

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

April 2022

"If they can't learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn." – O. Ivar Lovaas

EPS Celebrates Autism Acceptance Month



On Saturday, April 2nd, the Elizabeth Public Schools partnered with the County of Union, the Elizabeth Education Association, Elizabeth Parents Support Group, Prevention Links, and the Elizabeth Community to kick off Autism Acceptance Month. Families enjoyed food, games, soccer, painting, and various other activities. A special thanks to everyone for their continued support.





Victor Mravlag School No. 21

On April 7th, students and team members celebrated their Annual Autism Acceptance Celebration. Upon arrival, visitors were offered complimentary beverages and snacks by the students in Homeroom 209. Distinguished guests, staff, and students celebrated by singing, dancing, and taking part in *sensory friendly* games together. The event began with the School No. 21 tradition of “Blowing Bubbles for Autism.” This activity is noted for fostering acceptance, a sense of community and an awareness for the importance of celebrating diversity.



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



This April, School No. 7 participated in *Light It Up Blue for Autism* in honor of World Autism Acceptance Month. Students in grades Pre-K- eighth were invited to decorate a blue paper light bulb with messages about inclusion and kindness. Over 1000 unique lightbulbs decorate the main hallway of the school.

The display also highlights how different countries around the world light famous landmarks up blue on World Autism Acceptance Day. They also had a special visit from Blue from Blue's Clues and other guests to help spread awareness about the importance of this cause. According to a Rutgers University study, 1 in 35 children in New Jersey have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.





Donald Stewart Center for ECC School No. 51



On April 1st, the children took part in the annual 'Light It Up Blue for Autism' event to celebrate World Acceptance Awareness Day. Students and teachers were invited to sing and dance to songs during large group time in the classroom. Mr. Kukla, the music teacher practiced the songs with the children during the month of March in preparation of this event. The songs included *We're Amazing 1, 2, 3*, by Leslie Kimmelman, *I See Things Differently* by Pat Thomas, *You Can Count on Me* by Bruno Mars and *Amazing Song* by Sesame Street. In the afternoon, students and team members gathered in the hallway to sing in unison to celebrate as a family.

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

On Saturday, April 2nd, students, families, and teachers were thrilled to participate in the Autism Acceptance Celebration at Matano Park – a free, outdoor event. This event was hosted by The Union County Board of County Commissioners, whose vision is “to make sure all residents feel included by creating the first office in New Jersey for people with special needs.” Music and lots of school spirit filled the air as everyone got a chance to attend soccer clinics, enjoy food stands, make crafts, and walk in the sunshine.





Elmora School No. 12

Students were given the opportunity to learn more about Autism during the month of April. CST members and Special Needs teachers visited several classes to present lessons on Autism and start discussions on how we can be more inclusive.

On Wednesday, April 13, the entire School 12 Family gathered on the school playground to create a human rainbow to honor special needs students and their families. The entire student body sang and signed “The World is a Rainbow” and cheered on honorees with “quiet celebrations” as students sang “Light it Up Blue.” Bilingual students sang the song “Color Esperanza,” and eighth grade AVID students presented their research and projects on Autism to the entire school and special guests.

Families, teachers, and staff members were honored by students with a blue carnation to say, “I appreciate you!” The event concluded with students taking photos at the photobooth and with a savory treat of popcorn!



For more photos,
visit www.epsnj.org





Woodrow Wilson School No. 19



As part of this Autism Acceptance Month, Pre-K and kindergarten students participated in the *Expanding Language Through Bubble Play* event. The aim of this event was to give students the opportunity to use language in a fun way to interact with their peers and teachers. As the outdoor area filled with bubbles, students practiced the use of play words like “open please” when the containers were tightly closed and “bubbles please” when they wanted a friend to blow more bubbles with them. These activities were a great way to get kids in all programs to practice interacting with their peers, as well as learning how, no matter their abilities for communicating, to have fun, play, and learn together.



Chessie Dentley Roberts School No. 30

Students *Light It Up Blue* by creating a school-wide mural to promote tolerance and awareness with student-driven puzzle pieces. All puzzle pieces are displayed in various bulletin boards throughout the school.

JVJ STEM Academy

In collaboration with Ms. Lamar's English class, students in Mrs. Richer's Transitional Program participated in a hands-on lesson in which they worked together to create a spectrum of light. Students were then asked to record their observations of the experiment and discuss how their findings relate to what they know about autism spectrum disorder. Students developed a deeper knowledge of the topic when a reference guide was introduced and were then asked to again relate the content to the material, they are covering in their English class and to their lives. Finally, a display was created to show creativity, awareness, and most of all acceptance.”





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



Halsey Bulldogs had so much fun celebrating Autism Acceptance Month. Students watched videos about what it is like to live with Autism and participated in the *Autism Acceptance Celebration* hosted by The Union County Board of County Commissioners. Halsey Bulldogs also participated in an *Autism Awareness Puzzle Scavenger Hunt*. Different colored puzzle pieces were hidden throughout the building. Students who found the most pieces won a prize. In addition, during lunches, students painted their hands with an open-heart space and wrote, “I care” and their name, to create a pretty mural.

Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3



Students and team members have been practicing the character trait of acceptance during the month of April and shared their message with the community during a walk for Autism awareness on April 14.

A sunny afternoon ushered hundreds of students around the perimeter of nearby O'Brien Field, setting the spotlight on waves of blue shirts, hats and student-made posters supporting Autism awareness and acceptance.

The walk culminated the school's theme of acceptance in support of diversity at all levels in school and in the community.



Winfield Scott School No. 2



School No. 2 is proud to have organized its first ever Autism Acceptance Spirit Week from April 11th-April 14th. Each day allowed to celebrate the spectrum of colors, abilities, and special talents that we all contribute to our community.

Students and team members wore tie-dye shirts to represent the autism spectrum, created puzzle pieces to demonstrate how we all fit together, and showed off our talents in homeroom classrooms to highlight all our unique abilities. On the last day of the Autism Awareness Spirit Week, there was a beautiful "Light it up Blue" parade with some special guests from around the school district to help spread awareness and grow acceptance for Autism. Students were dressed to school blanketed in blue holding balloons and banners. Students created signs in support of Autism that displayed statistics and quotes about Autism acceptance. Everyone paraded around the school, dancing and singing along the way. Everyone had a fun time supporting peers and learning while celebrating.



Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26



Students celebrated Autism Acceptance Month in a vibrant and creative way! The student government handed out puzzle pieces for students to design in their own unique way. Then each homeroom displayed their puzzles throughout the hallways of the school with pride.

This fit perfectly into the International Baccalaureate curriculum. The puzzle pieces served as a great reminder that everyone may be different, but together everyone is stronger when united!





Light It Up Blue



Elizabeth Public Schools is participating in the *Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue* campaign in observance of World Autism Month. Blue lights have already been installed at the entrances of many district schools and administrative offices, joining other businesses, organizations, and landmarks throughout the world in the effort to raise autism awareness. The blue lights will be in place throughout the month of April.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School 52

Many activities were held in recognition for *Autism Acceptance Month*. The annual *Parent & Me Activity* was held on April 8th. Mrs. Amanda's Pre-K special needs class, along with their parents, enjoyed painting with their children and enjoyed the outdoor playground. This allowed to build parent support and demonstrate the importance of celebrating acceptance.

Also, on April 12th, Board Member Diane Barbosa had a chance to read to one of the classes. She also handed out special treats and participated in a spring egg hunt with the Easter Bunny. The children and team members were honored to have Mrs. Barbosa join them in celebrating Autism Awareness Month.



Week of the Young Child

9



Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 & 5 Annex

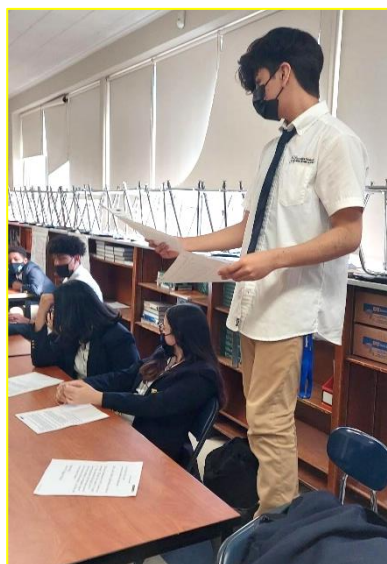


During Week of the Young Child, PreK-4 students in Ms. Alves and Ms. Colon's class participated in various activities, creating self portraits, making homemade ice cream and becoming famous artists. Other classes also took part in a variety of activities including making their own instruments, learning about their instruments, creating healthy snacks and working on various art projects. Families were also invited to read to students virtually. The students had loads of fun working together, learning, creating, and making a delicious treat.

Donald Stewart Center ECC School No. 51

The *Week of the Young Child* is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. In celebration of the *Week of the Young Child*, students participated in an array of school-wide activities that included reading books about nutrition and healthy eating habits and character building. Teachers geared their lessons on learning through music and movement and creating 3D art using recyclable materials. Students, teachers, and staff members showed their school spirit by wearing their school shirt and/or green which is their school color. Parents also participated in the celebration by working on the home/school connection project *My Family and Me*.





Hamilton Annex Students Experience Revolutionary Fervor



As part of the world history unit on the French Revolution, Mr. Day's students in **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex** engaged in an experiential exercise in which they experienced three stages of the Revolution. Each student assumed the role of an individual from revolutionary France – a monarch, a noble lord, a member of the clergy, or a commoner. In the first stage, students lived through the fiscal crisis under King Louis XVI. Then they experienced the moderate stage of the Revolution. Finally, they were immersed in revolutionary fervor as they reenacted the radical Reign of Terror. Each stage is followed up with a journal entry written from the character's perspective and a class debriefing. Always a favorite activity, the students are still talking about the Revolution!

Operation Gratitude



At **Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29**, students from Ms. Inghilleri's 6th grade classes and Mrs. Velaj's 5th grade class embraced the spirit of volunteerism through a *Paracord Bracelet-Making Challenge* to honor the Veterans that served in the Vietnam War.

Operation Gratitude's mission is to provide different opportunities to express gratitude to our Military. Students learned how to make quick-deploy Paracord Survival Bracelets with 550 Paracord supplied by the PTO. Several students contributed to the volunteer project and were able to make a total of 72 bracelets which will be donated to Operation Gratitude to help their mission of thanking each Vietnam Veteran around the country.

National Junior Honor Society



Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 is proud to announce that the Namaste Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 35 members on April 12, 2022. These students stand for the school in character, citizenship, leadership, service, and scholarship.



Mayor Bollwage Honors EHS Boys Basketball Team

On April 6th, the Honorable Mayor J. Christian Bollwage hosted a pizza party honoring the EHS Boys Basketball Team and their amazing NJSIAA Boys Basketball State Tournament run. The team was also commended for making it all the way to the Tournament of Champions final four. The individual members of the Minutemen basketball team presented Mayor Bollwage with a signed team poster commemorating their Group 4 State Championship. The event ended with a tour of city hall and city council chambers.



Cool Beans



As part of Special Services' initiative to build life skills, the students in Mrs. Jorgensen's class at **Victor Mravlag School No. 21** proudly debuted the "Cool Beans" snack cart service. The snack cart offers a variety of items for sale including chips, cookies, candy bars, and assorted beverages. Teachers and staff members even had the choice to pre-order coffee, expresso, and tea that is made to order by Mrs. Jorgensen's students. The *Cool Beans* cart provides an opportunity for students to build vocational and functional life skills such as money management, working as a team, problem-solving, and chances for social interaction. It has been a success and has brought smiles to the faces of everyone they visit!

Friendly Game



At **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9**, scholars went up against the Team 9 Staff in a friendly game of basketball. After months of grading, testing, teaching, and learning, basketball solves it all. At the end of an awfully close game, the Team 9 Staff were victorious, 29-26. It was a well-played game of grace and grit! Coach Angie Vaughn (Middle School Science Teacher) led the scholars. Coach Jorge Conde (3rd Grade Teacher) led Team 9 Staff while Kwao Taylor (PE Teacher) refereed the game.

Cherry Blossoms



Fifth grade art students at **Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23** have a group art exhibition called "Cherry Blossoms" on display at Elizabeth Public Library during the month of April. Students used pink and green construction paper, pink glitter, and green tissue paper to create cherry blossom collages to celebrate the spring season. Dr. Gillian Furniss, an art teacher, coordinated this event with the children's librarian Claudia Flores.



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Women's History Month Showcase



The Women's History Month Showcase was a student run production presented by drama, chorus, and dance students. Students researched influential women within the music and performance industry and highlighted their work or impact through scene work, dances, vocal performances, and a fashion show. The show also featured original scripts and choreography by middle school students.

First African American Female Firefighter

For Women's History Month, **Madison Monroe School No. 16** honored the first African American female firefighter of Elizabeth. Mrs. Gilliam, Kindergarten teacher coordinated and invited Miss Spence, Elizabeth's first African American Firefighter who met with all classes at School No. 16 and explained fire safety. She was joined by her father who is also a fire captain in the city of Elizabeth. Miss Spence discussed the importance of practicing a fire escape plan and the key role fire fighters make in the community.



Women's History Month



Mrs. Roldan's students from **Madison - Monroe School No. 16** participated in an activity to honor women in history as well as to celebrate Youth Art Month. The project highlighted women from around the world and women who work in science, arts, government, and sports. Each student researched one woman and had the opportunity to gain knowledge about her and see if they could identify with any of her traits and actions.

ImpACT "Last Blast Luau" Cheer and Dance Challenge

On Sunday, April 3, the Elizabeth Varsity Cheerleading Team competed at the 2022 ImpACT "Last Blast Luau" Cheer and Dance Challenge at RWJ Barnabas Arena in Toms River, NJ.

The Elizabeth Varsity Minutemen took home the win by earning 1st place in the High School All Music NCA Division. They also entered the *High School Game Day* NCA Division, taking 1st place over Trenton Catholic. Elizabeth High School now holds this title two years in a row.

*Special thanks for demonstrating
Excellence in Athletics!*



Yale and Harvard

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy is proud to announce two seniors, Fiza Shakeel was accepted into Yale University and Cesarina Marte Jimenez was accepted to Harvard University.



Both students have proved that with arduous work and determination, all dreams can become a reality.

*For more information on their journey,
please visit:*

[The Ivy Grows in Elizabeth - Dwyer Students Accepted to Yale & Harvard \(epsnj.org\)](https://www.epsnj.org/)



EPS Community Members Open Their Hearts by Donating “Toys for Change”

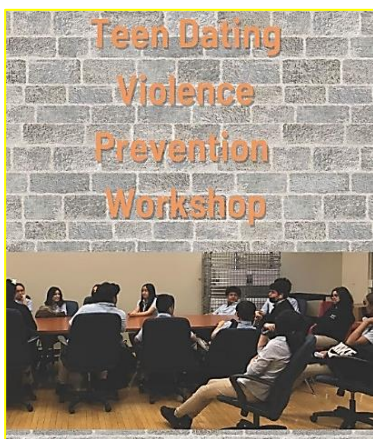
Who doesn't have a fuzzy memory of a favorite stuffed animal, kept close for those times when you needed a little extra support? The discussion of how we can help children in Ukraine began soon after the world received the troubling news. As the discussion grew, Elizabeth Team Members reflected on students who brought their favorite stuffed animal friends to school. These toys helped to calm nerves and transition to new environments. Elizabeth Public Schools would offer some comfort with the collection of new stuffed animals to help displaced children halfway around the world.

EPS partnered with Dr. Norma Rowe, director and board chair of Kean University's Be the Change NJ. Be the Change is a non-profit program dedicated to community service and activism projects that help promote peace and non-violence in urban neighborhoods. After communicating with Dr. Rowe, Ms. Edtya Drobiewska, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 Kindergarten teacher and Be the Change NJ board member, was identified to lead the project.

Toys for Change flyers were distributed to all members of the Elizabeth Public Schools learning community and boxes were filled with everything from baby toys to dragons, to unicorns, teddy bears, games, and even handmade cards flowed in as the Elizabeth learning community poured their hearts out to the children of Ukraine. These donations will make their way to Ukraine through a series of truck rides and either a plane or boat ride over to Poland.

For more information, please visit : [Elizabeth Public Schools Community Members Open Their Hearts by Donating “Toys for Change” \(epsnj.org\)](https://epsnj.org)





Teen Dating

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, **J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy's** Kim Musikant, School Social Worker, presented *Relationship Violence* to educate students and start conversations around teen dating violence. The students became more aware of how the cycle of abuse begins, teen dating statistics, and where to get help if you or someone you know is in a relationship where they are being abused, bullied, intimidated, and/or controlled by another person.

EHS Winter Color Guard Wins Three 2022 Scholastic A Competitions

The Elizabeth High School Winter Color Guard has won three Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network (MAIN) Class Scholastic A competitions in their return to competitive action after a decades-long absence.

Elizabeth, in their first competition of 2022 at Monroe High School, competed against five other schools from New Jersey and New York, including Mineola (Garden City, NY), Westfield, Southern Regional (Manahawkin, NJ), Pequannock (Pompton Plains, NJ), and Brick Memorial. Elizabeth, with an overall score of 80.220, outscored second place Mineola (75.860) by over four points.

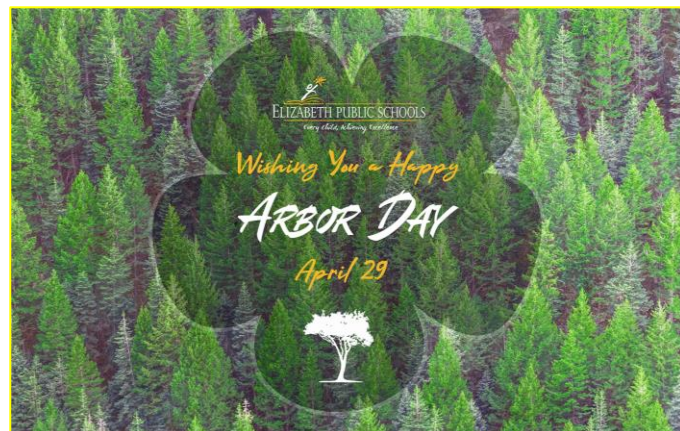
Elizabeth's victory in the MAIN Class Scholastic A Competition at Monroe represented an outstanding return to competition for the first time since the Elizabeth High School Winter Color Guard won the World Championships in Dayton, Ohio during the 1980s. The MAIN Class Scholastic Local A includes color guards that utilize intermediate level qualities in design and performance and exhibit training and design techniques that develop to a moderate level according to the WGI A class criteria.

Color guards are judged in four categories, each containing two subcategories, including Equipment (Vocabulary and Excellence), Movement (Vocabulary and Excellence), Design Analysis (Composition and Excellence), and General Effect (Repertoire and Performance) which was scored by two judges. The Elizabeth High School Color Guard received the highest score in six subcategories across three major categories, including a first-place sweep of General Effect from the two judges. The only major category in which they did not have a high score among the subcategories was Equipment, which they claimed second in both the Vocabulary and Excellence subcategories. They finished as low as third overall in only one subcategory (Movement- Excellence).



Elizabeth also recently won Class Scholastic A competitions on March 26 at Boyertown High School (Boyertown, PA), taking first place over Spring-Ford (Royersford, PA) by sweeping every subcategory en route to an overall score of 85.870, and on April 2 at Upper Dublin High School (Fort Washington, PA). The EHS color guard claimed the victory at Upper Dublin over Downingtown HS West (Downingtown, PA), Radnor (Wayne, PA), Spring-Ford, and Monroe (Monroe, NJ) with an overall score of 86.140, finishing nearly two full points over runner-up Downingtown HS West (84.180) while sweeping the Equipment category and finishing first or second among all subcategories.

Arbor Day Tree Planting Program



Ms. Keelen and her scientists present **Winfield Scott School No. 2's** new Dogwood Tree, Frosty! School No. 2 took part in the *2022 Arbor Day Tree Planting Program* sponsored by the Union County Board of County Commissioners and in conjunction with the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board. School No. 2 is honored to have this tree planted on school grounds to share its beauty and strength with the community. This tree will symbolize perseverance through challenging times.

Climate Action Superheroes

To celebrate Earth Day at **Christopher Columbus School No. 15**, Mrs. Raghavendra's 7th grade students became *Climate Action Superheroes*!

Students went on a mission to learn how to limit global warming and take care of our environment. Students took a pledge to do one action that will make the world around them a better place and more sustainable. They also read an article about how the fashion industry is contributing to global warming by making cheaper clothes that end up in the landfill or being burnt. Students decided to sign a petition asking the fashion industry to be regulated.



Gardening at School No. 27



Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 has been busy with their school garden. The garden club planted peas, lettuce, beets, potatoes and so much more. Students love getting the chance to water the vegetables and watch them grow.

Earth Day

In collaboration with Mrs. Schwartz's second grade class, from **iPrep Academy School No. 8**, art students created cities using recycled materials such as cardboard boxes, bottles, old paper, etc. for Earth Day. In addition, grades K-2 created pointillism bunnies that used paint that they made themselves by soaking dried up markers in water and allowing them to sit a few days. Students used these watercolors to then make works of art. Marker caps were also recycled into an old project sculpture project for a display. Eighth grade students created their own clay pot and planted seeds to grow in a classroom window garden. Classes discussed the importance of recycled and the ways they can improve cleaning up the planet in art class.



Earth Day Recycled Crafts



The second-grade students in Mrs. Sousa, Mrs. Morson, and Ms. Crismale's classes at **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14** created crafts that could help the Earth by using a variety of recycled items. Some projects included robots, bird feeders, jet packs, trucks and more! The students spoke about why it was important to recycle and assist in protecting the environment.

Also, middle school students in Mrs. Tenbroeck's science class showed their love for our planet by brainstorming ways they can help the environment and make slight changes for a better future. The students created posters to bring awareness to the school community about the importance of protecting our planet and taking action. Earth Day is about showing students those small actions can have a significant difference on the environment. It's about inspiring them to continue learning about all the ways to keep Earth clean.



Mrs. Perry's third grade bilingual classroom, from **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 Annex**, analyzed how reducing, reusing, and recycling products promotes a healthier environment. The students had an engineering task to take used items in their household and create a new and useful product. The engineers began with a Recycling Project Reflection, which was used as their blueprint before presenting the final product to the class.





Recycling is Fun

In celebration of Earth Day, Miss Sanchez's 2nd grade bilingual students from **Nicholas Murray School No. 23** created a recycled craft project. The students had to use recycled material to create a *recycled craft*.

Students used their imagination and chose what recycled material to incorporate in their projects. They also had to describe and to fill out the Recycle Project sheet to include the name of the craft, the materials used in making the craft, and the steps for making the craft.



Getting Fresh Air

Earth Day may be associated with advocacy and volunteering, but it's also an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature. And what better way to do that than taking your workout outside?

Elizabeth High School - Frank J Cicarell Academy's physical education students led fitness activities for their peers at Winfield Scott Park in front of the City Hall. The outdoor exercises in honor of Earth Day were loaded with perks for your mind and body.



Earth Day

Students in Mrs. Lopez's classroom, from **William F. Halloran School No. 22** celebrated Earth Day by learning about renewable and non-renewable natural resources and how to take care of our environment. They read some stories on Epic, watched some videos, planted some flowers, and then completed some projects.



8th Grade Art Workshop



Twenty eighth grade students from **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27** collaborated with the Visual Arts Center of NJ in a virtual field trip. With paper, pens, and stickers, the young artists explored internal and external thoughts, feelings, and expectations. They discussed how the process of making art is as important as the final product.

Cultural Boxes



Miss Sanchez's second grade bilingual class, from **Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23** created *Cultural Boxes* after the SEL class lesson. The students had to represent their culture by creating a box with all kinds of artifacts and pictures that would represent part of their culture. Once they completed their project, they were able to share their creations with the other students. The students went above and beyond to create wonderful masterpieces. It gave a great opportunity for all to learn about new cultures.

Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!



Picture This



classic book *Loveable Lyle*. The story was shared with the class through flipchart illustrations and letters written by the main character. Students were able to identify the story's symbolism and moral. They also came to understand how the story represented the current events of the 1960's. The lesson concluded with students writing a letter to the main character.

Reading material can come in all assorted sizes and shapes. This includes picture books which contain a wealth of information when teaching about allegory, symbolism, and cultural history.

Mrs. Vicki Lockhart of the Children's Literacy Initiative joined Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth grade class at Madison-Monroe School No. 16 to enjoy a lesson utilizing Bernard Waber's

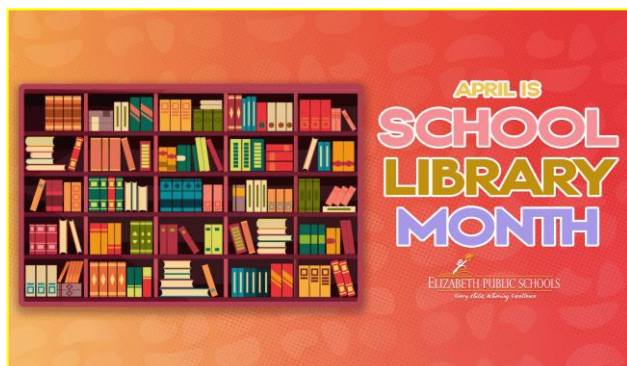
Check Out a Book

Christopher Columbus School No. 15 6th grade ELA teacher Ms. Meky celebrated library week with her class. This year, she color coded the books based on author and added as many new and varied books as she could find. Ms. Meky encouraged students to check out books and even opened it up to other middle school classes. By April, over 100 novels were checked out and returned.



#MYLIBRARY

In celebration of Library Month 2022, students at **Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28** were encouraged to connect to their libraries and share their experiences during class. The students were encouraged to visit the state-of-the-art Elizabeth Public Library, right here in their beautiful city and use the hashtag #mylibrary. Questions about their personal connections with their library included: Did you visit the library and borrow a book? Did you listen to a delightful story at the library?



Students enjoyed the special month by singing nursery rhymes, reading library poems and writing about What their library connects them too. Libraries open new possibilities, stay tuned to more library fun!

Italian Pasta Creations



Signora Wells' Italian II students at **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** have been studying food for the third marking period. Together, they watched a video on how to make pasta dough, took notes and created a one pager with the list of ingredients and steps in the target language. Then, to their surprise the next day, the ingredients were laid out on tables, and they had to follow their recipe and make the dough. They were able to make a variety of shapes including but not limited to tagliatelle, farfalle, macaroni, cavatelli and orecchiette with a variety of common household tools. Buon appetite!

Miniature Foods



Throughout the month of April, under the direction of Mrs. Serralheiro, students from **iPrep Academy School No. 8** participated in creating hyper-realistic food art using model magic, watercolors, and various materials.

Kindergarten students read *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems in art class, focusing on the importance of sharing and treating others kindly then made realistic sundaes. All other grade levels had options to make cultural foods or desserts, focusing on the theme of *Miniature Foods*.



John E. Dwyer Technology Academy



Ramadan is a special time of the year for Muslims around the world. It is the ninth month in 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 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 get 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.

If you would like to give a Muslim colleague or student heartfelt wishes for Ramadan or Eid, you can say "Ramadan Kareem" or "Ramadan Mubarak" and "Eid Mubarak."

Halloran Headlines

William F. Halloran School No. 22 has started their Halloran Headlines! Presented by the technology classes and the afterschool program, Halloran Headlines provide video announcements on student success and any exciting events at the school.

Ranging from the spotlight on the arts to the technology tips of the week, the Halloran Headlines are a wonderful way to stay connected with school news. Students function as reporters, writers, and photographers to keep their school community up to date with the latest and greatest in Husky news.



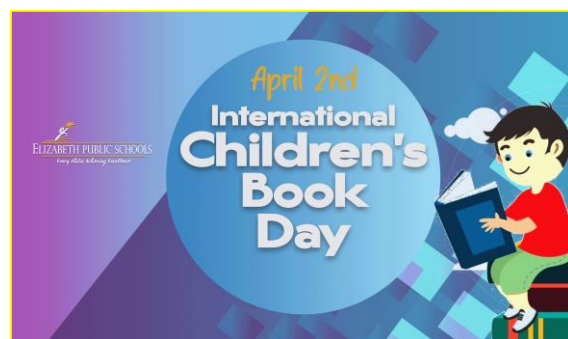
International Children's Book Day



Young Writers of America invited eighth grade students, from **Elmora School No. 12**, to participate in a *Ridiculous Writing* contest. The contest was open for all middle school students in the United States of America. In the fall, under the guidance of LAL Teacher Mrs. Lopes, seven students from School 12 participated in this contest and are now published authors!

To enter the contest, students had to create a ridiculous story that would not exceed 100 words. With the permission of the young authors and their caregivers, the company published the book and is now available for purchase.

Congratulations Young Writers!





Jefferson Arts Academy Student Named NJ Poetry Out Loud State Champion

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy junior Italy Ja'Rae Lee (Whitehead) has been named State Champion of the 2022 NJ Poetry Out Loud (NJPOL) Competition after competing against nine other participants who advanced from regional competition.

Lee will represent New Jersey at the National Finals and compete against champions from 55 states and territories. All participants will compete for the national title and the chance to win prizes including college scholarships totaling \$50,000.

Poetry Out Loud is a free national program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation that encourages high school students across the country to learn about great works of classic and contemporary poetry through memorization and recitation. Participating students share their interpretation and delivery of poetry while competing for awards and scholarships.

Lee had advanced to the NJPOL state final as one of two competitors selected from the Region 5 competition. As the New Jersey champion, she will take part in the national semifinals that will stream on Sunday, May 1, with the top nine students advancing to the national finals, that will stream on Sunday, June 5. Both the semifinals and finals will be streamed at arts.gov.

For more information, please visit [Jefferson Arts Academy Student Named NJ Poetry Out Loud State Champion \(epsnj.org\)](https://epsnj.org)

Special thanks for demonstrating Excellence in the Arts!



NJSCA Conference

On April 1st, the **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's** School Counseling Department attended the New Jersey School Counselor Association Spring Conference hosted by Kean University. Counselors were able to select from over fifteen workshops and attend a campus tour. The general focus was on the unique role school counselors play in supporting students and promoting equity.



Animal Farm School Project Explores Power and Corruption



After reading *Animal Farm*, Mrs. Furnback's English students in **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex** were asked to create a private school, where they were active students, as well as the acting school administrators. They were asked to describe all facets of the school, including funding, extracurricular programs, designing the campus and school building, and creating a flag representing the school's colors, mascot and motto. The purpose of the activity was to challenge students not to become corrupted by their newly given power and create propaganda which displays their school's core values, persuades current students to stay, while also persuading new students to enroll.



celebrate

2022

May 3	Teacher Appreciation Day
May 4	National School Nurse Day
May 8	Mother's Day
May 15	International Day of Families
May 30	Memorial Day
May 1-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 1-7	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
May 6-12	National Nurses Week
Whole Month	Asian-Pacific Heritage Month
Whole Month	Better Hearing & Speech Month
Whole Month	Mental Health Awareness Month
Whole Month	National Military Appreciation Month

in the month of

May



***You are empowered to achieve
Excellence!***

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

enews@epsnj.org

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