

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Elizabeth Board of Education, Elizabeth, NJ

April 2023

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

The Crew of the USS New Jersey Visits Elizabeth Public Schools

Elizabeth Public Schools had the honor of hosting representatives of the crew of the USS New Jersey, a new Virginia-class attack submarine set to be commissioned in the next year. As the birthplace of the US Navy's first submarine, Elizabeth holds a special place in naval history.

On April 3rd, the captain and crew met with students and team members from Juan Pablo Duarte - José Julián Martí School No. 28, which is next to the site of America's first submarine launch. While there, they answered students' questions, met with elected officials, received resolutions from local and state representatives, and were entertained by a student performance.



On April 4th, the USS New Jersey crew met with US Marine Corps ROTC students from Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy to address more student questions and discuss careers in the US Navy. This was followed by a beautifully catered lunch provided by Mr. Paul Conte and the students from Thomas A. Edison Academy for Career & Technical Education.





Victor Mravlag School No. 21



Autism Acceptance is something that is recognized every day. However, this month School No. 21 honored students and their families, along with all of the team members who help them. Students and their families were invited to a special breakfast hosted by the amazing culinary students from Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy. Afterwards, students and their families participated in free play as well as arts and crafts activities.

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

In honor of World Autism Acceptance Month, the students were asked to write messages about inclusion and kindness to decorate the halls. Landmarks around the world and the hallway at School No. 7 light up in vibrant blue shades in honor of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. In addition to the many activities planned throughout the month of April, students, team members, and several community members, which included Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, participated in a celebration of acceptance, awareness, and inclusion of students with autism.





Elmora School No. 12



To show love, understanding, kindness, acceptance, friendship, and respect, the Elmora School No. 12 community came together to create a rainbow infinity sign to represent diversity and strength. Infinity not only stands for strength and diversity, but also represents a continuous flow of acceptance and eternal support.

Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 and 5 Annex

School No. 5 held a parade in honor of Autism Acceptance Month. Students, parents and team members proudly wore blue and made and displayed signs which both educated and represented pride and acceptance.





Woodrow Wilson School No. 19



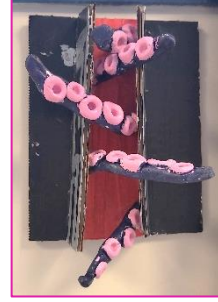
On April 6th, the special education team held its annual Autism Acceptance event. The event celebrated diversity, kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Inclusion trees were created so that the whole school – students and employees – could participate in the event. Each person was given a puzzle piece to sign their name on, which was then added as a leaf on the inclusion tree. Outside, the pre-k and kindergarten classes played various games and took part in fun activities.

Madison - Monroe School No. 16



Special Education teachers, Mrs. Orellana and Mrs. Kaulfers, held various activities for their students, while bringing the awareness of Autism to others. Middle school students, Mrs. Cruz, CST Social Worker, Mrs. Baptista, School Psychologist, and Mrs. Rasmussen, Speech Therapist and many team members assisted the special education students to complete their activities. It was a fun time enjoyed by all.

JVJ STEM Academy



For Autism Acceptance Month, students learned about artist, Therese Ojibway, who created fairy homes at South Mountain Reservation, as a bonding project with her son who was diagnosed with autism. Students created their own versions of door, homes/gateway projects to display throughout the school.



John E. Dwyer Technology Academy



Senior students from Mrs. Taglialavore's class celebrated Autism Acceptance Day. The students hosted a breakfast for the faculty and support team members to demonstrate the various transition and life skills they have been learning.

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

Bulldogs had a festive April! Students and team members celebrated and showed support for autism awareness, neurodiversity, being unique, and celebrating differences by decorating doors and wearing blue on April 6th. Halsey Annex also enjoyed a special visit from the Board of Education President, Mrs. Iliana Chevres, and students have also been enjoying collaborating with Prevention Links. The S.T.O.P. Program students have been learning about the effects of underage drinking and have been working hard on a campaign to educate and empower their peers.



Joseph Battin School No. 4 Annex

In honor of Autism Acceptance Month, Mrs. Salvato's class wanted to spread the word to the school community regarding Autism Acceptance. For one of the activities, students passed out puzzle piece cut outs for each student in the school to decorate in any way they wanted. Each puzzle piece would be decorated in a way that was unique for each individual that made one. After the pieces were collected, they were displayed throughout the school. School No. 4 Annex also participated in an Autism Walk where students held signs, wore crowns, and blue shirts to show spirit and awareness.



AHPA Italian Students Present at Rutgers University

For the first time in Hamiltonian history, the upper class Italian students attended Italian Language and Culture Day at Rutgers University where they performed a student-written and directed skit in Italian in front of 10 other school districts. The Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey has sponsored this event for over 10 years, but the pandemic prevented the in-person activity since 2019. The students created a script based on a modern day modified story of Bell'occhio, a play on Pinocchio. The teacher and his students were reading a story together and the characters came to life in this 5-minute skit.



Fairleigh Dickinson University



Winfield Scott School No. 2 AVID students attended a class trip to Fairleigh Dickinson University on April 6th. Students were able to take a walking tour of the campus as well as attend an information session where they learned about class offerings and campus life.

Third and fourth graders attended a trip to the Turtle Back Zoo on April 5th. These students, who had been studying life sciences, were able to observe the animals, such as the flamingoes, tigers and penguins in the natural habitats created by the zoo.



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

Elizabeth High School Performing Arts Highlights



The EHS Indoor Percussion Ensemble returns to competition this season for the first time since 2017. The students had an UNDEFEATED season winning first place at every show and were crowned the 2023 USBands Scholastic Standstill Champions.

Four members of the EHS-FJC Choir auditioned, and all made it into the NJAJE Region 2 Jazz Choir. This is the first time in school history in which members of the EHS-FJC Choir will be a part of this program. Congratulations to the four students: Chidinma Nwaji, Malcom Bolton, Jeanelise De Jesus, and Sydney Feminello.



The EHS Winter Color Guard hosted for the first time the Main Indoor Competition on April 1, 2023. Twenty-five ensembles and hundreds of spectators were welcomed in the FJC gym. The EHS Winter Color Guard and the EHS Indoor Percussion Ensemble performed at the end of the evening in a packed gym. Ms. Calixto and Ms. Correa did an amazing job planning the event, alongside dedicated EHS team members, students and parents who were integral in making this a successful competition.

The EHS Jazz Band scored silver rating for their performance at the 2023 Preliminary Competition. Under the direction of Ms. Foreman, the group performed alongside New Jersey's finest jazz ensembles. In addition to a silver rating, Valerie Rodriguez, an 11th grade musician, received an honorable mention soloist award. The band has advanced to Finals slated to take place at Metuchen High School on April 29, 2023.



After 40 years, EHS Winter Color Guard returns to WGI World Championships held in Dayton, Ohio. Out of 124 competing teams, Elizabeth was the only scholastic A team from New Jersey to place into Semi Finals and finished in the top third of their division.

The “Marketplace” at School No. 1

George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1 is springing into learning and growth this month. Fourth-grade scholars have been busy getting the feel of entrepreneurship. Scholars had the opportunity to demonstrate innovative thinking and confidence as they not only created a business idea, but also created a tangible prototype for their business.

The fourth-grade entrepreneurs then created a “Marketplace” where the remainder of the school students were able to visit all the different individual student businesses. This gave students a chance to practice public speaking and marketing as they presented their sales pitch to their peers.

In addition to learning about creative ways to create a business, students also learned about an underrated way to regulate their emotions with the event - *Calm and Paint*. Students and parents were invited to participate in a guided painting activity, where they experienced the social emotional benefits of how painting can be used to not only bond with your child, but how to calm the body and mind through painting and stillness. Parents bonded with their children over painting together while other uncommon ways to regulate individual emotions were taught, such as listening to music and other sensory activities.



Reilly's Got Talent Show

Students participated in **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7's** talent show competition, Reilly's Got Talent. The show featured a variety of student directed acts including comedy, drama, and martial arts all choreographed by the performers themselves.

Tying for 3rd Place: Third grade pianist, Brian Jean Francois; and third grade acro dancer Nadiyya Sammy.

Tying for 2nd Place: Eighth grade soloist, Genesis Rodriguez; seventh grade soloist Elizabeth Larsen; seventh grade contemporary dancers Jaehwa Alvarez & Sara Shairy; and 8th grade color guard performers Yaritza Castillo, Julissa Romero, & Ivelisse Chacach.

1st Place: K-Pop jazz dancers Zhared Aquino, Briana Cuevas and Dharia Vargas.



Friendly Lion Cafe

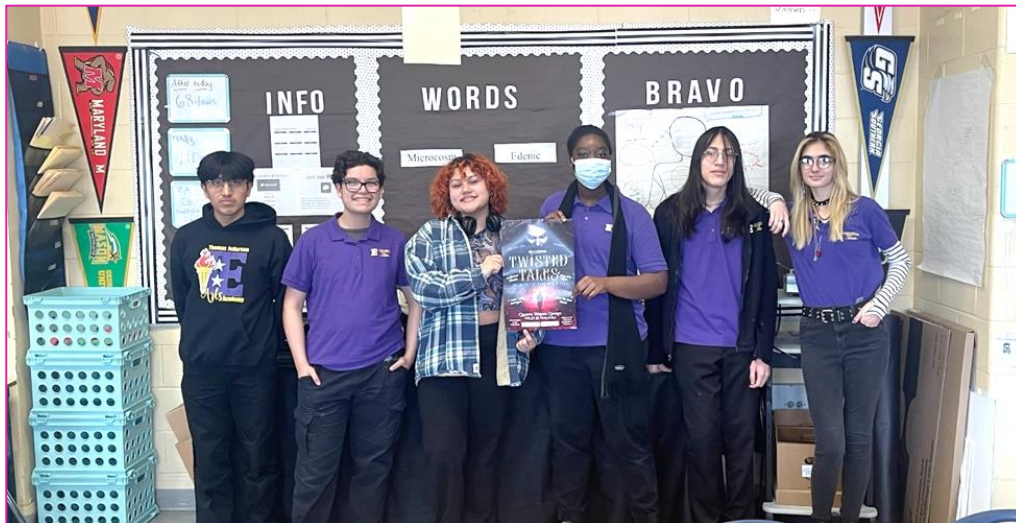


Students in Mrs. Cuco's 2nd – 4th grade classes at **Toussaint Louverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6** participate and run their *Friendly Lion Cafe* weekly.

Students thrive with their communication skills by greeting adults and forming conversations about "What they would like from the cafe?" Each week the students take orders and payments, give change if necessary, and bring smiles to everyone they come in contact with. The *Friendly Lion Cafe* has been an amazing asset to School No. 6's community and builds lifelong skills for the students.

Twisted Tales-Fictional Fun

Get ready to be impressed by the exceptional talents of the **Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Ink-Conceivable Creative Writing Club**! Under the guidance of their inspiring mentors, Ms. Christina Carroll and Mr. Brian Mortensen, the club entered the Twisted Tales-Fictional Fun from the USA writing contest in early December, and the results are in! All six submissions from this dynamic club have been selected as winners. Sophomores Emily White, Ash Orellana-Cardenas, Brad Quinto, Lois Kouaho, Anthony Ruiz, and Natalia Ocampo will have their creative masterpieces published in a prestigious writing journal with The Young Writers Association. What a phenomenal achievement for these budding authors, and what an exciting time for the entire Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy community. Jefferson Arts Academy couldn't be prouder of the talented students and can't wait to see what they will accomplish next. The future is bright for these gifted writers, and they will continue to excel and inspire everyone.





No One Eats Alone Day

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy's students and team members participated in the national *No One Eats Alone Day*. This is a day that encouraged students to sit with classmates they don't know and also notice if there are any other students that may feel left out and include them. They also gathered during lunch periods to have ice cream and play bingo. Together, students made connections, created a culture of belonging, and had the opportunity to get to know each other a little better.



Making a Difference!

The third-grade students at **Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30** are learning about how one person can make a difference in their community. Students had an opportunity to make a difference by creating a *Trash to Treasure Project*. They chose a recyclable material to convert into something new and useful. They surely made a difference!



Lip Sync Battles

JVJ STEM Academy students participated in grade level lip sync battles where each group coordinated routines that featured songs various eras (90's, 2000's and 2010's). The junior class won overall, performing a mashup dance/singing routine featuring songs by artists such as Bruno Mars, One Direction, and Beyonce.



NJSDL District Tournament



The Elizabeth Speech and Debate Team competed at the New Jersey Speech & Debate League District Tournament. In order to qualify for Nationals, students competed against 25 schools and must place either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.

- EHS – FJC – 12th Grader - Joe Alves - 1st place in Informative Speaking
- EHS – FJC – 12th Grader - Jane Teran - 2nd place in Informative Speaking

Joe and Jane will be representing New Jersey in June in Arizona at the National tournament.

Also, Brian Rodriguez was named by the NJ District Committee as Assistant Coach of the Year.

JCBFA National Honor Society Induction

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy held its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Students were given a complimentary breakfast and received their certificates in front of their peers. This celebration commemorated and honored these hard-working students in their academic excellence. These students embody the four pillars, Scholarship, Character, Leadership, and Service, that the National Honor Society strives for.

Congratulations to these recipients on this great academic accomplishment.



Bilingual Learners Score High

This year the **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** world language department provided the opportunity for 11th and 12th grade students to voluntarily sign up for the STAMP exam. The STAMP exam is a bilingual proficiency test that is offered and recognized internationally in a multitude of languages. This year, 66 students volunteered to be tested and passed the exam in seven different languages which include French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Portuguese (Brazilian), Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian. Passing the STAMP exam qualifies students to be eligible for the NJ Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma upon graduation.

Swing Night

An interdisciplinary unit on jazz was implemented with the third graders of **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31**. Music, Library, Physical Education and Art teachers introduced a variety of lessons inspired by elements of jazz music and swing dance. These activities culminated in an evening of swing dancing and music hosted by the third graders, called *Swing Night*.



With the guidance of a professional dance instructor, students learned how to swing dance in Physical Education class. Along with its basic history, students learned the fundamental elements of form and pattern of jazz music in Music class. In Art class, they learned about artists influenced by the jazz music movement and the human body, and how color and line can illustrate rhythm and sound. Students read about famous jazz musicians, such as Louie Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Benny Goodman in Library class. Students also took a trip to the Newark Museum to look at the history of American art that coincided with the era of Jazz. Students had to fill out job applications to be considered for the job of a maître d, manager, bartender, waiter, or kitchen helper at the museum. The Advanced Jazz Band also performed for the "Swing Night" event. This unit captures the spirit of the collaborative work environment here at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy and shows how a child's education can be brought to life.



Vocabulary Parade

At **Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23**, both the main and the annex had a vocabulary parade. Each student had to pick a word and make a visual of it. On the day of the parade, the students and teachers wore their word for all to see. What a great way to highlight their words. There were some highly creative outfits.



Dwyer Students and Team Members Celebrate Ramadan

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy's Muslim students shared their religious traditions with the school community and shared greetings everyone can say to express heartfelt wishes for Ramadan - *Ramadan Kareem* or *Ramadan Mubarak* and *Eid Mubarak*. Students also posted a flag, calendar, and symbols that represent the holiday.

Ramadan is a special time of the year for Muslims around the world. It is the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar and is the month in which the Holy Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). It is a time for reflection, worship, charity, prayer, and fasting. Each day, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. They wake up for a predawn meal called "suhoor" and break their fast at sunset with a dinner meal called "iftar." It is customary for Muslims to break their fast with a date as did Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In addition, Muslims look forward to Ramadan to host gatherings with their family and friends and serve their favorite dishes.



At night, once the five daily prayers are completed, Muslims also participate in extra prayers called "taraweeh." These extra prayers and other acts of worship are ways for Muslims to increase their connection to God. It is believed that those who perform these acts of worship will have their sins from the past year forgiven.

At the end of the month, Muslims celebrate *Eid Al Fitr*, a three-day holiday to celebrate the end of Ramadan. "Eid" in Arabic means holiday or celebration and "Fitr" means *break the fast*. During this time, Muslims celebrate by performing the special Eid prayer on the first day. They wear new clothes, give each other gifts, sometimes in the form of money called "eideya," visit family and friends, etc.

Celebrating Ramadan

Prior to Ramadan, **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** recognized the holiday by sharing breakfast with team members. Also, there was school-wide read-aloud for grades K-2 *Ramadan Is Here* and *What Is Ramadan* for grades 3-8. Facts About Ramadan were shared by team members along with students. During the morning announcements, students reflected on ways to reduce stress and anxiety for those celebrating the season of Ramadan. What a wonderful way to learn about the Muslim culture.



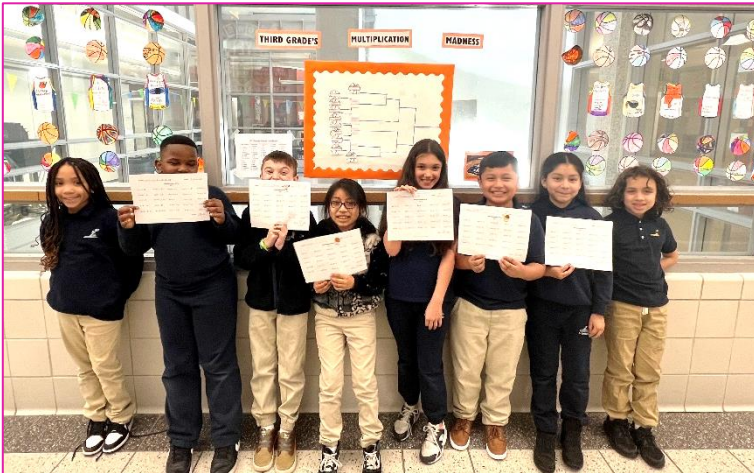
Special Guest Reader

On April 3rd, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeño visited **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Annex**, to read a story called *The Tiny Seed* to the young learners in celebration of Week of the Young Child. She spoke about gardening and springtime events with the students. Everyone enjoyed her visit and the energy she brought to the school.



Multiplication Madness

March Madness is in full force at **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31!** Third graders from Mrs. Boydston, Ms. Hadwen, and Miss Norek's classes have been practicing their multiplication facts with one another and competing weekly with their teams to move forward and score points for their teams. Multiplication is an important standard from third grade and beyond; making it fun is the best way to learn facts!



Pre-K Easter Egg Hunt

Pre-K teachers at **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** had an Easter Egg Hunt for their students. Teachers asked students to look for the Easter Eggs that were placed in various places in the playground. Students were asked to look for (5) Easter Eggs each. Students learned how to count, share, and have a great time looking for them. Even the Easter Bunny made a surprise visit to greet them and encourage them to always do their best in school.



Art and Hearts

Middle school art students, from **Nicholas S. LaCorte Peterstown School No. 3**, spread kindness and joy by re-creating works by the iconic, contemporary artist Keith Haring. The famed American artist's animated imagery supported the belief that art is for everyone to enjoy. School 3's Art Elective students studied his works and made life-sized paintings that were hung around the school for a colorful display of kindness and inclusion.

Messages from the heart were also given – and received – by students at the school's Annex as they participated in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge. Students and hearts were pumped with excitement as they competed in planking, push-ups and hoola-hoop races.



National Junior Honor Society Ceremony

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 had their annual National Junior Society Ceremony. They celebrated inducting 16 new members and 13 current members in good standing. It was a wonderful evening honoring the scholars' achievements and continuous success. A special thanks to all the parents and families, as well as the guest of honor, former Principal, and now Director of Staff Development & Innovative Programs, Dr. Kathleen Badalis.



Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!



Victor Mravlag No.21 Presents
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.

Cost: \$5 per ticket
 Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023
 Time: 6:00pm
 (doors will open at 5:45pm)
 Senior Citizen Performance;
 Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 9:00am

TERENCE C. KELLY SCHOOL 7
 PROUDLY PRESENTS
Disney THE LION KING JR.

WHEN: APRIL 28, 2023, 6:00PM
 WHERE: 436 1ST ST. ELIZABETH, NJ
 TICKETS \$5.00
 GENERAL ADMISSION SEATING

William F. Halloran School 22
 proudly presents
Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.

April 27, 2023 6:30pm
 TICKETS: \$5
 husky.booktix.com
 See you under the sea!



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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