

Elizabeth Public Schools

A Vision of Excellence

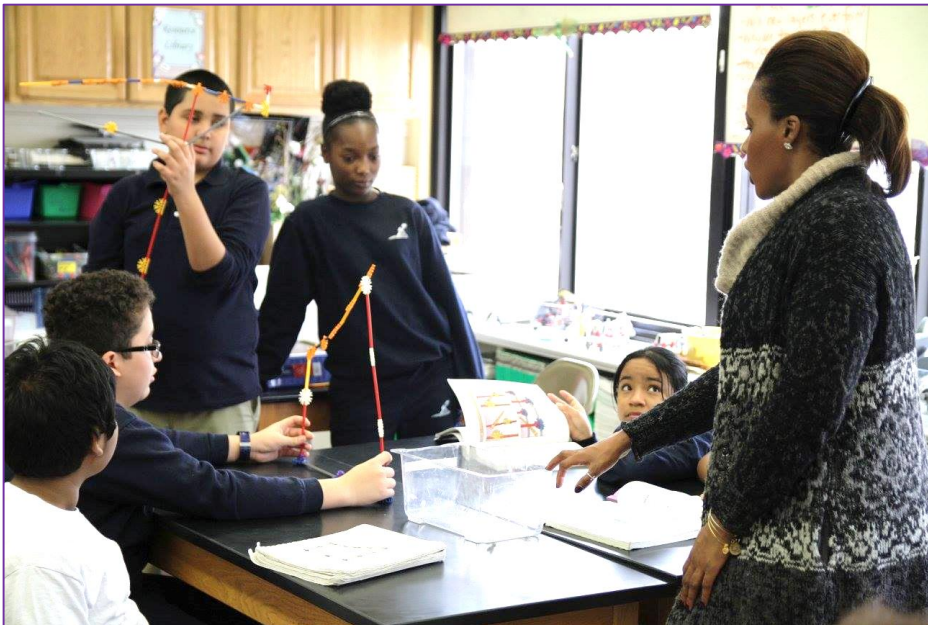
Excellence News

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

February 18 2016

***"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."* – Martin Luther King, Jr.**

President Charlene Bathelus visits Toussaint L'ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, iPrep Academy School No. 8, Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9, and Elmora School No. 12.



Hamilton Seniors Challenge Faculty to Basketball Game

On January 14, senior basketball players from **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy** challenged the faculty to a game that boosted morale and promoted school spirit. Amid much banter and posturing on both sides, the two teams battled to a 50 to 49 finish, although there remains some dispute as to which team actually had the higher score. A large crowd from Hamilton attended the game at the School No. 26 gym and cheered on the players from each team.



Senior Class Advisor Antonia Christodoulakis hopes to arrange a rematch, and Senior Coordinator Jarod Billings agreed commenting, "This game gave us all a chance to bond together as a school; everyone had fun."

Terence C. Reilly Goes Green

A group of students from **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7** are effortlessly working towards a solution to the amount of paper that is not being recycled at the school. While attending the After School Program, these students created a group to solve this problem and called themselves the "TCR Green Team". They have organized and created plans to how the school should approach the recycling program in an easy and efficient way. So far, they have provided all classrooms with a blue recycling bin to recycle plastic and green bins to recycle paper.



After school, they go to their assigned location to collect what the classroom has recycled during the day and bring it back to the recycling location/classroom to separate the paper and the plastic. This process is also shared with the NJHS student members to provide them with hours for community service. The merging of these scholars has been a great help to the TCR Green Team. Students are currently working towards purchasing more bins so that the separation and collection is more organized and easier to manage.

AVID Comes to School No. 12

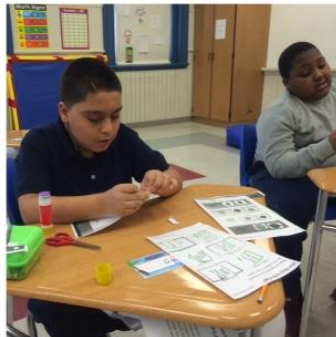
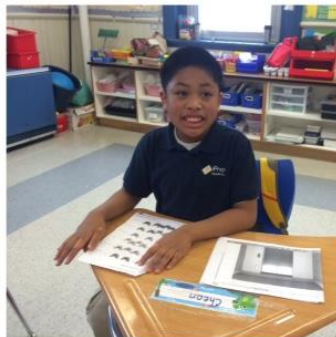
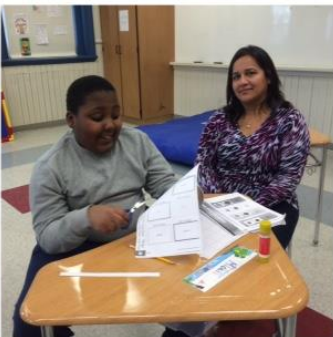
On January 12, A.V.I.D North Eastern Representative, Tamara Gilliam visited **Elmora School No. 12** to see the AVID program in action. Mrs. Gilliam met with the AVID site team and visited the classrooms. She also met with the AVID elective students and gave them a positive message of setting high goals and working hard to reach them! Mrs. Gilliam gave the team members feedback to continue moving in the right direction to achieve student excellence!



"No Bully Zone"

Mr. Serino's 5th/6th Grade Autism Class at iPrep Academy School No. 8 learned the importance of recognizing Bullying. They watched a video and reflected on a bullying scenario and the definition of Bullying.

Students created a bulletin board in their classroom and also received "No Bully Zone" certificates for taking a stance against Bullying.



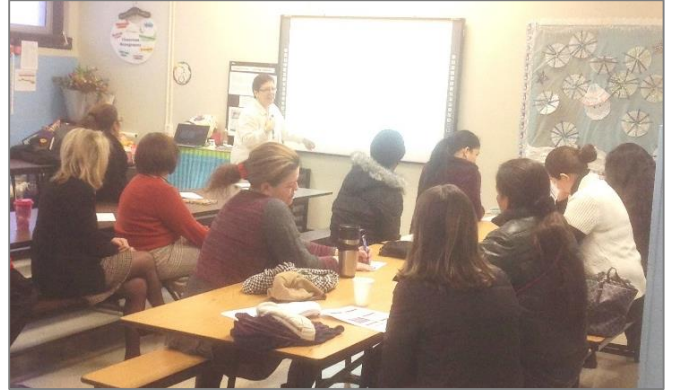
A Hot Cup of Jonas

While the Board of Education was deciding whether to open schools after a historic snowfall, Mrs. Valencia, a parent from **Robert Morris School 18** was deciding how she could show the teachers some appreciation for their hard work and dedication making it in to school despite less than ideal travel conditions. Mrs. Valencia surprised the staff with coffee and bagels. Team members were touched by Mrs. Valencia's act of kindness and appreciation. It's things like this that make school communities feel more like family.



“Second Cup of Coffee” Parent Workshop

On January 20, **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** administrators, Ms. Abruzzese and Ms. Alvarez, along with members of the parent council committee conducted a parent workshop. The workshop was one in a series provided to parents to keep the lines of communication open.



This monthly "second cup of coffee" meeting was focused on informing the parents/guardians of the upcoming PARCC exam and presenting various data from last year's scores. This was a very informative workshop for the parents a held both in the morning at 8:30am and again at 6:30pm to accommodate parents that work.

3rd Annual UC Step Training and Enrichment Program

Union County hosted its 3rd annual UC Step Training and Enrichment Program at Kean University this past December 11th 2015, where a variety of Union County High School sophomores and juniors were invited to participate in hands-on activities focused on leadership, personal growth, and civic engagement. Amongst those Union County sophomore and junior students, were some of Elizabeth's very own 10th and 11th graders from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, and Thomas Edison Career and Technical Academy.

Ja'Quan Mial, a **John E. Dwyer Technology Academy** junior, was awarded along with his team of students from Union County High Schools including: Linden, St. Mary's Preparatory school, Union, Cranford, Plainfield, and Scotch Plains. These students, along with Ja'Quan, were part of "Team Red" who received an award at the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders Meeting on Thursday January 21st, for their community service initiative called "Garments and Gear Greatness for Years".



Going Above and Beyond

Winfield Scott School No. 2 security guard Marco Coba went above and beyond his job duties when he used his lunchtime to help two students catch up on their language arts reading assignment. Mr. Coba read alongside with the students and even asked them comprehension questions based on what they were reading.



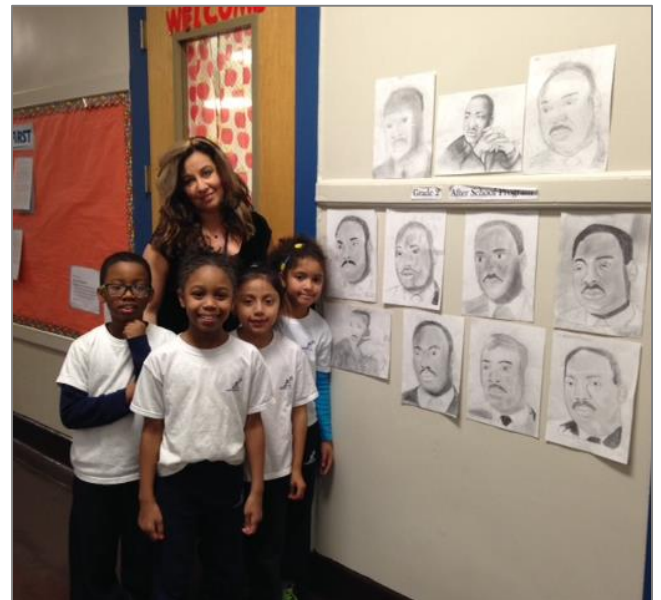
Classroom Engineers

Have you ever dreamed of designing your own classroom? Led by Ms. Urena and Ms. Barto, 2nd and 3rd grade students of the afterschool STEM club at **Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28** put their engineering brains to work. First, they drew a blueprint of their classroom. Then, they used technology to design their classroom and make it come to life.

They also drew a key to identify what the different shapes represented in their classroom. Finally, the students wrote in detail how all materials and different furniture that was included in their design would benefit future students in learning! The engineer exercise was a great experience for all.

I Have a Dream

Students in the After School Arts Program at **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14**, under the supervision of Ms. Deena Cavallo, honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by drawing his portrait. Teachers and staff were impressed with the artistic talents of the second graders.



Spreading Good Cheer

St. Jude is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The students at **George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1** understand that other children are not as fortunate as them; and together they decided to create cards and recruit other students to send out over 45 holiday letters to the hospitalized children and their families.

Winter Wonderland



On Friday, January 29, 2016, in celebration of the winter season, students and team members at **Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50** celebrated with the annual “Winter Wonderland” event. Two activity stations were set up for the children to enjoy.

The first station, provided by the PTO, was a movie station which included cookies and milk for the children to snack on while watching “Frozen Fever!” The second station, “Do you want to build a snowman?” allowed each of the students to create their very own snowman! With the help and support of not only staff, but many parent volunteers, each child walked away with amazing creations!

The highlight of the day was seeing the faces of the students as a surprise visitor popped in to say hello; the one and only, Olaf himself!

National Puzzle Day

On January 29, **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Center School No. 52** recognized National Puzzle Day by hosting an event. Parents were invited to spend quality time with their children while engaging in numerous puzzle activities as well as other manipulatives to enhance fine motor growth. Studies have found that when you work on a jigsaw puzzle, you use both sides of the brain, improving memory, cognitive function and problem solving skills. The students enjoyed showing their parents their puzzle solving skills!



Marine Biology

Winfield Scott School No. 2 students had the opportunity to have a hands on experience with different preserved marine specimens, ranging from jellyfish to sharks! Rebecca Shell from Montclair State University, a marine biologist whose studies focus on invertebrates, conducted the presentation on the marine specimens.

Students were extremely engaged, constantly asking as well as answering questions. The students were most excited when they were able to use gloves and touch the different preserved specimens.



STOP BULLYING !

After viewing a video presentation of “Stop Bullying – Speak Up” in which President Barack Obama gave an introductory statement, Darnella Boles, School Counselor at **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5** gave her 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students advice on how to stop bullying collectively as a group.

Pennies for Patients

Donald Stewart School No. 51 participated in a charitable fundraiser to educate students about supporting people in need. Pennies for Patients is a fundraiser which is part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s School and Youth Programs. It will run from February 1st through February 19th at **Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51**. This program raises funds for lifesaving treatments and cures for blood cancer patients. During a three-week period, the students will collect spare change to support the organization’s mission — to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life for patients and their families. Throughout the activity, students discuss the importance of helping others, helping the sick and caring for others to instill the school motto “Friends Care Friends Share.” The students also work on math concepts as they count and sort their donations. The impact students’ participation will have on so many lives is significant, but their own sense of service and philanthropy is immeasurable.



Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 Celebrates School Counselors’ Week

Team members and scholars from **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9** adorned the door of school counselor, Ms. Jasmine Lee, with sticky notes of appreciation and love in celebration of School Counselors’ Week.

Ms. Lee is a key leader at Jerome Dunn Academy and is responsible for organizing and implementing countless special programs for the scholars and school. Her commitment, hard work, bright smile and positive attitude helps make Jerome Dunn Academy a special place. Thank you Ms. Lee!



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Brings College Admissions to Students



In keeping with the school's AVID Mission to prepare "all students for college readiness and success in a global society," **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's** guidance counselors have arranged many visits to the Hamilton campus from a variety of colleges including the Military Academies of West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy. There have been numerous information sessions presented to senior AVID students as well as on site admissions visits where students can submit their applications directly to admissions officers in hopes of gaining acceptance on the spot.

As a result of these on site admissions visits, fifty-one Hamilton seniors were accepted by Bloomfield College, forty-two by New Jersey City University, forty-six by Kean University, and forty-five by Mercy College.



The Blue Project

The staff and students had the pleasure of hearing Jared Campbell's inspirational message through his music at **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27**.

Mr. Campbell uses music to relay his message that life has challenges but we have the power to overcome the obstacles that present themselves.



Get On Board with Harriet Tubman

The students in Ms. Mazza and Ms. Janet's pre-k classroom in room 107 at **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Annex 5B** shared the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. During work time, the students were provided crayons to draw a scene depicting where they would have liked Harriet Tubman to take them if they were with her on an Underground Railroad journey. Afterwards, the students had an opportunity to share their destinations with their classmates.



Montclair State University

On January 21, the eighth grade **iPrep Academy School No. 8** students had the opportunity to tour the Montclair State University campus. The School No. 8 students were taken inside many of the academic buildings, including University Hall and the new business building. Students were excited to spark a conversation and ask questions about the different majors available at the university.

HISPA Continues to Inspire

Students of **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** listened attentively as the role model for the month of January, Walter Rodriguez, shared his life story of hard work and dedication. Rodriguez is Director of Segment and Cultural Portfolio Strategy & Planning within the Chief Marketing Office for Verizon. His newfound success included taking on the role as Director of Marketing Operations for Verizon Enterprise Solutions.

Every month, inspirational figures visit the school to share their stories of success and determination.



Terence C. Reilly Fights the Winter Blues with Some Hot Moves

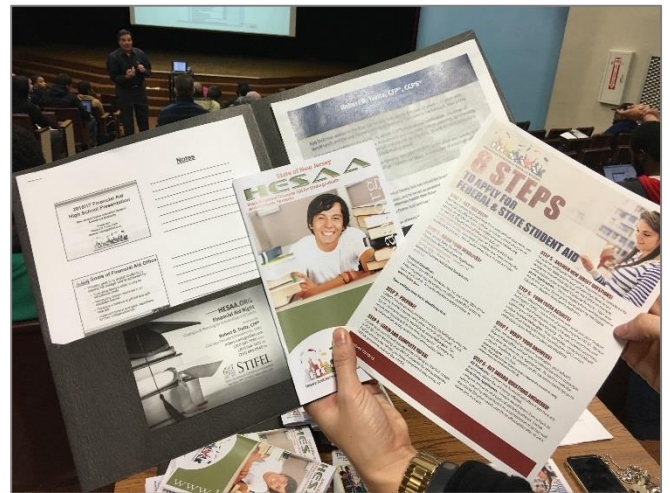


Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 presented "Lights, Camera, Action!" a Dance and Performing Arts Showcase. The showcase spotlighted students performing different types of dances from a Mission Impossible tap number, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle dance and even a special appearance by the beloved mascot Terence, who showed off his fancy footwork during the "Eye of the Tiger" ensemble number.

Along with the talented toe tapping numbers, the audience was treated to a sneak preview of the school musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" scheduled for the spring.

Financial Aid Night

On February 3, over 50 students and parents attended the 2016 Financial Aid Night held at **John E. Dwyer Technology Academy**. Mr. Bob Traitz from HESSA presented the JEDTA families with information on how to apply for Financial Aid and how to use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Parents and students were given the opportunity to complete their FAFSA forms with support from Mr. Traitz and the JEDTA Guidance Department. The guidance staff was also on hand to answer any questions regarding college applications, transcripts and letters of recommendation. Students were also given several local, state, and national scholarship applications to fill out in hopes of gaining more money that will assist in attending the colleges of their dreams.



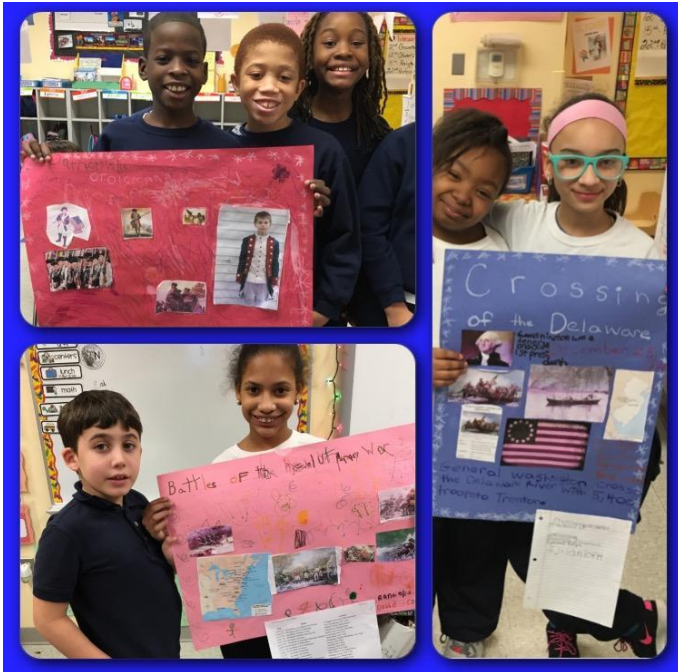
Revolutionary War Wax Museum

As a culminating activity, fourth grade students from **Woodrow Wilson School No. 19** researched a prominent figure from the revolutionary war. They dressed up as that person and created a poster. Then gave speeches from that person's perspective.



Ms. Frees's Fourth Grade Class

After reading George Washington's Socks, Ms. Frees 4th grade students from **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27** were asked to create a research poster describing specific events of the Revolutionary War and the significance it had on the 13 Colonies.



Yoga at School No. 28

Every morning at **Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28**, Mrs. Aponte's class day begins with a quick two minute yoga session. Yoga helps students start the day with a calm and positive attitude towards school. Students look forward to their daily morning yoga routine because of how they feel. It is through yoga that the minds take the first step towards relaxation, coordination, and flexibility. Mrs. Aponte has found that yoga encourages self-esteem and fosters cooperation and compassion amongst her student. Doing yoga for two-five minutes every day also emphasizes the importance of exercise and connecting to their surroundings.



2nd Annual Family S.T.E.M Night

On February 3, **Elmora School No. 12** held their 2nd Annual Family S.T.E.M Night. Over 100 families came to the event to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics! Students in grades 5-8 created S.T.E.M related projects. These projects were showcased in the auditorium. In the cafeteria, staff members facilitated hands-on S.T.E.M Centers.

Students and parents engaged in the many center activities. Some favorites were building Lego towers, making boats that float, and the most popular station Oobleck Slime!!!



National Heart Awareness Month

February is National Heart Awareness Month. The students and faculty at **Joseph Battin School No. 4** participated with two events to support heart awareness. Hoops for Heart is a yearly event sponsored by The American Heart Association; the Physical Education Teachers hosted this event for the first time in several years.

An Assembly was held for all students to learn about Prevention of Heart Disease and participating in *kids helping kids*. Several basketball games were hosted in the gym and the students received prizes. Students fundraised with their families and donated to the American Heart Association. The money raised by the students will be used to help children with heart disease.



National Signing Day



The Elizabeth Board of Education is proud to announce that David Tobe class of 2015 has signed his National Letter of Intent to attend American International College of Massachusetts. David was honored with his Family, Coaches, Athletic department and Administration in a ceremony on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

David was selected for the All Mid State Football team in 2014. He was a member of the State Finalist team of 2014 and was also selected as a captain for the Minutemen. In addition David was a starting Defensive End on the Undefeated No. 1 ranked State Championship Minutemen of 2012. David was awarded a full 4 year scholarship and will begin classes this summer.

Congratulations David and his family on this tremendous accomplishment!

The Year of the Monkey

Kindergarten students at **Robert Morris School No. 18** rung in the Chinese New Year by learning about the Chinese traditions and customs regarding the holiday. At the conclusion of the lesson, children made their own red paper lanterns which are a traditional decoration used during the New Year.

Additionally, according to tales and legends, the beginning of Chinese New Year started with the fight against a

mythical beast called the "Year". The "Year" looks like an ox with a lion head and lives in the sea. People later found that the "Year" fears the color red, fire, and loud sounds. Therefore, for self-protection, people formed the habit of posting red Dui Lian in front of their house as well as launching fireworks, and hanging red lanterns at year end.

All State Dinner



Four of the Elizabeth varsity boys soccer team players were honored in January at the All-State dinner; they were seniors, Maximiliano Acosta, Paulo Lopes, Sergio Martinez and junior Kevin Patino. Pictured is Kevin Patino, Maximiliano Acosta and Sergio Martinez.

Maximiliano Acosta, was also recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association-All State group.



Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!

Super Scholars and Team Member of the Month

At **Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9**, team members are charged with selecting a special student from their class each month who exhibits kindness, compassion and great choices. Pictured are the SCHOLARS of the Month for January as well as Mrs. Flowers, the Team Member of the Month. Mrs. Flowers was chosen by the School Spirit Team for her great attendance, amazing enthusiasm, love and commitment to the school. Mrs. Flowers will enjoy priority VIP parking as part of her honor.



Ready for New Beginnings...

Students at **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14** listened intently as Mr. Ojeda, Principal of Jefferson Arts Academy, spoke to them about high school. Mr. Ojeda explained to the students that each of the High Schools in Elizabeth has something different to offer, based on each student's strengths or interests.



Full STEAM Ahead for AEA

Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 is gearing up to return for the third year in a row to New Jersey's Annual Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference. Last year, School No. 29 was the only urban school at TSA and took home First, Second, and Third place in three out of eight events. This year, however, AEA has raised the bar, competing in 19 different activities and have realigned their STEAM curriculum for the TSA. Events include engineering design challenges such as, catapult design, gliders, bridge building, solar cars, student inventions, and a CO2 Drag Race.



Research based projects, dealing with biotechnology, environmental studies, mass production, creating a children's book about oceans, and a technical design challenge. The school will also be competing in an on-site debate, a prepared speech, essay writing, digital photography, a live forensics crime scene, and the Tech Bowl trivia. The Conference will be April 6 at The College of New Jersey!



Periodic Table T-Shirts

Ms. Whitley's scientists from **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26** are setting new fashion trends with their Periodic Table of the Elements Gear.



Valentine's Day Fundraiser



It has been a busy winter at **Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26**. The Student Government's annual Valentine's Day fundraiser is in full swing!

Should Could Dream

On February 3, **Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3** welcomed Duane Myko and the Should Could Dream Tour to the school. Duane and his crew presented an exhilarating show for the sixth, seventh and eighth graders, complete with lights, music, dancing and singing; all geared towards motivating the students to think about the choices that they make today and the impact they will have on their future. Students were challenged to "Dream Big and Work Hard."



Pop-Tab Program



Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 received a certificate of appreciation for participating in the Pop-Tab Program sponsored by Ronald McDonald House of Central and Northern New Jersey. These pop-tabs are melted down and the metal is sold. The money received is used by Ronald McDonald House to provide shelter for families who stay in their facilities while their child is treated for cancer.

Ronald Reagan Academy is continuing this service project for the rest of the school year. As an incentive to bring in the pop-tabs, the class who generates the most will receive a pizza party.

Souper Bowl

Students from **Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3** joined together to work on a grade level service project, "Souper" Bowl. The first graders had the most donations totaling 165 cans! When all the cans were collected, the entire school collected 428 soup cans in total! The soup cans were donated to St. Joseph's Homeless Shelter on Division Street in Elizabeth. The students loved the experience and were happy to contribute to their community and to help others in need!



Honoring Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pre-Kindergarten students in Mrs. Woodley and Mrs. Megala's class at **Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28** celebrated the Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with many activities. They read books and discussed the contributions of civil rights leader, Dr. King and how he helped to make the world better for all people regardless of their differences. The class made individual portraits of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and added a note that read "Thank you Dr. King" to wrap up their discussions.





Art Showcase

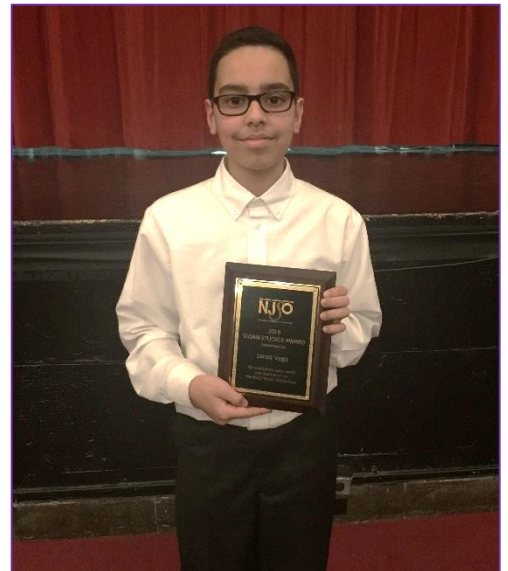
The beauty of winter is celebrated and displayed indoors at **Madison-Monroe School No. 16**. Under the direction of Art teacher, Ada Flores, students in grades K-8 are expressing their artistic creativity through different styles and techniques.

Mrs. Flores has created stunningly beautiful bulletin boards and displays to showcase the students' artwork. The displays consist of paintings, drawings, 3D imagery, and sculptures.

Recipient of The Inaugural 2016 Susan Stucker

Jared Vega, string ensemble student of Ms. D. Bensoul at **William F. Halloran School No. 22 @31** for the Gifted and Talented was chosen by Maestro Jeffrey Grogan of the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestras' Program to receive the inaugural "2016 SUSAN STUCKER AWARD." This award is given for "exemplary team spirit and dedication to the NJSO Youth Orchestras" and was presented to Jared on January 30th at the 25 Year Winter Celebration Concert of The NJSO Youth Orchestras at the Shea Center for Performing Arts at William Paterson University.

This award is given to one member of each ensemble of the NJSO Youth Orchestras in honor of NJSO staff member Susan Stucker who helped to launch this prestigious program 25 years ago. Along with the award, Ms. Stucker has requested that the school of each award recipient be provided the gift of a free master class with an NJSO musician which will be arranged with Ms. Bensoul.



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