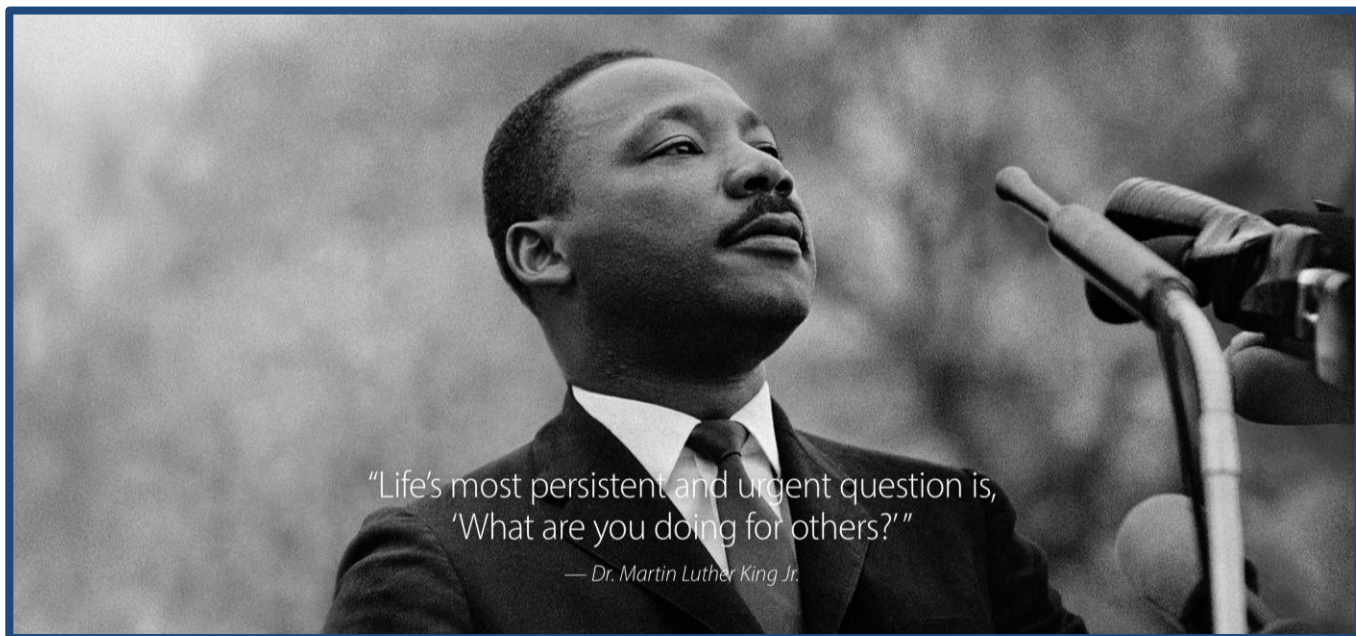




## *EPS Answering Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question Through Service Learning*



Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a sermon "The Three Dimensions of Life," published in the 1963 collection, "Strength to Love," spoke about the importance of altruism over selfishness and offered these introspective words:

**"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' "**

In a later speech entitled, "The Drum Major Effect," Dr. King spoke of the importance of service:

**"...everybody can be great, because everybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."**

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s indelible legacy of service, the pages of this issue of Inside EPS include ways in which the Elizabeth Public Schools' learning community continues to give back to the greater community while instilling the values of leadership, character, accountability, and teamwork among many others.

## ***“What Are You Doing For Others?”***

### **George Washington School No. 1**

- Girls ROCK members participated in Operation Gratitude community service project. Operation Gratitude is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization. In honor of Veterans Day, the students wrote over 80 “thank you” letters and decorated cards for retired soldiers
- Girls ROCK Mentoring Club visited Trinitas Regional Medical Center on Monday, December 14, 2015 to bring holiday joy to the senior citizens. The members visited three senior living units. The girls sang Christmas carols and performed dance routines in the cafeteria. The girls also sang Christmas carols down the hallways and distributed homemade cards and candy canes for the seniors who were unable to attend the show



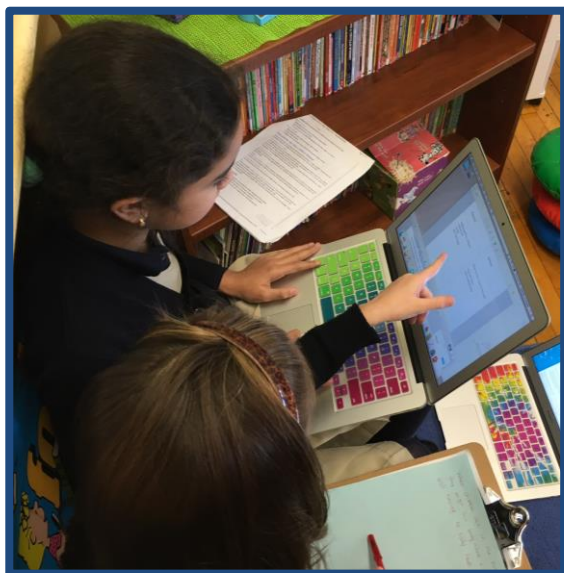
### **Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3**

- First grade students are having a “Souper Bowl of Caring” during the month of January in which they are collecting canned soup to tackle hunger during the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl. All collected cans will be brought to St. Joseph’s Homeless Shelter on Division Street
- Kindergarten students will spend the month of February collecting items to send a “Care Package” to our local nursing home in Elizabeth
- In April, first and second grade students will collaborate to support a drive for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and the School No. 3 Student Council will continue to sponsor its monthly ASPCA collection

## ***"What Are You Doing For Others?"***

### **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7**

- National Elementary Honors Society and National Junior Honors Society student members are working together to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. Students came up with a "Wounded Warrior Dash" scheduled for all Terence C. Reilly community members in mid-April. All funds raised will be funneled to service men and women who were affected during their service
- Our "Stomp the Monster" campaign was initiated by our 2014/15 Destination Imagination students. Funds raised helped individuals battling cancer pay for incidental costs associated with cancer treatment



### **Jerome Dunn School No. 9**

- Students in grades six through eight organized and distributed over 60 food baskets to families within the School No. 9 community
- Students wrote letters to servicemen and women stationed overseas
- The Leaders Of Tomorrow group, whose focus is character development through responsibility, respect, caring, trust, kindness, and citizenship, participated in the Clean Up The Port event and assumed a positive leadership role by performing at the school's pep rally and other school activities



## *EPS Answering Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question (cont.)*

### **Elmora School No. 12**

- This year, a few select number of eighth grade students have buddied up as student mentors with their three self-contained classes at School No. 12. The students meet each Monday to teach communication skills and social skills. It always raises awareness of the autism spectrum to our students and the impact they can have on others
- In conjunction with the Holocaust curriculum within the LEADS model, choral students in grades three through five will perform with choral students from the Jewish Education Center. The choral performance takes place on May 4, 2015 at Kean University as part of annual "Holocaust Memorial" event. At the event, Holocaust survivors and family members speak about the historical tragedy



### **Christopher Columbus School No. 15**

- Students participated in a coat, mitten and scarf drive to help keep those in need warm during the winter months
- Sixth through eighth grade students have served as "book buddies" for which they read selected material to students in Kindergarten through fourth grade

**"The time is always right to do what is right."**

**- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## *EPS Answering Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question (cont.)*

### **Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28**

- National Junior Honors Society members researched the importance of dental hygiene and how we take it for granted in the US. NJHS members started a toothbrush drive to collect tooth brushes for Donate-a-tooth-brush-foundation. Close to 1500 tooth brushes were collected
- National Junior Honors Society students went to a local bowling alley with members of our School No. 28 Special Olympics team. The NJHS students taught the special education students how to bowl by attending all of the practices and helping them work on the fine motor skills needed to bowl. Based on varying degrees of ability, the NJHS students adapted their teaching practices to accommodate the needs of all participants
- AVID students help out around the school each Friday with various community service projects, including conducting lessons on character education to younger students, teaching the proper use of Cornell Notes (an AVID strategy), and helping organize data binders and explaining their function

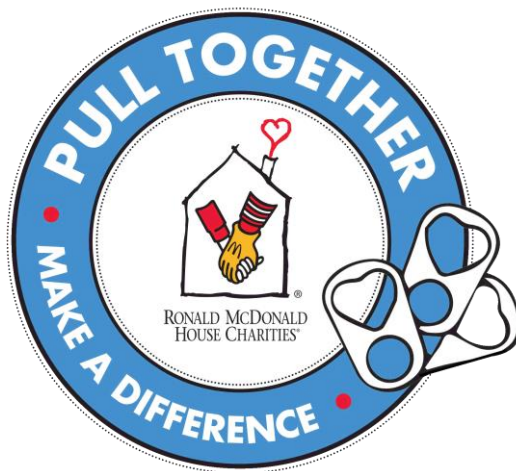




## *EPS Answering Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question (cont.)*

### **Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30**

- 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 for families who stay in their facilities while their child is battling cancer.



### **Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy**

- Students of SkillsUSA hosted its 3rd Annual Veterans' Luncheon in Edison Academy's Tea Room, which provided them the opportunity to show their patriotism for those who served in the armed forces. Students interacted with the veterans as they shared their experiences. To express their gratitude, students presented each veteran with a certificate that read, "The willingness of America's Veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude." In addition, Edison's culinary arts students planned and cooked a four course meal for the veterans. The Edison Academy American Spirit Group for SkillsUSA has a mission to provide community service and educational programs to students, parents, and schools.



## *EPS Answering Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question (cont.)*

### **Elizabeth High School**

- The EHS Me to We initiative inspired a yearlong commitment to Relay for Life by our National Honor Society, which networked with other EHS clubs and organizations to celebrate those who have survived the battle with cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. In March, students will be holding an all-night vigil with activities including testimonies, processions, and thematic games.
- The National Honor Society has raised thousands of dollars for pancreatic and breast cancer while other events are planned for kidney cancer and leukemia



### **William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy**

- Current and former Halsey students participated in training new teen volunteers at Trinitas Regional Medical Center
- Students volunteered at the Brother Bonaventure Extended Care Center Holiday Express Christmas Party by escorting residents to the hall, distributing and helping feed meals to residents, and dancing and singing with residents
- Students ran a Holiday Hero Clothes and Toy drive, collecting four baskets with infant and toddler clothing, packs of wipes and diapers, toy items, sippy cups, Tupperware containers, coloring books and a bevy of antibacterial wipes and delivered them to Saint Clare's Home for Children

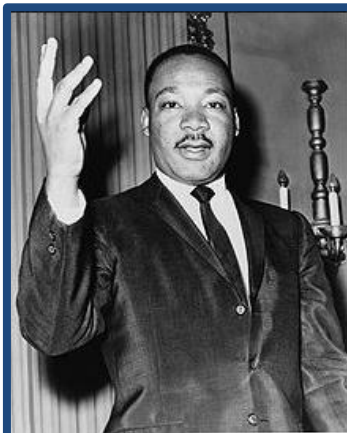




## *EPS Answering Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question (cont.)*

### **Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy**

- Students under the guidance of their advisor, Mr. Paul Rao, worked with historians from the Elizabeth Historical Society to survey and study the monuments of Elizabeth's Scott Park. This culminated in a presentation hosted by Jefferson Arts where students and historians shared their learnings. The presentation, entitled "The Elizabeth Forum: Urban Memory and Public Space", also served to recognize local community agencies who support the preservation of our community's history.
- Students under the guidance of AV Media Program Chairperson Mary Rivera, Teaching Artist Angela Kariotis, and team-members of the Elizabeth Youth Theater Ensemble collaborate to produce a documentary focusing the civic values and leadership that underlie our community. Students meet for evening work sessions three teams per week with their advisors and submit their completed film(s) to regional and national student film festivals.



The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



## *EPS Pilots Blueprint for Early Literacy Program*



The Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) is a non profit organization that works with teachers with a mission to transform instruction so that children can become powerful readers, writers, and thinkers. For the 2015-2016 school year, 6 preschool classrooms in Schools No. 1 and 2 were selected to pilot their early literacy program called the Blueprint for Early Literacy.



Blueprint's curriculum content and skills are developmentally appropriate and grow from recommended state and federal standards. Early literacy skills, concepts and behaviors are taught in the context of 10 related themes which include Welcome to School, Families, People and Places in your Neighborhood, Seasons, Foods and Markets, Daily Life in Many Lands, On the Farm, Under Construction, Seeds, Plants and Gardens, and On the Move.

At the heart of each theme are high quality children's books that address a range of genres and cultures. Model lesson plans help teachers make each book a launching pad for teaching essential early literacy skills such as phonics, phonological awareness, comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and writing.

The teachers implementing the Blueprint for Early Literacy Program have had positive feedback about the program's success in their classrooms. The children love listening to the stories being read aloud, and are not only learning about their own lives and their neighborhoods, but also the natural world around them. In addition, with the introduction of sight words, also known as "snap words", our youngest learners are in the beginning stages of learning to read!

## *EPS Students Attend Hockey Game Trip Hosted by HISPA*



A group of forty students from across the district schools attended the New Jersey Devils vs. Calgary Flames hockey game at the Prudential Center on January 19 as guests of the HISPA Role Model Program.

HISPA (Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement) is a New Jersey-based nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing Latino professionals to serve as role models in educational programs, inspiring Latino students to pursue higher education and contribute to America's future.

The students are part of the ten district schools currently participating in the HISPA Role Model Program. Those schools include Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9, Elmora School No. 12, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14, Christopher Columbus School No. 15, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

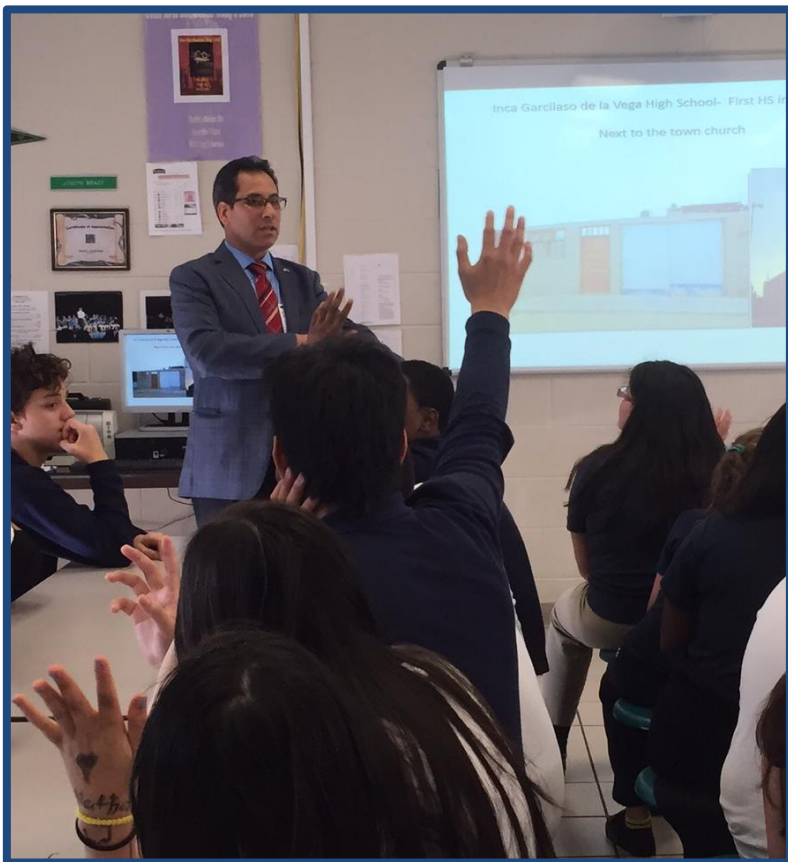
HISPA role models, consisting of a diverse group of Hispanic professionals, visit schools six times during the course of a school year to share how their personal and professional goals were influenced and shaped by their cultural backgrounds, educational experiences, and professional careers. Presentations by the role models are customized to the benefit of the students and their schools--ranging from informal classroom discussions to formal auditorium presentations.



## *EPS Students Attend Hockey Game Trip Hosted by HISPA (cont.)*

The role model program provides an opportunity to personally identify with the Latino professionals, who motivate the students to set goals, pursue higher education, and believe in their dreams.

HISPA Role Model Program Coordinator and former Elizabeth Board of Education Member Francisco Gonzalez commended team members, especially Joseph Przytula, Jr., Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Safety, for their efforts in coordinating the trip for the HISPA Role Model students and serving as their chaperones. He also commended the students for their exceptional behavior in representing Elizabeth Public Schools and the HISPA program and their enthusiasm in discussing their future plans of attending college.





## *School 28 Students Selected for NJSP FLEET Program*



Members of the New Jersey State Police, along with Deputy Attorney General, Mary Beth Wood, visited Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti, School No. 28 as a kick off to the Future Law Enforcement Education and Training (FLEET) mentoring program.

The FLEET program chose 22 eighth graders from across New Jersey to participate in this mentoring initiative. Five students from School No. 28 (Martin Aziz, Bruna De Souza, Cesar Lopez, Steven Rodriguez, and Juan Romero) were chosen for this prestigious program based on their exemplary character. These students will be mentored by a New Jersey State Trooper for the next five years until their high school graduation. The participating students, or cadets, will pursue two program tracks over the next five years: a mentoring element and an education component. The mentoring element will assign the student with a State Trooper who will routinely meet with the cadet to develop a lasting relationship. In the educational component, cadets will engage in field trips, demonstrations to learn about law enforcement life skills, and criminal justice in general.

## *New York Jets Recognize EPS Play 60 Champions*



Forty 4th and 5th grade students from Elizabeth Public Schools were recognized by the New York Jets for their participation in the American Heart Association/NFL Play 60 Program and for submitting outstanding essays expressing what they learned from the experience.

The program encourages students to be active for at least 60 minutes a day for 60 days and keep a log of their activities.

Three hundred and ninety students from the district participated in the Play 60 program. An essay on, "How the Jets encouraged me to exercise and eat better" determined the district's Play 60 Champions.

Students made a surprise visit to George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9, where they were greeted by the Jets "Flight Crew" cheerleaders and a video of Todd Bowles congratulating them. Ms. Teneka Bowles then presented the students with a big surprise- field level tickets to the Jets/Titans game at MetLife Stadium!

## ***EHS Teacher Among Few Selected to Attend National Educators' Summit***

Juan Metrio was one of three teachers from New Jersey and 100 in the nation invited to attend an educators' summit on the new Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Course (AP CSP) hosted by The College Board and The National Science Foundation at Pixar Studios in Boston - December 5-6. All expenses were paid by The College Board.

Mr. Metrio had the opportunity to interact with Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer Dr. Edward Felten, Advisor to President Obama. Mr. Metrio also collaborated with Dr. Jim Kurose who is the Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation and Ross Ingram who is the Head of Community and Marketing Programs for SPHERO.



Another highlight from the National Educators' Summit was sharing ideas with a representative from TECHNOLOchicas, a collaborative project between the National Center for Women and IT (NCWIT) and Televisa Foundation. They are seeking to raise awareness among young Latinas, and their families, about opportunities and careers in technology.

As high schools are preparing to offer the new AP CSP course in fall of 2016, this meeting was an opportunity to for teachers, college board members, and federal policy makers to learn more about ways to ensure the success of computer science education in our nation.

## ***EPS Selected to Provide Feedback to White House on Computer Science***

U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith and other White House senior advisors have requested time with select superintendents to discuss computer science and other White House priorities in the area of technology. Superintendent Hugelmeyer was chosen to participate in a conference call with the White House just this week. Computer science activities that were highlighted on the call included EPS's work with schools focused on coding and programming, computational thinking, robotics, use of maker spaces, 3-D printing, construction design, and video production. Elizabeth Public Schools is excited to partner with the White House to continue to bring enriching experiences to our students in the area of computer science.



## EQUITY

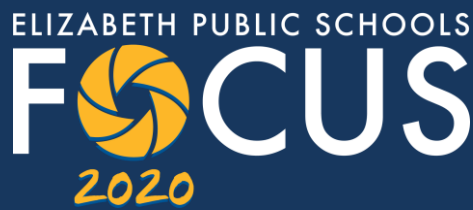
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

## EXPECTATIONS

The concept of high expectations is premised on the philosophical and pedagogical belief that a failure to hold all students to high expectations effectively denies them access to a high quality education, since the educational achievement of students tends to rise or fall in direct relation to the expectations placed upon them.

## EXCELLENCE

Educational Excellence is defined as students performing at high levels or where students are making significant gains in academic achievement helping to prepare every child for global competitiveness.



## Student

We believe ALL students can learn and achieve at high levels regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, household income or home language.

*ALL Means ALL. We will narrow the achievement gaps of students by providing a high quality education to ensure that ALL of our students are college and career ready.*

## Teacher

We believe teachers make a positive difference in student achievement. Teachers will prepare ALL students for success in college, career, and our technological global society.

*We believe that teachers are central in a child's life. Having an effective teacher is the single most important factor in student success.*

## Leader

We believe that effective leaders demonstrate unwavering commitment to high levels of achievement for ALL students.

*Leaders will exemplify and support practices that promote high levels of achievement for ALL students.*

## Family

We believe that parents and caregivers are both valued partners and active participants in their children's learning. A shared sense of mutual responsibility for learning is the foundation for family involvement to ensure student success.

*We are committed to engaging parents and caregivers in their children's education. We will develop a coordinated strategy that enables parents and caregivers to play an active role in building and sustaining family support for their children's learning and academic success.*

## Team

We believe that every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools Team has a responsibility in producing and supporting high levels of achievement for ALL students.

*Every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools team will make a measurable contribution to the success and achievement for ALL students by ensuring equitable distribution of resources throughout the organization.*