

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

February 2022

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

Harlem Globetrotters Visit Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

Elizabeth native and Globetrotter superstar, Latif "JET" Rivers and "SPEEDY" Artis made a special appearance at Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 to speak with second, fifth, and eighth grade students about the effects of bullying and to deliver a motivational anti-bullying message.

The City of Elizabeth's Recreation Director and Elizabeth Board of Education member Stanley Neron as well as School No. 23 principal Berthenia Harmon were introduced. Rivers and Artis delivered an inspiring program meant to provide strategies to overcome bullying, which they mentioned was the number 1 problem in schools as reported by a survey of school aged children. The



dynamic duo invited students down to introduce the importance of T.E.A.M., an acronym for Talk (and Listen), Empathy, Ask Questions, Mobilize. Jet and Speedy went into detail why each of those aspects of T.E.A.M. is important while playing games with the crowd and also involving members of the audience in their famed magic circle. Near the end of the program, Rivers excited the crowd by making a shot from the opposite free throw line.

For Jet, it was a special homecoming as he was able to return to the school in which he once was a student to give hope to the students who have followed him. Rivers, a 2009 graduate of Elizabeth High School, played for the varsity boys basketball team, earning All-State, First Team All-Union County, and All-Watchung Conference honors.

For more Harlem Globetrotters, click <u>here</u>







Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Students in Mrs. Zimmerman's AVID classes designed college pennants for a figure who is significant to African American history or culture.

Students needed to include elements such as a school mascot, top three majors, a mission statement, and a hashtag connected to the person. The colors of the pennant had to make a pertinent correlation to the individual as well. Many students expressed their excitement over this engaging learning activity. The ability to choose from a variety of people that they have studied in history as well as those that are significant to their daily lives really sparked their enthusiasm. The pennants will be used in an upcoming Black History Month assembly sponsored by Mrs. Craven's African American studies class and Mrs. Hendon, one of the guidance counselors of the school.



Elmora School No. 12



Pre-K to eighth grade students celebrated Black History Month in a multitude of ways, such as utilizing literature, technology, and hands-on manipulatives.

Students learned about the many influential black men and women who have made powerful contributions to the world we live in as activists, inventors, artists, authors, athletes, and more. Students exemplified their learning by conducting research and presenting learned information through posters, PowerPoints, and living museums. Students engaged in hands-on projects to identify that although we may look different on the outside, we are all the same on the inside.

Maya Angelou once said, "In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." Throughout many activities, students have established the importance of celebrating each other's differences.

George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1

Black History Month was celebrated by incorporating Black History into lessons and creating projects and presentations so students have the opportunity to learn about the significance of African Americans and their contributions to society. Students also had the opportunity to read books about African American experiences, history and culture in their classrooms and spent time with Elizabeth Board of Education Commissioner Mrs. Charlene B. Dorgely.













Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3

Students celebrated Black History Month with various activities including creating a schoolwide Black History Month Museum where students will take a field trip through the building. Also, bulletin boards were decorated in honor of Black History Month. Eighth-grader, Keyla Flores, paid tribute to author and activist, Langston Hughes by drawing a portrait of him.















































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

To celebrate the accomplishments and contributions African Americans have made to society, students have been busy with Black History Month activities and lessons. Some of the activities done this month include; a black history month door contest, learning about African American inventors, watching inspirational speeches by important activists, creating civil rights freedom movement posters and reading books written by African American authors. Halsey students have also stepped things up by decorating bulletin boards in honor of Black History Month!









Victor Mravlag School No. 21



Each morning personal assistant, Natalie Edmonds, shared information about Black Americans including inventors, scientists, musicians, writers, and athletes. Ms. Edmonds made it her goal to introduce the scholars to individuals who they may not have been familiar with. Students were inspired by all the amazing accomplishments and contributions made by these amazing African Americans.

The 7th & 8th grade students in Ms. Gomes class worked very hard to complete a graphic organizer developed to assist scholars with research on Black Americans who made an impact on society.



Students in Ms. Kelly Ferreira's 2nd grade class worked in small groups to read and learn about famous African Americans. They discussed the person they were learning about and completed a graphic organizer to display. They presented in groups to the class to teach about the individual they studied.

Also, 2nd & 3rd grade students in Ms. Boyd's class participated in numerous activities this month related to Black History. The activity students enjoyed the most was learning about Rosa Parks. Students learned that Rosa Parks' actions helped initiate the civil rights movement in the United States.



Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

In honor of Black History Month, eighth graders completed research on a black visionary of their choice. Mrs. Pires and Mr. DeMarco allowed students to present the information they discovered in the platform of their choosing. Students created websites, made posters, created storybooks, etc. to



showcase the many achievements and contributions of the historical figures they selected. This fit perfectly into the International Baccalaureate curriculum, as students were the designers and engineers of their inquiry and presentation.

Example: <u>AFRICAN AMERICAN VISIONARIES: MALCOLM X - Home (weebly.com)</u> (website by 8th grade-Maleeka Street)











Also, fifth grade students researched influential African Americans, and presented their reports to their classmates.

Miss Norek's Advanced Bilingual students studied black historical figures. Students researched an individual and were continuously amazed by the possibilities these people opened for the future of black individuals. One individual that inspired this class was Katherine Johnson. After reading Hidden Figures, students drew and described Katherine Johnson, a leader in the space race, and described her using strong adjectives.





J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

JCBFA students and team members have been working hard to welcome in the spirit of February by incorporating Black History Month into their door designs. However, the celebration didn't stop at the door.

The annual virtual museum tour (designed by Mrs. Collins' freshmen class) is also underway and soon to be shared with the entire school. Here in these halls, JCBFA \(\psi\)'s Black History Month!





Students also identified literary elements with poems written by famous black writers and presenting to the school. They reviewed *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou and *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman.

Kehinde Wiley inspired Collages: Students created collages focused on an Influential African American Subject matter while learning about the local NY based artist Kehinde Wiley.





Students worked through a Nearpod about Amanda Gorman and her inaugural poem, *The Hill We Climb*, and an additional poem she wrote entitled *The Miracle of Morning*. Students discussed why poets are chosen to speak at Presidential Inaugurations, the techniques she used in her presentation of the poem, the strengths of her public address, and the impact of her words.

Winfield Scott School No. 2



Students, in Miss Davies's 3rd grade class, celebrated Black History Month by utilizing social studies, language arts, writing, and art skills to analyze and relate the effects of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s mission and impact to historical events and their own experiences. They participated in a *Paint 'n Sip* activity while painting a portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and watching the movie *Our Friend Martin*. The students then decorated their portraits by using words and phrases that came to mind while reflecting on the history of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. Then students reflected, analyzed, and recorded how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s actions have influenced society both in the present and in the past and how he would feel about the impacts he has made in today's society.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

Students and team members paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King by reciting excerpts from his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Click here to see tribute.



Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

In Ms. Mata's 2nd grade class, students were able to research famous African Americans and write a short biography on his or her achievements. They enjoyed learning about the qualities of a good leader. They also learned the importance of Black History Month and how these influential leaders helped shape the course of history.



William F. Halloran School No. 22

Ms. DeMattia's and Ms. DiGeronimo's visual arts students celebrated Black History Month with projects focusing on the influence of many visual and performing African American artists who had an impact on society. This included poets, painters, illustrators, and jazz artists. Students studied the poetry of Langston Hughes and combined it with illustrations and paintings. Students work on their drawings influenced by the poetry of Langston Hughes from his collection of poems, "The Dream Keeper and other poems."





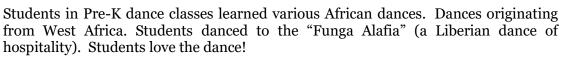








School No. 22's media center celebrated Black History Month with artwork created by several students.







Music classes learned about influential African American musicians and their great impact to music. After students listen and discuss various musical contributions of artists, they completed a glyph based on their life. Students learned about the great musicianship of Aretha Franklin!

Mrs. Torres's fifth grade students took a trip through Harlem and explored the theme of identity. Students analyzed literature pieces from authors like Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and Zora Neale Hurston, as well as artwork, dance, and music. Throughout the unit, students learned about the value of the Harlem Renaissance.





Second graders created African American trading cards and researched the work and contributions of many influential African Americans and their legendary impact on the past and present society. Black history is American history!

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

















The children celebrated and learned about several famous Black Americans in honor of Black History Month. In a "Jazzy Little Preschool Lesson", children learned about Louis Armstrong, famous African American musician.

During the lesson, children learned briefly about jazz music and the great contribution that it was to American music. Students were intrigued with the brass instrument that Louis Armstrong played, the trumpet. They watched a video of his performances then began the activity. While listening to various songs by Louis Armstrong, children

simply drew what they heard. If the song felt sad to them, I asked them to choose a color that matched that feeling and draw those types of lines. If another song felt happy, another color and another set of lines. The collection of lines and colors would be reflection of their feelings for the music. They also colored a trumpet and attached it to the collage.

In another classroom, students were shown two eggs one white and one brown. Students and teachers discussed what the eggs looked like and what they predicted they would look like when cracked open.

Most students predicted they would be different because they were different on the outside. When the eggs cracked opened, students were able to observe that regardless of the shell color, the eggs looked the same on the inside. Teacher explained that the eggs represented people and even though all have a different color skin on the outside but are all the same on the inside.





Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

The next thing you know, you're flying among the stars....







Following a read aloud, the 3rd grade dance students explored the themes and symbols presented in the book Tar Beach by Faith Riggold, through movement, the ideas of freedom, imagination, and tradition. The dancers created a dance inspired by the opening and closing lines of the book: "I will always remember when the stars fell down around me and lifted me high above the George Washington Bridge." "...anyone can fly. All you need is somewhere to go that you can't get to any other way. The next thing you know, you're flying among the stars."



LT ESSESSES L



The Terence C. Reilly's Oratorical contest is a celebration of black orators and the transformative power of language.

This year 4th - 8th grade students paid homage to Amanda Gorman, the nation's youngest inaugural poet by reciting excerpts for Amanda's inaugural poem, *The Hill Will Climb*, which she recited at the 2021 presidential inauguration.









Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

K-2nd grade art students watched an art video about *Alma Woodsey Thomas*, Black American Artist, 1891-1978. After discussing her work with color, students created watercolor paintings of their own inspired by her work.





Students in Mrs. Perez Kindergarten classroom did a sequencing activity where they put the accomplishments of African Americans in the Arts in chronological order and created their own crowns.

3rd and 4th grade art students read an article about weaving and how fabric is made on a loom. Students then looked at some artifacts and photo references of Kente Cloth from Ghana and Africa. They identified the colors, lines, shapes, and patterns that represent these beautiful items and cultural dress. Then students will be creating paper weavings of their own that resemble Kente fabric and design.



Ms. Ortiz's 5th and 6th grade students watched two videos on the life and art of *Alma Thomas*. Alma was one of the first Black American women to get her Bachelor of Science in Education and master's in art education. She taught thousands of young artists for over 35 years. Her artworks were colorful, abstract, and often inspired by nature. Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy students created collages inspired by Alma Thomas' style.











Students with Autism listened to an audio book called "Radiant Child: Story of Young Artist *Jean Michel Basquiat*" by Javaka Steptoe/PBS Books. The students used cardboard, ribbon, and construction paper crayons to decorate crowns of their very own.

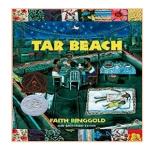
During Friday Leadership Class, students watched a video about *Augusta Salvage*, Black American sculptor born in Georgia during the depression time. Students were asked to write down and share with the class two leadership qualities or things she did to demonstrate leadership in her youth and teen years. Here are some of my students' responses below:



"She ignored the racist trying to bring her down and got into a good collage." "Augusta never gave up and taught kids to make clay sculptures."



The 8th grade students investigated visual storytelling through the works of Faith Ringgold. Students listened to Faith read the story she wrote "Tar Beach" and then critiqued her story quilts. Students also explored Faith's creative process to make story quilts of their own during class.

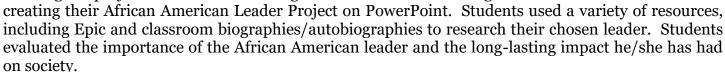


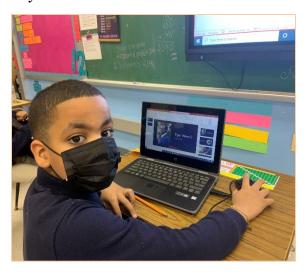
Robert Morris School No. 18

Students from grade second through fourth grade were enlightened by the story of Ruby Bridges.

After learning about her story and the integration of schools, second graders wrote a letter to young Ruby expressing their gratitude for her journey and discussing a time they could relate to her bravery.

Fourth graders heard Ruby's story through rap and discussions, they then began a project based on their findings. Students selected and began







Middle schoolers were exposed to many different types of readings, including letters, articles, novels and many poems.

Seventh graders focused on the novels Nightjohn and *Letters from a Slave Girl* discussing and reading about the atrocities of the era. Additionally, students read about Harriet Tubman's incredible work besides the Underground Railroad. They also read about the incredible life of an escapee of slavery named Gordon.

Eighth grade students focused on Poetry for Black History Month, with close readings on the poems: Still I Rise, Won't Your Celebrate with Me, and, Ballad of Birmingham. Students compared Langston Hughes' I, too to Walt, Whitman's I Hear America Singing discussing

changes to the country from one time period to another.

Students also discovered important sacrifices and their impact on the Civil Rights movement including Emmet Till and Denise Mcnair. students will write their own poem about an important event in Black History, and influential person or an actual time period that they were inspired by.



John Marshall School No. 20



Students celebrated Black History Month with an annual Black History Month concert. Students celebrated the lives and accomplishments of African Americans and African descendants, highlighting their vast contributions to the world of music and art.

The Elementary and Middle School Concert Choir, under the direction of Ms. Edreira-Fidalgo, sang student selected songs by African American musicians, including "Rise Up" by Andra Day, "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley and the Wailers, "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers, and "American Oxygen" by Rihanna. Ms. Page's 7th grade students paid homage to Black and Afro-Latino figures through music and art through their performance that featured poetry, African drumming and dance."

School No. 12 Receives a Surprise Visitor

On December 3, 2021, students at **Elmora School No. 12** witnessed a terrible motorcycle accident just outside their classrooms. Students were emotional and very concerned about the motorcycle rider, identified as EMS Supervisor Jason Hamilton who was airlifted from the scene to the hospital. Students were so worried about Mr. Hamilton because they assumed that he sustained grave injuries. Students and staff wrote Get Well cards to Mr. Hamilton wishing him a complete recovery.

On February 15, Mr. Hamilton visited the school with the thank you cards in his hands. When he entered the cafeteria and told everyone who he was, students and staff gave him a standing ovation with lots of cheers. Students also showered him with happy hugs. EMS Supervisor Hamilton expressed gratitude for the support from the school 12 Family. The lesson of kindness and hope resonates with the entire School 12 Community.



Hearts for Guidance Counselors







In honor of National School Counselor Week, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's NJFEA (New Jersey Future Educators) Club celebrated and honored their very own guidance counselors: Mrs. Hendon, Mrs. Maravi and Ms. Sofranko. The guidance counselors at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy ensure the students in our school have an excellent educational experience. In addition to academic support, they provide students with social & emotional support.

Each day the guidance counselors received a special surprise from Introduction to Education students. All Hamilton students were thrilled to volunteer and create hearts, personalized notes and letters to their guidance counselors. Afterall, our guidance counselors are always there, and Hamilton Academy wants them to know they appreciate their dedication and hard work. #OneSchoolOnePride

Better Together

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy (JCBFA) celebrated National School Counseling Week. This year's theme was "Better Together." During the morning announcements, the school counselor team inspired the students by discussing the importance of perseverance, collaborating with others to gain new perspectives, being compassionate toward classmates, facing and overcoming fears, and learning new skills to grow.



Sharing the Love



Ms. Kennedy's little people at **Victor Mravlag School No. 21** celebrated Friendship for Valentine's Day by picking a classmate's name-stick from a jar and making a special homemade card which focused on friendship. They wrote a simple message letting them know what a special friend they are. We shared them throughout the week to a special friend and felt the LOVE \bigcirc That is all that matters in K125 Because Nice Matters!

Blind Date with A Book

Love is in the air at **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** as students participated in the school's first ever *Blind Date with A Book* event in honor of Valentine's Day. Sophomore students from Mrs. Valente's English classes donated gently used books for the exchange. The books were covered with pink and red paper, purple and red hearts, and remained unidentified. Students selected a book solely based on the first line. After making their selections, students had one week to read the first 50 pages of their novels and had the option to return or keep the books after filling out a "rate your date" card. Finally, participants were also entered into a raffle. The winner will be chosen on February 18 and will receive a \$25 gift card to Barnes and Noble.







Groundhog Day



February 2, 2022 (2/2/22) Mrs. Demarest and Miss Lillian Alvarado's PreK class at the **Robert Morris School No. 18 Annex** celebrated the 136th Groundhog Day. In preparation for the big day, the students learned about groundhogs and the history of Groundhog Day. They created their own groundhogs and made their own predictions using a graphic organizer. Although, the class prediction of an early spring did not match up with Punxsutawney Phil's prediction they all had a lot of fun doing it.

Shadow Detectives

Students in Mrs. Gilmartin's Pre-K class at **Madison Monroe School No. 16** became shadow detectives on Groundhog's Day. Students used science & reasoning skills to match shadows of different objects and even got to make their own shadows with their groundhogs on sticks that they created.





Women's Heart Awareness Day

On February 4, the middle school students of **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26** participated in the American Heart
Association's "GO RED" campaign to create awareness for Women's Heart
Awareness Day. Heart Disease is the number one killer of women. During
Health classes they learned about ways to increase heart health and the signs
and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke. They even had a chance to
practice the technique of Hands Only CPR.







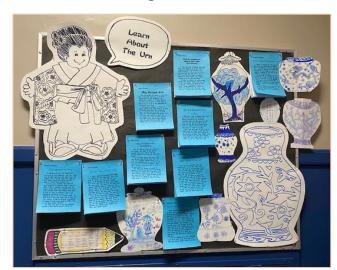
Chinese New Year Celebration



What do Ming Dynasty urns, Chinese characters, and the game of Mah Jong have in common? Each one was a special part of the week-long Chinese New Year celebration in Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth grade classroom. There, at **Madison Monroe School No. 16**, students designed their own urns using museum models as guides, practiced writing Chinese characters, and learned how to play the Chinese game of Mah Jong. Each of these activities been mentioned in the core novel, The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.

Literature comes to life when students are able have the experiences it describes. Hands-on activities make for meaningful, memorable learning.





TWOS-Day

Madison-Monroe School No. 16 Annex celebrated a historical day called TWOS-day on Tuesday, 2/22/22. Students and teachers were invited to wear tutus and ties or were able to dress up as TWINS. Throughout the school day, students engaged in activities that revolved around the number 2 or 22. Lesson plans were created for each grade level and some of those activities included: math-skip counting by 2's, multiplying and dividing by 2, 2 dimensional shapes, ELA- homophones, compound words, contractions, reading stories that contain Tuesday or 2 in the titles. In technology students disguised the number 2 on an app called 3D paint. The day ended with an announcement at 2:22pm where all students were to stop everything and read for 22 minutes. It was a "twos"tatic day!





Dental Month

In honor of dental health month, K Autism teacher Ms. Salvato from **Robert Morris School No. 18 Annex** conducted a lesson about proper teeth brushing, flossing, and health eating habits. Her students especially enjoyed practicing on the mouth model all the techniques they learned.

Election 2022

At **Victor Mravlag School No. 21**, scholars in Ms. Brady's 2nd grade class took part in a class presidential campaign. Students ran as a team and collaborated to come up with ways to improve their class. Suggestions included kids' choice days, additional center time, reading buddies, and class birthday cards. Ballots were cast and counted by the class "Ballot Counters". Once the results were in, the class President and Vice President were inaugurated during a class celebration!



The Power in Being Kind

Madison Monroe School No. 16 participated in the *Great Kindness Challenge* from January 24-28. Mrs. Cabrera, School Guidance Counselor and Mr. Luciano, School Social Worker had students participate in various activities focused on being kind to one another and challenged them to perform many acts of kindness throughout the week. A kindness station was also provided during lunch recess for them to color, write kindness cards and even received stickers.







Hamilton Bike Rack



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy has acquired a brand-new bike rack thanks to the efforts of Hamilton senior Brian Martinez.

Brian explains how this amazing achievement occurred, "Over the past three years being at the Hamilton main building, I realized that students did not have a bike rack. I contacted the Elizabeth Board of Education Business Administrator/Board Secretary Mr. Kennedy, and within a few hours I got a response! Students who would rather ride their bikes to school now have a secure place to put them. It feels very good to change something at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy as I only have a few months in the building before graduating. Thanks to Mr. Kennedy and the Plant Property Department students now have a bike rack that will not only be available to the current students attending Hamilton, but for generations to come!" Thank you and well-done Brian!

Celebrating Love

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy's Bulldogs have been busy this month celebrating Valentine's Day! Students had the opportunity to express heart moments at the balloon arch in front of the main office. Students also sent Valentines and cookies to their special someone.







100th Day of School

Pre-K students and staff at **William F. Halloran School No. 22A** celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing like they were 100. They paraded throughout the main building and were cheered on by







School No. 3 Holds Court for Eighth Graders



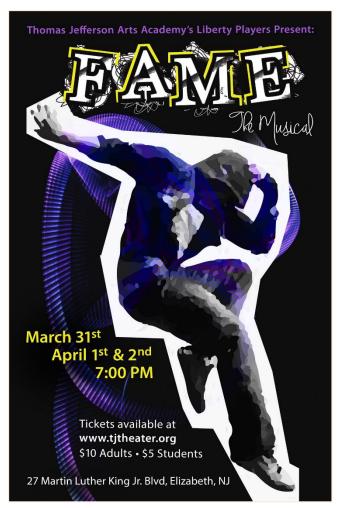
Physical education teachers at **Nicholas S. LaCorte Peterstown School No. 3**, took assessments to a new level by serving up a competition among eighth graders. Students have been working on their volleyball skills as part of the curriculum and participated in several games on Feb. 14 to culminate their lessons. The games also incorporated SEL goals by having all eighth graders spectate in a festive atmosphere of heart-pumping music and cheers from their peers.

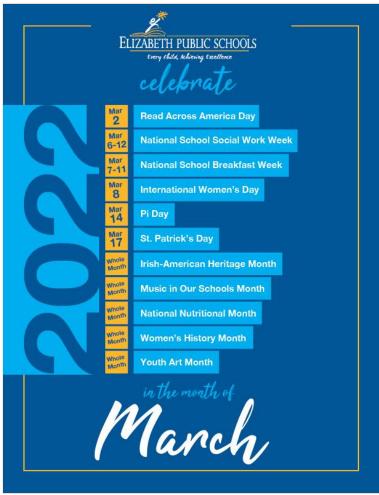
The school's character education word of the month, friendship, was on full display as the children showed great communication, safety, and respect for each other. A wonderful opportunity for the eighth grade to share the love on Valentine's Day!

100 Days of School

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 celebrated 100 days of school. Students and team members enjoyed the day by dressing the part as 100 years old. Many students designed their own 100 days t-shirts.







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