

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

## Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Academy's JROTC participated in the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony. The cadets not only provided a color guard, but also escorted veterans to the river edge to drop carnations into the river as a tribute to those that gave their life in service of the country. This was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



# CELEBRATING *American Education Week!*



## Dress Up as Your Favorite Character



Students, at **Madison – Monroe School No. 16**, celebrated American Education Week with various activities. Mrs. Camb's 4<sup>th</sup> class brought their favorite story to school and had the choice to dress up as their favorite character. Each student then created a short writing piece on the character's traits and whether or not they would want to befriend them and why.

## Thanks Ms. Chaux!

Students from Room 125 at **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52** made a bulletin board thanking and celebrating the school's security guard, Ms. Sonia Chaux for her support in making the school safe and great every day!



## Apples for the Teachers



In honor of American Education Week, the Introduction to Education students and NJFEA (New Jersey Future Educators Association) created an “Apples for the Teacher” activity to promote positivity, respect, integrity, and excellence.

All students, from **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy**, were invited to take a walk through the “apple orchard” and pick a red, yellow, or green apple. After selecting their apple, students were able to write positive messages to their teachers on the apples. Finally, the apples that were filled with inspirational messages were placed in the respective teacher's bag that was displayed in the “apple orchard.” Valerie Hendon, one of Hamilton’s guidance counselors described the “Apples for the Teacher” activity: “It was an awesome event. I felt appreciated especially from the students. I felt really good.” Ms. Shah, a math teacher at Hamilton exclaimed, “It really made my day and was an honor to receive thank you notes from students appreciating me. I felt really really good.”

## HISPA’s Celebration at School No. 15

**Christopher Columbus School No. 15** AVID classes took part in HISPA’s (Hispanics Inspiring Students’ Performance and Achievement) 2000<sup>th</sup> role model visit celebration. HISPA’s Role Model Program inspires students to make and work towards their educational and career goals. Successful Hispanic Americans share their experiences, successes, and challenges and how perseverance leads to success.

On December 10, 2021, HISPA's CEO Dr. Ivonne Diaz-Claisse joined Sofia Gonzalez, an engineer with Merck Pharmaceutical Company in a live virtual conference with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students. Dr. Diaz-Claisse shared the background of HISPA’s Role Model Program and Sofia Gonzalez, an engineer with Merck Pharmaceutical Company, shared her path to success.



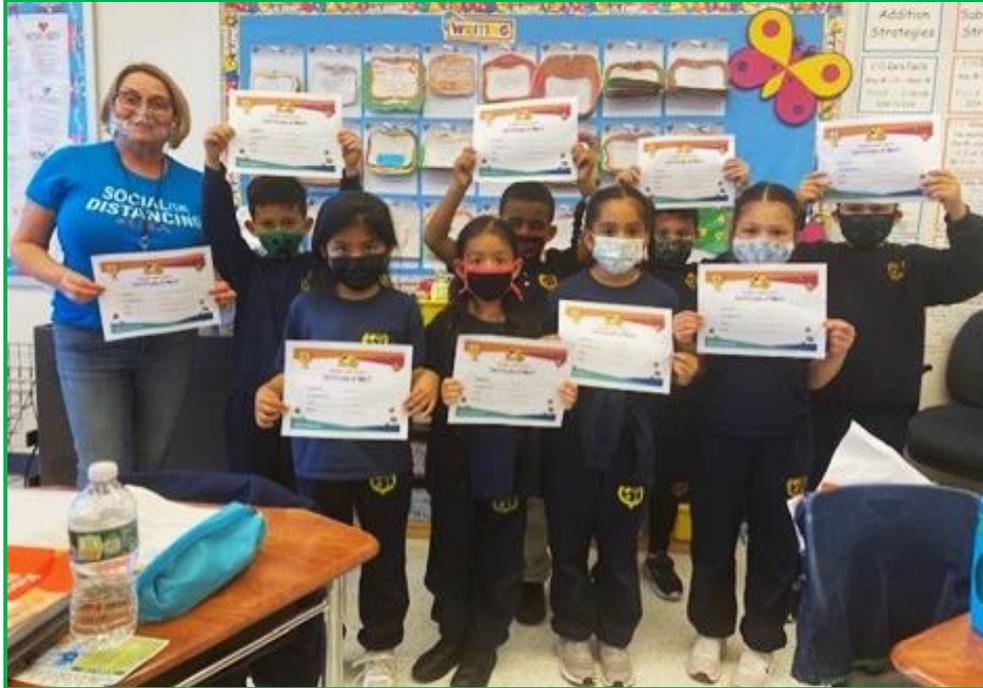
## Honoring Our Veterans

Eighth grade students, from **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26**, observed Veteran's Day in a personal way. Mr. DeMarco and Mrs. Pires gave students the task of interviewing family members who either served in the U.S. military or immigrated to the U.S. because of the freedoms and opportunities offered to them due to our U.S. military.

This fit perfectly into the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Also, former students of Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy, who are serving or have served, graciously submitted photos and stories for the lesson. The eighth grade greatly appreciated this. (Photo: Jeffrey Tovar, 2006 graduate, served in Army, currently an Elizabeth Police Officer)



## Union County Sumdog Math Competition



Mrs. Lopez's class at **William F. Halloran School No. 22**, started the year excelling in math and reading. The class won the Union County Sumdog Math Competition and seven of the students were in the top 10! The class also reached over 1,100 books read on EPIC!

## Podcasting Italian Style

Signora Wells' Italian II students completed their first episodes of their podcast series, *Levelo 2*. Each marking period, the students, from **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy**, have a choice of topic from their curriculum in which they can elaborate further. Students' pre-writing activities mirror that of the AP Italian exam in which they need to present about a prompt given a limited time. The class is taking advantage of the district wide application, Audacity, which is college board approved for all world language exams and they are learning 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills as well as college and career specific speaking and presentational skills.



Throughout the year, they are exploring the four types of podcasts: monologue, interview, conversational and informational. Each podcast episode is between 1-2.5 minutes in length, includes either sound effects or intro/outro music and the student must ask the audience 1-2 questions in addition to present material. You can listen in on season 1 through the class [SoundCloud](#) (QR Code posted above).

## Mickey Mouse

Third grade students of Mrs. Alameda's class at **Madison - Monroe School No. 16** teamed up with students from Ms. Gilliam's Kindergarten class to celebrate and honor their idol on Thursday, November 18th.

The 3rd graders acted as mentors as they assisted their Kindergarten friends in multiple tasks related to Mickey Mouse. Students crafted Mickey Mouse ears using big and small Oreos, danced to Mickey Mouse jams, colored posters, and sang Happy Birthday. While doing each activity, connections were made in math (multiplication using Oreo Mickey ears), along with other cross-curricula connections. Students enjoyed working together and making Mick-tastic Memories!



## The Giving Tree with Hearts of Gold

**Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9** show their compassion and generosity by donating over 500 winter articles that included mittens, hats and scarves for the scholars.

All items will be distributed to all scholars in need throughout the winter season. A special thanks to the school learning community.



## Thankful Tree

It's the holiday season, and it is important for students, from **Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29**, to reflect on what they are thankful for. Students in Mrs. Po's Autism class had a month long of activities designed around THANKFULNESS.

Also, on Veterans Day, the class created banners honoring Veterans to thank them for their service. Fine motor skills were practiced when the class created banners and completed a writing assignment. For Thanksgiving, Room 311 learned about foods, typically shared during Thanksgiving and created their own Cornucopia. A short story was read together about Pilgrims coming to a new land and followed with answering 'WH' questions. Lastly, a fun family assignment was sent home where students worked with their caregivers to identify up to 10 items or people, they are thankful for. That developed into their very own "Thankful Tree," which they were excited to display for all to see.



## Food Drive at School No. 5



**Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5** held a food drive during the month of November. The school collected over 300 items and were able to gift a food basket to many of the families. Thanks to the Elizabeth NAACP and their sponsors for donating hams and fresh veggies. Special thank you to the very AAA safety patrol who volunteered to sort and prepare the baskets for the families. School No. 5 hopes that everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday alongside your family and loved ones.

## Turkey Talk

At **Abraham Lincoln School No 14**, students in Mrs. Strassman's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class honored their very own Thanksgiving "hero" by creating tiny turkey replicas. Students were encouraged to get creative and they sure did! No two turkeys looked alike! Students learned fun facts about turkeys including that only the male turkey can gobble, turkeys sleep in trees, they can run up to 25 mph and can fly up to 55 mph.



## Hamilton Academy Students Build Robots

The STEM Club at **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** got off to a stupendous start! Ms. Ali is the STEM Club Advisor. The students discussed engineering and what engineers do. Then, they had a chance to become real engineers. They put together robots that chased light!

Club member, student Destiny Rosales had this to say about the experience, “It was truly interesting to see how the circuits along with the battery came together with such thin wires to make my robot move.” While student William Diaz said, “I found reading about how the components function really interesting. It helped me better understand how to build the robot.” Student Juan Jaramillo said, “I found building the robot simple. The real enjoyment came from trying to figure out how to make it run the way I want and not the way specified.”



The students are looking forward to participating in activities that weave together scientific concepts with the construction of real objects. This is sure to provide whole new, amazing experiences. The sky is the limit as to what can be achieved when science is paired with engineering!

## Native People in New Jersey

At **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25**, the fourth-grade bilingual class completed their first marking period culmination activity by creating and presenting a diorama about New Jersey’s first Native People - The Lenape, also called the Leni Lenape. The students used their creativity to represent what they learned throughout the marking period and shared their ideas by presenting their projects to their peers. This activity helped foster rich discussions among the students.





## Gift of Kindness

Ms. Costa's class from **William F. Halloran School No. 22** is celebrating the holiday season with 11 days of kindness. She has created a bulletin board with an act of kindness displayed for each day. Students on the second floor will participate in spreading kindness like confetti throughout the month of December.

## Be the Nice Kid

With all the challenges we are facing by returning in-person, social emotional learning (SEL), character building, and good sportsmanship is at the forefront. At **George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1** and **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9** meeting the students where they are is at the HEART of what we do every day.



During Physical Education, the teachers chant the responsibilities of being a nice person and to ensure the students understand what it looks like and sounds like, a new bulletin was created to remind the students to be the kid who can gets along; is generous; who is happy for others, and who does the right thing. **BE THE NICE KID.**



## Getting into the Spirit

Students in Room 1, at **John E. Dwyer Technology Academy Annex**, enjoyed all the festive decorations.





## Students Pay it Forward

**Joseph Battin School No. 4's** Bulldog student learns the true meaning of what it means to pay it forward.

When one of Mrs. Fontaine's 4<sup>th</sup> grade bilingual students voted to participate in a community service project of filling Christmas care packages for children in need around the world organized by Samaritan's Purse, she had no idea that she was about to receive the true blessing of the Christmas spirit. What started out as a class project became

a Joseph Battin schoolwide project culminating in over 90 boxes worth of donations! But the best was yet to come. When the recognizable red and green boxes were brought through the classroom door, Angie jumped up with excitement because she wanted to share with her new school family that she, herself, was a recipient of a Samaritan's Purse Christmas box in Honduras before coming to the United States! Emotional, her mother shared that Angie went home and was excited to be able to give back to another child just like her. Serendipities like this remind us that no matter the distance between where we're from, we are all connected!



## Elmora School No. 12 Celebrates the Holiday Season

**Elmora School No. 12** kicked off the holiday season by decking the halls with beautiful décor with a positive message.

Middle School Mathletes decorated their "Math Tree", 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade AVID students decorated a Collegiate Tree, and Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> graders decorated trees that reflected the school moto "Be the "I" in Kind!" All students also had the opportunity to take photos with Santa and admire the Rockefeller Plaza tree and participate in their very own Macy's Day Parade.





## Holiday Season Door-Decorating Contest

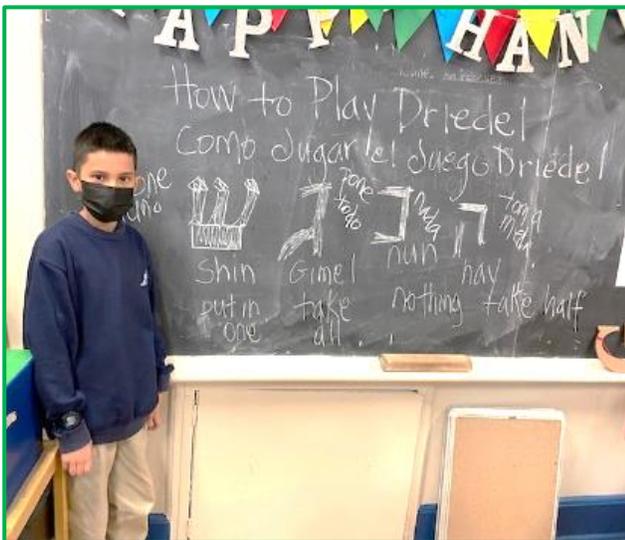
To celebrate this wonderful time of the year, students and teachers at **Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6** spread the holiday cheers by participating in the Holiday Season Door-Decorating Contest. The stars below, not only display good planning, sharp execution and teamwork, they also demonstrate creativity, festiveness and a healthy dose of competitiveness to claim the top prizes.



## Spinning the Way Through the Holiday

How to spend Chanukah? By playing dreidel, of course! In Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth grade classroom in **Madison - Monroe School No. 16**, students spun their dreidels hoping to accumulate the most pennies. Dreidel playing reinforced math skills, as students needed to think about probability as they considered the chance of landing on either nun, gimmel, hay, or shin.

Students also had to know their math facts for division every time someone landed on gimmel. Physics concepts were contemplated regarding the mechanics of dreidel spinning. It was entertaining to learn how to read the Hebrew symbols and a wonderful way to share holiday traditions.





## Better to Give Than to Receive



At **Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25**, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders listened to the read aloud *Auntie Claus* by Elisa Primavera as part of the school character theme of “Generosity” for the month of December.

Afterwards, students completed the Activity: Better to Give Than to Receive, in which they described what generosity meant to them.

## “Mele Kalikimaka”

Students in Ms. Acosta’s third grade class at **Elmora School No. 12** kept the tradition of a winter concert alive by performing a traditional Hawaiian Christmas song during the morning announcements. With the guidance of music teacher, Dr. Kroik, students were able to spread holiday cheer to the whole school by singing the song, “Mele Kalikimaka”, which means “Merry Christmas” in the Hawaiian language. All students sang and clapped along from their classrooms.



## Getting into the Holiday Spirit

**Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy** students are stepping it up by decorating doors for the holiday door contest and showing school spirit by wearing “ugly” sweaters this season. Happy Holidays from your Halsey family!



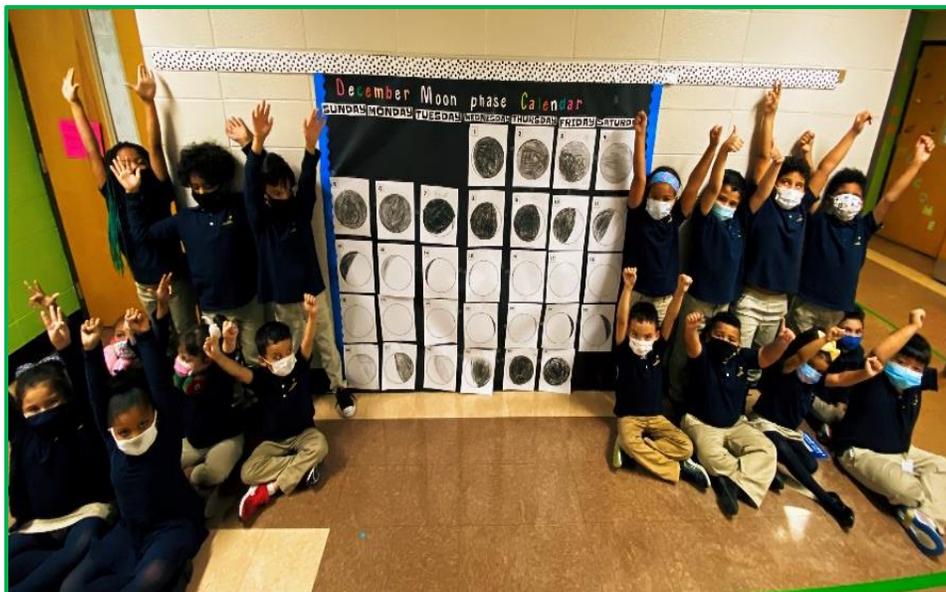
## School No. 23's Holiday Trees



Ms. Baird, Ms. Litchfield and Ms. Ameli and **Nicholas Murray Butler School No.23's** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade AVID students did an amazing job decorating three of the holiday trees around the school. We have asked the faculty and staff to help in judging the trees. The winners of the trees will be announced on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Wish them all luck!

## Science is Out of this World

Miss Mauro's first grade students at **Nicholas S. LaCorte - Peterstown School No. 3** are currently learning about the phases of the moon in Foss. Students studied and tracked the moon phases for the month of December. Together, the class created an EXTRA-large moon phase calendar display for the school! We think science is out of this world!



## Mindful Meditation

**Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25** is fast at work helping students to slow down their busy minds and bodies enough to learn how to listen to their inner voices. Ms. Reynolds' ASP Mindful Meditation students joined together with Mr. Colcol's SEL Dance students to do deep breathing exercises and guided stretches with Intern, Danny Garcia. Students are really beginning to understand the benefits of mindfulness and of quieting their minds. They're getting more confident with the "positive messages" they're learning to send to themselves. They're slowly letting go of their inhibitions and allowing the joy of 'the moment' to be their guide while building trust within their groups.



## Global Education and Citizenship Leadership Conference

On Friday, November 19th, **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's** Student Council and Student Government leaders virtually attended the annual Kean University Diversity Council on Global Education and Citizenship High School Student Leadership Conference. The theme this year was *Global Citizenship*. Students heard from Mei Tomko, a trans-racial adoptee who spoke about microaggressions she faced in high school. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a Q & A virtual session and network with other schools in New Jersey. Hamilton sophomore, Brandon Frometa Martinez, actively participated in the panelist presentations and offered ideas on how to motivate students to recognize the fact that they are global citizens and quoted John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Ultimately, the Student Leadership Conference motivated Hamilton's leaders to bring about proactive change to their school.



## Balloons Over Broadway



At **Abraham Lincoln School No 14**, students in Ms. Crismale and Ms. Luiz's classes took persuasive writing to new heights! Students used graphic organizers to plan and draft letters to Macy's. Using the friendly letter format, scholars explained what balloons they would like to add to the Thanksgiving Day Parade and tried to persuade Macy's to include their balloon. Once completed, scholars had the opportunity to create a model of their balloon to go along with their letter.

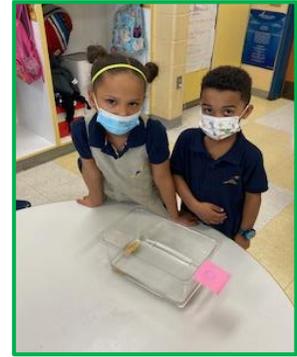
## Hamilton Annex 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Badminton Tournament Champions

Congratulations to the **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex's** 9<sup>th</sup> grade Badminton Tournament Champions! (Sebastian Gerez, Jeriem Lara, Grecia Idrogo Meneses, Franchesco Gomaz Lara, Areil Duarta, Alges Avimeta, Ethan Alvarez, Joshua Tomayo, Cole Cartelli, Jonathan Diaz Portillo) and all the 240 students that participated.

Physical Education has been challenging this year due to COVID protocols, but Mr. Nicoletta's students conducted a student centered/facilitated Badminton unit and tournament. The students led skill-based games, kept score, refereed, and understood the rules of the game. Their skills increased tremendously as they collaborated and displayed good sportsmanship. They also used excellent strategies when participating in game play. According to Mr. Nicoletta, "It was great to not only see their skills increase tremendously and use strategy in game play, but to see the students working together gaining knowledge and having a safe and enjoyable time doing so. Bravo and congratulations to all my students!"



## Little Engineers



Students from Mrs. Garcia's kindergarten bilingual class at **Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23** challenged their knowledge completing different experiments to learn about changes in wood. They shared their ideas on what happens when wood gets wet. They were encouraged to think as an engineers to recreate their raft activity and to explore how the placement of paper clips makes a difference in the sinking/floating of the raft.

## Respect Others and Rise

This month, **George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1** provided its Lion Cubs with an opportunity to R.O.A.R (RESPECT OTHERS AND RISE)! We combined school spirit, STEM, and PBIS and invited our lion cubs and families to create a 3D representation or diorama of a lion, our school mascot, in conjunction with our school behavioral expectations.

Lion Cubs were encouraged to use shoe boxes, Legos, paper, etc. and make their submission as artistic as possible. As Lions, we celebrate responsible, respectful, and safe behaviors. Our Lions Cubs were asked to incorporate these concepts into their projects.

It was with much Lion pride that we created a Walk Thru Gallery where all lion cubs could digitally vote on their top 3 STEM projects. It was a close call but ultimately, our top three winners included a Peek-a-boo stand up Lion where students could stand behind it and put their own eyes through the Lion, a Lion made of cloth and wire hangers, and a tri-fold Lion with behavioral expectations stated all around it.

The Lion Cubs were rewarded with a bicycle and a helmet each.



## Happy Cross-Curricular Days!



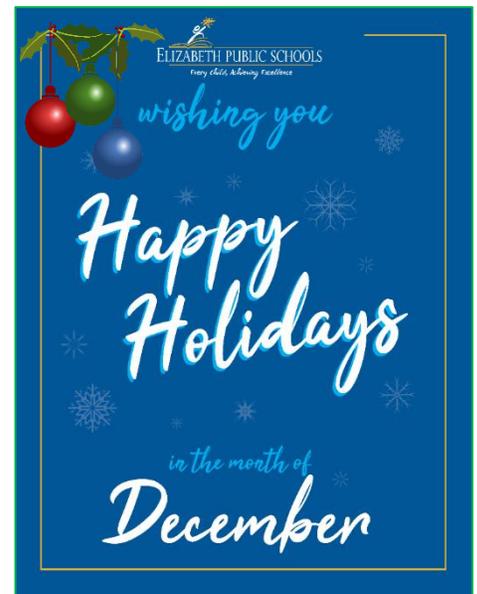
**From: Middle School Team  
@ Elmore #12**

Middle School Students at **Elmore School No. 12** Create An AVID, Science and Math Tree!

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