



Excellence News

Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

January 21, 2016

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

Coat Drive From Warm Hearts



January 8, 2016 kicked off the 5th Annual Coat Drive held by the Elizabeth Board of Education and the New Jersey State Police. Approximately 520 Elizabeth Public School students were recipients of brand new winter coats. This year's success was driven by an awesome collaboration involving: Wakefern, Fajardo Realty Group, Elizabeth Fire and Police, the Union County Sheriff's Office, the National Black State Troopers Coalition-Marshall C. Brown Chapter, the Hispanic Law Enforcement Association of Union County and At Hearts Length.



This drive's success is due in large part to the giving merchants who agreed to participate in this annual event: Old Navy in Holmdel, Menlo Mall and the Jersey Garden Mall, JC Penney, Boscov's, Macy's and Sears in the Woodbridge Center Mall. Their commitment and generosity to the community is laudable.



Students who attend Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 and are part of the New Jersey State Police FLEET Mentoring Program enthusiastically assisted with distributing coats to fellow students. Also helping with distribution were two recent graduates of the Elizabeth Public School System, Orlando Diaz (Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy-Class of 2015) and Jennifer Lozano (Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy-Class of 2013). Not only did they distribute coats, they purchased a few in the spirit of paying it forward! Diaz, who is now attending Kean University, and Lozano, a United States Marine and graduate of Elizabeth's ROTC Program, are both also recent graduates of the New Jersey State Police Trooper Youth Week Program.

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Attends Performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*

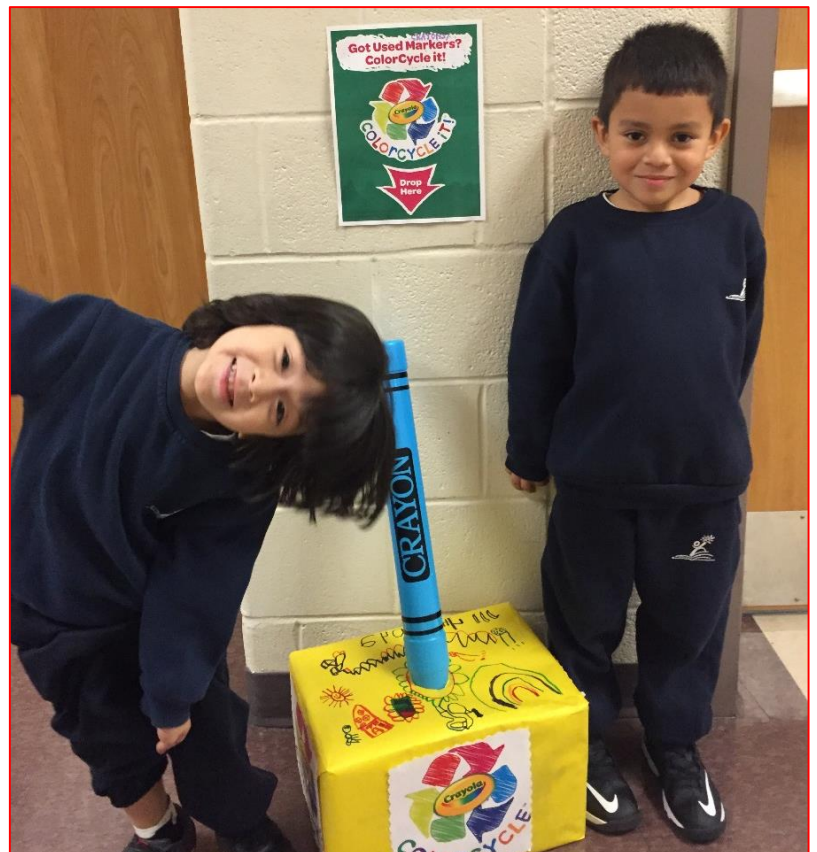


The **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7** Class of 2016 attended a student matinee performance of The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The 128 students will be studying World War II and the Holocaust later in the school year. As part of the LEADS program, they will also read literature influenced by the Holocaust including the personal account left by Anne Frank in her famous diary.

ColorCycles with Crayola

The "Green Team" at **Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28**, has implemented the Crayola ColorCycle program. Students and faculty members are collecting dried out markers and broken crayons to be recycled.

The markers will be shipped to Crayola to be recycled into clean fuel and the broken crayons will be melted down by team members to create new rainbow crayons to distribute to all students. Well on their way to their goal of 1000 markers, they have collected 172 markers and 1 box full of crayons. School No. 28 is **GOING GREEN** -1 marker and crayon at a time!





School No. 2 Rocks!

Ms. Bowers's sixth graders from **Winfield Scott School No. 2** made a flag that represents what a great public school exemplifies to them.

Each student wrote a statement following the theme for the project.



Excellence in Education

Students at **Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51** wore award ribbons that specified a task the students excelled in. Nursing students from the Trinitas School of Nursing visited with numerous hands-on activity from the Teddy Bear Clinic. Students also worked collaboratively to create Thank You cards for team members, which were later displayed in the lobby.

The weeklong celebration ended with special visitors, State Trooper Reynaldo Cruz, who spoke about safety including why it is important to wear seatbelts, and the Elizabeth Fire department showing the students what do in the event of a fire.



"What's My Anti-Drug" Poster Contest

Rosa Vasquez-Martinez, an 8th grade student at **George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1** outshined all Union County contestants in the Prevention Links "What's My Anti-Drug" Poster Contest. She surpassed all expectations by expressing her artistic ability on canvas depicting an ex-wrestler who became a spokesperson for drug awareness; a job he felt he needed to do because he was raised by a parent who was a drug user.

Rosa was acknowledged at the Prevention Links Drug Prevention Walk in Cranford, NJ. She was awarded a \$50 Target gift card for her outstanding work.



West Point Comes to Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

As part of the ongoing mission to inspire high achievement, **Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's** junior and senior students attended assemblies presented by Cadet Thomlinson Aaron representing The United States Military Academy at West Point.

Admission to West Point is an exceptional honor reserved for our nation's most promising students. In addition to excellent grades, candidates are required to exhibit physical fitness, and outstanding character. Those who are selected to attend USMA receive a college education that is unparalleled in the world with tuition, room and board, and expenses fully paid.



Math Night

Winfield Scott School No. 2 held math night for students and parents. Every grade level Pre-k thru eighth had a table with a math activity to share.



School No. 3 Gets Active on Family Fitness Day



The school community of **Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3** eagerly participated in a Family Fitness Day as part of American Education Week. Parents were invited to "get moving" with their children. They participated in a forty minute, high intensity workout. With the music pumping, team members demonstrated exercises encouraging teamwork between parents and students. Students were also roaring with tiger pride to see their principal, Jennifer A. Campel, jump right in and participate! There is nothing more gratifying than seeing parents and children learn new ways to get healthy while having fun together.

National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM

Marisa Olavarria, a fourth grade student at **William F. Halloran School No. 22@31**, participated this summer in the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM. She was nominated by Mrs. Marcy Hackett, her fourth grade Math teacher. The program took place at Rider University located in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Not only did she participate in the whole "college" experience by living in a dorm and eating in the student cafeteria, she also experienced

STEM-related interests including engineering, medicine and CSI. Throughout the week, she explored all three of STEM pathways.

Marisa said, "My experience was fun, eye opening and I got to meet people from all over New Jersey." "This has been the best experience I ever had and would love to go to future Stem Programs."

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer visits Elmora School 12's 4th Grade Biography Day

Bilingual student Jessica Mendez from **Elmora School No. 12** researched and shared Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer's career path to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. She spoke about Mrs. Hugelmeyer's life, dreams, and accomplishments. She also thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for all she does every day for the students of Elizabeth.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer also visited Mrs. Henkel's and Mrs. Duda's 4th Grade classroom, where students shared their research on the life of famous people from New Jersey.

Students included a power point that pointed out historical facts and great accomplishments about the famous person they researched. John Moran sang to Mrs. Hugelmeyer, Frank Sinatra's hit, *I Did It My Way*. Students were honored to receive a visit from their superintendent.



Color Run 2015



Woodrow Wilson School No. 19 participated in a 5K color run in Elizabeth, as a fun team building activity.

Teachers and their families participated as a way to promote teamwork, invigorate morale, engage in healthy activities and advance the Healthy Alliance School status. School No. 19 team looks forward to more team building, healthy activities!

Snowflake Dance

Parents and daughters at **Robert Morris School No. 18** enjoyed a fun filled night at The First Annual Snowflake Dance. Parents and children were treated to crafts and activities. Everyone left with a keepsake from the special evening.

There was amazing dancing, refreshments, and a special visit from Princess Elsa who sang along with all the elementary school girls. It was a night to be remembered for a long time to come.



A Special Guest

Students from **Benjamin Franklin School No. 13** had a special guest. Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA) 2015 Role Model of the Year, Mayra Caceres shared her story to inspire students of the AVID program at School No. 13.



OTTO HAAS 2015 SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD



Congratulations to the 2015 State Champions, Elizabeth High School Boys soccer team for being the recipient of the prestigious OTTO HAAS 2015 SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD PRESENTED BY S.C.O.A Chapter of NEW JERSEY SOCCER OFFICIALS Association, this is the first time an Elizabeth team has received this sportsmanship award.

Present at the Awards Dinner were: Team captains: Nahuel Pereyra, Paulo Lopes, Juan Miranda, senior players Antoine Gbmamou and Miguel Fuentes along with Coach Cortico and Coach Gonzales.

Elephant Toothpaste



The Kindergarten students from Ms. Litos and Ms. Green's class at **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14** made "Elephant Toothpaste" during a Science experiment.

Although the experiment did not go exactly as planned, the students participated in a very engaging learning activity.

EHS - Kicks off Relay for Life

The National Honor Society of **Elizabeth High School** launched its first Relay For life Kick-off to introduce to the students of the Lower and Upper Academies the Relay For life Event scheduled for March 18, 2016.

Both Lower and Upper Academies held their first dress down to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. Students paid one dollar and dressed in purple, the color that represents pancreatic cancer awareness. In the upcoming months, the students of Elizabeth High school will dress down to raise awareness for other types of cancer. On February 19 they will dress in blue for colon cancer and finally on March 11, in yellow for kidney cancer. All funds collected will be donated to the American Cancer Society.



Reindeer Games

Joseph Battin School No. 4 Celebrates "Reindeer Games." School No. 4's Wellness Council in collaboration with Principal Mr. Candelino, the Physical Education department and after school teachers conducted the first annual "Reindeer Games" in the Afterschool Program.

The students and their parents were invited to come learn about healthy eating, making the right food choices and to participate in fun activities together.



Administrators for a Day at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

Students at **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7** participated in an essay writing contest identifying a teacher that has inspired them to go above and beyond in their learning. The winners of the contest were given the opportunity to be Principal & Vice Principal for the day, alongside Mr. Panagopoulos & Mrs. Milano.

Middle School scholar Verushka Zuzunaga served as Principal & Elementary School scholar Rai Cyron Antonio served as Vice Principal.

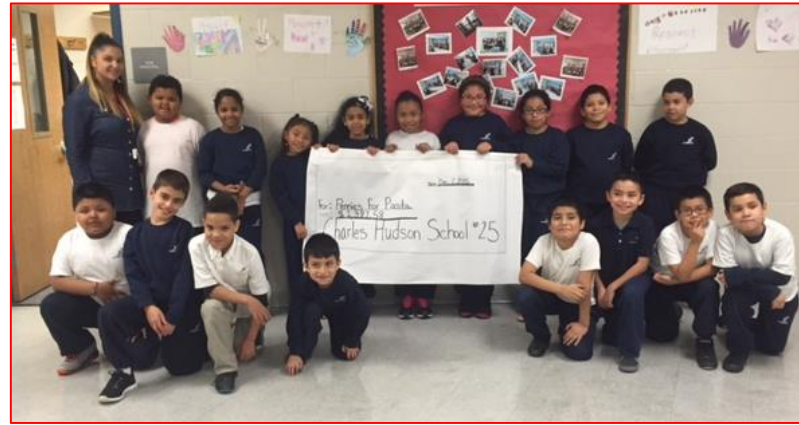


Both scholars participated in conducting morning announcements, walk-throughs and staff meetings.

Pasta for Pennies Program

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society welcomed **Charles J. Hudson School No. 25** to the student series "Pasta for Pennies Program". In 2014, they set a goal of \$500.00 but raised \$1,006.00.

This year, School No. 25 raised a total of \$1,382.58. The class, who raised the most



money, won a Hospitaliano Lunch sponsored by the Olive Garden. This year's lucky winners were Mrs. Alvelaez and her wonderful 3rd grade classroom. Congratulations to them! Although the students had a lot of fun participating and competing to raise the most money, they are all winners because they raised money to save lives. In the end, that is what truly matters! Way to Go Charles J. Hudson Family!

Learning is Sweet

The Pre-K scholars in Mrs. Davis's class from **George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1** were challenged to build the tallest tower possible using toothpicks and gumdrops. They counted the gumdrops, compared the heights and of course they even tasted them.



Breakfast With Santa

On December 21, students in **Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50**, were treated to a waffle breakfast followed by the sound of sleigh bells.

Santa Claus soon arrived to visit with students. Although Santa's gift to each student was a candy cane, they were promised another gift on Christmas if they were good.



Geologists for A Day

Elmora School No. 12's 8th grade Science students became geologists for a day. The students visited Sterling Hill Mines where they were able to collect rock samples that they have been studying during their Earth History Unit.

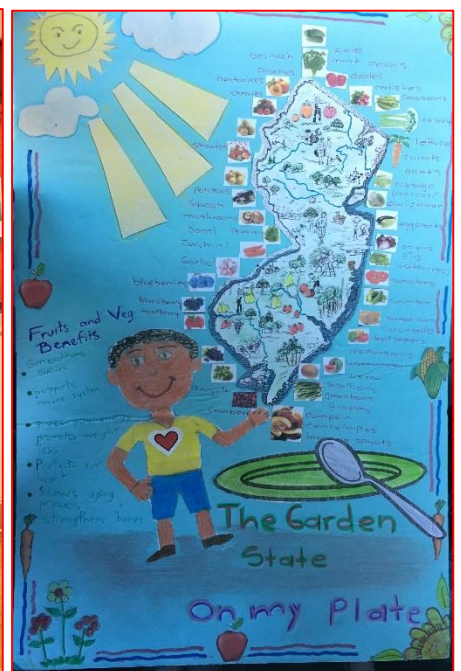
Students made observations and inferred about the types of minerals that might be present in the rock samples based on black light experiments and rock observation skills. The students were excited to use what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to the real world.



Third Grader Wins "The Garden State on My Plate" Poster Contest

As winners of the New Jersey Agricultural Society's *Learning Through Gardening* grant, students at **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7** had the opportunity to enter the *Garden State on My Plate* poster contest. Third grader David Ochoa created a poster after participating in a lesson on the top ten fruits and vegetable grown in the garden state, and won the "Garden State on My Plate" Contest from the New Jersey Agricultural Society.

David's poster also placed first in the state competition. His work is currently being displayed at the New Jersey Agricultural Society Station in Bordentown, New Jersey.



Charles J. Hudson's Student of the Month Celebration



Charles J. Hudson School No. 25 held its *Student of the Month* celebration. Each student received a congratulatory certificate from Principal Francisco honoring his or her achievements and hard work. The celebration was attended by the families of the honorees who joined the students in a special breakfast.

Jump With Jill



Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 hosted the Jump with Jill show. *Jump with Jill* is a music-based health program for kids that makes nutrition education rock. Armed with catchy songs, upbeat dance moves, and a hip wardrobe, *Jump with Jill* uses the same tools normally used to sell junk food, to get kids engaged, moving, and learning about healthy habits. The 3rd, 4th and 5th graders learned how to treat their bodies with the respect they deserve.

Little Kids Rock!



Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 hosted a workshop for local NJ teachers for the Little Kids Rock modern band program. Over 35 teachers from cities like Elizabeth, Newark, Passaic, and others took part in the day's events, which culminated in them receiving certification as Little Kids Rock teachers.

Little Kids Rock trains public school teachers and donates all of the instruments, curricular resources and support they need to ensure that their kids receive the right to rock! School 29 has already had a Little Kids Rock program for a

year now. Some selected students were given the opportunity to perform "I Got A Feeling" by the Black Eyed Peas at the workshop for the teachers in training. School 29 will be having a Little Kids Rock Concert on June 8, 2015.

Scholars are "Caught Being Good" At Jerome Dunn Academy



Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9 hosted a pizza celebration for scholars who were "caught being good" during the fall months. The goal of this program is to recognize all scholars who make positive choices and do the right thing when no one is looking. All team members are looking for scholars that help another person out, befriend someone at recess, or say something kind without looking for some sort of acknowledgment or anything along those lines. The counseling department awarded students with certificates to take home and another to display outside the student's classroom. The goal is to celebrate and encourage positive behavior and choices in hopes that it will become contagious.

Sharing Holiday Memories

ALL ABOARD! The 3rd grade team, headed by Ms. Crismale and Mrs. Scaturro, transformed the school hallway at **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5** into the scenic route of the Polar Express. Students worked diligently writing stories reflecting on their favorite holiday memories, directional passages on how to build snowmen and alternate endings for the book. This PBL allowed students to celebrate their cultural individualities in an educational and festive manner by decorating their pajamas to reflect their family's native country. Great teamwork Mr. Fritcher, Mr. Roguski, Mrs. Fazekas, Ms. Fernandez, Mr. Felipe and Ms. Daisy! ☺



Ugly Sweater Creations

On December 11, students & staff at **Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50** were invited to wear their ugly sweater creations to school. And who could resist? A fun day was had by all, and some even went home with a prize. Donations were also made to the school's PTO by those who wore sweaters, adding a positive purpose to all of the fun.



A Visit from the Elizabeth Rotary Club

The excitement continues when the Rotary Club makes their annual visit to **Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30**. Every year the Rotary Club donates a dictionary to every third grade student. Students were excited to receive their own personal dictionary to use as a resource in the classroom and at home. As students received their own copy, they anxiously looked at all the valuable information the dictionary has to offer. School No. 30 community appreciates all that the Rotary Club does for the students.



Little Kids Rock

At **Robert Morris School No. 18**, and with the help of the Little Kids Rock music program, Mr. Paul Richter teaches his Modern Band improvisational guitar class. This program composes music using popular styles that kids know and love, including rock, pop, reggae, R&B and other modern styles.

Modern Band features both electric and acoustic guitar, bass, piano, vocals, technology and computers. Mr. Richter's class expands on existing music programming such as instrumental music and chorus.



Superintendent and Principal Scholars

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy held its annual first marking period scholars breakfast. Over two hundred parents, guardians and students attended the celebration. Over the course of the marking period, the teachers subjected the students to high expectations and high levels of rigor. Their successes are indicative of the incredible efforts of team members, students, and parents. These students have proven themselves leaders in both their academic programs and school community. JEDTA had twenty Superintendent Scholar recipients and an amazing one hundred and seventy-two Principal Scholars. The scholars were awarded certificates for the first quarter marking period of the 2015-2016 school year.



Students Perform Side by Side with NJSO



Elizabeth High School music students had the opportunity to perform with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as part of the orchestra's Side by Side event at the Dunn Sports Center. This year the event marked the 10th anniversary of the Side by Side at Elizabeth Public Schools.

It was an exciting experience for the students to perform with professional musicians and a musical treat for all those in attendance.

Elizabeth High School Athletics

Senior Miguel Goncalves and Junior Alexia Suazo, student-athletes from **Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy** were honored as Complete Athletes® on November 6, 2015 at the Complete Athlete® Award Banquet for "respecting others and embodying positive change mentally and physically, both on and off the field." Miguel is a two year varsity soccer team member who played full back and never missed a game this season. Alexia is a three year varsity cheerleader and is most often recognized for her perseverance and commitment to the team. The athletes were nominated by their guidance counselors for exhibiting excellence in the areas of Character, Academics, Leadership and Athletics. Varsity Soccer Coach Joseph Cortico and Varsity Cheerleading Coach Sandra Evaristo are very proud of Miguel and Alexia's accomplishments both on the team and in the classroom.



Congratulations for showing Excellence in Athletics!



Food Drive

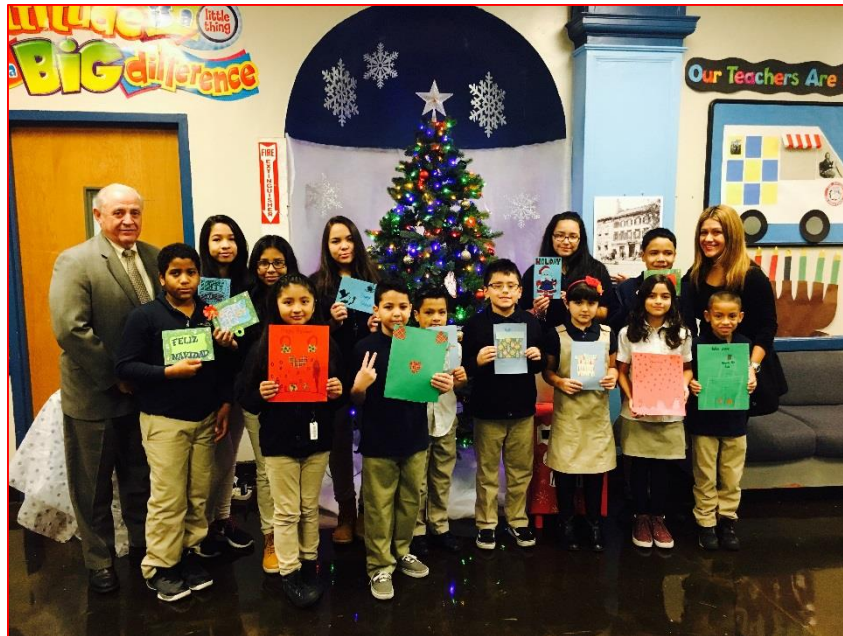


Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 students demonstrated leadership skills in the community by working together to help others. The students made a plan to make the holiday season special for those in need. The students met the challenge of helping others by collecting supplies for soldiers and donating food, gloves, scarves and hats.

The food drive was a huge success. Eight families from the school received baskets filled with whole

turkeys and variety of Thanksgiving fixings. The students then synergized and boxed up the remaining food. Over 15 boxes were then donated to an organization known for their annual Thanksgiving food drive. By working together, they were able to send supplies to US troops stationed overseas. In addition, the accessories drive will provide hats, gloves and scarves to children that need them this winter.

Joseph Battin School No. 4 Sends Holiday Cheer



The students of **Joseph Battin School No. 4** had the pleasure of sending holiday cards to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Sixth grade teacher, Ms. Vega sponsored the program where teachers and all students had the opportunity to send some holiday cheer to the children at the hospital.

Students look forward to this special activity to demonstrate their artistic abilities as well as sending the children at Saint Jude's some special holiday messages.

National Junior Honor Society



On January 8, **Winfield Scott School No. 2**, had its first ever student induction ceremony into the National Junior Honor Society.

This prestigious organization recognizes outstanding middle school students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Eight students were inducted; Ana Almendares, Edna Charles, Kyle Davis, Jolnie Desir, Mikyia Musa, Xavier Musa, Shanice Richardson, and Rose Rodriguez. Also in attendance were, Elizabeth Board of Education members Maria Carvalho, Stan Neron, and Daniel Nina.

Members of the U.S. Army Visit the Hamilton Academy Annex



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's freshman AVID students were visited by members of the U.S. Army, who gave advice and information about planning for the future and the benefits of making good decisions and choices early, as opposed to waiting until junior or senior year of high school. The guest speakers explained the benefits of enrollment in the armed forces, as well as the numerous college majors and career options available to students, and the advantages of early planning. They also spoke about careers that are specific to Army members and the G.I. Bill, which allows them to attend college for free.

Scholar Assembly

Students in grades 1 through 8 from **Woodrow Wilson School No. 19** were recognized at a scholar assembly for outstanding scholars. Students, team members, and faculty were proud to see all the honor roll students earn certificates and awards!! Keep up the good work!



Gingerbread Houses

Ms. Christian's Pre-K A2 students from **Madison Monroe School No. 16** worked with Mrs. Britanak's 5th grade students to create Gingerbread houses after reading the books; *Gingerbread Friends* and *Gingerbread Man*. The 5th graders assisted the Pre-kindergarten children in frosting the houses, and then all the children decorated their own Gingerbread House with different candies of different shapes.

The different shapes were identified and the children were encourage to describe what they had created and how they made their Gingerbread Houses. They also had the learning experience of working with children of a different age group. All children, teachers, parents and CDAs had a great time working on these Gingerbread House wonderlands.



Stay Connected with your Elizabeth Public Schools!

Elmora School No.12 Welcomes N.J. Burkett

The Journalism students at **Elmora School No. 12** recently had the opportunity to meet and speak with N.J. Burkett, a correspondent for WABC-TV.

Mr. Burkett grew up in Elizabeth and is a graduate of Elizabeth High School. He spoke to the students about his journey to becoming a correspondent and the everyday obstacles and excitement he must face day to day. Students were presented with a first-hand glimpse into what his day is like as he received messages updating him about an ongoing event that needed to be covered.



Camilo Guzman, 8th Grade Journalism student said, "You have really inspired me to pursue a career in journalism. I am an average student when it comes to math. However, I have no problem in writing and speaking in public and I think this is the career for me."

Family Project

During the month of December, the students from **Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51's** rooms 134 and 138 worked on family projects. They played house and took on family roles in the dramatic play area. They also built different kinds of shelters for people and animals in the block area, and created 3-d families and houses in the art area. Teachers read to the students many books on different kinds of families from all over the world. The students completed a take-home project where they created family trees with their parents.



All About Ancient Egypt

Egyptian-born Peter Abdellahout, a sixth-grade ESL student at **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14**, assisted his teacher, Mr. Reese, in teaching his class about Ancient Egypt.

Peter taught about the pharaohs that ruled the ancient land and offered insight about the people of that time. After his presentation, Peter played a self-created trivia game with the class to test their knowledge about ancient Egypt.

Visit to 'Second Home'



Students from **Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51** visited Second Home, an adult daycare center. Led by music teacher, Mr. Mangeouglu, the students sang holiday songs for the senior citizens. The students presented the seniors with a gift of pillows to remember the visit and to express care and respect for them. Then the children danced the "Macarena" and "Happy" by Pharrell with the seniors. The Second Home staff thanked the students for their generous gift and told them they reminded the seniors of their grandchildren and it warmed their hearts to have them visit.



Christmas Cards for Recovering American Soldiers

The first grade students of **Abraham Lincoln School No. 14** worked hard to create their own special Christmas cards for recovering American soldiers. All of the cards were sent, with lots of love and thanks, to the *Walter Reed Army Medical Center* in Washington, DC.

Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

This was the question answered the last week at **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** in Room A7 with Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Rosales. The children found out how Dr. King championed for equal rights for minorities in the United States.



Engineering is Elementary

Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29's second grade students have been working as junior engineers in order to complete their goal for STEAM. *Engineering is Elementary* presented students with the task of creating a windmill to harvest wind energy and power a functioning windmill. Students explored different materials and created sails to test which materials work best "catching the wind."



A Great Occasion For The Kindergarten Buddies To Play

Mrs. Phyllis Taub's fifth graders from **Madison-Monroe School No. 16** traveled to spend time with their kindergarten buddies from Mrs. Diane Kennedy's class across town at **Victor Mravlag School No. 21**. The students had a super time both playing dreidel and creating their own dreidel snack using marshmallows, frosting, pretzels, and chocolate.

Kindergarten Buddies is a program the two teachers from School No. 16 and School No. 21 created more than a decade ago. Older students serve as mentors to their younger counterparts. Students pen pal with each other and have several visits during the school year.



Every Child, Achieving Excellence!

Send us excellent news on the great things happening
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