



LMA Monthly Report

February 2023

Principal's Message

The Lamberts Mill Academy school community celebrated Black History Month in grand fashion! LMA students actively participated in life skills sessions on a daily basis. These sessions are supervised by our clinical team. The LMA school culture committee designed a door decorating contest in an effort to showcase prominent African Americans through our students artistic and creative talents.



Each life skills team collaborated throughout the month of February creating the designs. The social emotional learning theme for the month is cooperating and friendship. LMA Principal, Reed Leibfried and Supervisor of Instruction, John Lopreiato, have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the life skill classes and witnessing our student led project designs come to fruition! Mr. Leibfried has especially enjoyed LMA Clinical Director, Ms Ruchaevsky's life skills group, interacting with students and assisting with the classes Motown music selections!

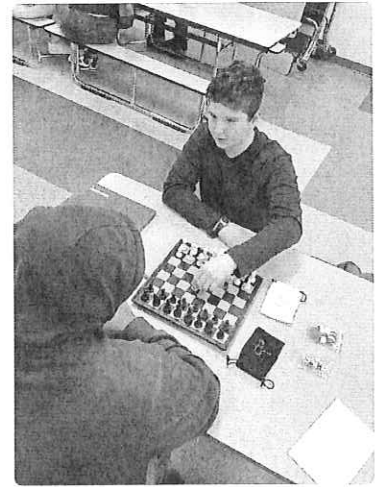
Monthly Data

Enrollment - 41
Acceptances - 3
New Students - 1
Student Intakes - 8
Referrals - 10
Disenrollment - 1
Fire Drill - (2/15/2023)

LMA Student of the Month February 2023

Samuel Lipton

Lamberts Mill Academy is proud to announce our February student of the month, Samuel Lipton. Sam was featured in last month's newsletter as a student who continues to give back to his community; and he has spent the month of February giving back to the LMA community. He has made significant growth in his academic classes; and is properly utilizing the many supports offered to him at LMA. Sam has taken the initiative at LMA by helping various staff members with various classroom and office jobs once he has completed his assignments. He has also been a peer leader to a younger peer at LMA, and has shown a number of students how to play the board game Chess. The LMA staff is proud, and honored to have Sam as a member of the school community, and thank him for going above and beyond each day serving as an LMA ambassador to his peers.



Staff Spotlight

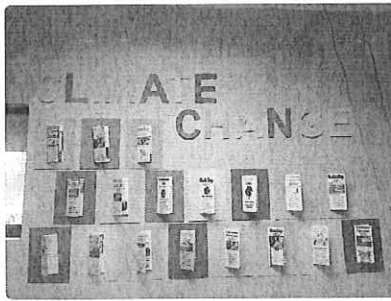
Paraprofessional Mrs. Nancy Szarloeta

Five Fun Facts about Mrs. Nancy Szarloeta - Paraprofessional and LMA Staff Spotlight!

1. Has worked at Lamberts Mill Academy for 7 years.
2. Enjoys spending time in the outdoors.
3. Previously worked in New Talent division at Columbia Records/ CBS records.
4. Enjoys travelling the community on her eBike.
5. Has been dependable assisting in the Mathematics classroom, and working directly with Maschio's food service for ordering breakfast and lunch for all LMA students.



Classroom Spotlights



Ms Cosio's Science Class Presents Climate Change

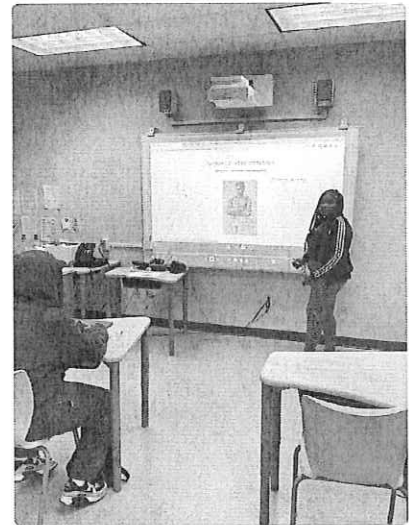
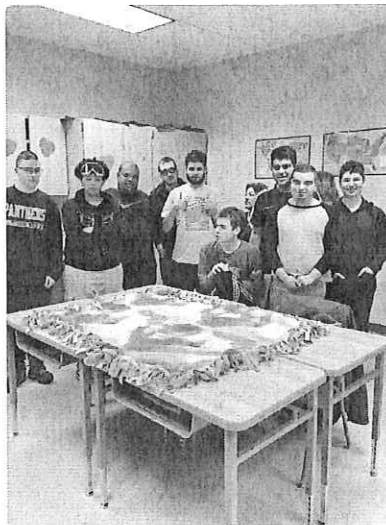
Ms Cosio's science classes spent the month of February learning and discussing about climate change. Students spent a considerable amount of time discussing their beliefs on climate change, and what it means to them personally. Different classes learned about the differences between credible and non-credible sources. Each student then had the opportunity to research climate change, and was tasked with finding creditable resources in order to create an informational pamphlet outlining key points to climate change.



Life Skill classes work together for the door decorating contest

All students at LMA receive Life Skills (Group Therapy) every day. This month all groups participated in a school wide door decorating contest highlighting influential individuals. Students worked together utilizing each other's strengths to present different decorated doors honoring these individuals.

Month at School



LMA Postgraduates
Learn about a career in
Firefighting from
Westfield's finest.

LMA continues to
collaborate with
Westlake in creating
blankets for Project Linus

Math classes learn about
Thomas Fuller, and why
he was named "Virginia
Calculator"

Door Decorating Contest at LMA to highlight Black History Month



Mrs. Thomas's group centers on Muhammad Ali

Mrs. Thomas's group we're able to come to a consensus at the start of the month to present on Muhammad Ali. While collaborating on how they wanted to present their door, students chose to make it a puzzle with facts of Muhammad Ali presented as riddles. All students in her group we're cooperative with one another, and assisted with the creation of her door while all having different roles in the presentation.



Mr. Leal's class focuses on multiple influential individuals

Students in Mr. Leal's life skills class took a multi-person approach to their door decorating presentation. Rather than focusing on one individual, this group spotlighted multiple influential individuals for Black History month including: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcom X, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan. In addition to presenting a visually artistic door, students created informational biographies on each individual that included their contributions to society and the hurdles they faced.



Ms Charletta's group pays tribute to the King of Pop

Ms Charletta's group decided to let music influence their door, and with the 'King of Pop' himself Michael Jackson. Students posted facts about Michael Jackson, and how he was significant to his generation and future generations. Students in this group worked together and collaboratively to present their door.

School in the Community

1. Mr. Bell and our Post Graduate students continue to participate by helping the local food bank on a reoccurring monthly basis.
2. LMA New Point Campus gives back to the community of Elizabeth with their Pop Up Art Show.
3. Assemblies - Community Meetings spotlighting student of the month (LMA overall) as well as student of the month in each classroom, and the growth they have made academically.
4. Mr. Bell and students taking Career Explorations visited Westfield Fire Department to learn all about the different responsibilities and roles of a firefighter and EMS.

LMA Students Outside of the Classroom

LMA New Point Campus Students present their art to the Elizabeth community

Union County Teen Arts Festival is still a couple months away, but that didn't stop students who attend LMA New Point Campus in showcasing their artistic abilities. On February 2, 2023 with the help and support from New Point's very own, Mr. Andrew Gilkeson, students we're given the unique opportunity to present their original artwork into the community of Elizabeth, NJ with a 'Pop Up Show' in a public setting. In addition to proudly displaying their artwork at their own individual table, some LMA students engaged in musical performances with members of the community; providing a positive experience for all individuals to express themselves in multiple, artistic forms. We are excited to see what both LMA Main Campus, and New Point Campus students submit to be judged at the upcoming Union County Teens Arts Festival!



About Us

Contact Information:

Phone: (908)-233-7581

Address: 1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, 07090

Website: https://ucesc.org/schools/lamberts_mill_academy

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_lma/?hl=en

Lamberts Mill Academy is a school within the Union County Educational Services Commission. We are an out of district public school for students with psychiatric disabilities. We continue to

partner with RWJ Trinitas Regional Medical Center to provide clinical services for our students. Our school community prides itself on our relationships with all stakeholders: students, staff, parents, families and community partnerships. Being a public school, we adhere to all NJDOE assessment and curriculum mandates. Our professional learning community strives to increase student achievement and improve classroom instruction to provide students with the most effective educational, social and emotional learning environment possible.

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LMA Smore

LMA is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

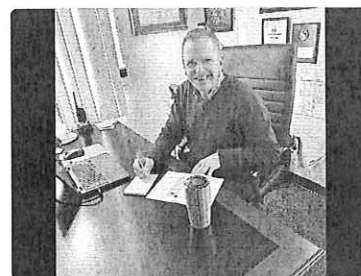


North's February Monthly Report

February 2023

Principal's Message

The month of February was an exciting time at Hillcrest Academy North. We welcome Ms. Flores, Spanish teacher, who has brought such energy to her classroom and the building at large. This is her first time teaching at HAN and has certainly lived up to her "Rockstar" status district-wide. Students have all commented on how "great" she is and how much they are learning in her class. "Friendship and Cooperation" was the SEL theme of the month.



Students enjoyed activities in their classes that were spirited in this theme. They celebrated Black History month by decorating a bulletin board and opening up a dialogue in the classes. Valentine's Day was celebrated with a bake sale where students did their own baking at home and sold these items as a fund-raiser for an end of the year activity. Community Service Projects were attended at the Elizabeth Public Library by numerous students who need to earn hours in community service as a requirement for graduation. Lastly, I enjoyed conducting a "Mid-Point Review" with all HAN students where we celebrated our first semester accomplishments and discussed expectations for semester two.

Great job, HAN Students and Staff!
Mission, Teamwork, and Communication!

Upcoming Dates

March 1, 2023 - SATs in Elizabeth for select students



Monthly Data

Enrollment- 87
New Students- 5
Intakes- 5
Disenrollment- 3
Fire Drill: Feb 24
Active Shooter: Feb 24

Student of the Month

Phadnerson is our student of the month! Phadnerson is a graduating senior and a constant source of positivity at HAN. He embodies all of the qualities of student of the month, integrity, determination, citizenship, and respect. Phadnerson is always willing to help anyone who needs it, whether it be tutoring a fellow classmate in math class or assisting Mr. Jones carrying cases of water into the building. Phadnerson is looking forward to graduating in June and the staff at HAN cannot wait to see what he will accomplish in the future!



Teacher Spotlight



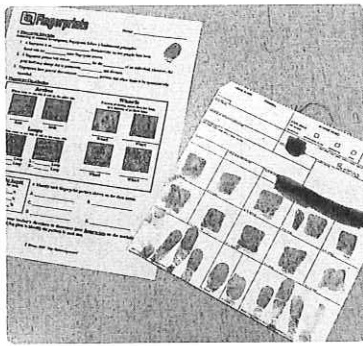
Mrs. Goldenberg, Social Worker

Mrs. Goldenberg is the Social Worker at Hillcrest Academy North and is a crucial part of the day to day life at Hillcrest Academy North! Mrs. Goldenberg has worked at HAN for 10 years, is a mom of two, and is a Rubik's Cube master! She graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and minored in Human Development and Family Studies. Mrs. Goldenberg later attended Rutgers University to earn her Masters Degree in Social Work. Her favorite thing about working at HAN is "the students and staff, I love coming to work everyday because everyday is different!" After the post about Mrs. Goldenberg was published on the HAN Instagram, current and former students loved and commented on the post saying "The absolute best" and "She helps me get through the day." Mrs. Goldenberg brings a positive energy to the building and all her hard work is greatly appreciated by the students and staff!

Classroom Spotlights

Mr. Grez - Science Teacher

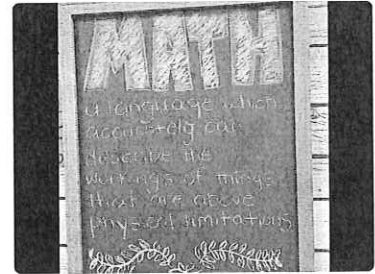
This month has been an exciting one for science students at HAN. All classes continued their mastery of analyzing nonfiction text through the use of online scientific journals and traditional print media such as newspapers and mainstream science magazines. Biology classes learned about the concepts of osmosis and diffusion through a novel "gummy bear" lab - learning and



snacks! Environmental science students applied their knowledge of Earth's structure by creating detailed scientific illustrations drawn to scale by hand. They look amazing hanging on the classroom wall! Forensic science students used their newly burgeoning evidence collection skills to gather and analyze latent fingerprints - look out crooks! All young scientists will continue their studies next month with hands-on laboratory studies dealing with genetics, the water cycle, and impression evidence.

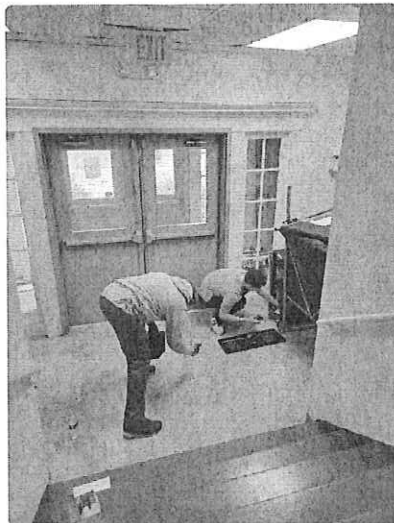
Mrs. Machado - Mathematics Teacher

This month in Algebra, students have been exploring the many ways to analyze consistent rates of change. Students spent time collecting data in tables, charts and Google sheets. Clearly understanding independent and dependent variables in all situations over time was helpful in developing multiple representations, such as linear graphs or functions and equations. The class practiced finding the rates of growth in plants and the rates of depreciation of the values of vehicles. These lessons help students understand how Algebra is a beneficial tool to avoid being taken advantage of and make precise calculations for what to expect.

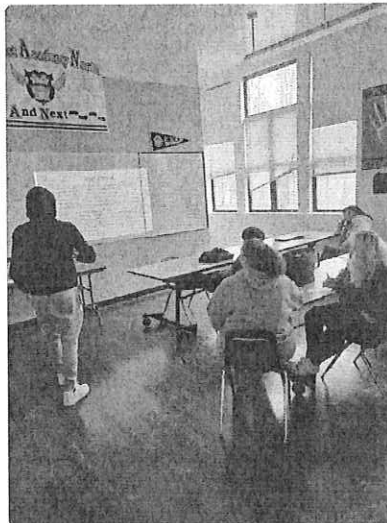


Geometry students have been studying all properties of triangles, using given information and theorems to calculate missing angles and side lengths. Mrs. Machado supplied sticks of different lengths to demonstrate the Triangle Inequality Theorem. Triangles are particularly important because arbitrary polygons (with 4, 5, 6, or n sides) can be decomposed into triangles. Thus, understanding the basic properties of triangles allows for deeper study of these larger polygons that will be discussed in upcoming chapters.

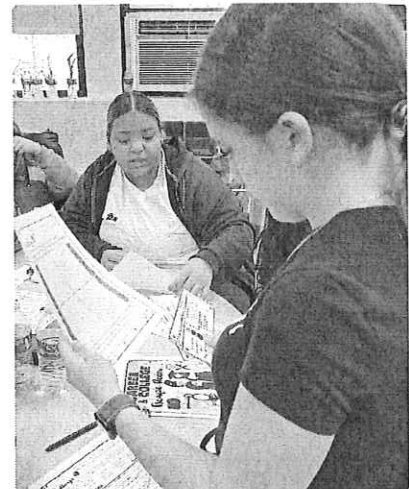
February at HAN



School Culture



Student Leadership



SEL Activity

HAN student Jorge helped our custodian, Mr. Jones, put together a new laptop cart for Mrs. Flores! Students are able to add to our school culture of working together and learn valuable life skills by assisting various staff members with projects around the building.

Students have been learning about CPR and other life saving measures in Mr. Mojovich's Health classes. Above HAN student Anthony is presenting to his classmates about the symptoms of shock and how to properly handle that situation.

Students worked on an Escape Room Activity with Mrs. Goldenberg during their weekly SEL lessons. Students had to communicate and work together to solve the puzzles and "escape" the classrooms!

Theme of the Month: Friendship and Cooperation



Ping Pong!

Students enjoy playing Ping Pong together and have created a rotation system that allows everyone to take a turn!



Black History Month Projects

Students worked with HAN's wonderful Paraprofessional, Mrs. Rivas, on a school wide Black History Month Project. Students chose a person of influence and researched their contributions to our country. Students were able to display their final projects in the hallway to add to the Black History Month display Mrs. Rivas put together.



Getting Picture Ready!

Senior students were able to take professional pictures in their cap and gowns. Graduating seniors and friends, Samira and Taneiya, helped each other get picture ready!



Valentine's Day Bake Sale

To celebrate Valentine's Day, HAN Paraprofessional, Mrs. Rivas, organized a bake sale! Students and staff were able to purchase baked goods and all proceeds are going towards an end of the year activity.



Community Service Table

HAN students are able to stop by the Community Service Table to get information about events happening in their home town of Elizabeth. Students can volunteer for different events and earn community service hours!



Student Volunteers

HAN students had the opportunity to volunteer at the Elizabeth Public Library! They worked with younger students to decorate cookies for Valentine's Day.

About HAN



Hillcrest Academy North assists students from the Elizabeth Public School District in reaching their full potential by providing an alternative to the traditional high school setting. We offer smaller class sizes with a rigorous and challenging high school curriculum that is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and prepares students for college and career. Our goal is to provide a safe, supportive, and empowering school

environment that fosters lifelong learning, mutual respect, creativity, and the joy of learning, with an effective, caring, innovative staff, in partnership with home and the community.

Mr. John Marquet, Principal

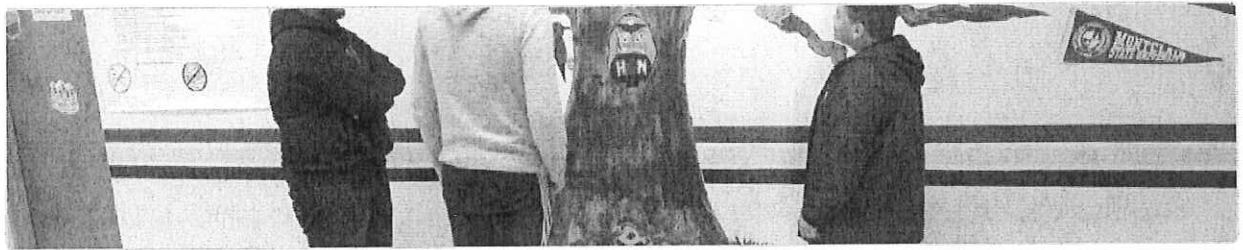
Mr. Thomas Van Cleef, Supervisor of Instruction

Location: 2630 Plainfield Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Phone Number: (908) 233-9366

Website: https://ucesc.org/schools/hillcrest_academy_north

Visit Us On Instagram



Mission Statement

It is the mission of Hillcrest Academy North that all graduates have demonstrated the following attributes: Responsibility and accountability for themselves by routinely producing quality work through high academic standards now and in the future A sense of pride in who they are and what they can contribute as a

☒ ucesc.org



John Marquet

John is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Hillcrest Academy South Campus

February 2023 Monthly Report



Dr. Balsamello's Message

Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) staff and students began February with our third marking period/ second semester. We said good bye to our Spanish teacher Ms. Flores, however welcomed back our Art teacher Ms. Picciano. We have all enjoyed celebrating Black History Month, Valentine's Day, as well as various School Spirit Days, an incentive field, and a field trip for seniors to Union County College!

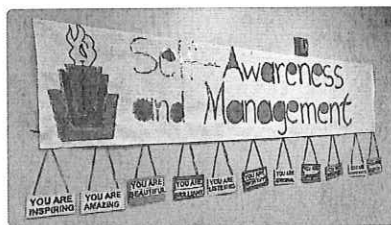
February 2023 Data

1. Enrollment-97
 2. New Students-9
 3. Intakes-4
 4. Disenrollment-2
 5. Fire Drill-2/15/23
 6. Other Drill (Active Shooter)-2/23/23
-



February Student of the Month

Brianna L. is our Student of the Month for February. This is her first year at HAS and has been doing very well for herself but where she really excels is in her favorite subject of Biology. One of her favorite things in the world is Hello Kitty so it is no surprise that her favorite color is pink and that she has a pet cat. In her free time, Brianna loves to paint. When asked if she has ever traveled outside of the country, she will tell you that she has been to Peru.



Teacher Spotlight

Ms. Fernandez-Siejack (aka Ms. Fern) has been a teacher for 17 years and this is in her second year at HAS. Just like her students, Ms. Fern grew up in Elizabeth and even went to catholic schools there. She used to teach at her alma mater which is where she met fellow HAS teacher Ms. Wrzesinski before teaching HAS. Ms. Fern has a love for anything purple and superheroes (specifically DC heroes); her favorite is Wonder Woman. If asked what is the coolest thing she has ever done, she will tell you it was working at Six Flags Great Adventure during Fright Fest for three years as a scary clown.

Classroom Spotlights

Ms. Duarte's Classroom

Things have been busy in room H51 as Ms. Duarte and her students were working on exploring topics that seem to transcend time. In Economics students used the information they learned on various business models to create their own business presentations. Students then shared their presentations with their peers and classes voted on their favorite product/idea. In USII students saw an overview of the Roaring 1920's and the Great Depression era through primary source documents. A lot of connections were made with current problems facing the country surrounding rising housing and food prices alongside continued struggles for equity. Students learned about

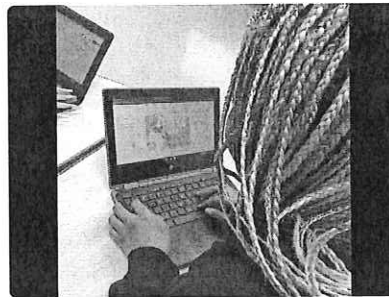
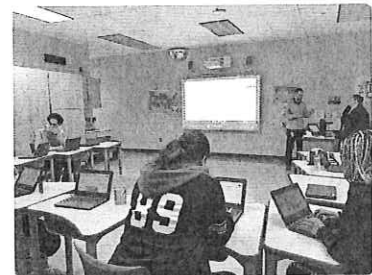


these topics as they created their own Instagram accounts detailing the topics studied in the 1920's alongside a fictional character based in the time period. This project lent itself to looking at the influence the time period had on popular culture, women, African Americans, technology, and society as a whole. The classes then studied the ways in which the government failed to extend equal aid to all Americans, while looking at how various groups maneuvered these difficulties. Through these activities, Ms. Duarte's classes came to understand the study of history as one of change and continuity.

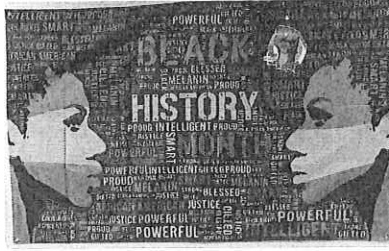


Ms Wrzesinski's Classroom

For the month of February, Ms. Wrzesinski's social studies classes focused on Black History Month initiatives. All of Ms. Wrzesinski's classes worked on an A-Z African American Visionary project. Students were randomly assigned a visionary from the A-Z African American Visionary poster (attached at bottom). Students then completed a graphic organizer that included biographical information, facts about their roles/ careers, what made this person a visionary, and how this person impacted American society during their time and future generations. Students chose from a variety of people from the 1800s to present. Such leaders included Maya Angelou, Mari Copeny, Katherine Johnson, Thurgood Marshall, Sojourner Truth, Mae Jemison, Zora Neale Hurston, Vashti Harrison among many others. Students were given creative freedom to create their own poster, pamphlet, or Google slide presentation and created beautiful masterpieces that perfectly represented their visionary.

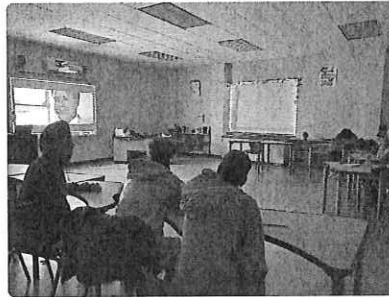


Black History Month



Decorations

When we hear of decorations, we think of many different holidays; winter holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, monthly holidays like Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day, or even birthday celebrations. With all of these holidays, we never seem to think of Black History Month. HAS teachers Ms. Duarte and Ms. V hung up decorations in celebration of this month. When Students arrived and saw these decorations, they felt a sense of pride and empowerment to know that their history was being celebrated.



At the Movies!

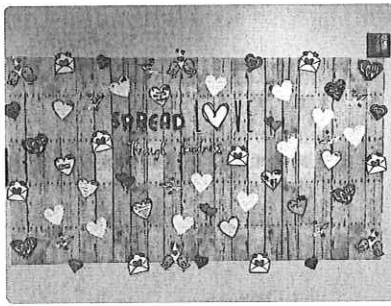
In celebration of Black History Month, students had to have a movie day at HAS. The movies shown were Remember the Titans, Selma, The Butler, and 42. All movie choices were about real events that highlighted some of the struggles and triumphs of Black History. Students filled out a survey earlier in the week to chose which movie they were interested in seeing. Teachers brought in snacks and drinks so the students could have a "movie going" experience. At the end of the movie, students answered the question "How did the movie you watched deepen or challenge your understanding of Black History?"



Black History Month Projects

In Ms. W's US History classes, students got to create either a power point presentation, a poster, or a pamphlet on an African American visionary. Students picked a letter from A-Z out of a hat and that letter corresponded with a visionary (e.g. A is for Maya Angelou, B is for Basquiat, and so on). Every student not only enjoyed this project, but they put in their best effort as they were very passionate about this!

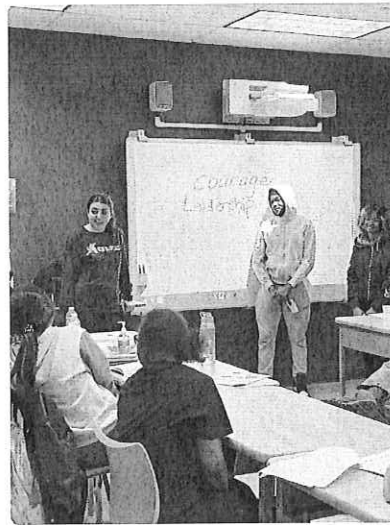
Month of Cooperation and Friendship



Spreading Love through Kindness

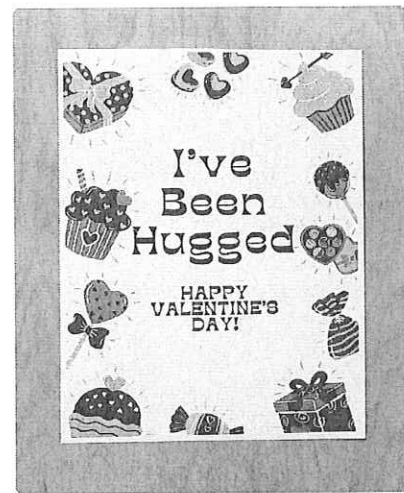
Students and teachers filled out hearts with encouraging messages on them. Some were to specific people and others were general, but all were filled with much love and support.

- "You are beautiful! No matter your race, body shape, face, style, and hair texture. You're Beautiful and don't let anyone tell you the opposite."
- "This too shall pass and tomorrow is a new day! You are loved!"
- "You shine, I shine, We all shine!"
- "Always believe in yourself!"
- "Love is within everyone. Beauty is inside of you. Don't give up on yourself. Be kind to all people. Have faith in yourself and others. Being unique is a beautiful thing."



Our Friendship with Westlake

From before the pandemic, HAS and Westlake School had a wonderful partnership. HAS students would volunteer to work on activities with Westlake students. Westlake students run a school cafe called Can-Do-Cafe where students (and staff) from HAS can go to get treats for special occasions. In past years, there was even a school dances for the Westlake students that HAS students would attend as buddies. Now that things are returning to a more normal state and we have returned to 1571, HAS and Westlake have put things into motion to rekindle this awesome friendship and positive learning experience!



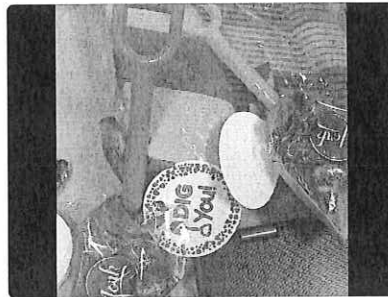
I've Been Hugged!

The students at HAS are not the only ones having fun. The faculty was involved with a secret valentines day candy swap. When staff came into school in the morning, they may have seen a gift bag hanging on the doorknob of their classroom. This gift bag contained a bunch of candy and two notes inside. One note would give the directions on how to do it for another faculty/staff member. The second note was a paper that said "I've Been Hugged". That paper was to be hung on the door to show who already has been surprised. This was a great way to have spirits boosted within the faculty/staff and have a little fun too!



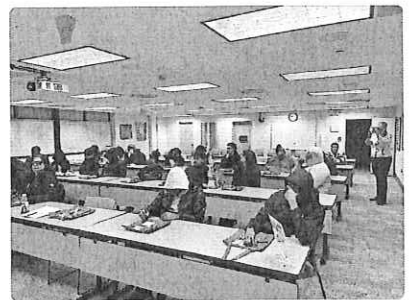
Incentive Trip - Bowling!

Students who ended the 2nd marking period on the honor roll list received a trip to go bowling. This trip was a reward for the hard work, great attendance, and good behavior these students maintained over the course of the 8-10 weeks that started in the beginning of November. Students got to bowl, play arcade games, and was able to purchase snacks during their trip.



Valentines for Valentine's Day

As an act of kindness for this past Valentine's Day, students created special Valentines for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. With a mix of candy and sweet sentiment, these valentines went to patients in need to help brighten their day.



UCC Interest Trip

As seniors here at HAS are seeing the hopes of graduation on the horizon, they are also weighing their options for post graduation. A select group of students who are looking to go to UCC, or those who just wanted more information, went on a trip with HAS guidance councilors to the Cranford campus. Students participated an information session as well as a tour of the campus.

Our Students In and Out of School

GOOOAAAALLLLLLL!

Catherine A has been playing on a soccer team for the past 3 years. She got into the sport because she always wanted to follow her father's footsteps. They have always watched soccer games and they like the same team. When asked how playing on the team makes you feel, Catherine replied "It makes me feel proud to be on this team because I'd never thought I'd see myself playing midfielder. I really have fun playing soccer and I've accomplished so much while playing. This is also something I can do with my dad since we play on the same team."



About Us

Hillcrest Academy South is an alternative high school for students from the Elizabeth Public Schools. Students are referred to HAS by their Elizabeth Academy guidance counselor and administration for an interview at HAS. We provide a small educational learning setting with opportunities to make up courses through our Credit Retrieval Program in a caring environment in order to meet Elizabeth's graduation requirements.

Website: www.ucesc.org

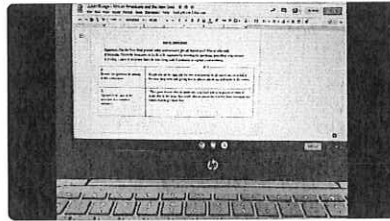
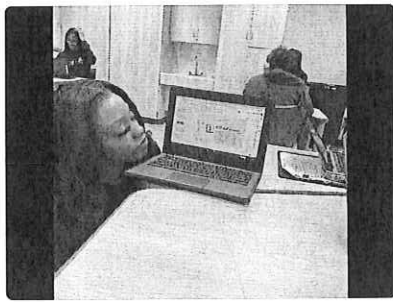
Instagram: [ucesc_has](https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_has)

Facebook: [Hillcrest Academy South](https://www.facebook.com/HillcrestAcademySouth)

Location: [1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, USA-Door 3B](#)

Phone: [908-233-9317](tel:908-233-9317)

Visit us on Instagram



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HAS Smore

HAS is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Crossroads Monthly Report

February 2023



Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that we are almost through the month of February. It has been a very busy month at Crossroads. Students have been participating in activities focused around the themes of cooperation and friendship, as well as completing projects for Black History Month.

For Valentines Day the students enjoyed an activity in the motor room where they were able to make homemade Valentines Day Cards. After finishing their card, each student had the opportunity to exchange Valentines with their friends. The event finished with an ice cream social. Students also had the opportunity to take part in the Valentines Day obstacle course. For Black History Month each classroom decorated their door featuring prominent African Americans from different fields. Various African American musicians, inventors, leaders, and artists were featured.

Crossroads was lucky enough to receive a visit from the Westfield Pediatric Dental Group this month. Ms. Bobbie, their dental hygienist, discussed the importance of tooth brushing. Students were able to view a short video clip and were also given the chance to practice on Ms. Bobbie's puppet. Each student received a toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss to take home with them.

Looking ahead to next month there are a lot of fun activities in store. March kicks off with Read Across America/School Spirit Week. Activities for the week are listed below.

Best Regards,

Matthew Fernandez
Principal

General Information

Enrollment as of February 24, 2023

Actual: 49

Changes: Entered: 4 Exited: 0

Referrals: 9

Intakes Scheduled: 4

Accepted: 3

Fire Drills: 2/16/23

Emergency Drills: 2/24/23 (Lockdown)

Upcoming Dates

March 2, 2023 - World Book Day - Dragons Love Tacos Read aloud and Taco Cart 🌮

Read Across America/School Spirit Week

March 6, 2023 - The Day the Crayons Quit (Drew Daywalt) - Dress in your favorite color

March 7, 2023 - Very Good Hats (Emma Straub) - Wear your favorite hat to school

March 8, 2023 - A Bad Case of the Stripes (David Shannon) - Dress up in silly mismatched stipes/patterns

March 9, 2023 - Don't Throw it to Mo! (David Adler) - Wear your favorite Sports Team Gear

March 10, 2023 - Pajama Pirates (Andrew Kramer) - Wear your pajamas OR dress like a pirate

March 17, 2023 - ♣️ St Patrick's Day ♣️

March 23, 2023 - PTO and Parent Education Support Group - Presentation by Crossroads Speech Department

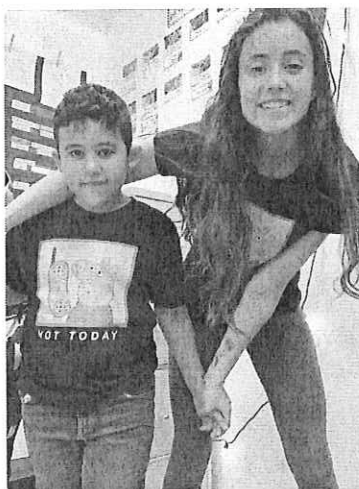


Crossroads Staff and Student Spotlight



Student of the Month - Nicholas

Our Crossroads student of the month is Nicholas. He has been working hard to achieve some of his goals relating to daily living, Pre-math, and social skills. Nicholas has been able to take his coat off, find his lunch box, open it, and eat independently. He is also having great success with his hand washing skills. Nicholas is able to sequence, tact, and identify numbers 1 to 30. He can identify his first name and the names of days of the week. Nicholas is also able to match pictures that are the same. Nicholas knows basic shapes, primary colors, and the letters of his name.



Certified Staff of the Month - Gabriela Valdes

1. How long have you been working at the commission?

I have been working at the commission for a year and a half. I started as a behavior intern while at Seton Hall University, and later became a maternity leave replacement teacher! I then transitioned to a paraprofessional before getting the call of full time teacher over the summer. This is my dream job and I could not be happier at Crossroads.

2. What would we be surprised to find out about you?

I have traveled to nine countries.

3. What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be to visit Greece.

4. What is your favorite meal?

My favorite meal is mac and cheese.

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment so far is completing my Masters Degree in ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) at Seton Hall University.



Paraprofessional of the Month - Anna DiPaola

1. How long have you been working at the commission?

I have been working with UCESC at Crossroads School for 7 years.

2. What would we be surprised to find out about you?

My first language that I spoke was Italian, my hobbies include: crocheting, cooking, and gardening.

3. What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is to visit the Greek Island, Santorini one day!

4. What is your favorite meal?

My favorite meal is my mom's homemade tagliatelle pasta with homemade meat sauce.

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment is being a mother of 3 daughters.

Classroom Spotlights

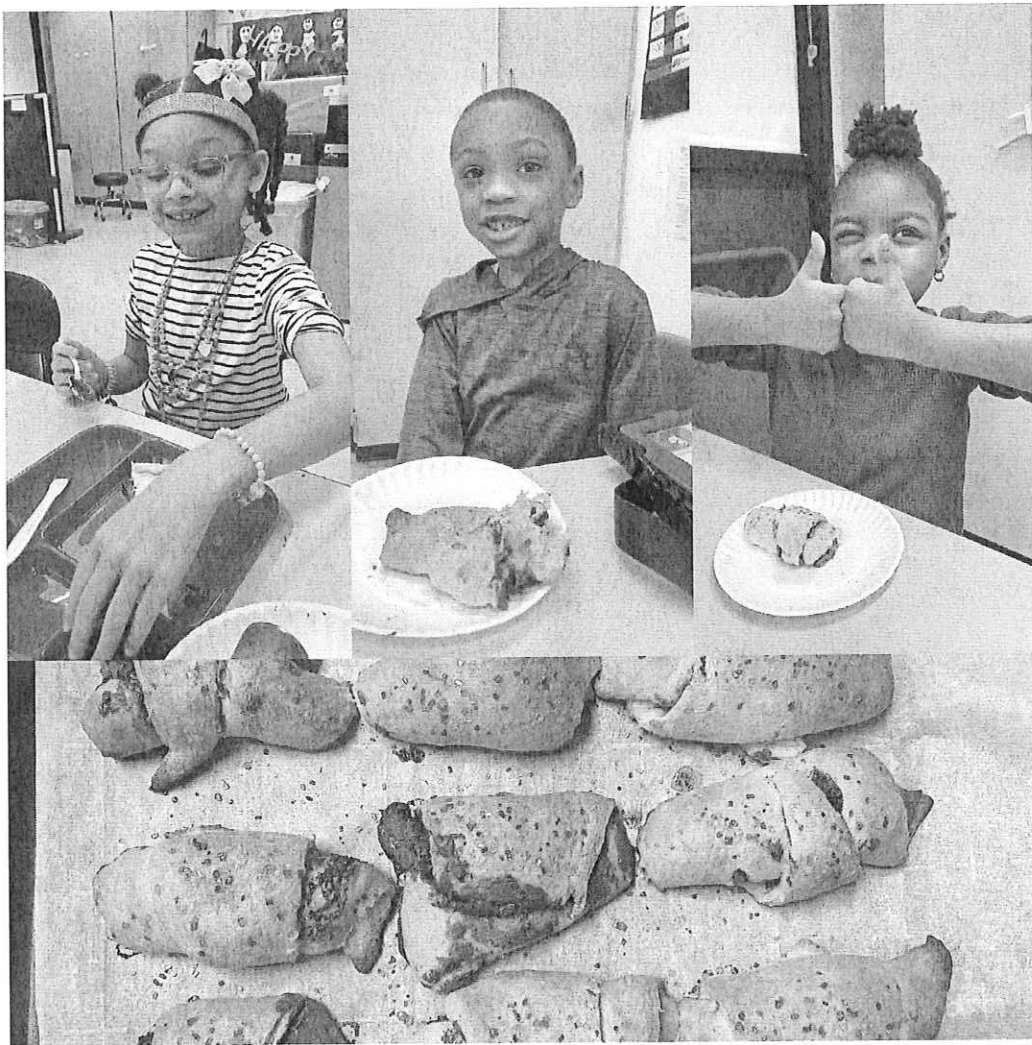
Ms. Allison's Classroom

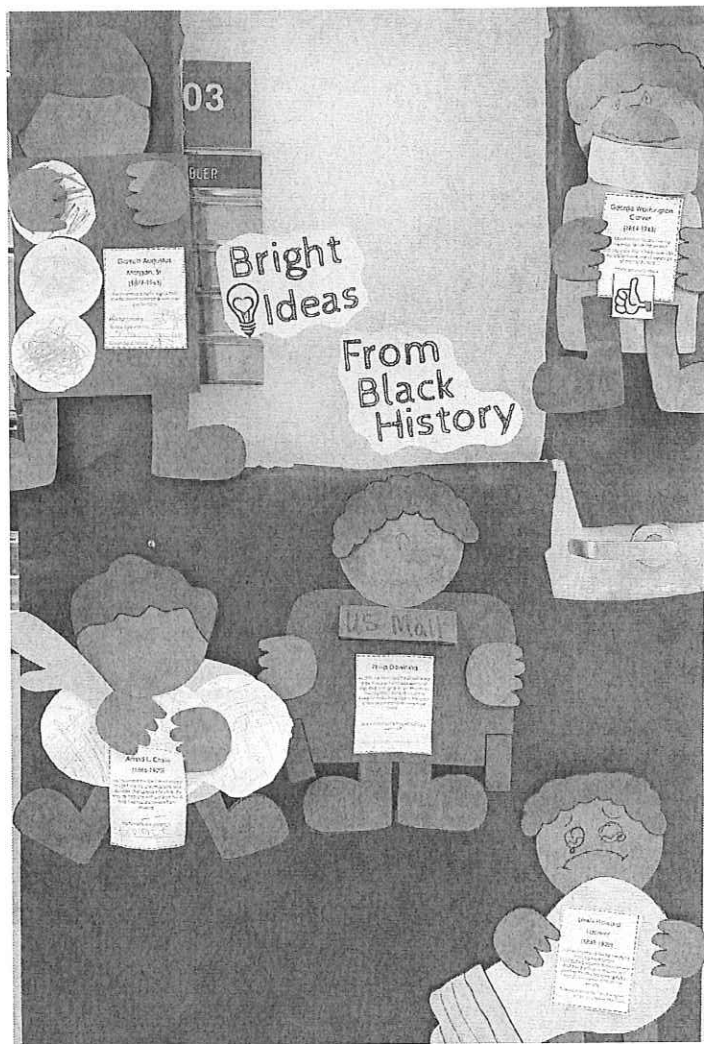
Black History Month

During the month of February, students learned about a variety of important figures and their accomplishments. During Morning Meeting each day, students were introduced to a different person via youtube videos including: Mae Jemison - the first African American woman to travel to space, Alfred Cralle - inventor of the ice cream scoop, Philip Downing - inventor of the mailbox, and Rosa Parks - civil rights advocate. Students completed crafts to decorate our classroom door for our theme of Black History Inventors

Cooperation and Friendship

Students used all of the fun National Holidays of February to practice their cooperation and friendship skills. They prepared, cooked, and shared Nutella croissants for National Nutella Day. They participated in the PTO's Valentine's Day event by creating and exchanging valentines. They also engaged in their regularly scheduled activities that always work on these themes. Friendship skills are worked on when our girls attend playdates with students from other classrooms and during in-class play centers. Cooperative learning is worked on during Makerspace Group, and during Speech and Classroom cooking lessons.



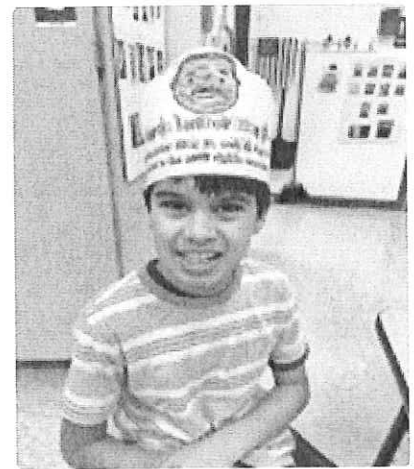


Ms. Alexis's Classroom

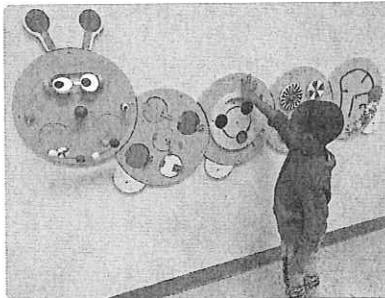
Cooperation and Friendship

During the month of February the students learned about the importance of cooperation and friendship. The students worked on being able to come together as a class when completing a craft on what it means to be a good friend. The students colored a friendship house and glued words that show what a good quality friend is on the windows and doors. We talked about what it means to be a good friend and ways we can show that.

The students explored Black History Month and Valentine's Day. During our group instruction, our students learned about the impacts famous people like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks had on the Civil Rights movement. The students first listened to a story about Martin Luther King, Jr., read by one of their classmates and then completed a craft where they made a crown that they had to color. The students also worked on making Valentine's Day cupcakes. Each student had the opportunity to help complete a different step in preparing the cupcakes. They students took their time when pouring and mixing the ingredients and patiently waited for their turn. Everyone enjoyed the finished product.



Therapy Spotlight



Ms. Aliza Feuerstein - Physical Therapist

During Physical Therapy (PT) we use therapeutic activities to enhance a student's ability to physically access their educational environment. We work on strengthening the body, improving flexibility, developing gross motor skills, and improving balance/coordination.

In Crossroads School we keep our PT sessions fun and engaging to allow our students to reach their goals in a motivating environment. Often we use obstacle courses to work on many skills at once such as; jumping, hopping, stepping up/down and balance. We also use movement games, yoga and other fun activities to help our students reach their full potential!

We recently applied for a UCESF education enrichment grant to enhance the motor room which is where our PT sessions primarily take place. This month we were excited to add a beautiful sensory wall and new rainbow mats to our motor room. Our students are really enjoying these new additions.

February at Crossroads

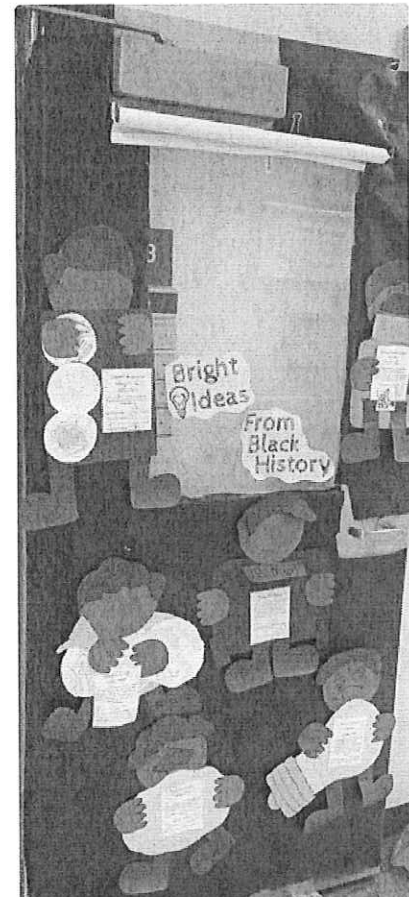
🦷 Westfield Pediatric Dental Group Visits Crossroads 🦷

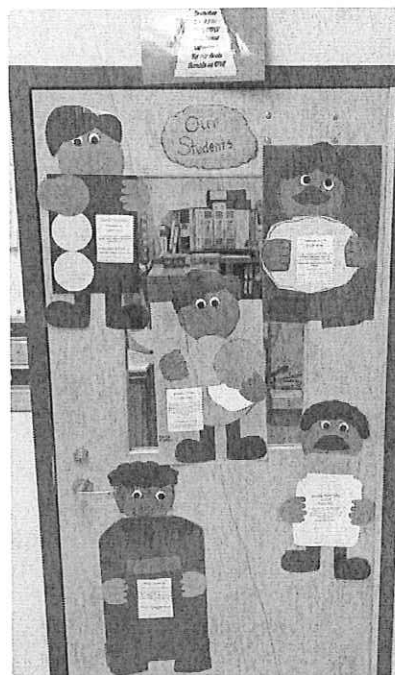
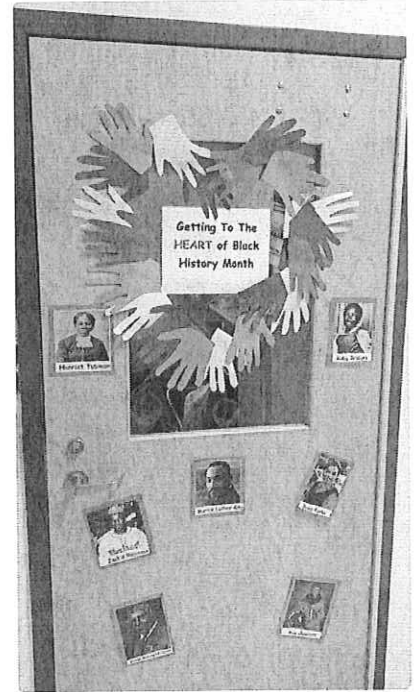
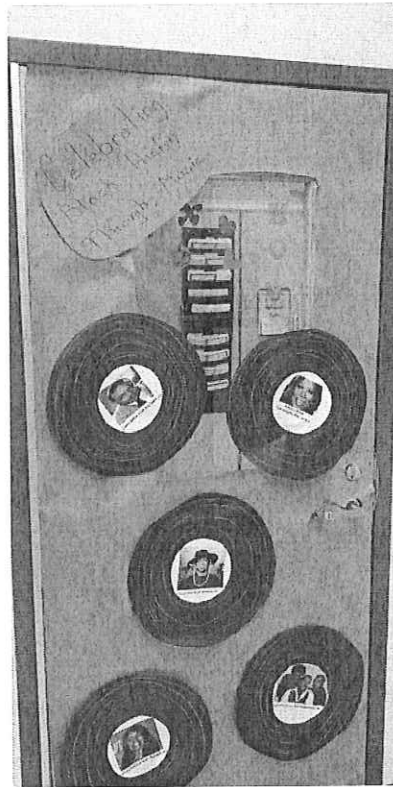


Cooperation/Friendship and Black History Month

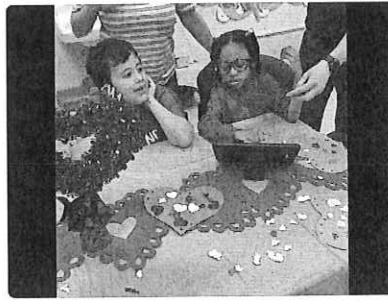
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Crossroads classrooms decorated their doors to celebrate Black History Month.

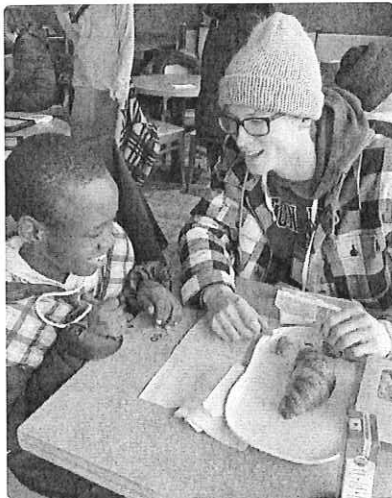




♥ Crossroads Valentines Exchange, Obstacle Course, and Ice Cream Social 🍦



Crossroads in the Community



Community Based Instruction
trip to Panera



Handing out tickets at the
Cranford Movie Theater.



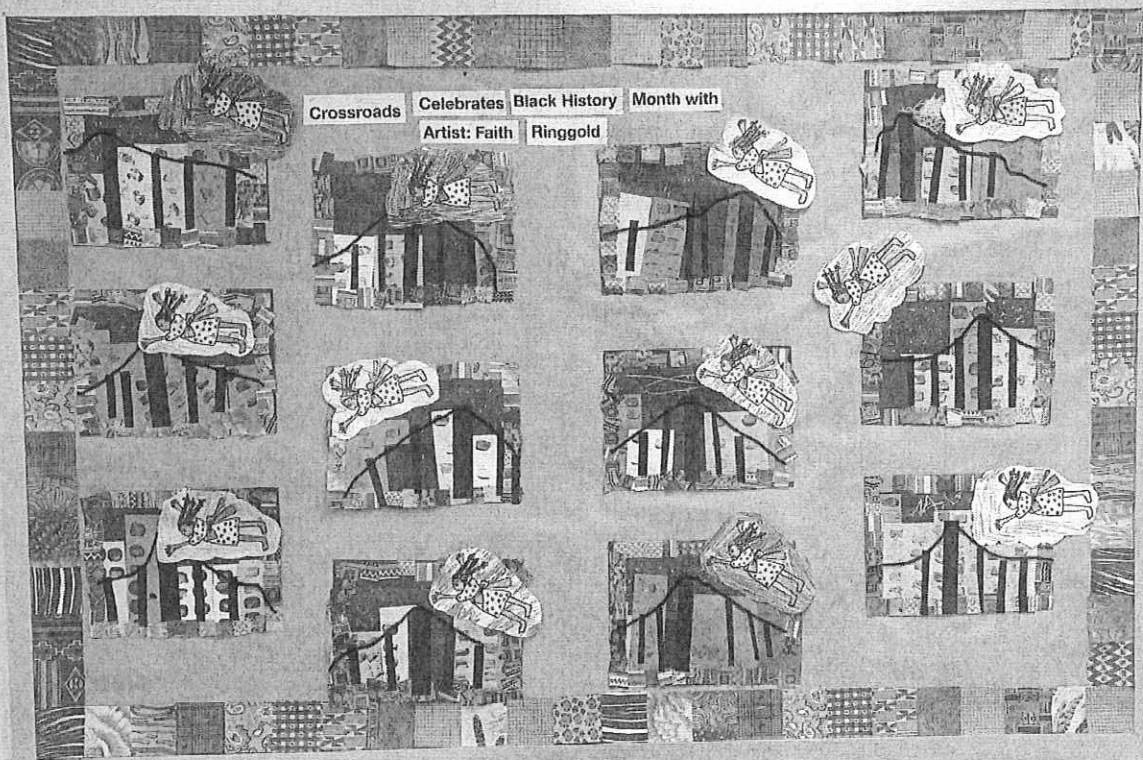
Enjoying the movie after
working hard!

Specials Report - Ms. Jessica - ART

This month the art students are working on art projects centered around Black History month, Valentine's Day and Cooperation and Friendship. We started the month celebrating Black History

Month with a project based off of the book *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold, an artist and illustrator who is local to our area! We read the book aloud in the classroom, talked about where the book takes place and what colors we see. Students in the art room are working on using art based vocabulary such as recognizing colors and the materials we are using. Students also work on physical skills such as painting, drawing, cutting, ripping, folding, gluing and weaving just to name a few. Each project aims to introduce a new skill and a new material that the students have not used previously. I look forward to introducing the students to new and exciting art skills for the remainder of the year!





About Us

Website: https://www.ucesc.org/schools/crossroads_school

Location: 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, NJ, USA

Phone: 908-233-9317

Visit us on Instagram



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Westlake's Monthly Report

February, 2023

Principal's Message



Westlake is happy to announce the Grand Re-Opening of our student run in school Can do Cafe. Some of the skills worked on in the Cafe will help students to develop work readiness and employment skills for when they graduate. Students greet customers, take orders and serve them. Students bake banana bread and cakes with their class and serve drinks. Many students and staff from Westlake and Hillcrest Academy South visit the cafe. Please come by on Tuesday mornings, all is welcome!

For the month of February, our lessons focused on Black History Month with students continuing to learn about Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges and other Black Historians. Students also experienced many opportunities to participate in activities related to friendship and cooperation. They work with our school social worker and teachers to increase their social skills.

As I visited classrooms this month, I saw a smiling face that drew me into the class. It's such a pretty smile for a pretty girl. We sat together for a few minutes, played, laughed and enjoyed time spent together. Thank you, Sarah, for making my day!

Enrollment as of Feb 23, 2023

Enrollment - 63

Acceptances - 2

Intakes - 3

Referrals - 7

Disenrollment - 0

Fire Drill - 1/15/23

Lock Down (External Threat) - 2/23/23



Westlake's December Spotlights!



Student of the Month

Student MH was selected by his staff and peers as student of the month for February. Congratulations!



Principal's Award

The Principal Award goes to a student selected by the principal who was nominated for student of the month but wasn't chosen. The principal selects a student based on their hard work and their ability to overcome obstacles.



Teacher Spotlight **Fun Facts about Mr. Patrick!**

1. He was baptized in the same church as Frank Sinatra.
2. Before Mr. Patrick became a music teacher he played in a band that was managed by the guy who owned the famous New York City punk club CBGB.
3. He loves taking photographs and lugs his camera everywhere.



Paraprofessional Spotlight **Fun Facts about Ms. Jackie!**

1. Before working at Westlake Ms. Jackie was a phlebotomist.
2. She will be married for thirty years this year.
3. She has been on keto for two years- but her last meal would be pasta.
4. Ms. Jackie has three kids and two dogs.
5. Her middle child is diagnosed with a rare chromosome abnormality called Emmanuel Syndrome.



Behaviorist Spotlight **Why does Ms. Salvatore love Behavioral Therapy?**

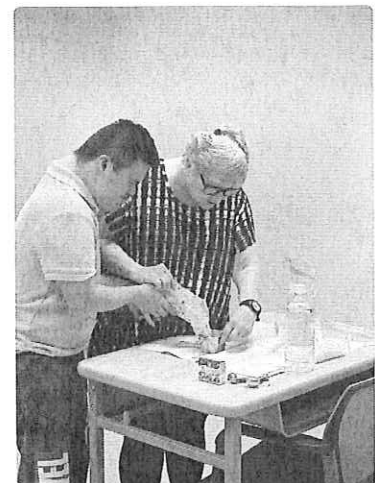
Getting to know our students-- who is a great artist, watches cooking shows, who knows the lyrics to all pop songs, who knows the records of every sport team, etc. It feels good when you help a student find the best way to learn in school--to have them succeed and have some fun while doing it! **EVERYONE** can be successful, if you find what motivates each person. We all have strengths, despite the challenges.

Ms. Roble's Classroom

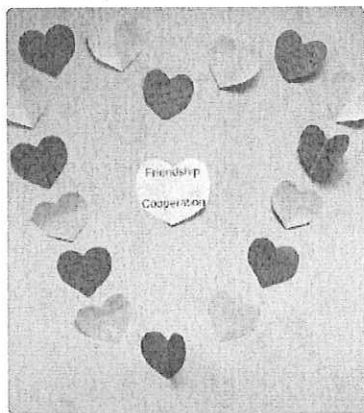
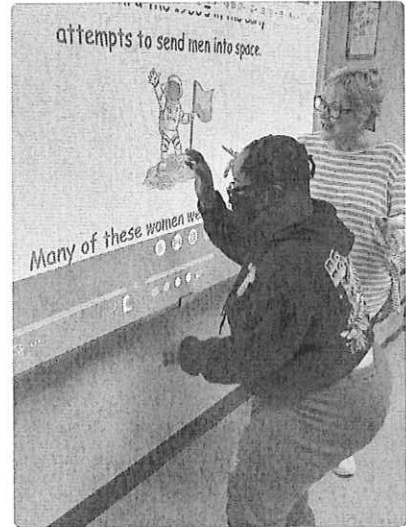
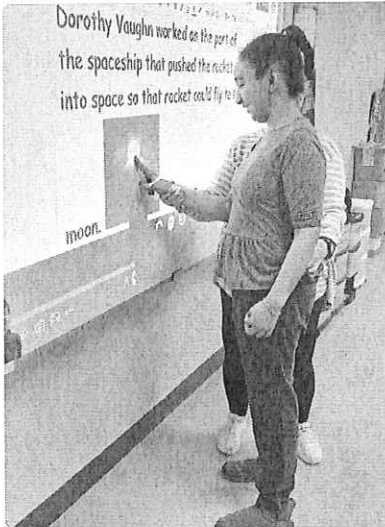
In February the focus during Social Studies lessons was on African-Americans who made significant contributions to American life.

The students watched a video about Garrett Morgan, who was not only an inventor but a businessman and a community leader. Morgan is most well known for his invention of the traffic light, however, he also invented the 'safety hood', a precursor to the gas mask.

After watching the video Mrs. Robles' students measured rice and vinegar so they could dye rice red, green, and yellow. These students then completed an art project using the rice and made traffic lights. The students enjoyed creating their traffic lights and appreciated the sensory experience that using the rice provided.



In another lesson the class read/listened to a teacher written story about 3 women who worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. The three women were Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughn. These three women (among many others) were indispensable in solving mathematical equations and making calculations that were instrumental in preparation for sending US astronauts into space. As a follow up activity the class worked on creating their own number line because the complex mathematical problem solving of NACA's 'computers' began with number sense (understanding quantity) and number recognition (using symbols to represent numbers).

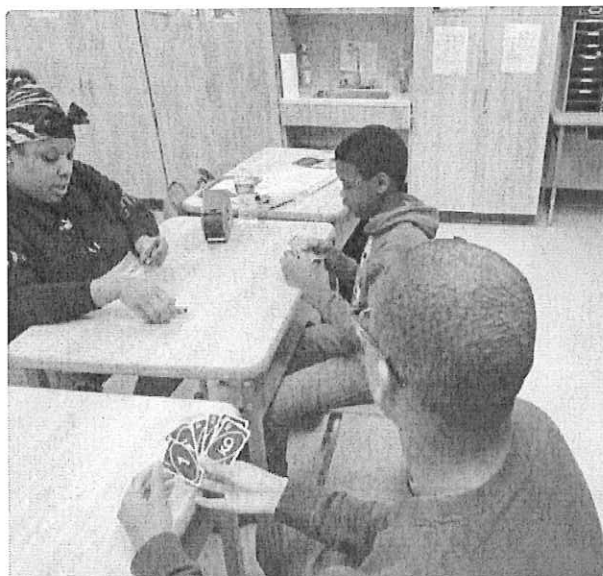
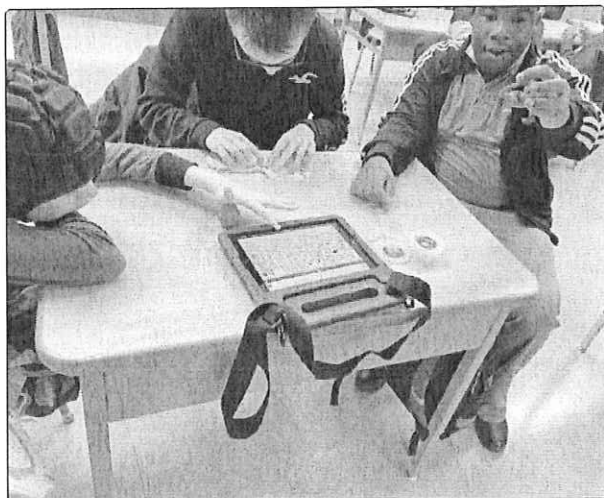


Ms. Pajewski's Classroom

This month we focused on Cooperation & Friendship. Each day students returned from lunch eager to play a game with classmates. Our favorite game has been either Uno or Uno Attack. In the spirit of friendship & cooperation, students have been sharing their personal games from home. Not only do we enjoy the game we have learned about turn taking, playing for fun, (not just winning) caring and respecting the property of others and sharing. Other games and activities which we frequently shared and cooperatively played were puzzles, thera-putty and legos.

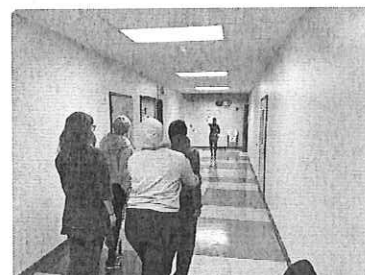
Students have also used this time to enhance their conversation skills. The spirit of friendship and cooperation has been posted in the classroom on our Valentine hearts. Some examples are "Helping a friend with his alphabet". "Carrying our class materials, Working together to complete a puzzle and building a tower together.

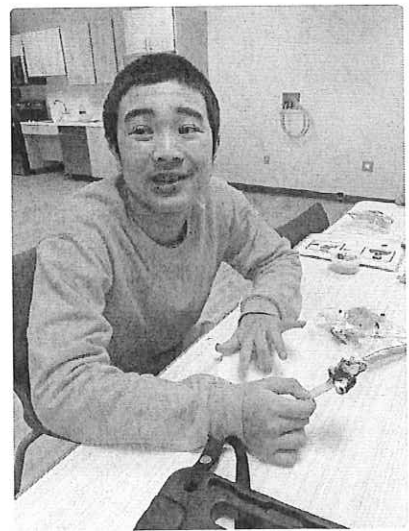
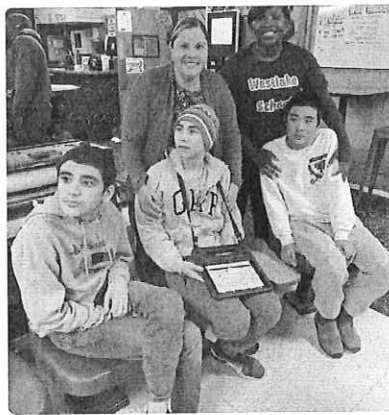
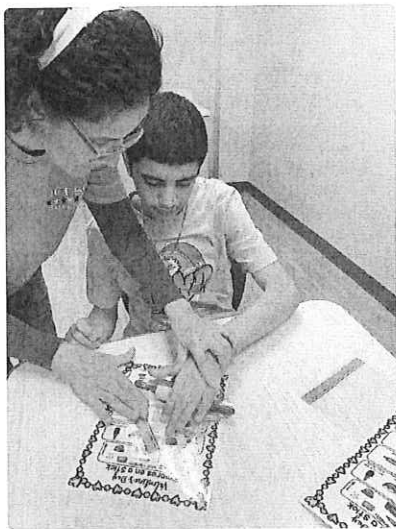
During Black History month one of the people we have studied was Jackie Robinson. He was the first African American who played for the Brooklyn Dodgers. We learned about how he overcame adversity and became a famous baseball player. Jackie Robinson helped to lead the way for other great athletes.



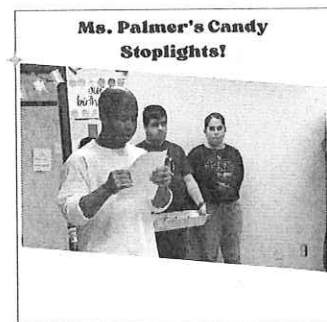
Ms. Fernandez's Classroom

In Social Studies students are learning about influential African American musicians. Students are studying music through the decades and comparing and contrasting different music from different time periods. In SEL students are viewing different problem scenarios and discussing how they would feel in those situations and how they would effectively problem solve. In science students are learning how to create and problem solve like an inventor. They are studying African American Inventors whose inventions have changed our lives and how we live. For example, when learning about George Crum who invented the potato chip we experimented with the different oil content in each potato chip and then surveyed the class on their favorite style of chip. When learning about Garrett Morgan and the invention of the traffic light we discussed the functions of the lights to keep us safe and then played a game of red light green light in the hallway.





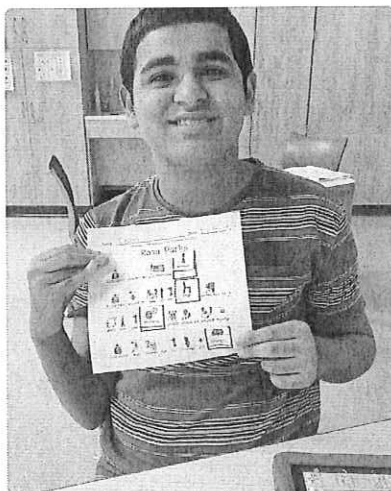
February at Westlake!



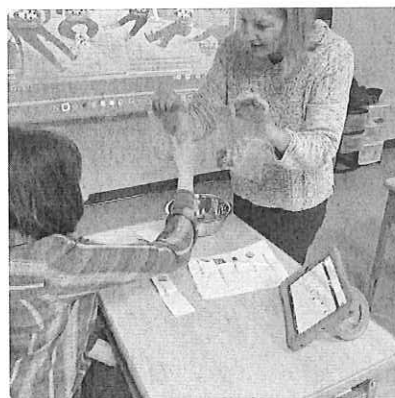
"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." - D. Tutu



Ruby Bridges-Leaned about how Ruby overcame many obstacles to integrate William Frantz Elementary School, showing great courage in the face of discrimination.

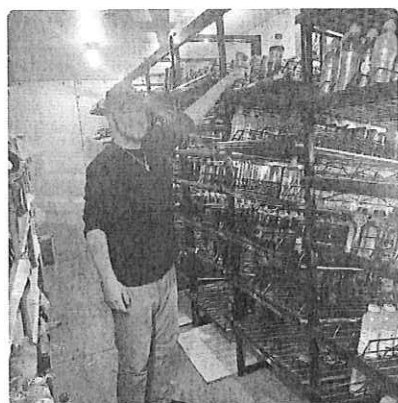


Speech therapists read about black Americans and the students re-told the stories.

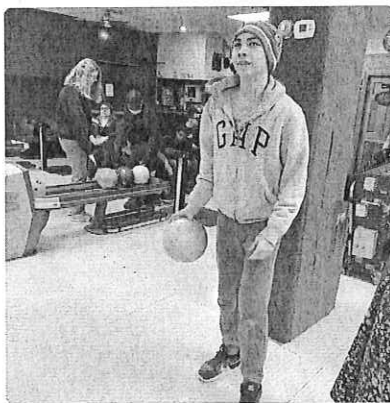


Occupational therapists made friendship fruit salad with the students! How yummy and kind!

Westlake Out and About!



C.A. Restocking at Walgreens!



A.G. Out bowling with Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Pajewski's class!



Ms. Palmer's class at the movies!

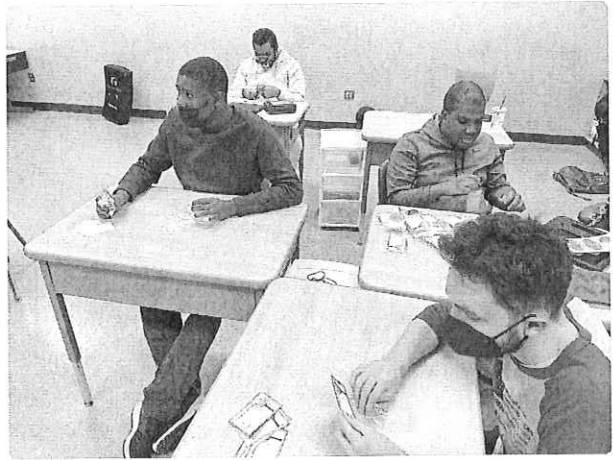
Westlake's Student Run Business Spotlight!

Ms. Shaw's Soap Shop!

As part of our vocational training, our class made heart soaps for the Valentine's Day sale this month. The students were given different responsibilities for making soaps. The students worked on; cutting a soap base into small pieces using the tools safely, melting the soap base in the microwave by following the instructions, pouring the soap liquid into the heart molds, and

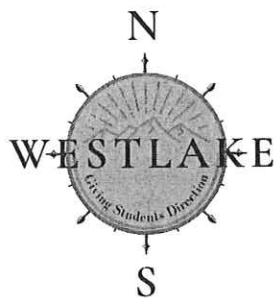


packaging the soaps with the labels. Most of all, students enjoyed interacting and selling the soap to their peers and staff. Selling soap and making change for the customers boosted their self-confidence and they were able to apply the skills they learned in real life situations.



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Visit us on Facebook!



Contact Us

Website: www.ucesc.org/schools/westlake_school

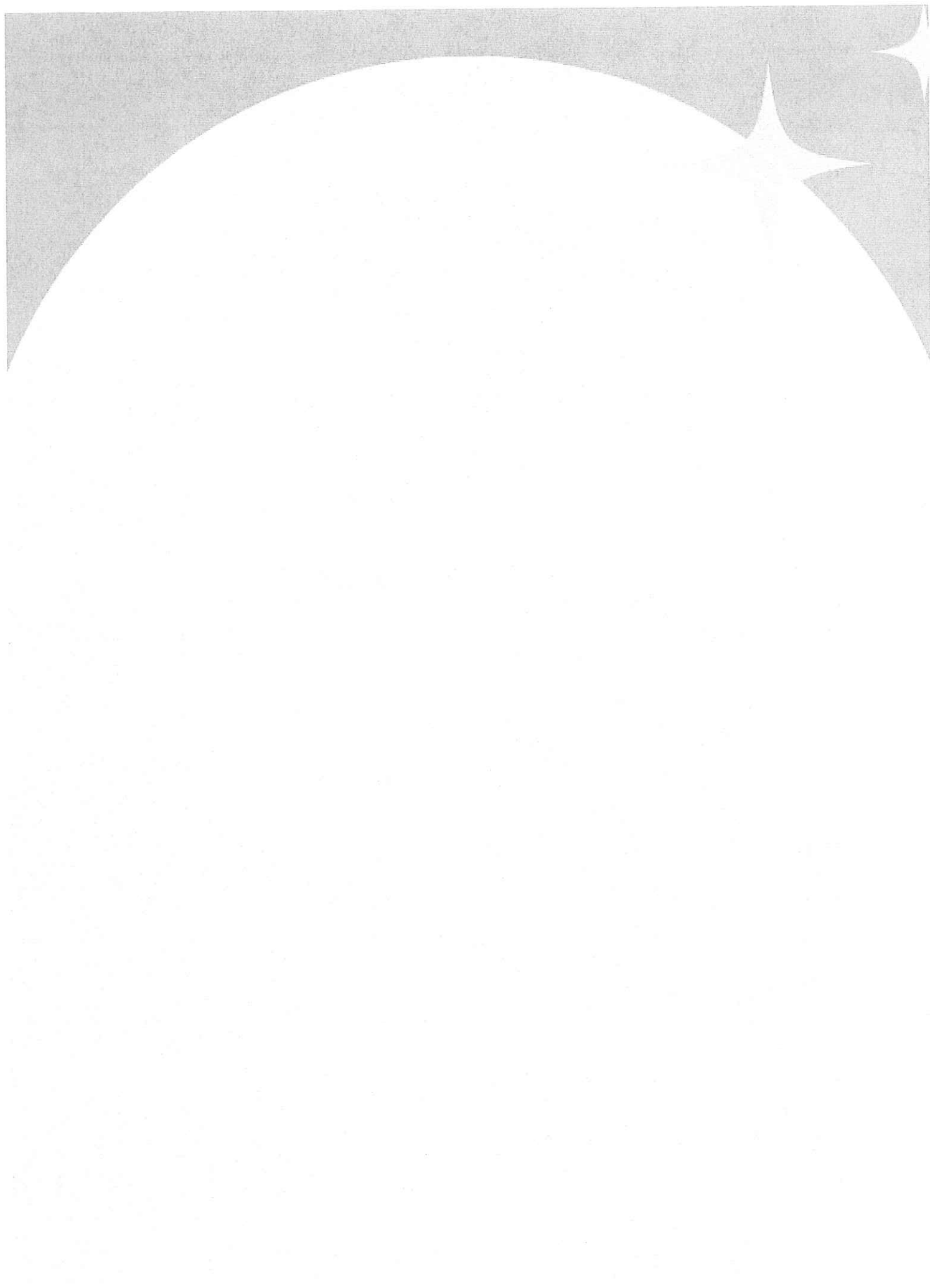
Location: [1571 Lamberts Mill Rd, Westfield, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: [908-232-4181](tel:908-232-4181)



Robert Peneno

Robert is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



The Work Readiness Academy

February 2023 Monthly Report



Director's Message

Dear Families,

Below is a recap of some highlights from the month of February at the Work Readiness Academy. Other important updates will still be sent out via email or letters home with your child.

We are looking forward to rotating all students into at least one new internship experience beginning the 2nd week in March. Stay tuned for communications home in the next week or so with information about your child's new experience...and any related dress requirements!

Sincerely,

Josh Bornstein
Director at the UCESC Work Readiness Academy

February Data

Enrollment as of Feb 24, 2023

Actual: 27

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0

Referrals: 10

Intakes Scheduled: 7 (Jan & Feb '23)

Accepted:

February 24 - Fire Drill

Schedule for February 28 - Lockdown Drill (Active Shooter)



Weather Closings & Delayed Openings

As a reminder, in the event that we need to close the program or delay our opening due to inclement weather, you will receive a message via our Honeywell First Alert system.



WRA Student of the Month

Our Student of the Month for February is **Nathan Almeida!** Nathan has modeled kindness and respect in our community this month. He puts forth his best effort each day at his internship experiences, including asking questions when he is confused and accepting feedback and coaching to improve his work.

Congratulations Nathan!



Staff Spotlight

Name: Donna Kiritcheva

Position: Paraprofessional & Licensed School Driver

Years with UCESC: 14; one of the original "job coaches" hired by the Commission when the Transition Services department was created.

Interests/Hobbies:

Traveling, Learning about New Cultures, Reading, and Listening to Music.

Quote to Live By: "One person can make a difference."

Something Most People Wouldn't Know About Me: "I love doing research."

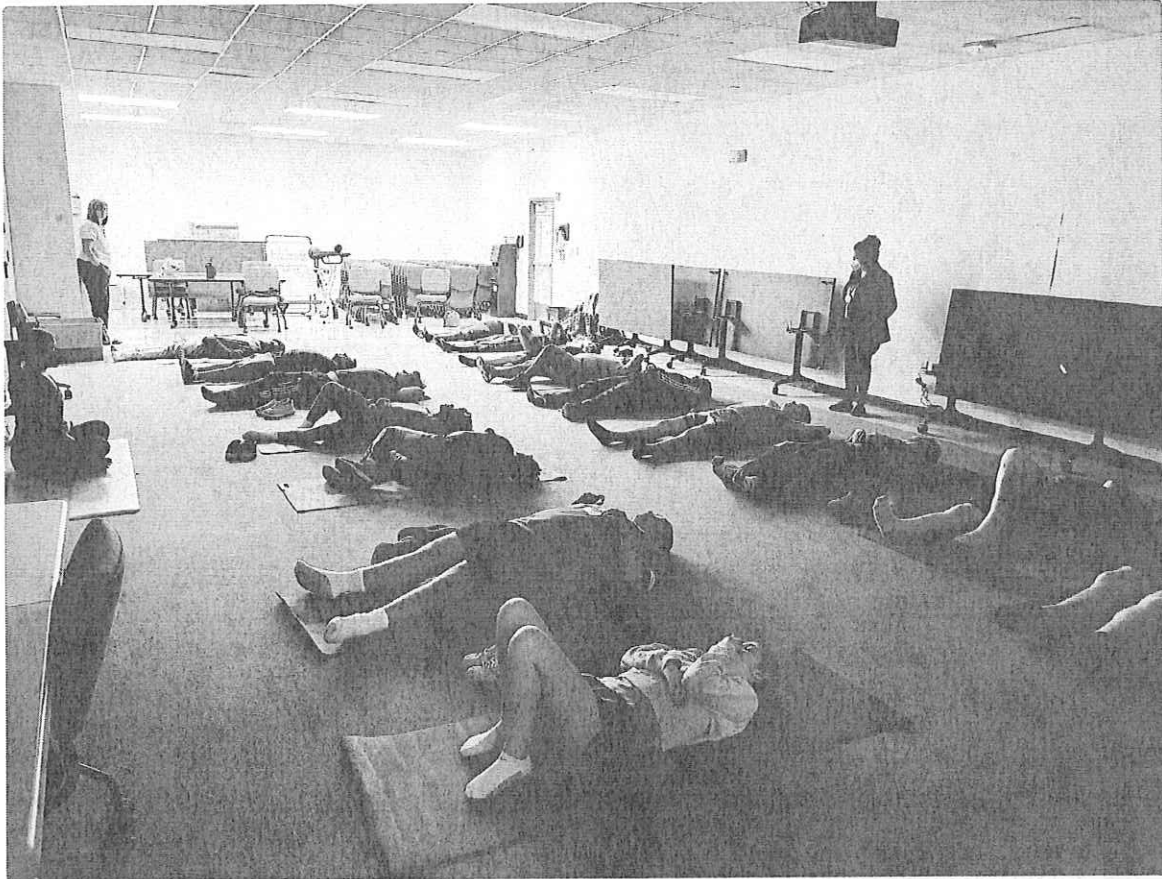


Community Business Partner Spotlight

This month we spotlight **Barnes & Noble Booksellers.** The bookstore has been a longtime community partner with the Work Readiness Academy. During Work-Based Learning experiences students have performed zone maintenance to help identify books that need to be returned to the publisher, learned to read planograms, how to pyramid a display, and how to assist customers.

Barnes & Noble has been located on route 22 in Springfield, New Jersey for the past 30 years. Earlier this year, the company announced it will be relocating in late February. The store will not be moving very far, as it will open a new bookstore just up the road into the Union Plaza Center at 2401 Route 22 West. The completely new store will open in the space previously occupied by Modell's, opposite Best Buy and next to ShopRite.

We are grateful to Greg, Melanie, Brian, Janine and the rest of the B&N Bookseller team for their years of collaboration and support. Many of them will not be staying with the store as it moves to the new location. We wish them the very best of luck with their new ventures!



Student Self-Care

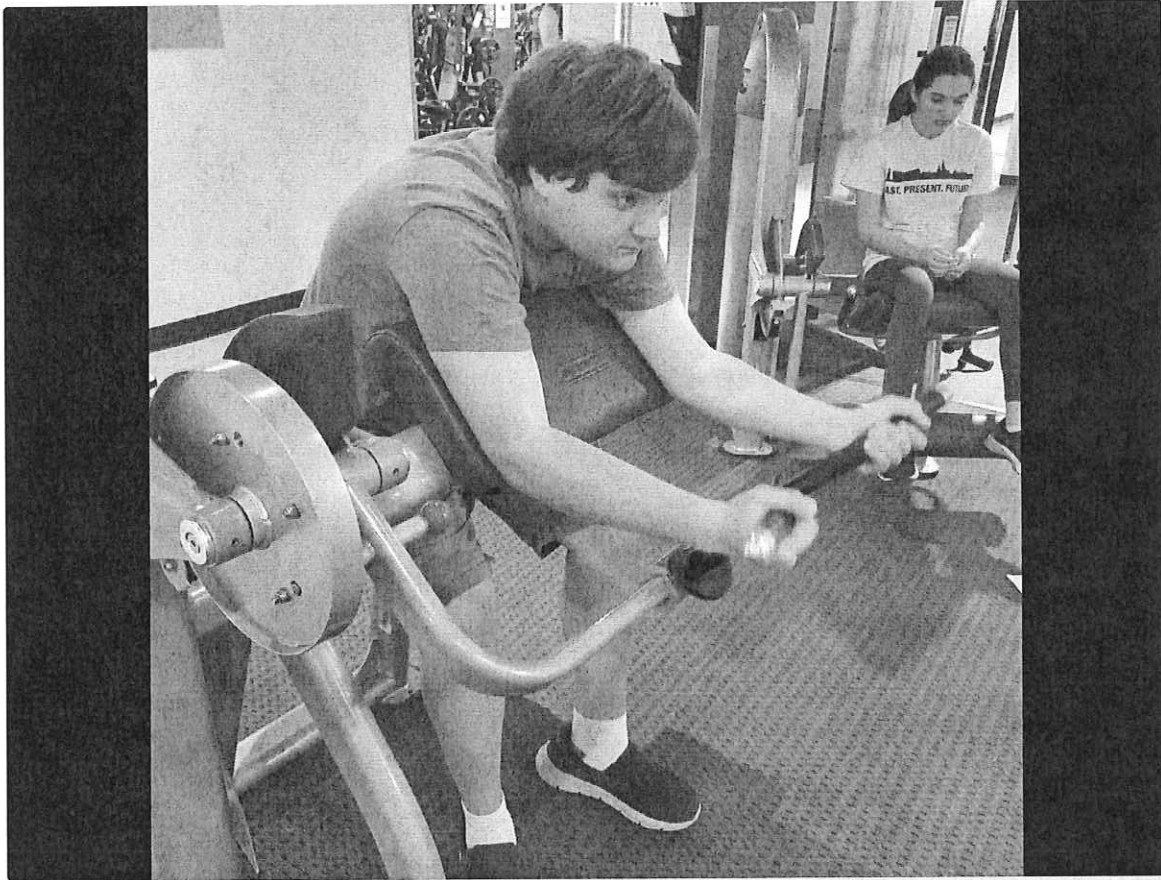
The primary goal of the Work Readiness Academy is to prepare students for employment, including the development of critical skills needed to obtain and maintain a job. We are also committed to helping our students build healthy lifelong habits related to caring for their physical and mental health.

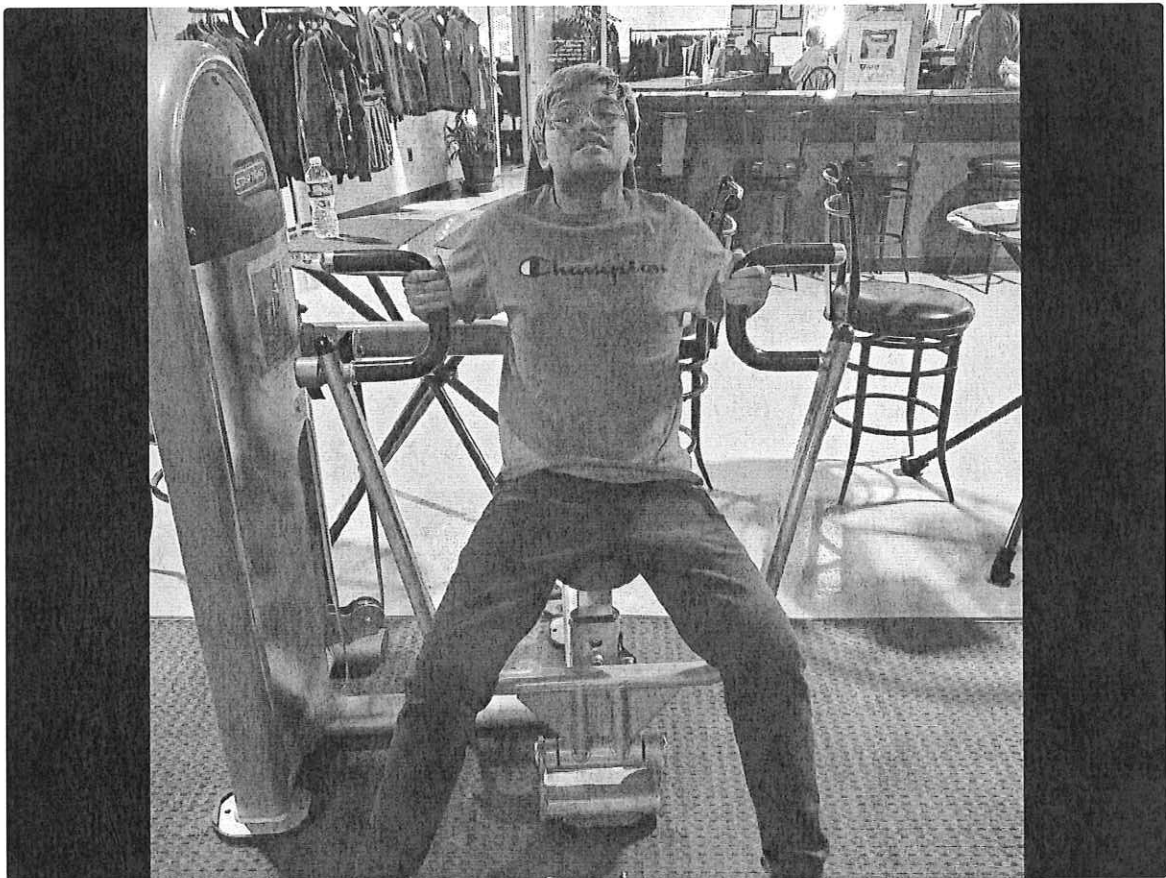
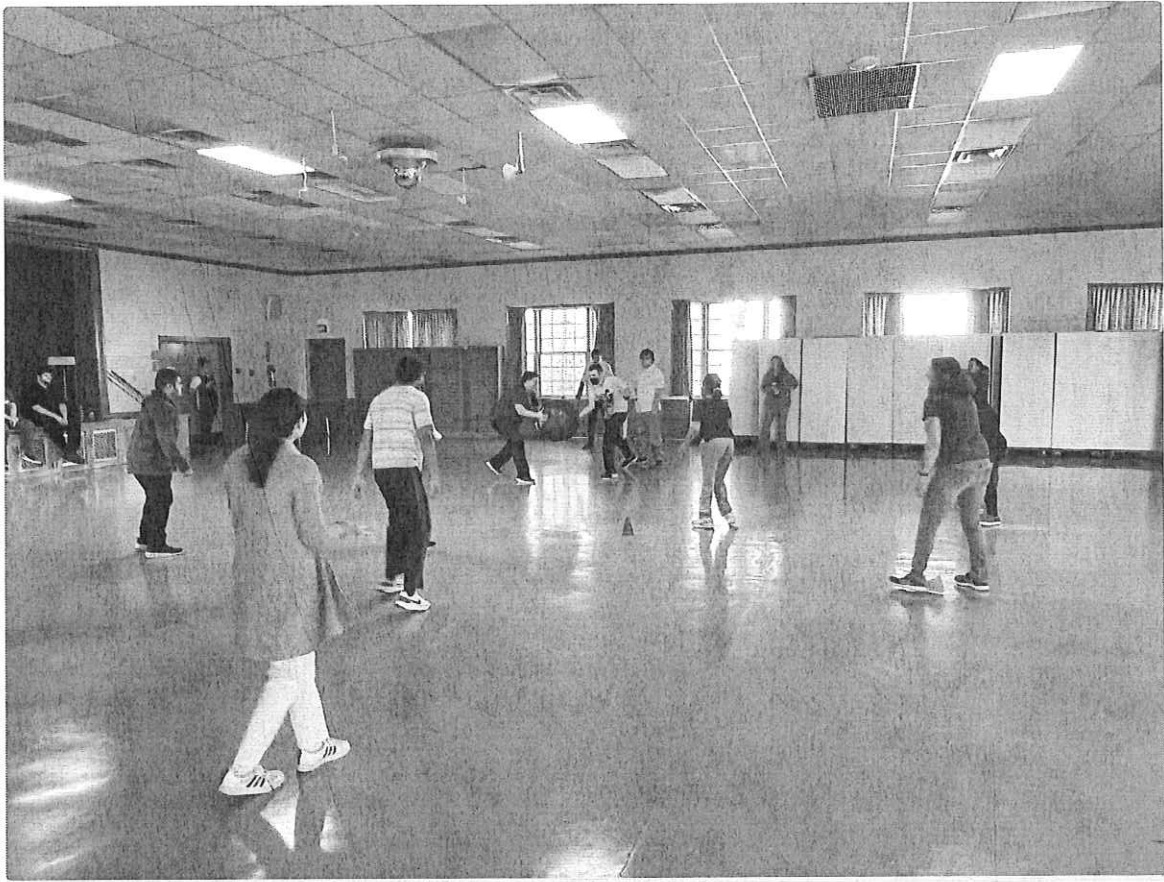
Some of the weekly programming we offer that exposes students to activities of self-care includes:

- A gentle weekly yoga class on Tuesday mornings led by Sandra Marrotta from [Ashrams 4 Autism](#)
- A weekly personal fitness class on Wednesday mornings led by a certified physical education teacher. This class combines individual and group exercise activities to help students stay active.
- A weekly Health class where cover age-appropriate topics ranging from healthy relationships to factual information about the affect alcohol & drugs can have on our brains and bodies.

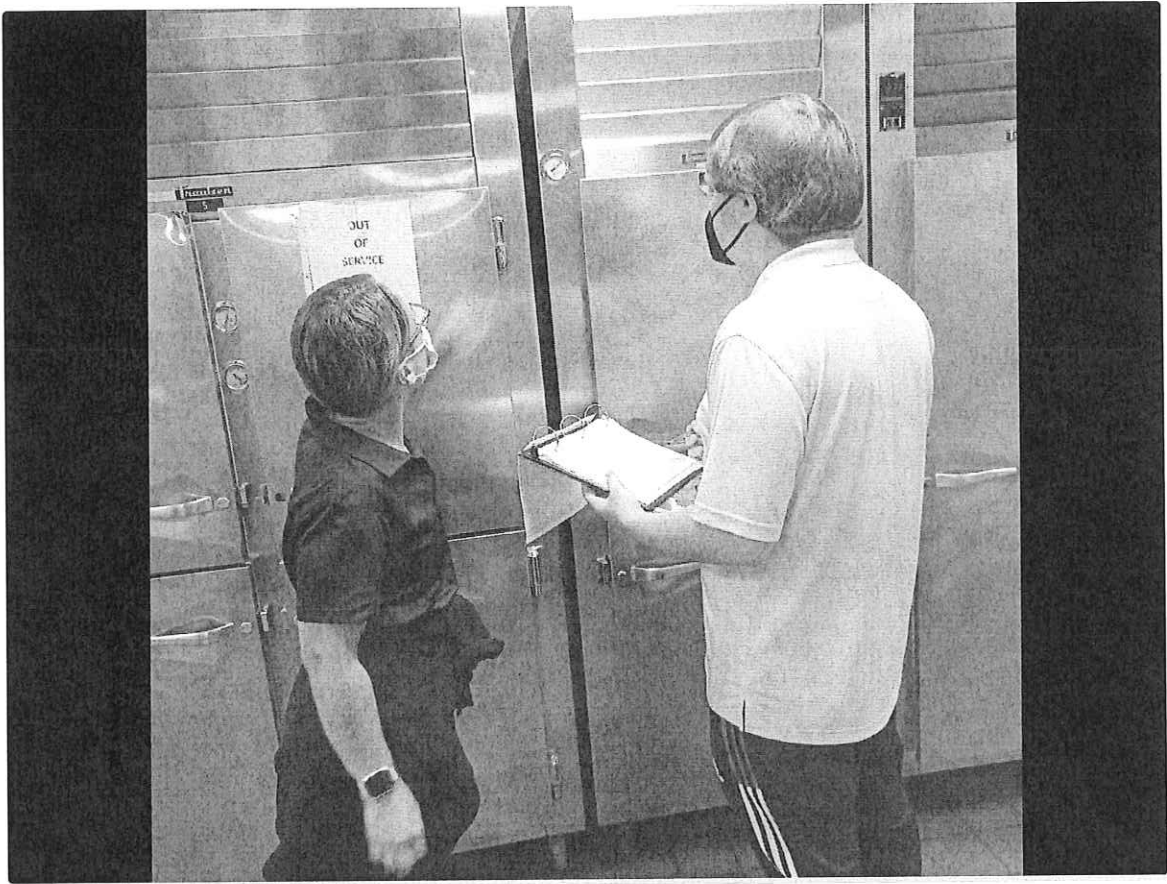
- Once per month, students visit a local fitness center - Strength & Fitness Club in Cranford, New Jersey.
- Students participate in a weekly counseling group with our district Student Assistance Counselor focused on our monthly Social-Emotional Learning topics.

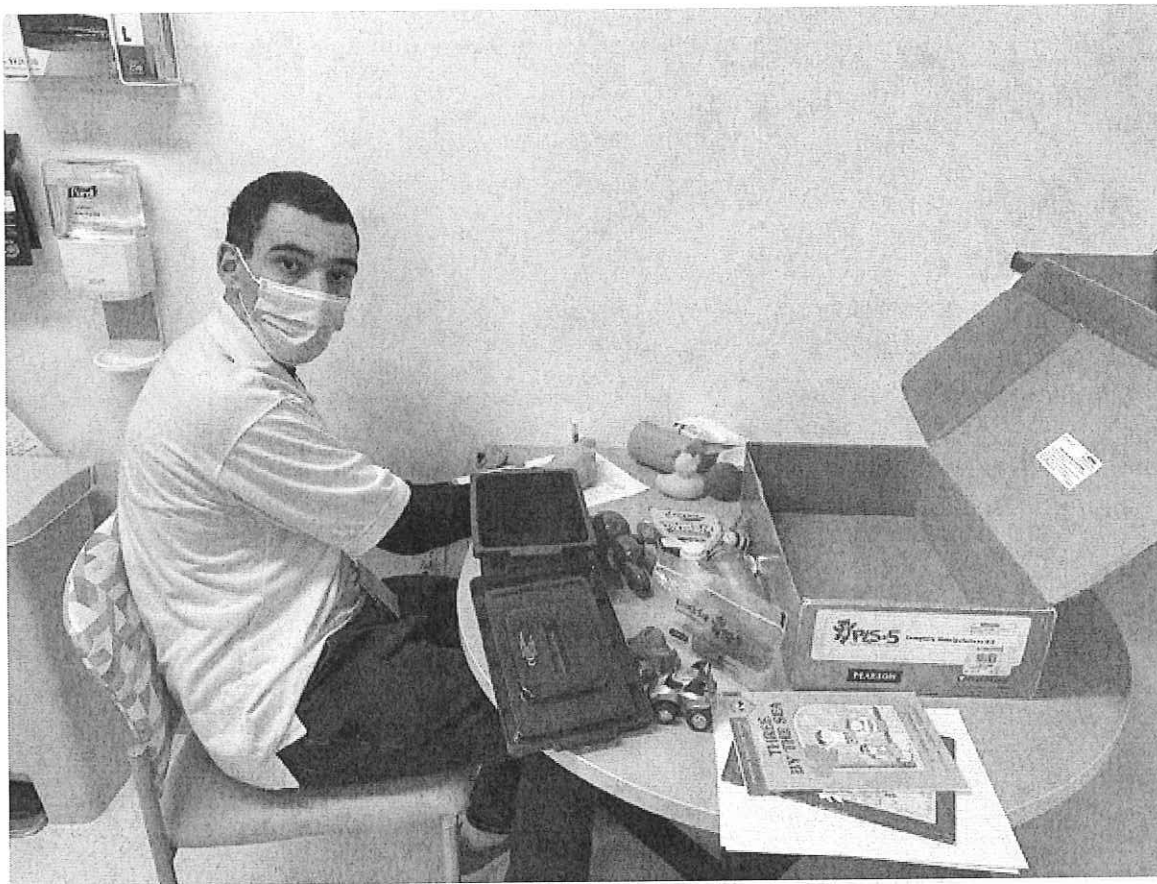
We encourage students and families to discuss options for regular wellness & exercise while at home and/or in the community. If you need assistance in finding options near your home, please don't hesitate to contact us!





February Pictures from our Work-Based Learning Experiences

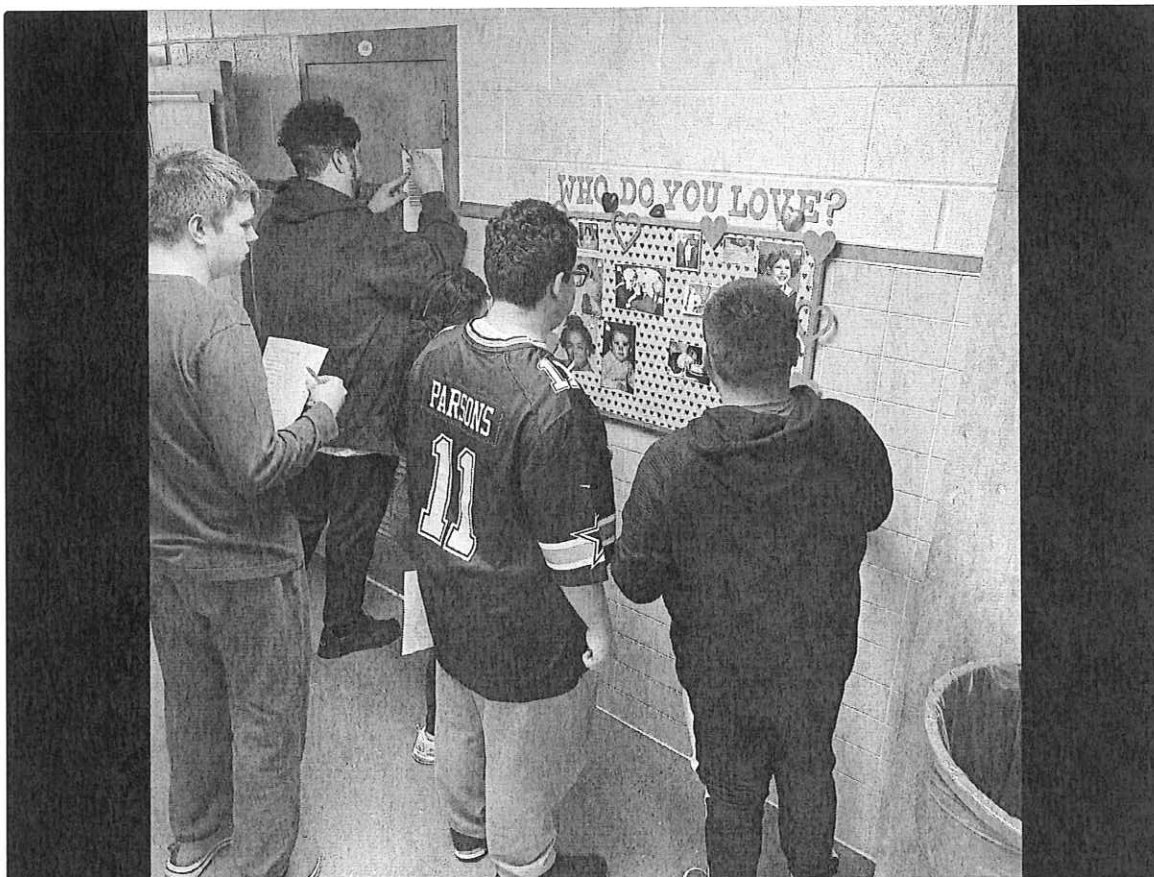




Who Do You Love?

To celebrate Valentine's Day, WRA paraprofessional Tracie Wiebush coordinated a "Who Do You Love" contest. Staff brought in baby pictures from home and they were posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Students were then challenged to match the pictures to each staff member!





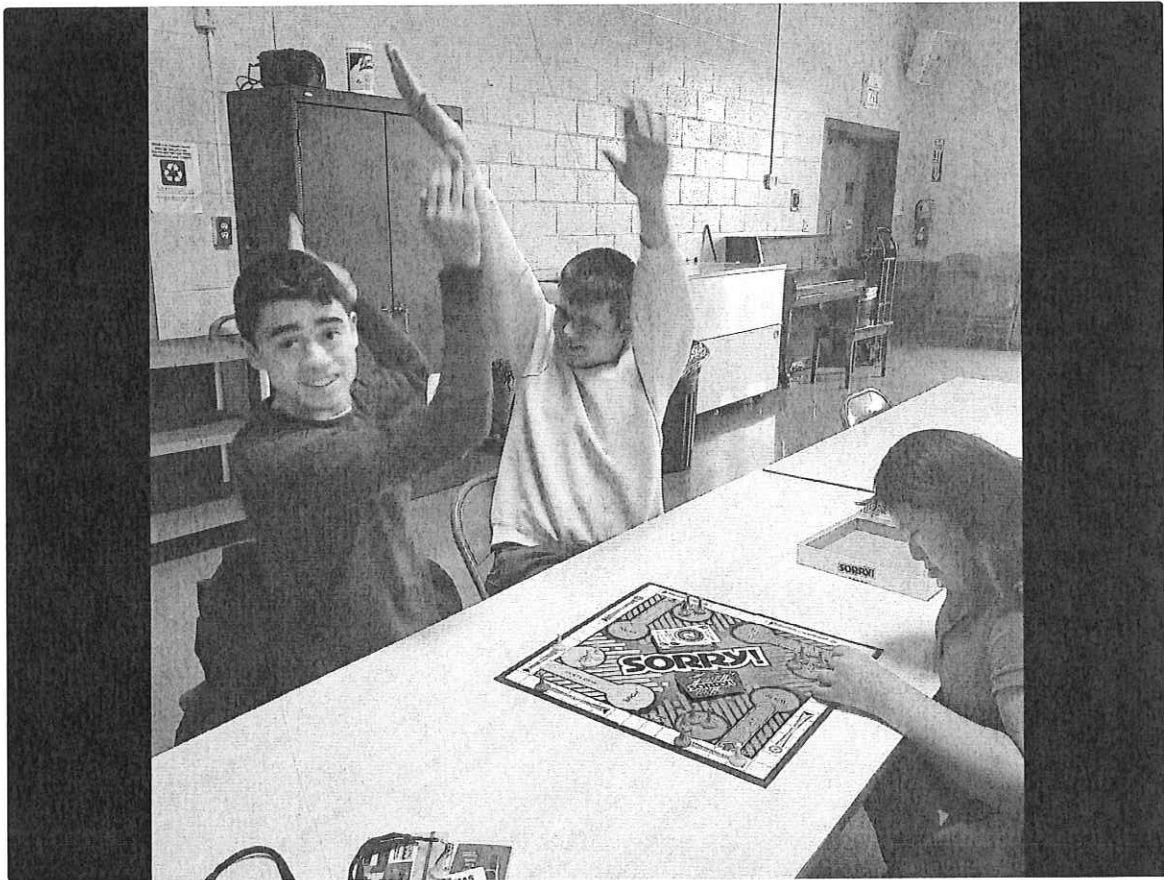
Meet ChewBARKA!

In February we adopted a new (stuffed) therapy dog at the Work Readiness Academy. Students & staff submitted name suggestions and ultimately chose **"ChewBARKA"**.

"Chewy" will reside in his bed in the main hallway of our school. Any student or staff member who may be having a rough day or feeling a bit down is welcome to pet him or request to have him tag along in class for part or all of the day. His positive "force" brings joy to all who visit with him.



Social-Emotional learning (SEL) Themes of the Month:
Friendship & Cooperation



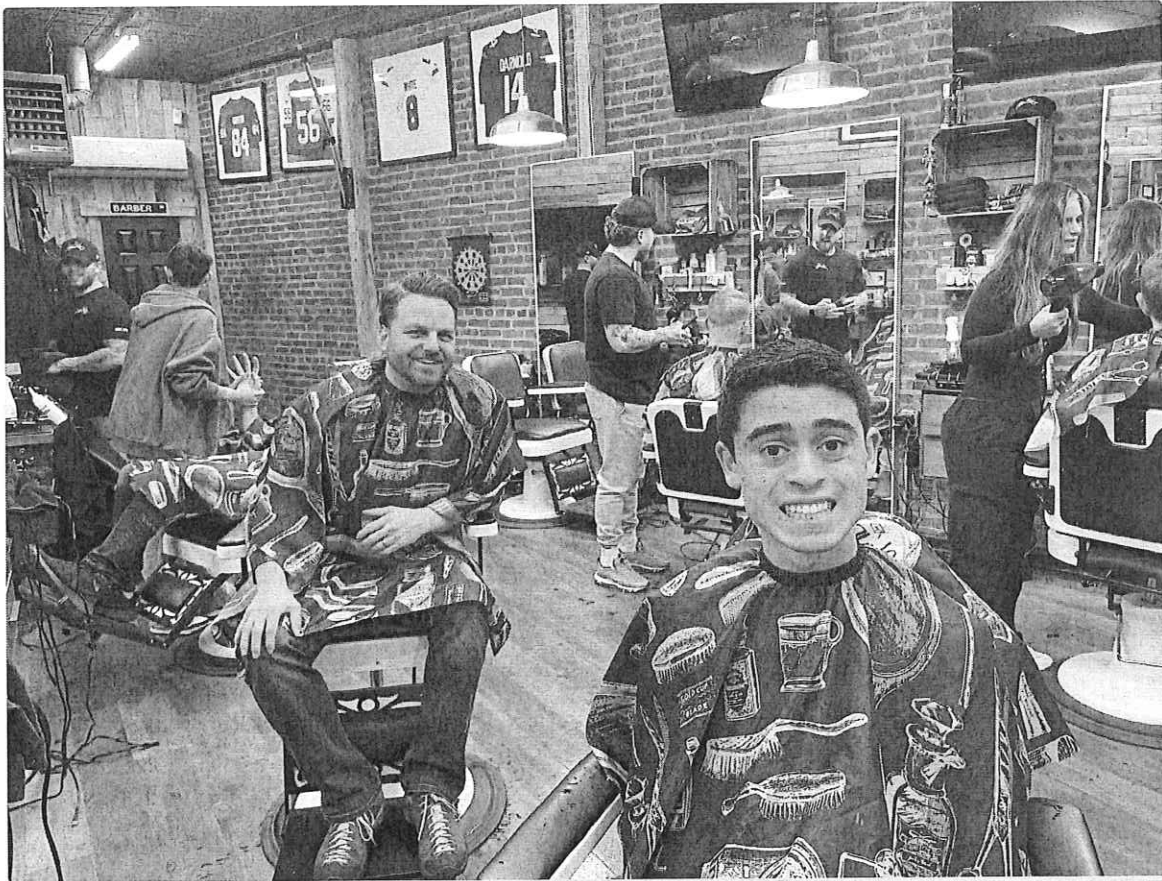


WRA in the Community

Fancy Meeting You Here

It's always nice to run into current and former WRA students in the community. Our Director Josh Bornstein was pleasantly surprised to find he was getting a haircut at Corey Matthews Barber Shop in Cranford alongside current WRA student Alejandro Colon.

Fresh cuts look good, gentleman!



The Work Readiness Academy

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☎️ 908-633-2704

🌐 ucesc.org/schools/the_work_r...

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