

2024 Black History Month Celebration

Elizabeth Public Schools students from several district schools were prominently featured at the 2024 Black History Month Celebration hosted by the Elizabeth Board of Education at Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51. EBOE President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely welcomed everyone to the evening event and introduced Board Member Jerry Jacobs who was sponsoring the Black History Month initiative for the district. Jacobs acted as the emcee of the event, introducing representatives from each of the participating schools to come forward to describe their students' acts.

The performances for the evening included "I've Been Buked" from Revelations by Alvin Ailey, performed by students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, "African Sky" by African Drums, performed by students from Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9, "A Tribute to Aunt Jemima", performed by students from Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, Step Dance (a.k.a. Body Percussion), performed by students from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, "Miss Celie's Pants" from The Color Purple, performed by students from Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, "We Are Black History", performed by students from George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1, and the poem "MAY MY HOPES AND DREAMS GO ON WITH YOU", narrated by Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson STEM Academy student Jeremiah Laporte.



FEBRUARY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- BHM Celebration
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- High School
- Upcoming Events

Important Dates:

Month of March

American Red Cross Month Irish American Heritage Month Music in Our Schools Month National Nutrition Month Women's History Month Social Workers Month Youth Art Month

March 1

Read Across America Day

March 3-9

National School Social Worker Week

March 4-8

National School Breakfast Week

March 11

Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.

March 29 - April 5

Easter Recess

Schools Closed

March 29

Good Friday

School & District Closed

Quick Links:

School District Website



District Social Media



Back To School Resources



Career Opportunities



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION







For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org











EARLY CHILDHOOD

Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51

In honor of Black History Month, the children are learning about different authors, artists, musicians, inventors, civil rights activists, etc. They have been engaging in open-ended discussions about the great impact made by these individuals. In Mrs. Smith's class, the students learned about Rosa Parks and her contribution to history. Furthermore, they created their own work depicting a time when they were brave. In Mrs. Cardenas' class, the students learned about Garret Morgan and his invention of the traffic





light. They created their own traffic light during small group time. The artwork is illustrated on their bulletin boards for everyone to appreciate.

Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50









During Black History Month, each classroom learned about a successful African American in history. Students listened to stories about their person and made classroom displays in the hallways. On February 23rd, the students will participate in a gallery walk through the school to observe each other's displays.

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

The children celebrated and learned about several famous African American Heroes in honor of African American Heritage Month. Throughout the month, the children learned and wrote about the famous heroes, staff read stories, and watched video clips. The children's work is displayed on bulletin boards throughout the school. Board of Education Member Jerry Jacobs visited and read to several classrooms the story, *Chessie Dentley, Student of the Month*,' which is based on Elizabeth's very own Chessie Dentley Roberts.









iPrep Academy School No. 8



For Black History Month, iPrep students are gearing up for numerous exciting art projects and events! Mrs. Williams is coordinating a schoolwide Black History performance on February 29th, which will feature dance history, music, and art. Eighth-grade students will be taking the lead in mentoring younger students in various activities. 2024 is already shaping up to be a fantastic continuation of the school year.

George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1



During Black History Month, students are learning about many African American inventors, musicians, artists, poets, and civil rights movement activists.

Students have been encouraged to learn, dream, and challenge themselves in the same way Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did through social emotional lessons and artwork. Middle school students were selected to perform at the district's Black History Month Celebration under the guidance of Ms. T. During this celebration, they used poetry and dance to educate the audience on important African American figures and culture. As the month comes





to a close, School No. 1 continues to celebrate Black History month with a *Decorate Your Door* contest filling the school with colorful energy and rich history.

Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25

Dr. Colcol, the school counselor, and Ms. Reynolds, the school social worker, hosted two assemblies for grades 1 through 4. The assemblies were focused on Black History Month. Students were encouraged to discuss the ways in which Black Americans contributed to our great nation. Along with the discussions regarding Black History, students were also encouraged to think of ways in which social emotional learning impacts how we treat each other, or strangers, or those who look different, speak differently, dress differently. Students were encouraged to participate



in role playing during the assemblies to demonstrate how choices can impact a person positively or negatively. Students showed great enthusiasm and a good understanding of the purpose of the assemblies.

Woodrow Wilson School No. 19





Woodrow Wilson Warriors celebrated Black History Month with honor, integrity, and style. Authentic and vibrant displays were proudly displayed throughout our entire school community. Students were eager to take part in research projects and share their newfound knowledge. A special highlight of Black History Month was Ms. Phillips and Ms. Donnerstag leading a "Soulful Luncheon" where team members took time to laugh and enjoy various foods with fellow colleagues.









Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29







This year for Black History Month, School No. 29 presents *Black Economic Success* from the past century to the present day. Every day during the morning announcements, students are selected to present their research on African Americans who impacted Black communities throughout history.

The main hallway display is an informational timeline that focuses on "29" of the most influential Black millionaires. The focus is on early communities, entrepreneurs, inventors, doctors, movie producers, musicians, and actors who have used their aspirations, motivations, inspirations, and dedications to build their economic success. The Black History Show planned for the end of the month highlights the road to economic success through historic Black



universities, music, and entrepreneurship. Students continue to celebrate diversity and recognize its beauty, which brings everyone together.

Christopher Columbus School No. 15

Throughout the month of February, students learned about the contributions of famous Black Americans by completing projects, literature, and a daily school-wide historical facts bingo.



Robert Morris School No. 18



The fifth grade students combined learning about the Industrial Revolution with Black History Month to complete their *African American Inventor Biographies*. Students had a great time researching and learning about the different inventors and their inventions. They also reflected on how these great African Americans' lasting contributions are still making our lives better today!

Madison-Monroe School No. 16



Students took part in *The Great Kindness Challenge*. The Great Kindness Challenge aim is to improve school climate and increase student engagement. During the weeklong challenge, students were challenged to perform as many kind acts as possible. Mrs. Cabrera, School Guidance Counselor and Mr. Luciano, School Social Worker assigned a kindness challenge for each homeroom to complete by the end of the week. Students also took part in various theme days such as Hats off to Kindness, Let Your Kindness Shine!, Flex Your Kindness, Career Day-Dress for Success, and

Kindness is Like Disney Magic. Students were also able to pick up various activities and giveaways that were provided on the kindness station tables.

Winfield Scott School No. 2

Kaleb Bates, a sixth-grade student, was awarded this generous gift of a new guitar in honor and recognition of his love and talent in music. This was made possible by Ms. Spiegel's collaboration with The Project Matters, a nonprofit assisting musicians fulfill their dreams of using music to spread peace and positivity.

Madison-Monroe School No. 16 Annex

Groundhog Day! Most people wait for a groundhog to make a weather prediction! However, to celebrate the day, Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth graders from School No. 16 traveled to Mrs. Diane Kennedy's kindergarten classroom from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 for a Groundhog Day celebration with their kindergarten buddies. What would a Groundhog visit entail? Students painted groundhog portraits, practiced their penmanship skills, and worked together putting together groundhog puzzles. Participants await the next buddy visit, regardless of whether or not the groundhog has seen its shadow.









William F. Halloran School No. 22

School No. 22 celebrated the *100th Day of School* with a Pre-K through second grade parade. The fifth-grade classes also celebrated their 1000th Day of School since they started Kindergarten!









Joseph Battin School No. 4



During the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl, students generously donated cans of soup to support local food banks. On Friday, February 9th, team members and students celebrated their donations with their very own "SOUP-ER BOWL," by wearing their favorite team's jersey!

Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Annex









The Pre-K 5 class, along with teachers Mrs. Dunphy and Mrs. Sablon, recently celebrated the 100th day of school with an engaging group project. Alongside CDA Mrs. Valencia and assistant Mrs. Ramirez, the students worked on creative projects encompassing math, geometry, spatial reasoning, science, and literacy.



The classroom was alive with the sounds of collaboration and creativity as the young learners delved into their projects. They carefully crafted 100-

piece artwork, using their imagination to produce unique and colorful pieces. Additionally, the students undertook the challenge of building imaginative displays using 100 items, such as beans. shapes, and goldfish crackers.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the students' vibrant costumes, adding an extra layer of fun to the celebration. Dressed as they imagined a hundred-year-old person would look, the children showcased their individuality and creativity.

This special celebration marked a significant milestone and strengthened the bond among the students and staff, creating lasting memories for all involved. The spirit of collaboration and creativity was truly palpable, making the 100th day of school a truly memorable occasion.

Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28

School No. 28 participated in No One Eats Alone Day, embracing the theme for this year, "Planting New Connections," aimed at combatting social isolation across all three lunch periods. Students engaged in a variety of activities, including a writing exercise where they reflected on challenges they've faced, and the lessons learned from them. Alternatively, they could write about ways to support and connect with others. A vibrant bulletin board adorned with leaves, flowers, and clouds created by students served as a visual reminder to "plant new connections" in the community. Also, students had the opportunity to plant various seeds to add to the garden, symbolizing growth, and nurturing relationships. Additionally, ice breakers were strategically placed on all tables to encourage students to interact with peers they don't typically have lunch with, fostering new connections and learning more about each other.







Students from Ms. Gonzalez's fourth grade class dressed up as 101 Dalmatians to show their school spirit for the 101 days of school.

Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9

On February 1st, students and families gathered for *Family Fun Math Night*. Team members, Leaders of Technique (L.O.T) students, First Ladies, ST Math, and PTO parents helped in making this night a success.



Educating future leaders requires a team effort; families came together for this school event to help build a bridge between

home and school. Collectively exploring various math activities as a school community supports student's academic success.





Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30







On February 16th, students celebrated *National No One Eats Alone Day*. N.O.E.A.D is an event that promotes inclusivity and celebrates differences by encouraging connections and conversations with everyone. Students, along with the school guidance counselor and social worker, organized lunch and recess games and activities. Thank you Mrs. Lee-Barnes, Miss Nicolson, and Ms. Bellevue for putting this amazing and fun-filled event together!

Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

Children are naturally drawn to stories and often experience a deep emotional connection to their favorite fictional characters. Students celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week by participating in a "Celebrity Read." What better way to cultivate the love of reading and instilling skills such as social awareness, responsible decision-making, and selfawareness than having eighth graders read books about kindness to the youngest learners!





Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony, for qualifying sixth, seventh, and eighth graders was held on January 30th. They welcomed former and new inductees for the 2023-2024 school year into the NJHS Chapter. It was a wonderful night celebrating students' success and hard work with their families and teachers.

Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

Students and team members marked their 100th day of school with a lively celebration, donning costumes to resemble 100-year-olds. The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) added sweetness to the occasion, promoting *100 Days of Charmed Learning* by distributing blow pops to every student at Nicholas Murray Butler School. The 100th day of school was a delightful blend of fun and appreciation.



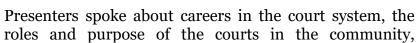
Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 Annex



Third and fourth-grade students collaborated on a mural to pay tribute to significant figures in Black History. Engaging in a collective effort, students colored, organized, labeled, and assembled the mural. The finished masterpiece was proudly displayed in the cafeteria, reflecting the students' enthusiasm for working together to create a beautiful and meaningful representation of Black history. Thank you, Mrs. Hincapie, for initiating a wonderful activity the students will cherish in memory.

Toussaint L'Ouverture - Marquis de Lafavette School No. 6

Seventh and eighth grade students had the pleasure of participating in the Union County Court System Presentation. Representatives from the court system came to speak to our students about the judiciary system in New Jersey. Presenters included the Ombudsman, the Family Division Superior Court Judge, a Municipal Division Manager, a Municipal Court Administrator, a Civil Division Presiding Superior Court Judge, a Sheriff's Officer and a Law Clerk.





differences in civil, criminal and family courts and additional services provided. Students were honored and intrigued by the important and influential role of the court and how courts work collaboratively to ensure compliance with laws and policies for the safety and well-being of the community. Students had the opportunity to follow up with thank you letters for all presenters - to express their gratitude for visiting and the services they provide for the safety, well-being, and support within the community.

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



The Terence C. Reilly Dance and Theatre department presented an original show called "School Days," written and choreographed by Mrs. Camuccio and Mrs. Miller. Theater and dance RLS students, as well as the musical theater afterschool program, performed scenes and dances that told the story of a fictitious year at TCR. Students were involved in all steps of the process, from brainstorming ideas, staging scenes and dances to designing props and lights, and performing the material themselves.

John Marshall School No. 20









Students began the new year with social emotional learning. The Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation and their President, Marianne Wilson, sponsored students through the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. Megan Tuttle, art therapist, provided students with an opportunity to create personal pieces of art to express their thoughts and feelings. Students met one day a week for six consecutive weeks and created their own version of worry objects similar to traditional Guatemalan Worry Dolls. It was an amazing opportunity for students to reflect and express themselves through the arts.

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31



The National Honor Society hosted a delightful ice cream social for third and fourth graders on February 16th. With snacks, dancing, and plenty of ice cream. 75 students relished a fun-filled afternoon with their peers.





Elmora School No. 12

Mathletes is a program first introduced in 2019 by Math Teachers Mr. King and Mr. Litchfield. During each marking period, seventh grade pre-algebra and eighth grade algebra students strive for their best grades.

During the marking periods, student scores are posted in their math classrooms to show standings which promotes healthy competition amongst classmates. At the end of each marking period, scores are tallied and the three students with the highest-grade point averages in each homeroom earn either a gold, silver, or bronze medal. Additionally, all students who achieve a 90 or greater during the marking period are invited to attend a pizza party with their fellow scholars.



Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5

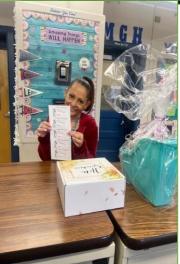
During a week dedicated to fostering *Kindness*, the school's mental health team orchestrated a series of heartwarming activities, each day brimming with compassion and connection. *Kindness Week* illuminated the importance of nurturing our emotional well-being.

Students and staff alike embraced the opportunity to uplift one another, reinforcing the bonds that make our school community truly exceptional. They kicked off the week with Reverse Husky tickets, letting team members know that they appreciate their Kindness and ended the week celebrating "Kindness Never get Old," in celebration of the 100th day of school.









Victor Mravlag School No. 21



Spring is in the air! Students in Mrs. Meirinho's first grade class had the opportunity to take part in the Quiver Farms egg hatch experience where they observe an egg hatch into a baby chick. The students enjoyed learning about the incubation, a brooder box, and overall, how to take care of the chicks. The whole school community, young and old, enjoyed having our baby chick visitors!

Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3

A busy month of activities included celestial visitors from ancient Greece and a Revolutionary experience as history was put in the forefront in February.

Sixth and seventh grade students in Mr. Leonard's Social Studies classes spent several weeks researching their respective topics - Greek mythology and the American Revolution – which then culminated in an interactive wax museum. Elaborate costumes of gods Poseidon and Zeus and goddesses Hera and Aphrodite, to name a few, were created by sixth graders who presented their research in character to a bevy of elementary students as well as staff. The following day, seventh graders studying the American Revolution donned costumers for such historical figures as Benjamin Franklin, William Howe, and a Hessian soldier and as they explained their roles by coming to life as well as provided PowerPoint presentations for additional information.



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



If you happened to be driving or walking by the Halsey Annex between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 PM on Friday, February 2nd, you may have heard loud music and cheering coming from the building. The loud noise you heard was coming from an enormous circle of students who were cheering each other on while dancing to the beat projected from a DJ booth. Thanks to the Freshman Student Council and Ms. Maher (Freshman Class Advisor), the Halsey Annex Winter Party kicked off with a bang!

As the doors opened, Annex students piled into the building holding their party tickets eager to see friends and dance away the stress of the school week. The beats from the music and sense of inclusion by the Annex students was infectious, along with the dancing skills showcased by Annex students (which could easily give other New Jersey school districts a run for their money!). Whether students came to dance or simply hang out with friends, everyone left the building with a smile on their face.



J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

Eight students from the autism program attended the Special Olympics held at Bowlero in New Brunswick. All of the students bowled well with Tayyab Gilliam- Johnson and Anthony Yont advancing to sectionals! They will be representing Elizabeth on February 24th in Matawan.

Special thanks goes to Ms. Monga (CST LDTC and coach) who organized the event, along with special education teachers Mr. Lecher and Ms. Schiffl, personal aide Ms. Williams, and physical education teacher Mr. Dunbar who supported the students and made this endeavor possible. Go Bollwage!

Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy





Ten of Elizabeth's finest musicians in grades 10-12 joined Kean University Wind Ensemble as part of the Kean high school honors band. Miss Foreman (Band Director at EHS-FJC) nominated these students to be a part of a three-day intensive workshop to learn collegiate level music from Dr. Thomas Connors and faculty of the Kean University Music Department who were impressed at the level of our students' musicianship. The performance took place at the Enlow Recital hall alongside

other area high schools participating in this event. Congratulations to students on a fine performance!

EHS – FJC would also like to congratulate Miss Meredith Foreman on her recent performance at the NAMM Show 2024 conference in Anaheim, CA. Miss Foreman is a member of Pat Petrillo's NYC Big Rhythm Band whose latest album was nominated for a Grammy Award! The album is called "The



Power Station Sessions" and features guest artists Nile Rogers, Lenny Pickett, Scott Ambush, Oz Noy, John Popper, and Felicia Collins. You can watch Miss

Foreman's performance at the NAMM Show on her YouTube channel @MeredithForemanMusic and see Pat Petrillo give a shoutout to Elizabeth, NJ on the big stage!

JVJ STEM Academy

In honor of Black History Month, seniors Jeremiah Laporte and Keisha Henriquez curated a presentation showcasing the impactful contributions of African American figures, both historical and contemporary.

They presented this to JVJ Stem Academy freshmen, concluding with an engaging questioning game. Moreover, the entire school actively participates in daily quizzes focused on key Black leaders and significant historical events. Mr. Panagopoulos rewards the first correct answers emailed to him with prizes.



Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Congratulations to ninth grade English teacher, Jennifer Martin-Melgarejo, on being featured as a Newsela Educator Spotlight.

Ms. Martin-Melgarejo is a leader in the utilization of Newsela to engage her students. She is an inspiration to students and staff. Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy is immensely proud of you!







John E. Dwyer Technology Academy Annex

The ninth-grade class celebrated Valentine's Day by putting together and delivering Candy Grams to staff and students! These fine students never hesitate to put a smile on anyone's face. Everyone's hearts will surely continue to warm and smile when they remember the thoughtfulness, joy, and togetherness of this Valentine's Day.

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and JVJ Stem Academy

Students participated in a 4-day revolutionary work-based learning program, created by WorkEd, that took students from discovery to career launch.

The Brooklyn STEAM Center, a New York City public school that sits among 400 businesses in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, an industrial park that serves as a hub of entrepreneurship and innovation, hosted this student Cybersecurity Discovery Externship. Students learned through hands-on projects and collaboration, under the guidance and mentorship of industry experts, alum, and educational leaders.



Speech and Debate Team

The Speech and Debate team competed at the 48th Annual Speech and Debate Tournament at UPenn. Students from around the tristate area competed at this national tournament. Several students from Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS) and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy (AHPA) successfully advanced to the outrounds in their respective events.

Alondra Villanueva, a senior at EHS-FJC, placed 3rd place in *Informative Speaking*.

Emely Herrera, a junior at EHS-FJC, received 2nd place in *Program Oral Interpretation*.



Desteny Padilla, senior at EHS-FJC, and Priscilla Jimenez, senior at AHPA, placed quarterfinal in *Original Oratory*.

Mumtaz Cooper, sophomore at AHPA, placed semifinal in Congressional Debate.

Also, the Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team competed at the Basking Ridge Invitational on January 27, 2024. The team took 10th place in *Team Sweepstakes* out of 35 schools.

Ahmed Abdellatif, junior at EHS-FJC, received 2nd place in *Informative Speaking*.

Yeimy Noboa, junior at EHS-FJC, received 4th place in *Informative Speaking*.

Janielys Ortiz, junior at EHS-FJC, received 4th place in Impromptu Speaking.

Catarina Fernandes, junior at EHS-FJC, received 4th place in Congressional Debate.

Mateo Bermudez, junior at EHS-FJC, took 5th place in Improvisational Acting.

Priscilla Jimenez, senior at AHPA, received 6th in Impromptu Speaking and Original Oratory.

Matthew Mendes, sophomore at EHS-FJC, placed semifinal in Congressional Debate.

Desteny Padilla, senior EHS-FJC, placed semifinal in Original Oratory and Impromptu Speaking.



Mateo Bermudez, junior at EHS-FJC, placed semifinal in *Humorous Interpretation*.

Hannah Bolhano, sophomore EHS-FJC, was top non advancing novice in *Radio Speaking*.



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy





Many great things are happening at Hamilton Academy!

The STEM Club, along with Science Teacher Ms. Ayesha Ali as advisor, built programmable music boxes. The students read about the history of music boxes. In part A, they built the keyboard frame, in part B, they finished the keyboard and fine-tuned the piano keys. In part C, they built the drum. In part D, they built the drum frame, and in part E, they attached the keyboard and drum to finish their music boxes! Not only could the students program the music boxes to play set tunes, but the best part of this activity was that the students could create their own tunes to play on these programmable music boxes!

Also, Hamilton Academy's Tomorrow's Teachers students are actively observing, assisting, and teaching lessons to students at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. "There's nothing better than walking into that classroom and seeing the students' faces brighten up. It's the most rewarding feeling ever knowing that I have had such an academic impact on my students," exclaimed Naima Lawand, a Hamilton senior. The future educators are enrolled in a Kean University Dual Enrollment program, where the high school students will receive college credits for completing their clinical experience in diverse and inclusive classrooms in elementary and middle

school classrooms at School No. 27. "My fieldwork experience so far has been really amazing. Working in the class and observing how the students work fascinates me, and I'm excited to start teaching and make an impact in the classroom," stated Joyce Velasquez, a Hamilton senior.

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

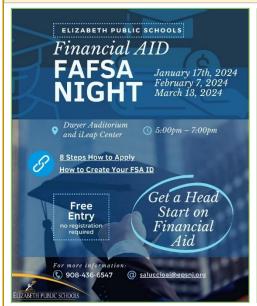
To celebrate the accomplishments African Americans have made to society, Halsey students have been busy with activities and lessons. Some of the activities include a Black History Month door contest, taking pictures with the Black History Month display created by our Multicultural Club, learning about African American inventors, watching inspirational speeches by important activists, creating civil rights freedom movement posters, and reading books written by African American authors. Students also celebrated Valentines Day by sending Valentines Grams!

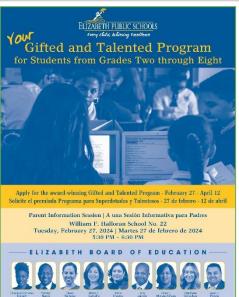


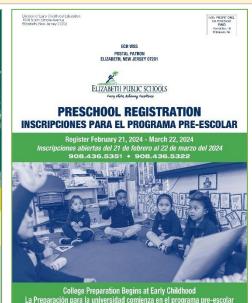




UPCOMING EVENTS











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