

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

EXCELLENCE NEWS

EVERY CHILD, ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

May/June 2022

“Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.” Ralph Marston

Stuff-A-Bus

The Elizabeth Board of Education, in partnership with the Moving New Jersey Forward Foundation and Quattro Real Estate Investment, organized a food and equipment drive to support the Ukrainian refugees who have been displaced by the ongoing war in Ukraine. From Monday, April 25 through Thursday, April 28, Elizabeth Public Schools collected non-perishable food items (canned foods, rice bags, water, dried meat, and baby formulas) and equipment (first aid supplies, blankets and thermal blankets, headlight/flashlight, batteries, hygiene products, sleeping bags, gloves, and clothing).

On April 29, the Elizabeth Public Schools traveling “Stuff-A-Bus” made stops at schools and administrative offices throughout the district to pick up all the donated items which will eventually make their way to Ukraine to aid its people.

The Elizabeth Board of Education, Elizabeth Public Schools, and partners Moving New Jersey Forward Foundation and Quattro Real Estate Investment hope that these items collected will help support and raise the spirits of the people of Ukraine during these most challenging times and circumstances.



For more photos,
please visit
www.epsnj.org





Elmora School No. 12

Students created meaningful cards, projects, and gifts for the special someone in their life this Mother's Day.

Dr. Kroik led the school chorus in surprising teachers and staff members by singing the heartwarming song, *And I Love Her Cause She's My Mom!* during morning announcements.

School No. 12 recognized and honored the many mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and special loved ones who constantly empower, support, and encourage their children to be the best versions of themselves. School No. 12 would like to wish all the Elizabeth Public Schools community a wonderful, Happy Mother's Day!



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

Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating teachers and mothers. Each teacher received a bundle of school supplies and had a chance to win a grand prize. Halsey Academy held their very own special Teacher Edition of Halsey RISE Shoutouts! Students were asked to nominate their teachers. It was nice to hear all the positive messages students wrote about their teachers. Teachers were also provided with a nice breakfast on the last day of Teacher Appreciation Week.



In honor of Mother's Day, students from the Saturday SEL program made breakfast and delivered it to all the mothers in the building. Team members were incredibly grateful and appreciated the nice gesture!



J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

The National Education Association (NEA) describes Teacher Appreciation Week as *a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make in our lives.* Teacher Appreciation Week began with a tasty breakfast to honor the dedicated team of educators. The students participated in various activities, including creating inspirational posters throughout the building and thank you notes to express gratitude for their incredible teachers. Here is a photo of some 9th grade students having a lighthearted moment with their teacher, Mrs. Christodoulakis.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

The NJFEA club and Yearbook staff co-sponsored a fun activity this school year to celebrate their instructional staff during Teacher Appreciation week. Traditionally, the senior class votes on student superlatives but this year 20 teacher superlatives were added to the voting! Everything from “Best Dressed” to “Most Likely to Accidentally be Called Mom or Dad” were selected and voted on by over 200 students in the class of 2022. Every day new titles were shared and celebrated with certificates delivered by NJ Future Educator students.



Robert Morris School No. 18 and 18 Annex

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, School No. 18 asked staff, parents, and students to make and send in flowers with messages of gratitude and appreciation. Staff members were so excited to collect and read all the personalized messages that were sent in for them. Many staff members displayed their flowers on their classroom doors. The families expressed that they really enjoyed being a part of this activity.

Hamilton AVID Leadership Club Celebrates Teachers

Would you like to recognize that special teacher who encouraged you to be your best self or brightened your day with their classroom style and have a chance to win a little something for them and yourself? This is the question the Hamilton AVID Leadership Club posed to their peers. The club found a quote, “The influence of a good teacher can never be erased,” that they felt was the perfect description of relationships they had forged with teachers at **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** and sponsored a letter writing campaign for teacher appreciation week.



Group members encouraged their peers to write a letter to an unforgettable Hamilton teacher telling them why they appreciate them or found them to be “unerasable.” The top five, would result in a gift for the teacher it was written to and a chance at a gift card for all students who participated. The response was so overwhelming, with over 200 letters submitted, that the committee had to split the task of reading the submissions between two meeting dates and will announce the winning letters after their May 26 meeting. Club V.P. Vicky Salazar was thrilled to see the outpouring of sentiments students were sharing with the teachers and looks forward to the club members delivering all letters to the receiving teachers.

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Teachers are the Heart of School



Exceptional teachers are the heart of the school. They go out of their way to help students achieve their goals. They are fully engaged in the kind of teaching and learning that fosters curiosity and kindness.

Principal DiFonzo, Vice Principal Hasegawa, and School Social Worker Luciano, took the time to acknowledge special education teachers Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Roldan and their teacher assistants Mrs. Merlo and Ms. Fisher for their arduous work in teaching and helping students. Their students were reminded that having patience, working hard, and believing in themselves are keys for success. They were also acknowledged for their hard work throughout the school year.



Multicultural Celebrations

John Marshall School No. 20

School No. 20 would like to acknowledge the wonderful job students did in their Multicultural Events throughout the school. They wore shirts that represented their roots, brought in artifacts for a Show and Tell, and made paper dolls representing their heritage. They had so much fun, and all worked so hard. Everyone also participated in making a cultural quilt that represented cultures from all around the world. The celebrations concluded with a *Multicultural Parade*. Students walked the school dressed in their cultural clothing, a beautiful reminder of where they all came from. The hard work and dedication put into their assignment is just the beginning of their commitment to School No. 20 and their education.



Elmora School No. 12

Multiculturalism with a beautiful parade highlighting its culturally diverse students, staff, and families. Students adorned cultural attire specific to their representative countries as well as the ever-popular soccer jerseys. The opening ceremony began with a speech by former Bilingual/ESL student, Oscarlyn Sanchez - Rodriguez. He thanked all the dedicated and hardworking teachers he had throughout his academic career. Students presented a pink rose to all the Bilingual and ESL teachers demonstrating great appreciation for their hard work and sacrifice. AVID students read various quotes that honor multiculturalism. Students in Dr. Kroik's Chorus sang "Hello to all of the people of the world" in many different languages. Parents and family members gathered outside the school cheering students as they paraded around the school in their traditional clothing waving small American flags to Neil Diamond's song, "Coming to America." Inside the school, hallways and bulletin boards are decorated with students' multicultural artwork, writing, and projects.



iPrep Academy School No. 8



Grade level door decorating contests took place where students and staff decorated their doors with artwork from a country that they selected. Winners that were selected by grade level included Mrs. Cortes's first grade class, Mrs. Mitola's fourth grade class, and Mrs. Fischetti's seventh/eighth grade classes.

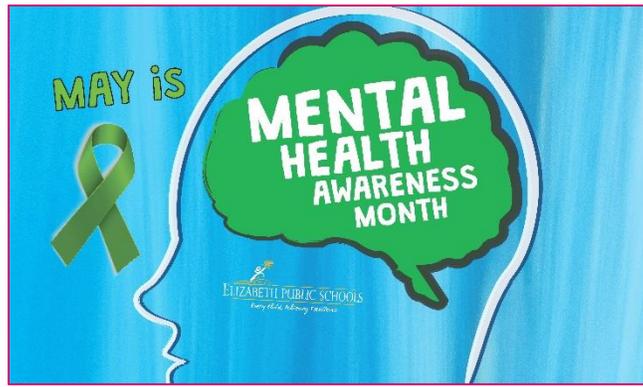


Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3

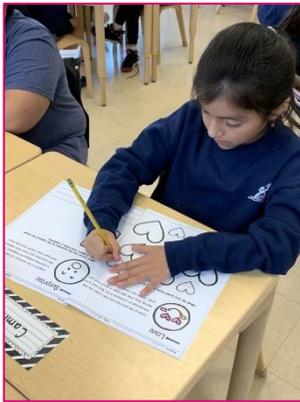
Radiant displays of culture celebrating the diversity of its students, staff and community, as well as exploration of communities from around the world, took place during a week-long celebration.



For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org



Victor Mravlag School No. 21



May is mental health awareness month, a time to remember that your mental health is essential to your overall health. School No. 21 makes sure to keep mental health at the forefront by conducting “Mental Health Mondays” where students and staff participate in schoolwide mental health lessons. Additionally, scholars have the option to participate in the lunch bunch and afterschool social emotional groups as well as participate in the kindness challenge. School No. 21 believes mental health is the greatest wealth!

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

Bollwage Academy is committed to the well-being of each student and staff member, and a critical part of that well-being is nurturing our mental health. One of the ways to take care of our mental health is through positive affirmations - a form of self-talk where you tell yourself supportive, encouraging things. Students and staff wrote positive affirmations, which were placed all over the Mental Health Awareness Month Bulletin Board. Opening conversations around mental wellness helps reduce the stigma associated with mental health, vital to overall wellness.



Spring has Sprung



Spring is in the air at **Victor Mravlag School No 21!** 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, brooder box, and overall, how to take care of the chicks. Students were lucky enough to see all 12 eggs hatch!

Ms. Flynn's Fish

Someone wasn't feeling well in Ms. Flynn's homeroom from **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31** recently, but instead of writing a nurse pass, she thought that her students would do an excellent job of taking care of the situation on their own. After all, they were the first to notice that the class fish looked different-it was starting to turn a darker color and it looked less active than before.

Students recorded their observations of both the fish and the environmental factors and discussed any changes they noticed. They have been learning about how living things interact with their environment and the impact that changes have on the entire ecosystem. They determined that changing the water would be the first solution to test. Students were relieved when the fish perked up right away and his color improved by the next morning!



Tree Day

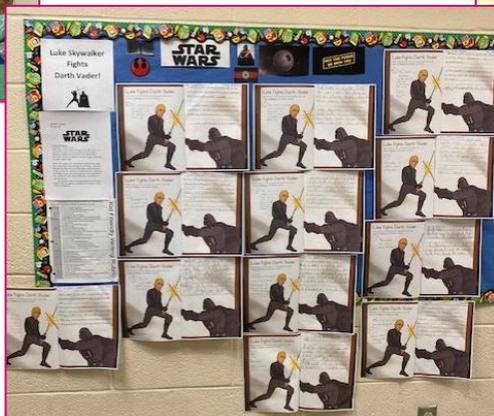


Tree Day
 Arbor Day the day of trees
 And all the beautiful color leaves
 The green tree flowing through the spring air
 The warm sun glistening on your skin
 The sensational fresh spring air running to your nose
 The bright green grass on your warm skin
 The trees are big and strong
 Their branches slim and long
 Trees give us oxygen
 They give us air
 We give them love
 We give them care
 Trees are bright and green
 With beautiful color leaves
 Trees are wonderful just how they are seen
 Arbor Day the translation of Tree Day

Joseph Battin School No. 4 is proud to announce that 8th grade student, Emely Ramirez, has won 3rd place in the Young Writers of Union County poetry contest. Her poem *Tree Day* was supervised by 8th grade ELA teacher Shara Greenberg. Emely has been invited to attend the Union County Board of County Commissioners Meeting on May 12th where she will receive an award and read her poem. Congratulations to Emely for her amazing poem!

Star Wars Day - May 4th

Ms. Gaines' 2nd grade class from **Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28**, thoroughly enjoyed Star Wars Day. The class used "The Force", to complete an empathetic writing prompt discussing the challenge Luke Skywalker faced having to fight Darth Vader, his father. The day continued with the creation of headbands of everyone's favorite Star Wars character, Baby Yoda. The day culminated with a Star Wars styled celebration, which included the infamous Star Wars, "Blue Milk."



Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Digs in!



Through a Union County Kids Dig In! School Garden Grant Program sponsored through Union County Board of County Commissioners, **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5** implemented a Garden Club with students and staff. A Kickoff celebration took place on Tuesday, May 3. Students and staff were accompanied by elected officials and a representative from Groundworks Elizabeth. This initiative will facilitate students' awareness of and appreciation for harvesting of crops and healthy eating through a connection of the environment and earth. This initiative will be implemented via weekly chores to promote responsibility, teamwork, and leadership skills. An educational component will also be interwoven into the program as the students will receive lessons regarding the life cycle of the plants, discuss pollinator procedures and benefits to environment, among other science related topics.

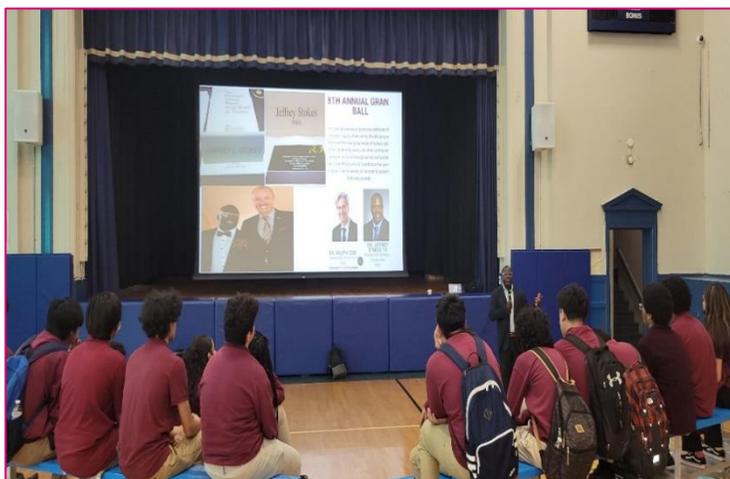


Planting School 50's Garden



On May 23, **Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50** worked to plant the school garden. The entire school community, including Councilwoman Bette Jane Kowalski, Principal Kathy DiProfio, PTO President Marta Rodriguez, teachers, students & families planted small vegetable plants provided by Groundworks Elizabeth. Crops include tomatoes, pepper, collards, eggplant, cucumbers, okra, and herbs. Harvesting will take place over the next 5 to 6 months, as students have hands-on learning about seeds, plant growth and needs, and harvesting of produce.

GE's Offshore Wind Transmission Project



Nuclear Engineer and Senior Director of Energy at PSEG, Jeffrey Stokes presented *GE's Offshore Wind Transmission Project*. Students from **JVJ STEM Academy** learned about a future to a more efficient energy source.

Mr. Stokes shared a presentation focused on PSEG \$500 million Project "Offshore Mega Wind Turbines." Each turbine is named after a Greek mythology sea monster, and this is New Jersey's future offshore energy source. During his presentation, students asked questions about the project. They were curious to know about his personal experience as a high school and college student. Mr. Stokes inspired and motivated students to pursue careers in higher education. He also shared with students' the necessary academic and experience requirements in pursuit of their career goals.

Teen Arts Festival



This year Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs hosted a Teen Arts Festival for all the Union County area teens. It was the first year that the event has not been at Union County College since the pandemic. Yet, as actors say... “the show must go on!” Therefore, a new venue was acquired at the Watchung Reservation-Trailside Nature & Science Center of Mountainside, New Jersey.

This two-day event was for middle school and high school students who would show case their talents for their peers and professional judges. Events, workshops, and critiques were held outdoors so more people were able to enjoy the day safely. **Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30’s** Visual and Performing Art Students were able to participate in several workshops and made some items to take home. They were professionally critiqued, and were able see artworks, theatre, dance, band, and choir performances of various schools. It was truly a special day!

Special Olympics Track and Field Our Way



Heavy rains may have cancelled the official NJ Special Olympics Area 5 Track and Field events earlier this Spring, but **Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28’s** students still wanted to participate, so staff, students, and administration worked together to make it happen on June 13. Special Services supervisor Jose Rodriguez, set up the field and multiple disabilities teachers, Mackenzie Giorgio, Donna Walker, and Carla Cruz turned into coaches along with speech therapist Susane Dardeir with full support from Child Study Team and personal assistants and even the Elizabeth Police Department stopped by to show their support! Events included a 25m and 50 dash, tennis ball throw, javelin throw, and long jump. Gold, silver, and bronze awards were presented at the end as they would have been at the Olympics. Everyone had a great time.

Nurse Scholarship Winner



Katherine Medina, a senior at the **Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy**, was the Union County School Nurses Association nurse scholarship winner this year. She plans on attending college in the fall to pursue a degree in nursing. She recently completed an EMT course through her high school and obtained her NREMT certification after sitting for the examination.

Katherine explained that she felt drawn to the field of nursing as a career choice due to her passion and urge to help people. She was also attracted to the field because she realizes that nurses can work with diverse populations and grow professionally and personally. She is an excellent student, and she was highly recommended for the award by her teachers. The UCSNA sponsors the nursing scholarship annually to encourage students to consider nursing as a profession.



Happy Nurse's Week!

Students at **Elmora School No.12** honored Ms. Lisa Gentile, school nurse, during Nurse Appreciation Week with flowers, balloons, and handwritten cards. AVID students in Mrs. Sandholm's 7th Grade ELA class created a poster to hang outside of Nurse Gentile's door. Thank you to all EPS nurses for all your arduous work, dedication, and kindness. School No. 12 is grateful for Nurse Gentile today and every day!



Haitian Flag Day

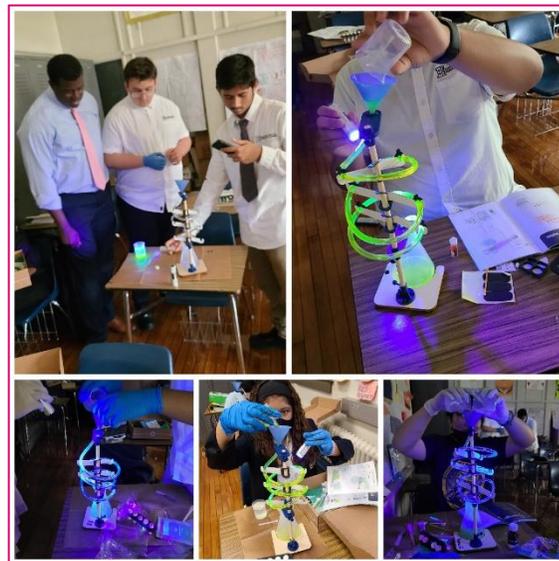


On May 18, Ms. Page and her Middle School Scholars celebrated Haitian Flag Day here at **John Marshall School No. 20**. They created a display in front of Ms. Page's classroom to remember key leaders Jean - Jacques Dessalines (The founding father of the Haitian Nation), General Toussaint Louverture, and King Henri Christophe (Former slave and the only King of Haiti) in the 1804 Haitian Revolution. Haitian Flag Day is a Day where Haitians and displaced Africans across the diaspora honor the 1804 revolution (the largest slave revolt in human history). Furthermore, it is a celebration of Haitian culture, identity, traditions, language, national pride, and the resilience of the people.

The Glow Lab

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy STEM Club students participated in the Glow Lab. So, what is the Glow Lab? Ms. Ayesha Ali, the STEM Club Advisor explained, "The students developed a model to demonstrate how the occurrence of endothermic and exothermic reactions depend upon the changes in the total bond energy in a chemical reaction system."

The students were able to see the phenomena of fluorescence, phosphorescence and chemiluminescence, in action. They researched bioluminescence, which they compared with the phenomena. They used ultraviolet light, spiral stands, and different solutions they prepared during the experiment. Student Gisselle Moreno said this about the experience, "The Glow Lab was engaging and educational." Student Joseph Quinn-Vitabile stated, "I gained a whole new insight into how and why materials glow, based on their interactions with other substances." The unanimous verdict of the students was that doing scientific experiments is an eye-opener in many ways and is exhilarating, to boot.



Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!





JiJi Day Celebration

JiJi is the penguin who guides students from **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** through their ST Math journey.

JiJi challenges students to think through, attempt, and solve challenging mathematical puzzles. This year, JiJi Day took place on April 29 and JiJi is celebrating 25 years of helping students through their math journey. Ms. Gilliam, Kindergarten teacher and Mrs. Alameda, 3rd grade teacher, created various math activities including penguin ziplining,

creating forts for penguins, making penguins out of Oreos, addition and subtraction games, and numerous counting games.



Celebrating National Police Week



In celebration of National Police Week, Mrs. McDonald and Ms. Crismale collaborated to organize an opportunity for the scholars of **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14** to write letters of gratitude to the brave men and women of the Elizabeth Police Department. Students were excited to show their appreciation to the officers for their involvement in the community. The letters were handed out to various police officers of the EPD, including special deliveries to 1st grader Madelynn's dad, Officer Calvo, and Detective Gonzalez.

Thank You, Officers!





School No. 27 Honors a Former Student

On May 15, the Annual Elizabeth Promise Awards were held. The Elizabeth Promise Awards dedicates all proceeds to the college-related costs of deserving Elizabeth seniors. This year, **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27's** PTO proudly sponsored a former student at this event. The scholarship was granted to Maria Gomez Gomez, a high school senior at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Safety Academy. Ms. Gomez has a 4.69 GPA and is ranked No. 1 in her class. Maria attended School No. 27 for elementary and middle school grades. Ms. Gomez is in the process of getting both her EMT License and Real Estate License. She has also decided to attend the Rutgers School of Nursing in the fall.

According to Maria, one of her fondest memories of School No. 27 *“were the project-based learning activities during multicultural week. This was my favorite time of the year because I learned from my peers, teachers, and other school mates about cultures from all around the world. I felt represented and school felt like home. It was thrilling to especially do the mini parades in the halls around the school, seeing how everyone came together for a purpose - to celebrate and accept diversity.”* The Dr. Antonia Pantoja Family of Sharks are immensely proud and wish Maria the best in her future and academic endeavors.



Week of the Child Young



During small group time-read aloud, Quad 1 classrooms 111, 113, 114 and 116, from **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52**, read the book *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Connor. *Fancy Nancy* provides the children inspirations in academic performance such as learning superior language through the vocabulary and descriptions of feelings. Also, how to dress colorful in an effortless way. More importantly, it teaches the children fundamental values such as empathy, tenderness, enthusiasm, and love for the family. During the week, all activities were related to the story and students created a Science experiment based on the colors.

In Language Arts Literacy, students learned new vocabulary through Power Point presentation as well as description of the clothes, and in Mathematics creating patterns. The children did role play Nancy and her family during work time and finished with a parade. Parents were integrated to the lesson through teachers' communication, which included some simple but interesting ideas of how to style the clothes of the young learners. Their response was magnificent and they participated by helping their child with their outfit to perform in a unique way. The children came to school dressed up having the opportunity to walk in the hallway sharing with their classmates' enthusiasm and smiles.

Hamilton at *Hamilton* on Broadway

Students from **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** participated in the Hamilton Education Workshop at Richard Rodgers Theater in New York City. AHPA had been invited to participate in the Hamilton Education Workshop put on by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and by cast members of the hit Broadway Musical, *Hamilton*.

Students worked passionately in their history and Financial Literacy classes to complete their required projects for the Hamilton Education Workshop. Students worked individually, in pairs or in groups of 3 to create their own original spoken word, rap, song or skit from the Founding Era. All projects were submitted to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute then reviewed all submitted projects and chose a select few for performance at the workshop. Before the matinee began, the mayor of New York City, Eric Adams, addressed the student audience with an inspirational speech. He emphasized the importance of students creating their own story and focusing on what they want to leave behind as their legacy.

After students viewed the matinee performance of *Hamilton*, the Hamilton students engaged in a question-and-answer session with the cast from *Hamilton* on Broadway. The students were able to interact with the actors, who answered several questions from the AHPA students.



Penny Wars

During the week of May 9-13, **iPrep Academy School No. 8's** students participated in *Penny Wars*, a fundraising competition where all grade levels collect coins and bills to score or take away points based on the amount and denomination collected. Each grade has a bucket for collecting the money and the grade with the most amount of points wins a pizza party/dressed down day. The winners for this competition were the 5th grade classes.



1, 2, 3, 4 WE DECLARE A PENNYWAR!	
May 9-13, iPrep Academy will be having a Pennywar. This will be collecting coins and bills, all grades will collect coins and bills for money to contribute to the school and community in our 2022. Each grade has a bucket for collecting the money and the grade with the most money will win.	
Add	Subtract
1 penny = +1 point	1 penny = -1 point
5 pennies = +5 points	5 pennies = -5 points
10 pennies = +10 points	10 pennies = -10 points
20 pennies = +20 points	20 pennies = -20 points
50 pennies = +50 points	50 pennies = -50 points
100 pennies = +100 points	100 pennies = -100 points
1 dollar = +1000 points	1 dollar = -1000 points
5 dollars = +5000 points	5 dollars = -5000 points

Cycles of the Moon



Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28, celebrated district's diversity during the month of Ramadan. One class in particular, Mrs. Woodley's Pre-K, created multiple lessons around the topic including learning about the cycles of the moon, identifying what fasting is and thinking about how that would feel to do, creating crafts including a painted paper fanooz (lantern), learning about what it means to be kind and how to show this at school, at home, and in our community, and read several books about different cultural celebrations. The month ended with the school's two speech therapists, Dr. Dardeir and Mrs. Sumrein, making moon sighting binoculars with the class. A lot of fun was had while increasing awareness of others and helping everyone feel included.

Asia Pacific Island Activity

China is more than six thousand miles away from Elizabeth, New Jersey. Yet, it did not seem that way as students began to design their own traditional hanfus. A hanfu is a traditional Chinese dress. The class designs were inspired by small group class readings of *The Hundred Dresses* in Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth grade class at **Madison-Monroe School No. 16**. Students wondered what the clothing in the book might have looked like if designed in another country. Using the core novel *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* as a starting point, students became stylists and designed their own traditional costumes for the characters. Reading helped students go on a fabulous design adventure!



Week of the Young Child

Students at **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52** enjoyed a fun-filled week of hands-on, collaborative activities encouraging movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art. Each day highlighted a theme with corresponding activities.

- *Music Monday:*

Teachers played the children's favorite *Music Monday!* song in the classroom. Learning is fun through music and movement.

- *Tasty Tuesday:*

The children discussed their favorite healthy foods, why healthy eating is important, and how eating healthy helps us grow and learn.

- *Work Together Wednesday:*

The children worked together to build and create throughout the day.

- *Artsy Thursday:*

The children explored the Art Area and displayed their abilities through drawing, painting, coloring and/or creating.



Both the children and team members were enthusiastic participants, while celebrating children and the importance of learning!

National Dance Week

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 celebrated National Dance Week with its annual TCR Dance Mob held on April 28, 2022. Students and staff joined together for a day of dance to not only celebrate the creative art form, but also the School 7 family used this year's dance mob routine, *Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile*, to promote kindness, respect, antibullying, inclusion and community. The day was shared with parents and community members as the students filled the playground with joyous dance.

Please visit [Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 celebrated National Dance Week with its annual TCR Dance Mob \(epsnj.org\)](https://www.epsnj.org/terence-c-reilly-school-no-7-celebrated-national-dance-week-with-its-annual-tcr-dance-mob) to see this wonderful video.

29th Annual Academic Excellence Awards Dinner

The top 100 students from the graduating Class of 2022 and Governor's Educators of the Year from Elizabeth Public Schools eight high schools were honored at the 29th Annual Academic Excellence Awards Dinner at The Westwood in Garwood on May 26. Among those to speak at the event were City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth Board of Education President Rosa Moreno Ortega, Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, and overall, Class of 2022 Valedictorian Aidan J. Munoz from Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy.



Please visit [Academic Excellence Awards Dinner \(epsnj.org\)](https://www.epsnj.org/academic-excellence-awards-dinner)

Terence C. Reilly Presents, "BITS OF BROADWAY"

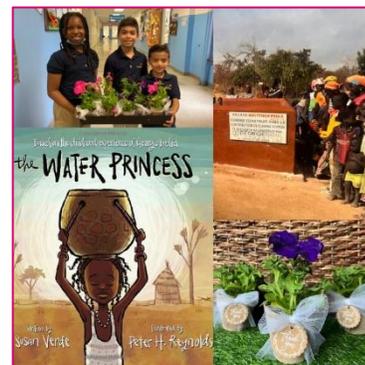


Terence C. Reilly School No. 7's fourth through eighth grade students that participated in the afterschool arts program gave two performances of their musical revue, "BITS OF BROADWAY" on June 2 and 3.

Under the direction of Mrs. Caitlin Camuccio and Mrs. Kelly McHugh, with musical direction from Ms. Iman Coachman and choreography by Mrs. Madruga Miller, students performed snippets from four different Broadway shows: "Hairspray", "Matilda", "Wicked", and "Shrek". Students met three days a week to rehearse afterschool and were extremely excited to be able to display their hard work by performing for their student body.

Water Well Project at Elmora School No. 12

For Multicultural Awareness Month, the entire student body at **Elmora School No. 12** read Georgie Badiel's story, "The Water Princess" and became aware of the importance of water and the hardships many youngsters go through daily in Africa. School No. 12 sold flowers as a fundraiser and together we raised cultural awareness and over \$1,000.00. This money was raised to help maintain School 12's Water Well in Burkina Faso, Africa so children would have access to clean water.



Visual/Performing Arts Activities

Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 students participated in visual/performing arts activities in the K-8 Afterschool Enrichment Program. Students made new friends, learned new skills, and gained a better understanding of their challenges and abilities. The after-school learning environment was fun, nurturing, and all inclusive. Students produced several works in painting, drawing, sewing, storytelling, illustrated digital storyboards, mask making, jewelry design, and clay works! Because students had so much fun in afterschool, often they wanted to bring projects and supplies home to continue working their masterpieces.



Elizabeth Municipal Courthouse

Twenty students from **William F. Halloran School No. 22** attended a field trip at the Elizabeth Municipal Courthouse. This unique opportunity allowed students to learn more about judicial procedures. Honorable Judge Roman Montes hosted and briefed students on how the judicial system oversees local cases varying from traffic to city ordinance violations. One student, interested in becoming a lawyer stated, “Attending the courthouse helped me better understand how the court system works versus just reading about it in social studies class.” Throughout the tour, students gained more knowledge about police training, how police conduct investigations and interviews and the role of dispatchers. “It was a new experience, learning more about how the police department monitors the City of Elizabeth and how they solve crimes” another student added. Overall, the students had a wonderful learning experience and was saddened by its end.



Social Emotional Learning



Madison-Monroe School No. 16 students had the opportunity to attend and participate in the S.E.L. afterschool program from November to May. Mr. Luciano, School Social Worker, provided and engaged students with social emotional lessons which provided students with the skills needed to understand and manage various emotions such as anger, stress, and sadness. Students also learned goal setting, self-care, implementing mindfulness in their lives and conflict resolution skills. Students enjoyed various activities such as mindfulness painting, water coloring, playing board games, and winning class prizes.



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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