, or Pastel de Nata. The pastry carries significant meaning to Portuguese culture and its origin traces back to Jerónimos Monastery in Belem, west of Lisbon.

Students not only learned about the pastry's history, but also had the opportunity to make their own *Pasteis de Nata*. Board Members, Maria Carvalho, Stephanie G. Pestana, and Diane Barbosa, along with a few administrators from central office attended this event to join in the baking process. A special thanks to Roc's Café for welcoming the students into their kitchen and introducing them to this rich and tasty Portuguese tradition.



School No. 7 Science Teacher Jahari Jacobs - 2021 New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom (NJAITC) Teacher of the Year

New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom honors teachers in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade (Pre-K-12) from around the state for the innovative ways they use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies, STEM, STEAM and more. The mission of NJAITC is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among New Jersey's educators and students.

"Many people think that agriculture teaches hard work and perseverance, and it does. But, these outstanding teachers recognize that agriculture also is fertile ground for teaching botany, biology, chemistry, finance, climatology, and arts, in ways that any age or level of students can understand, appreciate and apply to their daily life," said Dr. Carrie Castille, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which provides federal leadership and annual funding for the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO).

Jacobs teaches eighth grade science at **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7**, including the elective "TCR Foodies: Farm to Table" course.

"My motivation behind starting my elective agriculture program is to improve science and engineering education for my students by building upon the Next Generation Science Standards currently implemented in our district," said Jacobs. "I specifically designed the hydroponic project in 2020 to help students connect the real-world experience of planning a future farmers market for the residents of Elizabeth NJ. This will allow them an opportunity to grow socially, academically, and personally while taking pride in the fruits of their labor."

Teaching in one of the largest cities in New Jersey, Jacobs hopes to increase her students' awareness of the importance of agriculture and to help bring more farm resources to the greater community.

"As a teacher in a large urban school, I strive to provide my students with a multitude of experiences inside and outside of the classroom. I feel one of the best ways to cultivate a love for science is to provide opportunities for students to apply content to direct application. I also want to build partnerships with farms in the Union and Essex county area who will work together to provide access to affordable locally grown food. Students and communities alike reap lessons about nutrition, health, and the value of local foods."

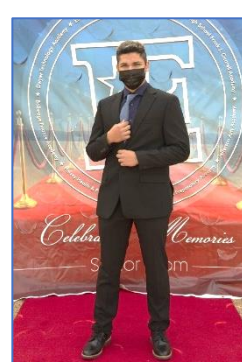
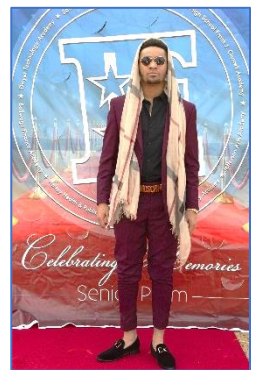


Jacobs will attend the NAITCO conference in Des Moines, Iowa June 28 through July 1 and will be recognized at the Parade of States Luncheon on June 30.

Due to the pandemic, the event will be live streamed at <https://www.agclassroom.org/conference/>.

Prom Showcase 2021

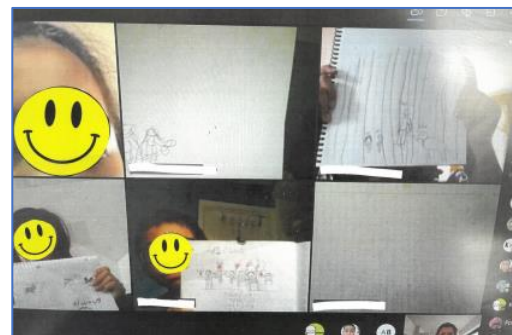
Prior to arriving at Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park on June 1, Elizabeth prom attendees stopped at the 2021 Prom Showcase in front of John E. Dwyer Technology Academy to make lasting memories by having their pictures taken. Among those there to support the students were Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs and Vice President Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeño, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes, and Director of Security, Matthew Glackin.



Spreads Kindness

Nicholas S. La Corte Peterstown School No. 3 highlighted Kindness through their SEL After-School Program.

Students in Grades K-5 completed activities including Caring About Compassion, Give and Take, Time for Respect and All About Empathy. Students completed the activities virtually and shared out with their peers through the Teams platform. The SEL Afterschool program ties in with the Character Education Initiative and provides the skills necessary for students to maintain their Social Emotional well-being.



The Ned Show – Ned’s Mindset Mission

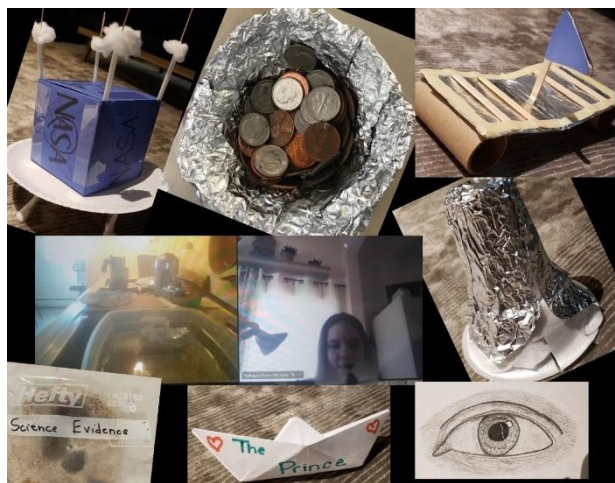


On June 4th, the students at **Abraham Lincoln School No 14** participated in a school-wide virtual assembly titled: “The Ned Show – Ned’s Mindset Mission”. Students enjoyed discovering how to activate their growth mindset to overcome social, emotional and academic challenges by watching NED find his mindset as he overcomes Mt. Everest’s toughest obstacles, uncovers inner treasures on a Caribbean island, and grows his brain while repairing a sputtering spaceship.

After School STEM Program Challenges Students

Elmora School No. 12 students get their minds working to solve the many challenges facing society during the Afterschool STEM Program. The students have been given many STEM Experiments to work through such as creating a functioning robotic hand, designing a boat to hold 100 pennies, and the likes. The students have engaged in virtual field trips from The Amazon Warehouse and have even learned coding with the goal of designing an AI (Artificial Intelligence) Robot to help save the sea creatures in a polluted ocean. Students are engaged in thinking about the Engineering Design Cycle and how failure can teach them to improve on their design.

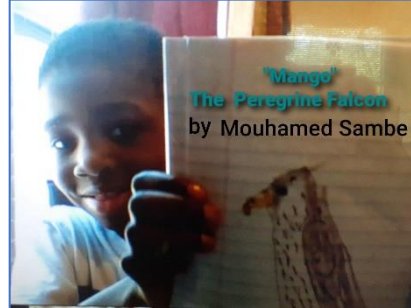
Students are learning through hands on experiences that engineers must overcome many obstacles before they reach success. There are many ways to solve the STEM Challenges and discussing how each student decided on their plan helps students to redesign their own ideas. These activities encourage collaboration and teamwork in a virtual environment.



Peregrine Falcon

First grade students in Mrs. O'Neill's class, at **Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23**, have been watching, monitoring, and documenting the life cycle of the Peregrine Falcon via the Union County Falcon Cam live stream.

The Peregrine Falcon nest is located on the roof of the County Courthouse on Broad Street in Elizabeth. The students log on daily to Ucnj.org/falcon and watch in amazement as they get a closeup view of Mango and Frida feeding and caring for their four baby chicks. The class also submitted names for the Falcon Chicks and took a class wide vote to choose the names: Rosa, Cookie, Luna, and Alex. Although the Peregrine Falcon is listed as an endangered species in New Jersey, the class hopes these initiatives will help in the fight for the Peregrine Falcons survival!



Learning Through Music

At **Robert Morris School No. 18**, songs and curriculum have been provided to the Performing Arts Department through Quaver SEL (Social Emotional Learning). This curriculum has been extraordinarily helpful as some students have transitioned from learning at home to learning in-person. There are catchy, fun songs that help the students to recognize and embrace the strengths within their individuality as we explore self-awareness. They also help teach students to identify, understand, and process their emotions in a safe and nurturing environment with interactive games and calm, focused movement.

For grades K-2, the students' favorite activities is the [Emotion Soundboard](#). At the start of every class, students raise their hand if they would like to share with the class how they are feeling. Then, a link is shared in a chat for the students to hear and identify their emotions as they listen and learn the song and musical concept for the day.

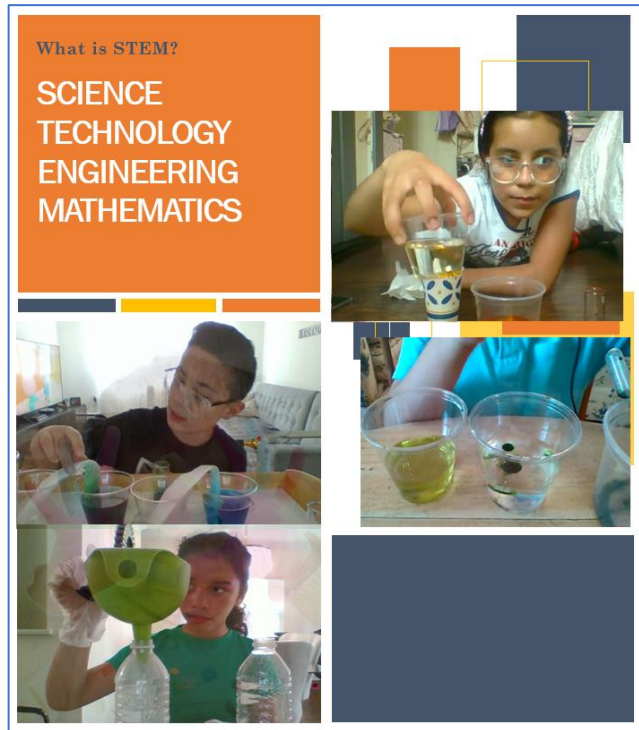


For grades 4-8, students enjoy identifying their emotions through music at the end of the week by using [How was your week?](#) which helps students look back at the week and reflect how they were feeling and how they are feeling as they listen to music in a tempo that they choose. These are a few examples of how the gift of music to help each student grow and succeed throughout this past year.

STEM Program at School No. 27

Students at **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27** worked virtually from home to participate in the STEM program. This program fosters critical thinking, increases science literacy, and develops important problem-solving skills. Children are naturally curious about their world, so Ms. Romero and Ms. Hanafy gave students the opportunity to explore and discover by providing challenging problems to examine.

One example is *The Walking Water Investigation*, where students were challenged to try and transfer water from one full cup to an empty cup. Students also engaged in another activity where they created electricity and power out of a lemon! Students became scientists and engineers to solve real world problems.

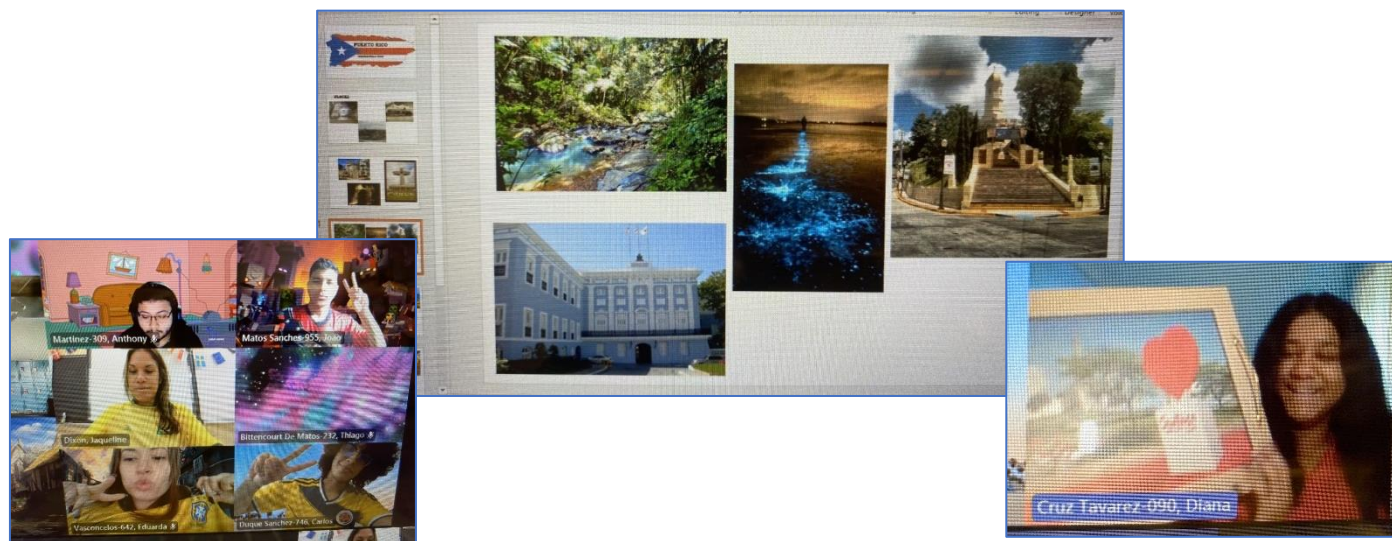


Virtual Field Trips

This month, **Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy** celebrated multicultural month through classroom activities and projects.

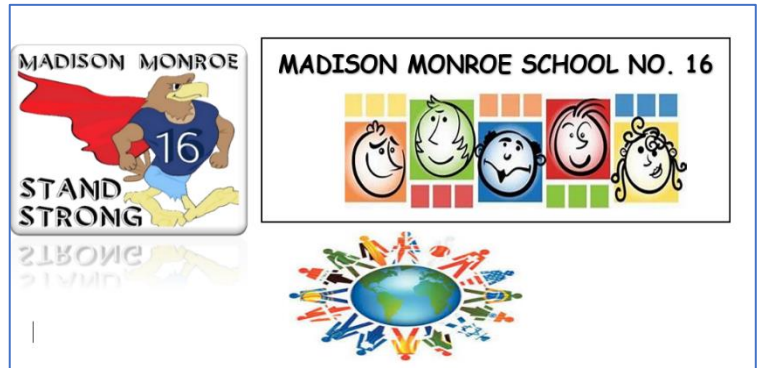
Throughout the first week of June, students were encouraged to bring in or remotely present three items representing their heritage to share with their classmates and teacher. Students created and shared mini-heritage documentaries highlighting their cultural heritage, traditional clothes, music, dances, and customs.

They also went on multicultural virtual field trips and were encouraged to sport a jersey or t-shirt of their country of origin. This was a fun way for students to gain insight into diverse ethnicities, cultures, and traditions.



Virtual Parent Workshops

Bridging the gap between home and school has always been an important part of **Madison-Monroe's School No. 16** mission, but it's even been more critical now as students have been learning virtually and returning for in person learning. There is no doubt that parents and students have been feeling anxious, worried, and stressed during this time. During the months of April and May, parents participated and attended virtually parent workshops aimed on topics such as stress management, anxiety, mental health, and enhancing communication and conflict skills. Parents learned about useful information and skills to implement in their daily lives especially during these uncertain times.



ST Math Challenge

At **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25**, Mrs. Firpo's first grade bilingual class participated in the Spring ST Math challenge, and they were the class chosen for a virtual meet and greet with JiJi on June 4, 2021.

Students love JiJi! Mrs. Firpo always explains to her students that JiJi grows with them and that their progress will follow them to the next grade level. Her students completed puzzles on ST Math for homework and during the 60-minute math block whenever possible. She also gave them shout outs when she saw that they had been playing consistently.

Their hard work and dedication playing JiJi was rewarded when JiJi came to their class! During the visit they asked JiJi a lot of questions, showed JiJi a drawing they made, and they also danced a penguin dance. It was such a memorable day that Mrs. Firpo and her students will remember forever.

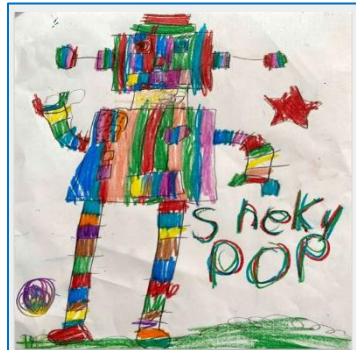
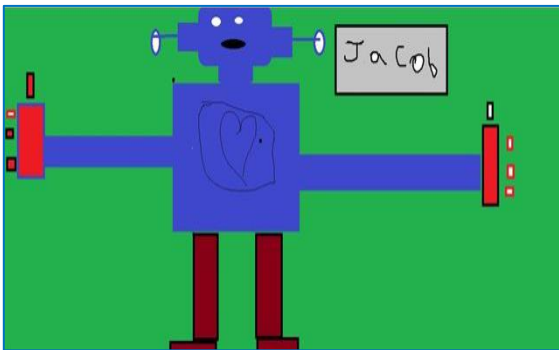


Robots Creation

Students from **Woodrow Wilson School No. 19** were able to identify, describe, and draw basic geometric shapes such as: rectangles, triangles, circles, squares, and semi-circles. Students used various geometric shapes to create their personal robots in art class. Art teacher, Ms. Ortiz loved showing students how math, language arts, and technology are often connected. This lesson helped reinforce math standards and concepts through the arts.

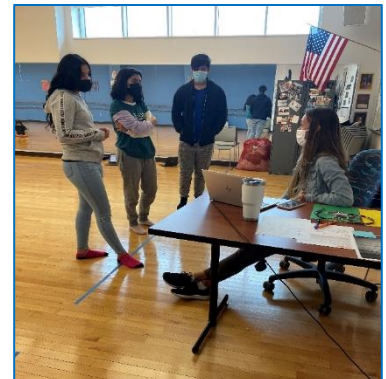


Each robot is unique, and students decided on their own medium to use for their work. Some students incorporated their technology skills by using the digital program Paint, while others created their drawings freehand. Students K-2 were free to explore or challenge themselves if they desired. They also learned that their artwork needed a title, just like a book or song would, to identify it. Therefore, students gave their artwork a title by naming their robot. More student works can be viewed on Artsonia portal. <https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=72199>



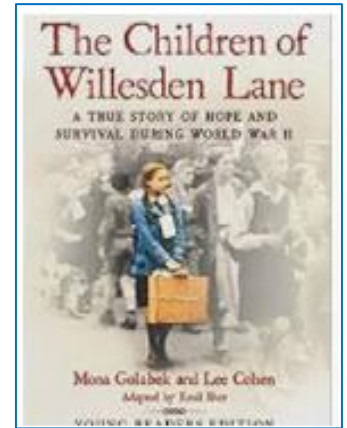
Students Thrive Through Art

In the wake of the pandemic, the performing arts are still thriving at **William F. Halloran School No. 22**. In Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Festa-Sneddon's combined dance/drama class, the 8th grade students were happy to finally get back together in person to work on a dance for activism project. Students, both in-person and virtual, have been planning performance art that addresses a multitude of current issues, including gun violence in honor of Gun Violence Awareness Month. Other students are researching and creating projects about other important global matters.



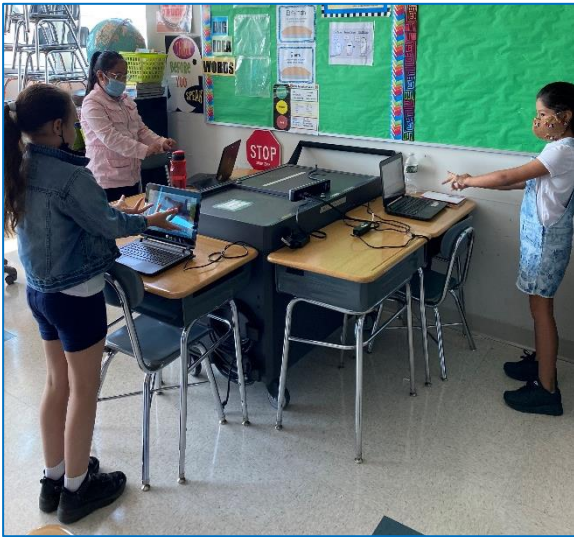
8th Grade Virtual Field Trip

The eighth-grade students at **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** read sections of the bestselling book, *The Children of Willesden Lane* with their Vocal Music Teacher, Annice M. Benamy, NBCT. This book shared information about the inspirational music played by the main character of the book, Lisa Jura. The book was written by Lisa's daughter, Mona Golabek, also a concert pianist. On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, they participated in a virtual livestreamed Willesden READ performance with Mona and over 800 students and teachers in NJ/NY/CT. The students enjoyed the program and learned. Students were able to see the power of music and how one teenage refugee, Lisa Jura, and survived the Holocaust and held onto her dreams. The program was sponsored by USC Shoah Foundation, Hold on To Your Music, Echoes & Reflections, and the New York City Department of Education.



Nai Ni Chen Dance

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26's third and fourth graders engaged in virtual dance classes with the Nai Ni Chen Dance Company. Students were introduced to Asian inspired dance styles. The boys and girls eagerly anticipated their weekly meetings with their dance instructors. School 26 has had a long running relationship with the dance company, which has assisted in the yearly production of their school-wide project.



Students Create Original Book Covers/Movie Trailer

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 students were encouraged to participate in a district wide contest by creating either an original book cover or movie trailer celebrating their favorite book. Second grader Eli George, from Mrs. Rodrigues' class won 2nd place for his fantastic original book cover. Winning 3rd place, also representing the second grade with a wonderful original book cover was Julianna Gomes Sa from Mrs. Pereira-Dubcon class.

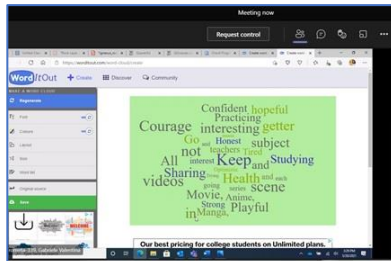


Representing the middle school, sixth grader Xianni Luna, in Mrs. Blaszak's class, won 1st place for her creative movie trailer of her favorite book. Congratulations to all winners.

Virtual Afterschool Program

Students at **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5** engaged in different SEL lessons during the virtual afterschool program including self-identity and appreciating their culture. Students created word banks with words that they identified with. They shared who they are and what is their purpose in the future.

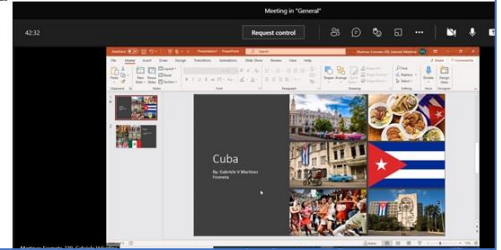
Students also created PowerPoints with pictures that highlighted their heritage and culture. Students presented their PowerPoint and shared interesting facts about their country.



Students created a wordbank on self identity and also shared pictures and interesting information about their heritage and culture.

Virtual SEL Afterschool Program at Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5

Students in the SEL program engaged in self identity and appreciating their culture in the month of May and June.



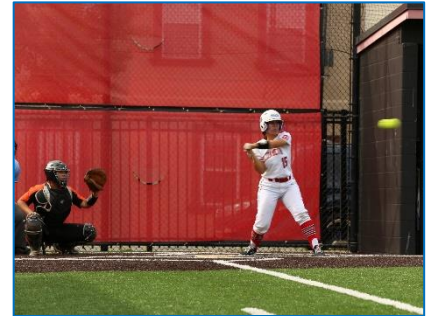
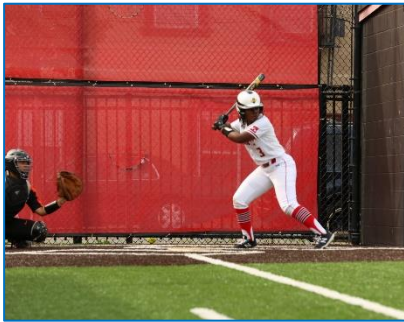
Panorama Learning Platform

Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 has been working to address and meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. The administration and counseling team prioritized and planned goals using the social emotional data obtained from the Panorama Learning Platform to best address the needs of students.

The whole school community provided interventions focusing on increasing cultural awareness by having important conversations regarding different races, ethnicities, and cultural experiences and increasing how often students think about others and provided interventions to increase student's emotional regulation. The faculty and staff met during faculty meetings for training and to have discussions, as well as to review the goals. The survey results were also shared and communicated with the staff which led to activities occurring both school-wide and within the classrooms fostering the connection between social emotional learning and academic gains. The guidance department formed SEL groups based on data and executed activities using the Panorama playbook. All the accomplishments and activities at School 28 were presented in a PowerPoint at a district-wide meeting.



On June 1st, the varsity softball team defeated Linden in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 NJSIAA Tournament. It was also senior day for lead-off batter #7 Emma Ruiz. Freshman, Gabby Duran, led the charge for Elizabeth going 5-5 with two and scored four runs. Duran also picked up 8 strike outs on the mound. Emma Ruiz started the game with a inside the park home run.



EHS Boys Volleyball Seniors



Congratulations Greg McQueen, Jennifer Bueno and Shalom Adzarko for being named to the 2021 Winter Track & Field All-Conference Team!



Congratulations to a Winning Season



This season of golf was a little different due to the pandemic. The first month of practice was held on Microsoft Teams. As students dissected videos, talked about swing analysis, and started shadow swinging in their own kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms with mop handles. There were 15 eager student athletes and a whole athletic department who were committed to success. In this new world of firsts, the Minutemen Golf team finished the season with an eight and six record and 6-0 in our division. This season was the first time they beat Brearley High School, the first time they went undefeated in the division and the first time they competed in a state qualifier.

Elizabeth Over North Hunterdon

Emma Ruiz went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and one run to lead fifth-seeded Elizabeth to a 4-3 win over top-seeded North Hunterdon, in the semifinals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 tournament, in Annandale.

Elizabeth (15-8) will face third-seeded Westfield in the sectional final on Saturday. The Blue Devils went 2-0 against Elizabeth in regular season play this year, with the most recent contest being a 1-0 game on May 15. North Hunterdon (14-9) got on the scoreboard first with a run in the opening inning, but Elizabeth took the lead by scoring four runs between the third and fourth innings. Destiny Medina finished 2-for-2 with two runs. Gabby Duran picked up the win by striking out four and giving up no walks.



National Scholastic Athletic Foundation – Outdoor Nationals Track and Field Championships



Four Elizabeth Athletics track and field scholar athletes have qualified for the National Scholastic Athletic Foundation – Outdoor Nationals Track and Field Championships being held June 30 through July 3 in Eugene, Oregon.

Seniors Vance Thelemaque and Antonio Roopchand, junior Greg McQueen, and sophomore Zyeim Lawrence have collectively qualified to participate in the 4x400 relay, 800m sprint relay, Swedish 1000m Relay, and the open 200m among this year's events at the legendary Hayward Field. After news of this year's Outdoor Nationals cancelation in Greensboro, North Carolina, Nike elected to sponsor the competition at the University of Oregon's famed track venue, which hosted the 2016 USA Olympic Trials and will be home to the 2022 World Athletic Championships.

All four athletes will represent Elizabeth in the 4x400 relay, 800m sprint relay, and Swedish 1000m Relay while McQueen will participate in the open 200.

Elizabeth, led by head coach Austin Holman and sprints coach Anthony Williams, currently boasts the number one 4x400 relay team in the State of New Jersey, which ran a time of 3:18.51, besting the Nationals meet standard of 3:20.00. Elizabeth is also home to the number two open 200m runner in McQueen who came in under the National Standard of 21.80 with his time of 21.63 seconds.

The Elizabeth track and field team has enjoyed great success in recent years, including qualifying eight individuals to compete in the 2020 Indoor Nationals that was to be held in March 2020. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the meet was then canceled as well as the 2020 Outdoor and 2021 Indoor. These four amazing athletes are poised to join a growing list of former student track athletes have enrolled and participated in their nationally recognized track and field programs, including standouts such as Dodley Thermitus, a four-time All-American, two-time national champion, and JUCO long jump record holder at 8.24 meters (27' 0.5").

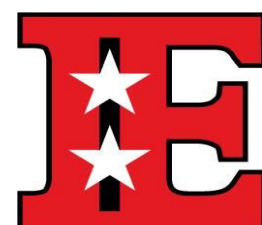
Congratulations to the EHS Girls Track & Field team for winning the 2021 Mountain Conference Championship!



Congratulations to EHS Track and Field Standout, Zuri Ekatan for winning the Mountain Conference Shot Put Championship!



EHS Wrestling Seniors



Masterclass



On June 2nd, Mr. Jeffrey Werbock provided a masterclass to the music students at **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26**.

Mr. Werbock is an American musician who has dedicated his life to studying the music of Azerbaijan. In his masterclass, he spent time teaching students about three Azerbaijani instruments: the kamancha, tar, and oud. He performed traditional music on each of the three instruments, and even showed how Azerbaijani music would sound on an electric guitar. This masterclass was made possible through the relationship with the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company.

STEM & Social Emotional Learning Virtual Afterschool Program

Beginning this April and into June, **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** students had the opportunity to attend the STEM and Social Emotional Learning afterschool programs through virtual platforms. In the STEM program, students enjoyed learning about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Ms. Khater, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Gilliam and Mrs. Salerno provided engaging and fun lessons which allowed students to gain valuable problem-solving skills, encouraged creativity, and encouraged students to take an interest in STEM subjects at an early age.

In the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Program, Mr. Luciano, School Social Worker, provided social emotional lessons that provided students with the skills needed to understand and manage emotions, set positive goals, show empathy for others and understand cultural diversity, make responsible decisions, as well as practice selfcare.

Both programs were a success and continue to hope to offer these very valuable programs in the future!



Jefferson Arts Academy Spring Performance Season Ends on a Series of High Notes

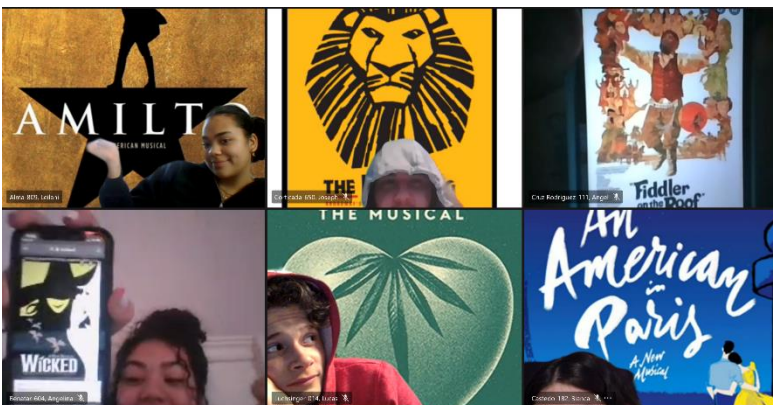


Despite extraordinary challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-2021 performance season at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy is ending on a series of high notes! Although the typical schedule of spring concerts and presentations have taken new form given the current circumstances, young artists and performers at Jefferson Arts are ending the school year with a series of virtual performances.

These include:

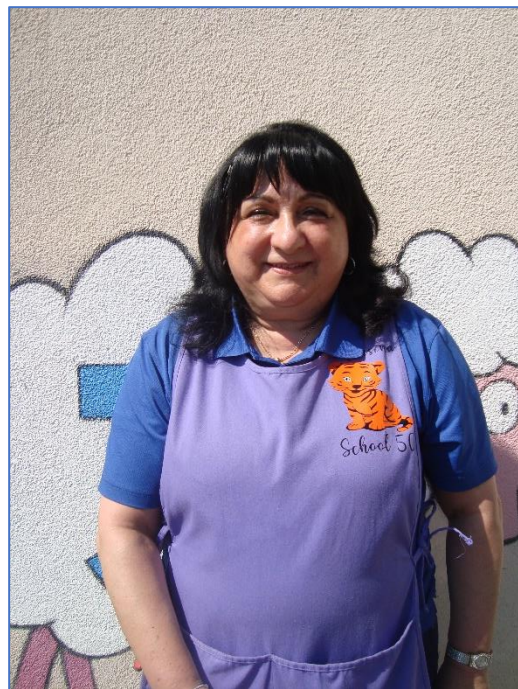
- ✚ A spring showcase featuring collaborations between instrumental performers and visual artists viewable on YouTube
- ✚ A special guitar performance reflecting on the Black Lives Matter movement entitled *Beyond Ferguson*
- ✚ A socially distant dance senior showcase featuring original choreography by Jefferson Arts performers entitled *A Moment in Time*
- ✚ A virtual listening party celebrating participants in this year's national *Little Kids Rock* competition, including an original song by junior, Cristofer Toalongo
- ✚ Special performances by Jefferson Arts musicians, Lucy Gomez (Grade 11) and Patricio Olivero (Grade 9) as part of the NJMEA's Honors Guitar Ensemble virtual performance, *Rumba*
- ✚ A two-evening, virtual spring musical production written and produced by Jefferson Arts performers and staff—including an original theme that received a GOLD Prize adjudication at last month's NJMEA Music Technology Expo. Both the production and theme were very appropriately entitled, *The Show Must Go On*.
- ✚ A virtual re-airing of the Jefferson Arts dance tribute performance from the 2018 *March for Our Lives* in recognition of Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Jefferson Arts students and staff are very appreciative of the EPS IT Department in supporting these productions, as well as being thankful for the Jefferson Arts Film and Video Production team and Graphic Design classes for supporting these virtual events.



A Gift to the Children at School No. 50

Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50 welcomes Alfonsina Scaglia as their new Head Custodian. Growing up in Argentina with Italian parents and a large family, Mrs. Scaglia came to America for the political stability and economic opportunities. Having four sons, one daughter and nine grandchildren, her love of children and gardens shows as she adds beauty to the landscaping, working as a team member with students and staff, helping with school gardens, even adding a new flower bed and potted mint. Being a fabulous cook, Alfonsina bakes delicious gifts for us, so we look forward to the garden harvest in the fall, hoping to sample some of her homemade tomato sauce or eggplant dishes. This will definitely have the children loving vegetables from a very young age!



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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