



Westlake's OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor's Message

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T, find out what it means to me."-Aretha Franklin

The month of October was filled with profoundly significant events and activities that both students and Westlake staff alike participated in to foster a learning environment of kindness, inclusivity and empathy towards each other and the Westlake community,

Teacher constructed classroom lessons, Anti bullying and violence assemblies and all school participation activities reinforced the values of acceptance, mutual understanding and shared responsibility to all that respect is one of the "pillars" that supports and creates a safe, welcoming and empowering learning environment that ensures every individual feels valued, respected and accepted for who they are and their unique skills and abilities they share within our Westlake community on a daily basis.



Westlake Information!

Current Enrollment: 55

Referrals: 3

Acceptances: 0

Disenrollment: 0

October 10: Emergency Management Drill (Internal Threat)

October 12: Fire Drill

Westlake September Spotlight!

Student of the Month



A.A. has shown RESPECT for his teachers and friend over the last month. Setting a good example to the others in his class

Principal's Award



Principal's Award



J.C. earned the Principal's Award for being so friendly to everyone he meets!



Principal's Award



S.W. is new to Westlake, everyday he shows his new teachers and classmates RESPECT.

Teacher Spotlight



Mr. K

This month our SEL topic was Respect and Anti-Bullying Month. We celebrated the Week of Respect and wrapped up with all wearing our Westlake spirit shirts to show we are all a team! We talked about working together and respecting each other's boundaries. Our class focused on the Golden Rule and what it means to be respectful. We read *Do Unto Otters* by Laurie Keller, a story that explains how we should do unto otters (others) through a fun and creative lens. We made our own otters and identified ways we can be respectful to each other at school. We made the Golden Rule our own by saying "Make others feel good the way we want to feel." We talked about ways that other people can make us feel good and how we can return those feelings to others. We also discussed ways others may make us feel not good and how we can use respectful words to tell them that they made us feel bad. Another thing we continued to discuss from last month's Self-Management is not just that mistakes are okay as long as we fix them, but also that our mistakes may hurt others and, if they do, then we have to use kind and respectful words and actions to fix them.



Ms. Schiumo's Class



This month's theme of RESPECT has been reviewed and celebrated daily. The students created a "talking stick" in order to boost their listening skills. They also generated their own rules for cooperative group work and have demonstrated an impressive willingness to help and encourage each other.

Our class trips into the surrounding community to visit a movie theater and a bowling alley were hugely successful. They gave us an opportunity to work on both vocational and leisure skills. The students are now preparing for upcoming shopping trips in order to replenish classroom supplies and jewelry making components.

Our students also conducted their first sale where they practiced their interpersonal and financial literacy skills. Their Fall inventory is now sold out so they will be busy designing and creating new items such as beaded key chains, bracelets, earrings and lanyards to meet future demands.



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Week of Respect

Westlake "WEEK of RESPECT" Celebration

October 2nd through October 6th, 2023



At school, we practice being respectful to each other every day. Join us by following the suggested guidelines below to show

Unity in Our Community!

"Motivation" Monday

Wear a shirt with a positive saying or picture on it (if you have one) to spread cheer and motivation and to be kind and respectful to others.

"Green" Tuesday

Wear green to show your respect for our environment and the space around you.

"No Sweat" Wednesday

Being respectful is "no sweat." **Wear your favorite sweatshirt or hoodie** to show that you are comfortable being who you are.

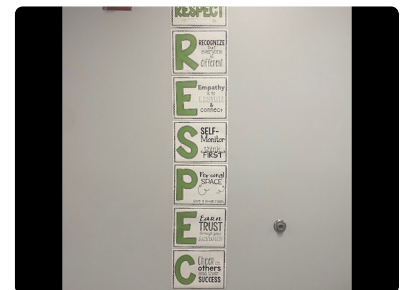
"Stomp Out Bullying" Thursday

Wear blue, which is the official color of the week, to show that you stand against bullying.

"Team Up Against Bullying" Friday

Wear your favorite sports attire to show that you stand against bullying as a team.

The "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act" requires that the week of October 2-6, 2023 be designated as the "Week of Respect" in NJ. At Westlake we celebrated values we uphold through theme based lessons and activities to help our staff and our students grow as a community. Students looked for ways to encourage each other's efforts. An all school color coordinated tee shirt theme demonstrated support for the "Week of Respect" in an effort to unify and celebrate our caring school community. Caped Superhero "Stonehands" educated and entertained our staff and students with his message that we all have the ability to show regard and consideration for others beliefs and feelings. Staff and students wore tee shirts and costumes of their favorite superhero for an action packed assembly.



Wearing blue to "Stomp out Bullying"



"No Sweat" Wednesday



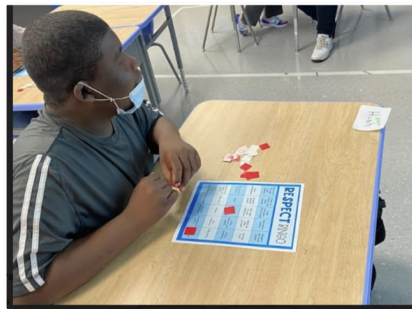
N.R. wearing green to show respect for our

environment!

Respect Bingo in Ms. Pajewski's class!



J.J. having fun!



C.V. excited to play!

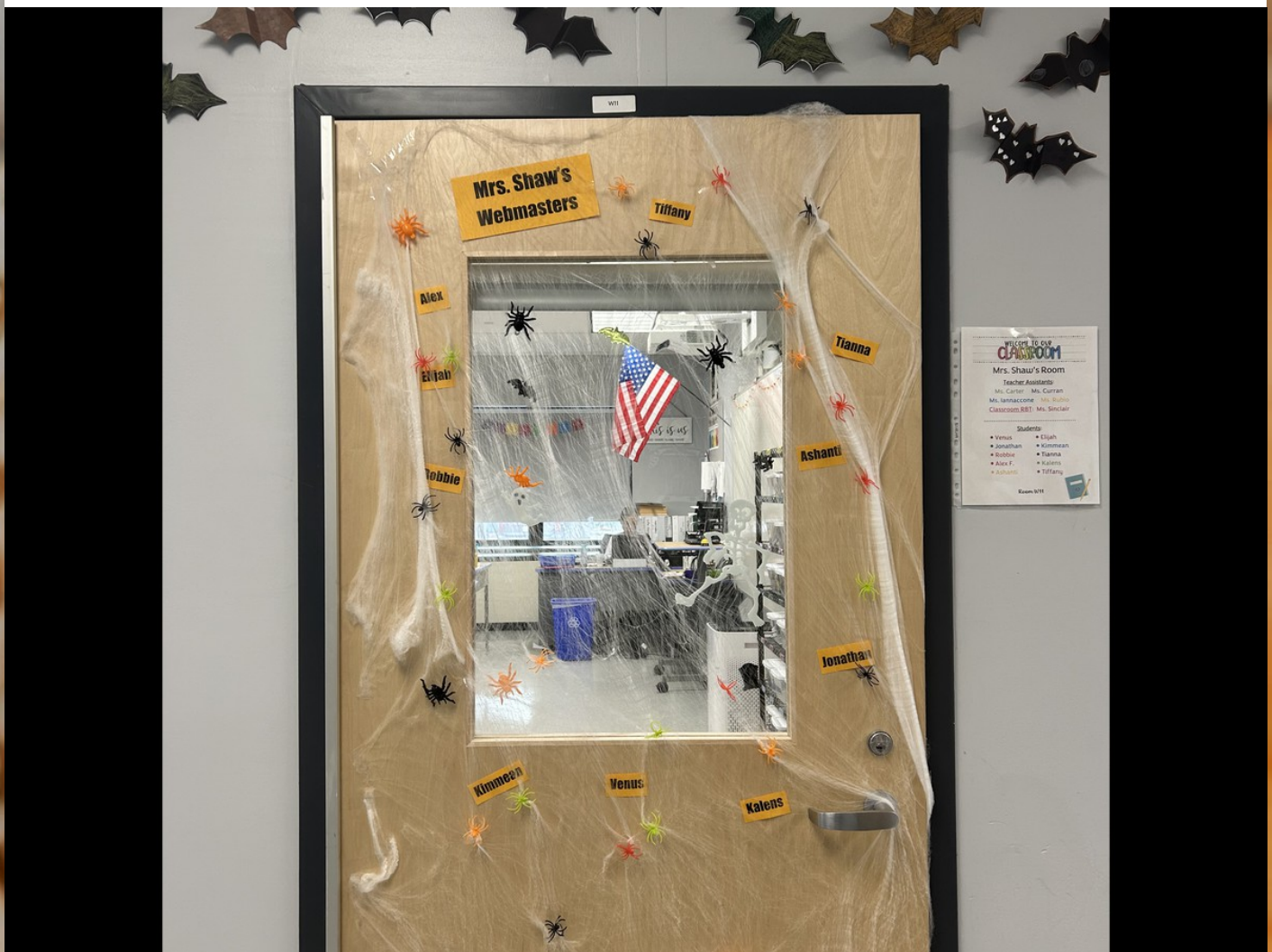


J.A. ready to win!

Staff Creativity



Ms. Schiumo's Halloween!



Ms. Shaw's WEBmasters!



Sunshine Cafe

The Sunshine Cafe opened the first week of October. Staff and students spent the month of September, working very hard to set up the cafe. The room and equipment was cleaned and organized. The table and chairs were arranged. Together everyone practiced, the new recipes. New menus were produced. They staff and students are very proud of all they have accomplished!



Our Cafe Window!



Our Staff!



Ribbon Cutting!



New Equipment!



Ready to Start Serving!



Taking orders!



New and Adaptive Menus!



New Decor!



J.C. enjoying the Sunshine Cafe Spooky Special!

The Spooky Special was made with hot chocolate, whipped cream and red syrup!



Class Trips



Ms. Mund's class enjoying a break at the Zoo!



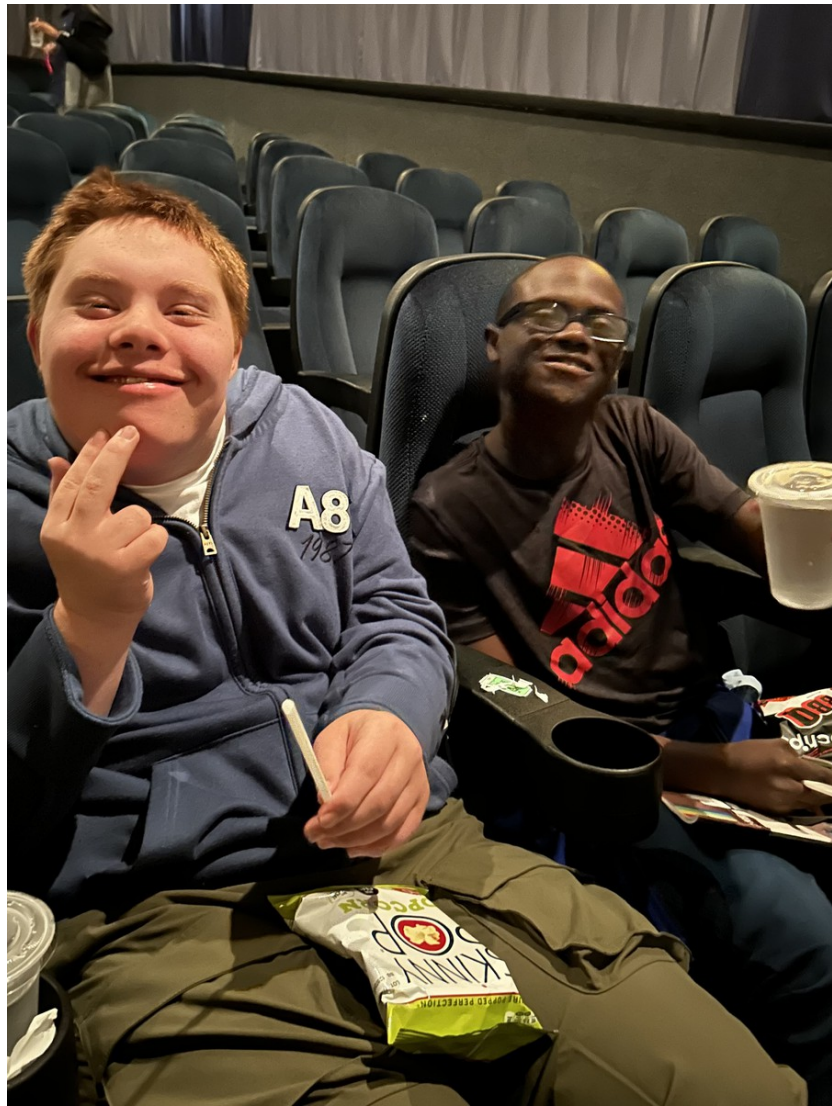
R.M. looking for the lions!



J.K. listening to music while animal watching!



S.M. at the Cranford Movie Theater!



G.R. and W.A. have their snacks and ready to start the movie!



J.B. ready to bowl a strike!



Work Based Learning

**Work Based Learning sites
started this week.**



**Westlake students receive
job training at many
locations around Union
County.**



**J.D. is learning to work
the snack stand at the
Cranford Movie Theater!**



**A.F. Is learning the prep
work that goes into
opening the Olive Garden
everyday!**

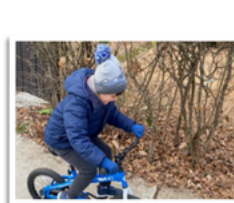


**Like how the table needs
to be set for when
customers start to arrive!**



Student Profile

Josh, age 9, has PMS
Josh's brother Ben goes to Radburn



Favorite Foods

- Fish
- Chicken Fingers
- Watermelon
- Chips
- Cereal

Favorite Activities

- Listen to Music
- Watch TV (especially Bluey)
- Ride a scooter
- Ride a bicycle
- Swim

Limitations

- Josh **can't** speak with words.
- He uses an iPad to communicate, which is called an AAC device
- Josh doesn't react well to some food, like milk, so he's on a special diet

Follow us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram!



Please fill out the UCESC Feedback Survey

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdBdrvjEV5Dmat0XfEV_BYM3FPWmGSoftE9BL3cDNklhRoQQ/viewform



Robert Peneno

Robert is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



The Work Readiness Academy

OCTOBER 2023 MONTHLY REPORT



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear WRA Families,

During the month of October our students began participating in their assigned Work-Based Learning (WBL) internship experiences in the community! Every student is in the field at least three days per week for WBL (one placement on Mondays & Wednesdays and another placement on Tuesdays or Thursdays). This month we are focusing on acclimating to our new placements, including dressing appropriately, getting to know our mentors, and beginning to learn how to perform initial tasks that are assigned. Next week we will be sending home paperwork for you to sign related to your child's assigned WBLs. We will also continue to send you a copy of each student's weekly growth tracker on Friday afternoons so that you can keep abreast of their learning and growth at their WBLs. This month's classroom instruction focused on teaching flexibility and self-advocacy. These skills were reinforced and generalized at our internships. Staff are also working on developing "customized" focus areas for each student.

Please enjoy the rest of this month's newsletter and see you in November!

Sincerely,

Josh Bornstein

Director at the UCESC Work Readiness Academy

OCTOBER 2023 DATA

Enrollment as of October 27, 2023

Actual: 30

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0

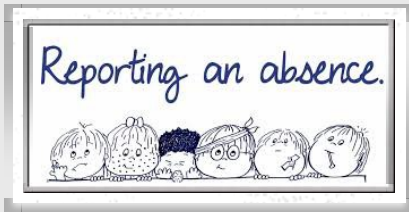
Referrals: 2

Intakes Scheduled: 2

Accepted:

October 5th - Active Shooter (Lockdown Drill)

October 30th - Planned Fire Drill



STUDENT ABSENCES, LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY DISMISSALS

As a reminder, in the event that your child will be absent, arriving late, or picked up early, please call our main number at (908) 633-2704 and speak with our secretary Maureen Wakeman. If it is before 8am, please leave a message. You can also email Maureen at mwakeman@ucesc.org

OCTOBER SPOTLIGHTS



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Christian Paucar has been selected as our Student of the Month for October 2023!

Christian was nominated by staff this month for being a helpful classmate and volunteer. He helped his peers to catch up on work they missed...and even explained some information that a classmate found confusing. Additionally, while volunteering at the Food Pantry at Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey he went out of his way to make extra food bags when he heard the director would be by herself after our WRA team left.

Congratulations, Christian!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet **Mary Beckhusen**, Work Readiness Academy Teaching Assistant

How long have you worked at UCESC? I just finished my first year!

What do you love most about your job?

I love that I am surrounded by joy each day. The ability to work with exceptional students who make me smile is a blessing. I also love the staff here at the WRA for their hard work and dedication to the students and each other.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to do counted cross stitch and read books! I also enjoy making educational toys for my granddaughter, Chandler.

What is one thing that would surprise people about you?

I have participated in the NJ



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

This month we spotlight and thank...

Bob's Stores - Since 1954, Bob's Stores has grown from a single store in Middletown, CT to 27 stores throughout the northeast, including the current store in Watchung, NJ that has partnered with the Work Readiness Academy for over 10 years. At Bob's our students learn typical retail tasks including how to: de-box shoes, unpack & hang clothing for the sales floor, perform recovery of merchandise displays, and support customers to find products. They also learn the Bob's Stores motto: "Treat all customers with respect and dignity, so they will return again and again."

Bob's Stores provides families with the best deals on footwear and clothing. Please

State Police Polar Bear Plunge
for Special Olympics five
times!

consider giving them your
business!

DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Congratulations to **David Alzate** - the winner of this month's
Director's Award!

David has been doing a fantastic job in his role as Peer Mentor to
a new student. He consistently offers to answer the student's
questions and make him feel comfortable and supported at the
WRA.

The Director's Award is given out each month to a student who
exemplifies kindness and compassion - two important values at the WRA.



CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

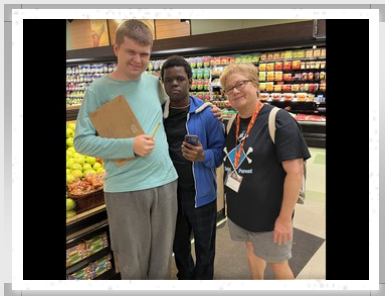
As part of our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month the WRA hosted its first ever food truck
fair in which students researched and prepared a dish from some select Hispanic cultures.





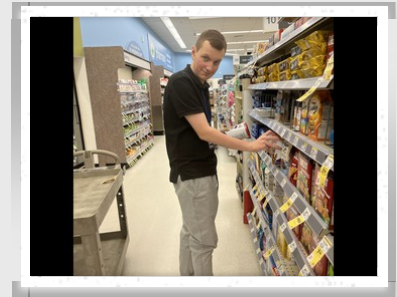
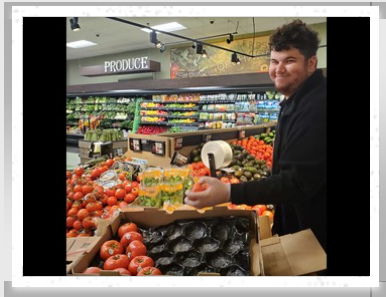
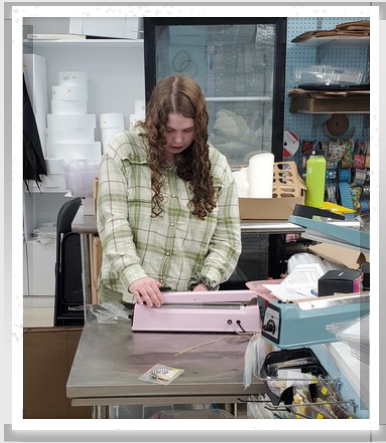
COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION

Every Friday our students participate in a Community-Based Instruction experience. We rotate small groups of students through three different locations; Strength & Fitness Club in Cranford, Jewish Family Services of Central NJ (Food Pantry) in Elizabeth, and ShopRite or Clark Commons Shopping Center in Clark. Enjoy some pictures of our CBI Trips below!



SNAPSHOTS FROM OCTOBER WORK-BASED

LEARNING





ABOUT THE WORK READINESS ACADEMY

The Work Readiness Academy serves students ages 18-21 with disabilities and provides a comprehensive employment training experience that incorporates both classroom-based instruction and community-based work-learning experiences. While in the training classroom, students work cooperatively with similar aged peers to learn critical skills related to employment and socialization. Students also work on career exploration and planning, including the development of a person-centered, post-secondary vision and plan with clear goals and action steps. Program staff remain on-site during the internships to provide and fade support and assistance as needed. Students also participate in field trips focused on career discovery, independent living skills, recreation and independent travel training.

For more information or to make a student referral, please email Josh Bornstein at jbornstein@ucesc.org

 970 Suburban Road, Union, NJ,...

 jbornstein@ucesc.org

 908-633-2704

 ucesc.org/schools/the_work_r...

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WRA ON INSTAGRAM!



HILLCREST ACADEMY SOUTH CAMPUS

October 2023 Monthly Report



Dr. Balsamello's Message

During the month of October, Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) staff and students focused on Respect and Anti-Bullying. There were numerous events and lessons planned throughout the month. We hope you enjoy this month's Newsletter!

October 2023 Enrollment Data

- Enrollment-80 (as of 10/25/23).
 - New Students-5
 - Intakes-2
 - Disenrollments-2 (1 moved and 1 conduct)
 - Fire Drill-10/12/23
 - Emergency Drills-Shelter In Place 10/5/23 and Active Shooter 10/6/23.
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Spotlights!

Student of the Month for September!

Congratulations to our Student of the Month for September, Ash!

When asked about her work ethic, her teachers replied;

- Always willing to raise her hand to answer or read.
- Provides thoughtful responses. Is encouraged to develop more skills while she has the opportunity to take Art. Creativity-wise, she's one of the best I've had.
- Ash is an absolute pleasure to have in class as she always comes to English with a great attitude and is ready to work! She is very hard-working and goes above and beyond to ensure that her classwork is of the highest quality.



Teacher Spotlight: Ms Picciano!

Ms Picciano has been working for the UCESC for the past 16 years and is one of the teachers that works at both Hillcrest South and North. Being an art teacher, Ms Picciano has a flair for colors. She will buy anything as long as it comes in the color aqua. As much as she loves the color aqua, she detests the color peach! What most people don't know about our Art teacher is that her skills expand to more than just art; sewing, dry walling, tiling, and demo work. Ms Picciano was not always a teacher as she used to work at a mental health facility before working at HAS. Random fun fact: she saw the band The Ramones three times in concert. Thank you Ms Picciano for your artistic guidance for our students!



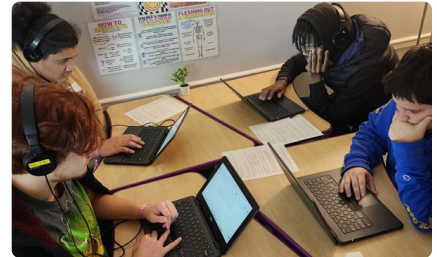
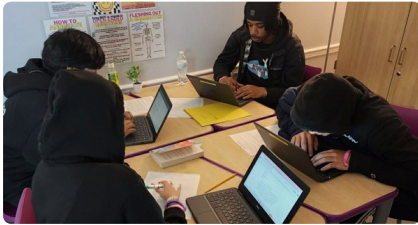
Classroom Spotlights

Ms Vlastaras's English Classroom

During the month of October, students have been working on tasks related to the first unit of the curriculum maps in Creative Writing and English respectively. In Creative Writing, we are focusing on memoirs through reading excerpts from a variety of texts such as Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner, Born a Crime by Trevor Noah, the Monster of Kings Island by Christopher Bollen, and more. Our discussions, reflections, and classwork have centered on the ways in which the authors of memoirs use their personal experiences to explore their identity, how it was shaped, and the impact those experiences and the memoirs have on the reader. After working with a variety of texts, the students will develop short stories based on their own experiences and compile them into a short memoir. In English, students are in the process of conducting research on a topic of their choice in order to compile evidence in support of their stance on the argument at hand

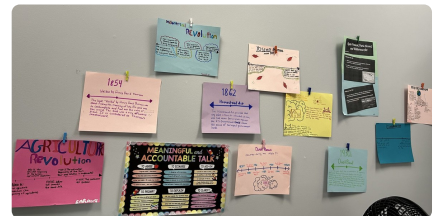


Students have used best research practices in order to locate relevant information to help them develop their argument and craft their rough draft. Topics currently being explored include "Should governments invest more in developing and promoting alternative fuels and energy sources for cars?", "Is social media a positive or negative influence on teenagers' mental health and well-being?", "Is E Sports a legitimate form of competition?", and "Is artificial intelligence a threat to human jobs and job security?". Once students have completed their rough draft they will begin the revision and peer review process in order to improve their writing before submitting their final draft.



Mr Lund's Science Classroom

During the month of October, our Environmental Science Classes were involved in a joint project to create an E-Sci Timeline of significant events over the last ten thousand years. From the Agricultural Revolution to Earth Day, students researched topics, created posters and posted them around the room to decorate and inform. Meanwhile our Forensic Science team of investigators have been learning about physical evidence and Locard's Exchange Principle that states that "with contact between two items, there will be an exchange" - every teacher's hope when it comes to leaving and receiving a lasting impression of the classes we teach.



Hispanic Heritage Month



Locker Inspiration!

To help inspire our students to be anything they want to be in life, photos of inspirational Hispanic/Latino people were posted on every single locker in our school. From artists, to actors/actresses, to athletes, to the judicial system, and more, these people were shown as positive examples of striving for success no matter your heritage!



País Representa!

Students were able to represent their heritage during Hispanic Heritage Month by wearing the attire of their countries with so much pride. Our hallways were filled with shirts from South America, Central America, Mexico, The Caribbean, and even Spain and Portugal!

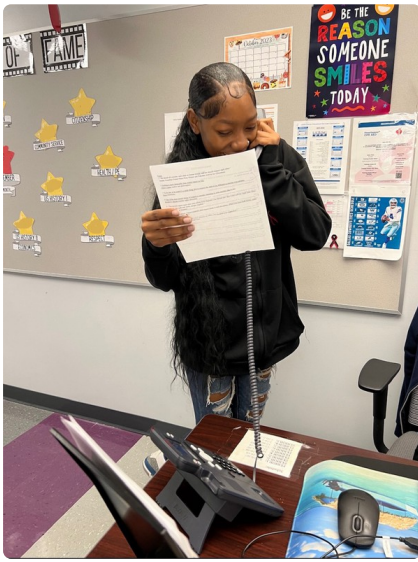


Día de Películas!

HAS had our celebration movie day about Hispanic/Latino culture. Students earlier in the week filled out a survey to pick from the following list of movies:

- *Coco*
- *Selena*
- *Encanto*
- *In The Heights*
- *Stand and Deliver*

Week of Respect



Quoting the Words of Respect!

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is more than just a word; it is a feeling, it is an action, it is a goal. So as part of our Week of Respect, students got to hear the quotes of people who not only talked about respect, but practiced it and fought for everyone to receive it.



Noodles for a Purpose

Our Noodles for a Purpose fundraiser is always a hit with the students of HAS! A cart with a hot water dispenser, forks, and Cup of Noodles cups went around to each classroom. Students and faculty paid \$1 to have a nice warm cup of noodles during 4th and 5th periods with proceeds of the fundraiser donated to a charity.

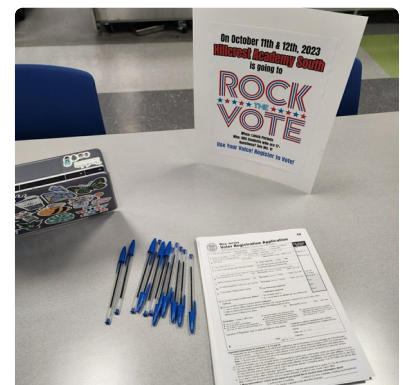


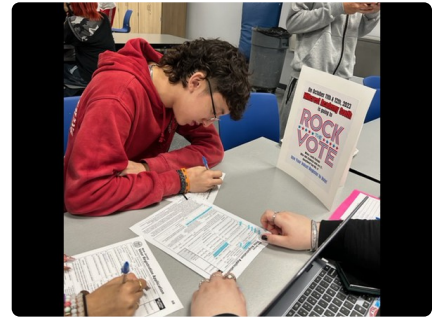
Respect Pledge

Every student and every faculty and staff member are all entitled to give and receive respect. As part of our initiative for the week, every person a part of the HAS family signed a Pledge of Respect to solidify that we promise to respect one another.

Rock the Vote!

This year's Rock the Vote event was our largest success since before Covid and Ida! Rock the Vote was established at HAS to give students aged 17 and up the opportunity to register to vote. This event took place over the span of two days during the students' lunch time. At this year's event, we had 10 students register to make their voices heard in future elections!





Week of School Violence Awareness

In an effort to promote peace during our School Violence Awareness Week and after, students and faculty members "lent a hand" to create our new mural in our school's foyer! The center of the mural "Hillcrest Academy South Campus Peace, it's in our hands" was painted by our very own Ms V. Then students and faculty came down one by one to get paint put on their hands to add to our mural.



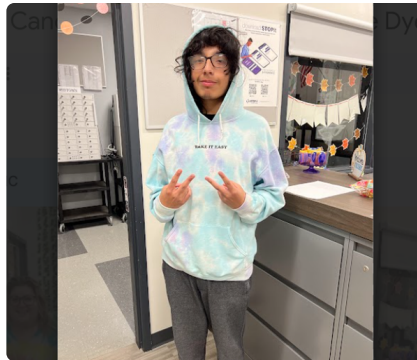


Week of Breast Cancer Awareness



Be a Superhero of Hope

Our week began with "Be a Superhero of Hope" where faculty and students got to dress like their favorite superhero. Our very own Ms Fern came to school in a full Wonder Woman costume! To be a superhero of hope is to encourage those who suffer from Breast Cancer (or any cancer) to fight to defeat this villain!



Say "Peace Out" to Cancer

In hopes of there being a cure soon, the second day of our spirit week was to wear tie dye or any peace related attire. The tie dye is a way to hope for an end to this illness.



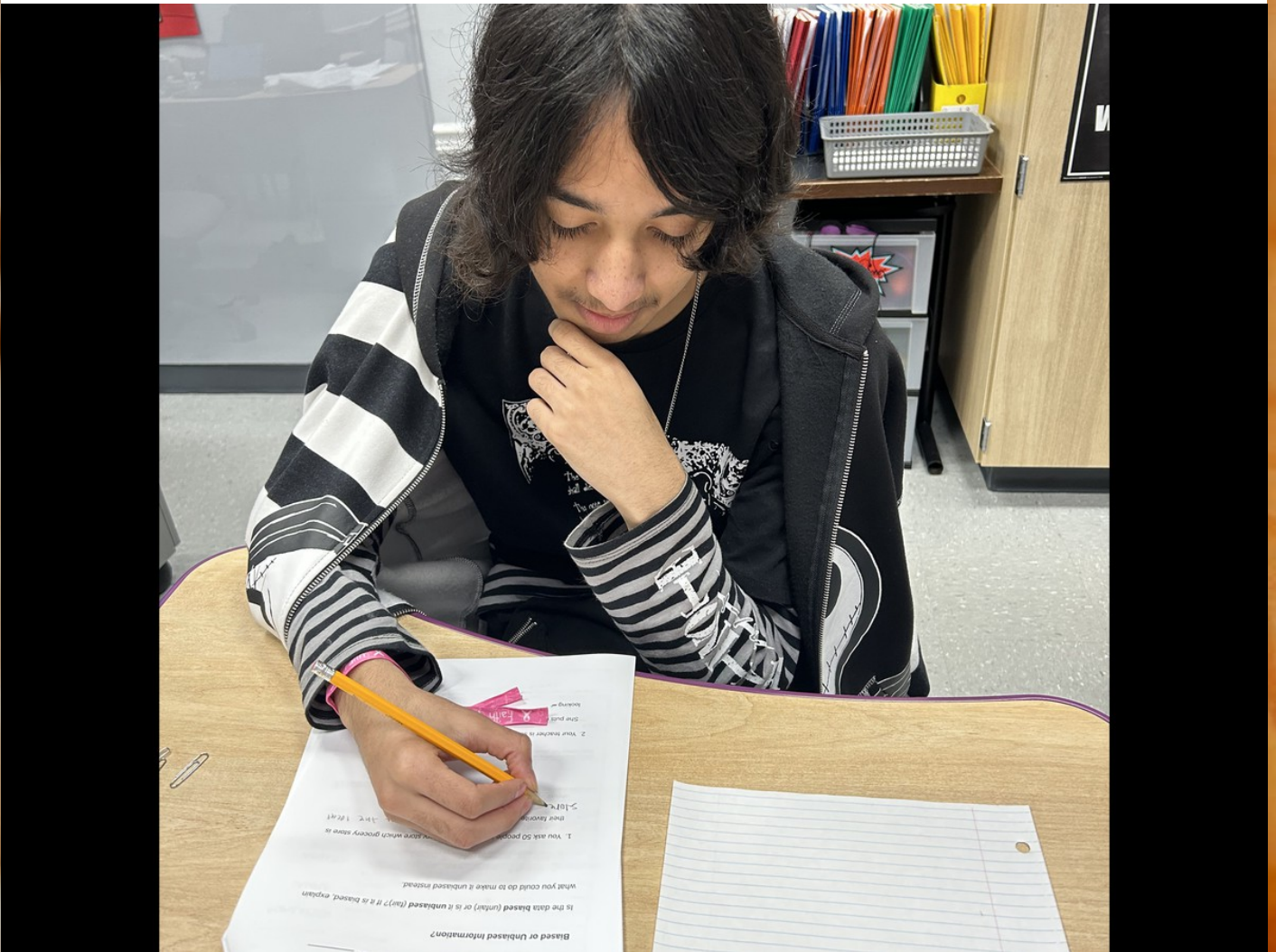
Think Pink

Our special spirit week ended with the traditional wearing Pink. Pink is the color of Breast Cancer Awareness so it is only fitting our week ended with it. Students and faculty in solidarity participated in support of those fighting and who fought breast cancer.

Our Students In and Out of School

Future Screen Writer

When Alex was in middle school all of his friends were interested in anime. At that time, he wasn't watching anime yet but he listened to his friends talk about it. One day after listening to his friends, he got inspired and started making his own story with a full cast of characters and story line arc developments. He spent the whole day adding more to his story. When his friends saw the story they encouraged him to keep going and the rest was history. Alex says something "awoke" in him and that writing became something he was good at. Now he writes scripts for school plays, short stories, and character dialog for video games. When asked about his writing, Alex said "It makes me feel proud to see how far I've come turning a random passion of mine into a future career and it fills me with hope and confidence!"



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

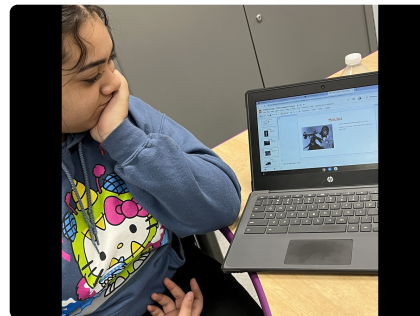
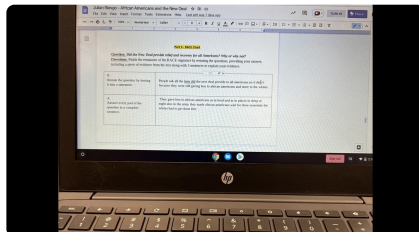
Instagram: [ucesc_has](https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_has)

Facebook: [Hillcrest Academy South](#)

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

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

Visit us on Instagram



HAS Smore

HAS is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Crossroads Monthly Report



Principal's Message

October has proven to be quite a dynamic month for Crossroads School, full of activity from both students and staff. The first week in October is designated as the "Week of Respect", a period dedicated to age-appropriate activities centered around character development and the prevention of bullying. Beyond the traditional instructional programs, the school fostered a spirited atmosphere with engaging events like HERO (Helping Everyone Respect Others) Day and Disney Attire Day because "You've Got a Friend in Me."

Moving into the second week, the students had an exciting visit from the Westfield Fire Truck during Fire Prevention Week. The third week marked School Violence Awareness Week, during which the school took a proactive stance against violence. Various activities were organized, including discussions on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and the promotion of tolerance. Spirit activities for the week included "Teaming Up Against Violence" (Sports Attire Day) and "Putting Violence to Bed" (Pajama Day).

As we get closer to Halloween, the school has already experienced a wave of generous donations from our families. We have been touched by everyone's generosity. The festive spirit will continue on Halloween with students trick-or-treating around the building, followed by pumpkin decorating in the garden. For specific class times, refer to the schedule below. Parents and families are welcome.

This year's Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place from 11/14/23 - 11/16/23. There will be a morning session on the 14th, an afternoon session on the 15th, and an evening session on the 16th. The Parent Teacher Conferences Sign Up form will be sent home on November 1, 2023. Please be on the lookout for it.

It's impressive how much can be packed into a single month!

Warm Regards,

Matt

General Information

Enrollment as of October 25, 2023

Actual: 49

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited:0

Referrals: 9

Intakes Scheduled: 3

Accepted: 3

Fire Drills: 10/17/23

Emergency Drills: 10/5/23 (Active Shooter)

Upcoming Dates

October 31, 2023 - Halloween 🎃 (see class schedule below)

November 2, 2023 - Parent Support Meeting (OT Presentation)

November 9, 2023 - Teachers Convention (School Closed)

November 10, 2023 - Teachers Convention (School Closed)

November 14, 2023 (School Conferences 9:00AM - 11:30AM)

November 15, 2023 (Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30PM - 2:00PM)

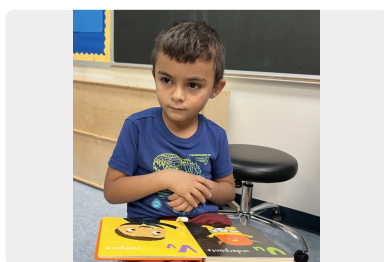
November 16, 2023 (Parent Teacher Conferences 6:00PM - 8:00PM)

November 22, 2023 (Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving)

November 23, 2023 (School Closed for Thanksgiving)

November 24, 2023 (School Closed for Thanksgiving)

Crossroads Staff and Student Spotlight



Student of the Month - Jonathan

Everyday Jonathan comes to school with a big smile and a twinkle in his eyes. Jonathan loves learning new things and proudly shows his correct non-verbal responses with his Alternative Augmentative Communication device (**AAC**), using the application **Proloquo2Go**. Jonathan is excelling in the preschool curriculum and happily excited when he can demonstrate his understanding of letters and numbers. Jonathan is able to communicate his needs and wants directly by forming audible sentences using his AAC device. He loves playing with the Animal Farm, reading books, jumping on the trampoline and running around in the playground. His favorite foods include Mac & Cheese, grapes, apple pieces and Oreos. Jonathan is a pleasure to have in the classroom.



Certified Staff of the Month - Aliza Feuerstein - Physical Therapist

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

This is my ninth year with the Commission. Time flies when you're having fun!

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

I have five super adorable children.

3. What is your dream vacation?

Any warm place with a beach.

4. What is your favorite meal?

Anything with french fries on the side!

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

Professionally my greatest accomplishment was getting my Doctorate in Physical Therapy. My greatest accomplishment is raising five truly awesome human beings. 😊



Teacher Assistant of the Month - Mary Jane Dell'Andrino

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

This is my 23rd year with the Commission.

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

I am a licensed manicurist.

3. What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be to go to the Greek Islands. Hopefully, some day soon.

4. What is your favorite meal?

My favorite meal is thin crust pizza.

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment is my family. I have a wonderful husband (shhh 😊), 2 amazing sons, a fabulous daughter-in-law, and a beautiful 4 year old granddaughter.

Classroom Spotlights

Ms. Allison's Classroom

Outstanding October in Room 103

It feels like school just started, but we're already a month in! Our students are adjusting to the year and beginning all of their instructional programs. Over the summer we welcomed two new students to our classroom and we're happy to say they're still a big part of 103! This month was jam-packed with fun plans, including our first field trip of the year. We teamed up with Miss Gaby's class in Room 105 and visited the Imagine That Museum in Florham Park. Students engaged in a variety of sensory activities including gross motor movement, hands-on play, music, and an interactive dance room. They practiced important skills including turn taking, cooperative play, parallel play, social interactions, eating in a cafeteria, using the restroom in public, waiting, and sharing. Students and staff had a lot of fun exploring multi-sensory and imaginative play together. It was such a great experience!

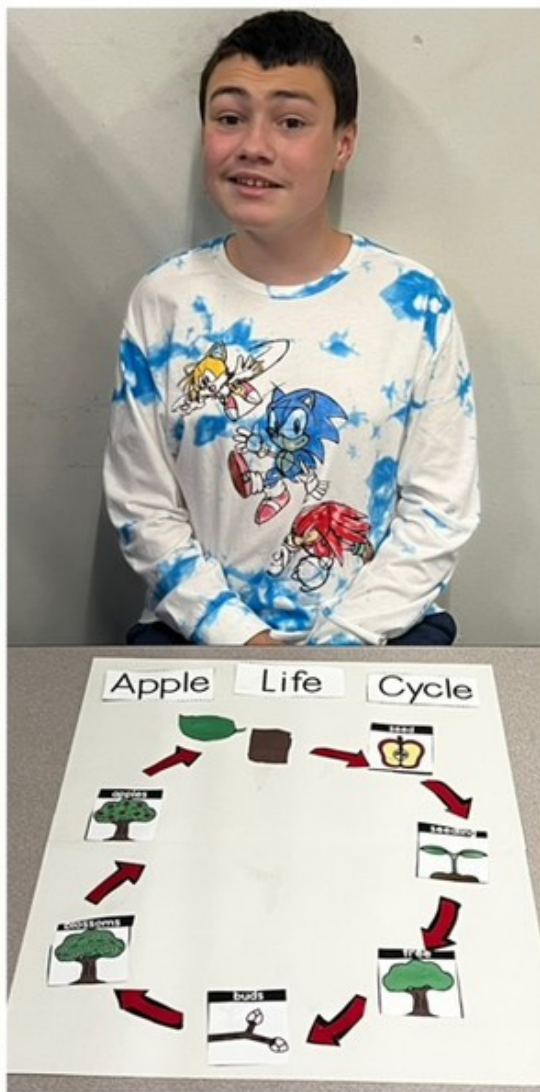
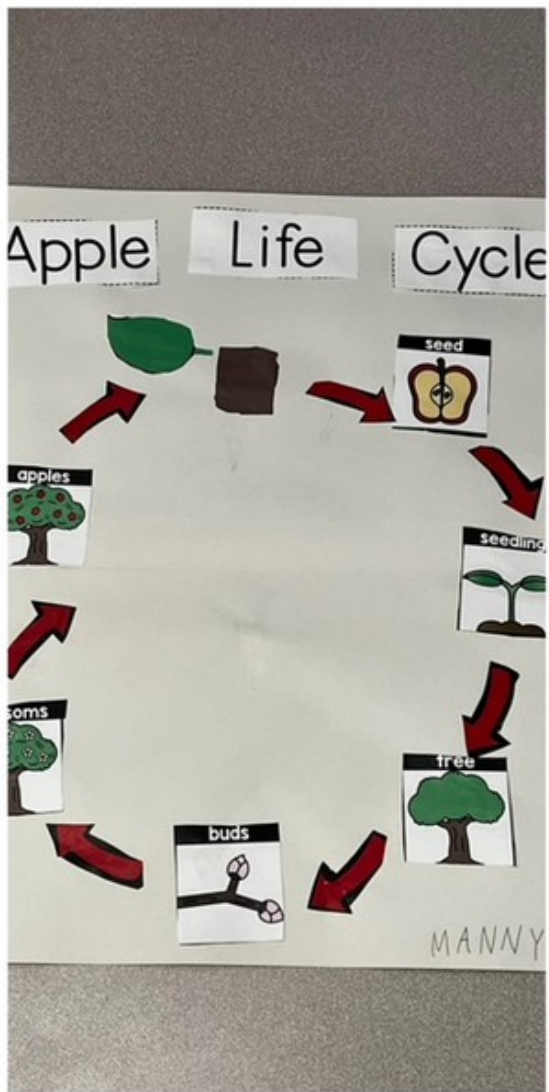


Our classroom participated in a lot of collaborative and group activities this month including: decorating the classroom, Halloween themed skeleton movement during OT group, and spooky art and cooking lessons. The staff in Room 103 and Room 104 have been working together to plan crafts and recipes designed to build students' fine motor, visual perceptual, adaptive reading and writing, and daily living skills. This month we made tractor crafts and completed leveled descriptive writing about them, graphed leaves on a nature walk, created edible trees and cooked up some sweet vampire teeth snacks! We're all very excited to see what the rest of the school year has in store for us!



Mr. Steve's Classroom

Room 108 could be found participating in a multitude of Fall activities but has especially enjoyed applying their skills and knowledge about apples. The students learned to name, locate, and describe various parts of an apple using vocabulary such as skin, core, seeds, flesh, stem, and leaf. The children also explored the life cycle stages through educational videos, online resources, and SmartBoard activities. Academic concepts such as sorting apples by color, comparing apples by size, and/or counting apples using addition & subtraction principles were implemented daily. Students read *Ten Apples Up On Top* by Dr. Suess. Class discussions and science experiments incorporated properties of apples, tapping into the students' five senses to explain how they taste, smell, feel, sound, and look. Two sensory activities that took place included apple painting and creating their very own apple playdough. At the conclusion of Room 108's apple unit, the children will have an opportunity to visit a farm to pick their own apples!



Therapy Spotlight

Ms. Dana Bartone and Ms. Alayna Quattrocchi - Speech Department

The speech department is "falling" in love with literacy this month with heavy focus on some of our

their very own monsters! This book is great for repetitive language, identification of facial body parts, and using color descriptors! Other books we are loving to improve speech and language skills include "Pete the Cat, Trick or Pete", "There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Bat", and "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything" to work on increasing vocabulary and sequencing skills.



Sensory activities are frequently incorporated into speech-language therapy sessions. Our students learned about apples through apple stamping. With assistance, our students used halved apples dipped in paint to create a fall themed painting. All of the students seemed to enjoy it!

Later in the month, we are looking forward to spooky themed activities in preparation for Halloween!



Special's Report

Marianny Amezquita - Behavior Department

We are so excited to present the addition of 4 new Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) to our program! Crossroads school now has a total of 5 RBTs supporting our students and classrooms, which are supported by our Supervisor of Behavioral Health Services, Stacey Kodack, and BCBA. We currently have one RBT for every two classrooms.

Our 5 RBTs are:

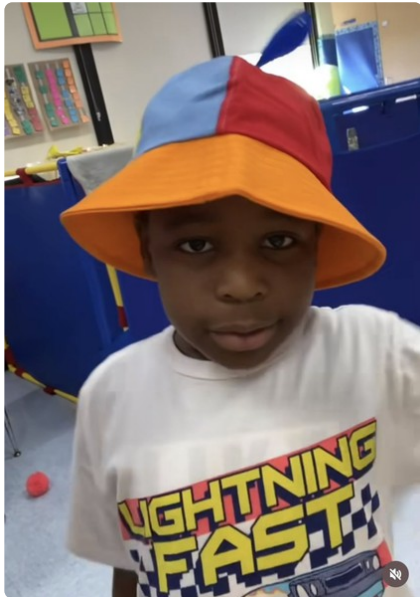
- Andrew Weiler
- Jennifer Bace
- Spencer Powers
- Andres Amador
- Halley Daniels

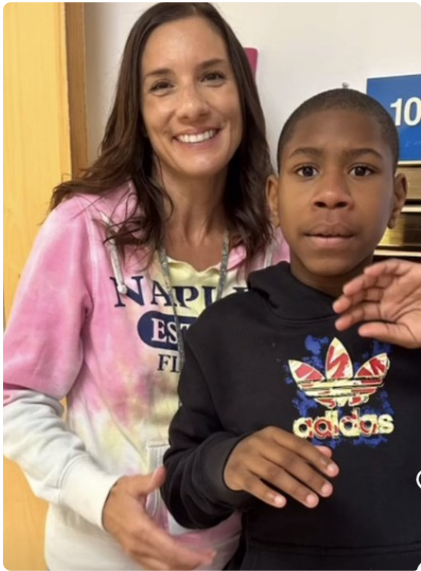
The behavior team meets regularly to best support our students behavioral and academic goals. The behavior team provides staff members with training on strategies and techniques in de-escalation. The team assist in the implementation of classroom-wide strategies as well as individualized support plans for the students in order to create a supportive school environment.

Crossroads School utilizes Safety-Care® which is a crisis prevention intervention training program by QBS. Our Safety-Care Trainers Marianny Amezcua, Stacey Kodack, Jennifer Bace, and Joe Fair have conducted a number of trainings so far during the 2023-2024 school year. At this point about 95% of our staff are Safety-Care trained. Continued trainings are provided throughout the school year.



October at Crossroads











Crossroads in the Community





Parent Resources

An event with former Crossroads Speech Therapist Hope Weinstein!!!



FREE STEM PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

SESSION 1: 11-11:30 AM (AGES 5-8)

SESSION 2: 11:45 AM-12:15 PM (AGES 9-12)

AT THE KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY
548 BOULEVARD, KENILWORTH, NJ 07033

Registration is required-space is limited to 5 per group
Register at www.creationsofhope.net/events
For questions email info@creationsofhope.net

This event is not a library-sponsored program



Crossroads School PTO Presents
Halloween Trick or Treat
Pumpkin Decorating
Around the building and in the garden
Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023
Classroom Schedule

Room 101 - 11:45 pm - 12:00 pm
Room 102 - 12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
Room 103 - 12:15 pm - 12:30 pm
Room 104 - 12:30 pm - 12:45 pm
Room 105 - 12:45 pm - 1:00 pm
Room 106 - 1:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Room 108 - 1:15 pm - 1:30 pm
Room 109 - 1:30 pm - 1:45 pm
Room 220a - 1:45 pm - 2:00 pm
Room 220b - 2:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Caregiver Support Group at the JCC



with Lisa Afflitto,
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Wednesdays

October 18, November 15, December 20,
January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17,
May 15, June 19

7:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Raising a child with special needs is challenging and requires a unique approach. Join Lisa Afflitto, LCSW, for a monthly support group where caregivers can learn strategies to support their own mental wellness, share their experiences and meet/connect with other caregivers. This monthly group is free.

Lisa Afflitto is a seasoned Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a NJ certified Special Education teacher and the owner of Integrative Therapy Solutions, LLC. Her clinical focus is in supporting adults (18+) and families, who are navigating life either as an individual with a disability, or as a caregiver to a child or adult with a disability.

Lisa has a passion for facilitating support groups and bringing caregivers together to connect in a supportive space.

For questions and registration, contact Beth Mitchell, Director of Inclusion and Diversity, at BMitchell@jccnj.org.

The JCC of Central NJ is committed to accessibility and inclusion.
To request accommodations, please contact Beth Mitchell
at bmitchell@jccnj.org at least two weeks prior to an event.



Help us stock and fund
Bagged with Love for the
food insecure. Food or
fund donations welcome
at this event!
Scan and learn more!



1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-889-8800 • www.jccnj.org



Comedy Show to Benefit Crossroad School - 11/2/23



Purchase Your Tickets Here!!!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cranford-theater-comedy-night-crossroads-school-benefit-sweet-sour-comedy-tickets-706942643477?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

About Us

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

Location: [45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, NJ, USA](#)

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

Visit us on Instagram



CR Smore

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LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY

OCTOBER 2023 MONTHLY REPORT

"The wind outside nested in each tree, prowled the sidewalks in invisible treads like unseen cats."
-Ray Bradbury, *The Halloween Tree*

Supervisor's Message

A Message from the LMA Anti-Bullying Specialist

Greetings,

I hope this Newsletter finds you well as we wrap up the month of October. It seems like just yesterday it was the first day of school, and now in a couple weeks we will be concluding the first marking period! I am incredibly proud of the LMA students who have all acclimated well, and quickly adapted to the new rotating academic schedule at LMA which is new to this school year. I'm also proud of all LMA staff for their dedication in supporting students: academically, socially and therapeutically.



The month of October is not only National Bullying Prevention month, but also is dedicated to Safe Schools Week and Violence Awareness. As the school Anti-Bullying Specialist, I've lead multiple activities to keep LMA staff up to date on local HIB policies, and refreshing staff on the differences between student conflict, and acts of HIB. I'm pleased to know that LMA staff have

instilled this knowledge, and infused it into classroom lessons, especially in Life Skills Groups. While we've been educating, and building a positive school climate at LMA during the month of October; it's important for everyone to know that School Safety and HIB is taken seriously each, and every day at LMA. District wide we are now implementing the STOPit Anonymous Reporting App giving all students and parents/guardians 24/7 access to make reports to school officials.

I want all members of the LMA school community (Students, Staff, Parents/Guardians, & Case Managers) to know my door is always welcome with questions and concerns regarding HIB, or our school community.

To conclude my message I think it's only appropriate to quote the fictional coach, Ted Lasso (Who I'm dressed as). *"I think things come into our lives to help us get from one place to a better one."* Please enjoy this newsletter, and truly learn about the wonderful activities and lessons we have for our students at LMA to continue our positive school culture!

Mr. Lopreiato
Supervisor of Instruction

Monthly Data

1. Enrollment - 44
2. Acceptances - 4
3. New Students - 2
4. Intakes - 8
5. Referrals - 2
6. Disenrollments - 0
7. Fire Drill 10/12/23 9:35am
8. Other Drill (EM: Shelter in Place) 10/5/23 9:20am
9. Other Drill (EM: Active Shooter/Internal Threat) 10/11/23 8:50am

Upcoming Events

October 31 - Happy Halloween (Winner of Annual Scary Story Essay Contest announced)
November 9-10 No School (NJEA Convention)
November 15 Last day of 1st Marking Period
November 22 Early Dismissal (1pm)
November 23-24 No School (Thanksgiving Recess)



LMA Student of the Month - October 2023

Jabari F.

LMA is proud to announce our October Student of the Month (SOTM), Jabari. All staff vote, and discuss which LMA student has made the greatest progress in both academics and behavior and Jabari was the clear frontrunner in the discussion. Jabari has started the 2023-2024 academic school year with such a positive attitude, and has been focused on his academics since September. In addition to encompassing all the qualities of the LMA student of the month, Jabari has been vocal in his Life Skills group advocating for his peers to allow the LMA student population to vote for the staff member who has been the most helpful to one another on a monthly basis as a sign of respect. We are proud of Jabari's accomplishments, and to have him as a member of the LMA school community.



LMA Staff Spotlight

Ms. DeCarlo - LMA Teacher's Assistant

Five Fun Facts about Ms. DeCarlo

1. Born in Brooklyn, NY
2. Most rewarding job has been working with LMA students.
3. Previously had a career in marketing.
4. Loves to travel
5. Loves being part of the LMA family.

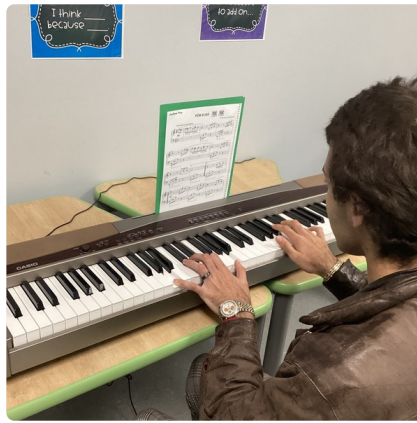


Classroom Spotlights



Mr. Acosta's Post Grads continue to refine their job skills!

The post grads continue to practice valuable hard and soft skills when at work. We have added some new tasks at both Walgreens and Chili's, which includes using a scanner to stock items at Walgreens and helping to set up the server station in the back at Chili's. Additionally, we had a special guest speaker (Mr. Hoffman) from Come Ride With Us. Mr. Hoffman provided the students with valuable information about using public transportation in order to get to work. In November, Mr. Hoffman will be taking the post grads and some of the twelfth graders to downtown Summit. We will be using public transportation in order to get there.



The Mill is alive with the sound of music!

The newly created music program at LMA is in full swing! All LMA students are receiving opportunities to apply the foundational skills they learned in the first few weeks of school, and transferring it to piano. Some selections include both "Für Elise" and "Ode to Joy" by Beethoven as well as "Au Clair de la Lune" a French Folk song. Please be on the look out for some future LMA talents in the near future!



Science classes enjoy a fall day at Aleste Farms

Marine Biology class is viewing the documentary "My Octopus Teacher" to learn about the relationship between humans and the ocean, ecosystems and symbiotic relationships and their importance. Students also went on a field trip to Alstede Farm in Chester to observe and experience the relationships between animals, nature and people. They were able to pick their own pumpkins and interact with the animals. I had a few of the students write about their experience and these are some of the replies: "The trip was a cool experience.." "My favorite part of the trip was being able to feed and pet animals..." "it was a fun trip to be able to go on..."

LMA SEL Monthly Theme: RESPECT (Anti-Bullying Month & Week of Respect)

Life Skills groups kicked off October with the Week of Respect. Students engaged in a variety of activities, discussions, and projects that highlighted the importance of respect in our schools and

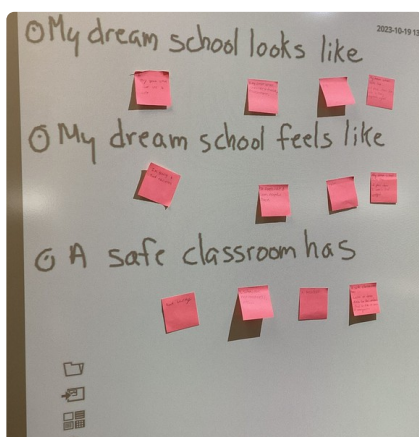
communities. The focus then shifted to bullying prevention as October is National Bullying Prevention Month where therapists led groups to explore Harassment Intimidation and Bullying laws, and promote kindness and inclusion at LMA. Life Skills concluded the month with the topic of School Violence Awareness. Students learned about the Sandy Hook Promise, an organization dedicated to empowering youth to take meaningful action against gun violence at home, schools, and communities. To end School Violence Awareness Week, staff and students will be wearing orange, green, and/or purple, colors that represent schools and individuals that have been impacted by school violence.

For More Information on the Sandy Hook Promise please visit the website below:

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>



**LMA Week of Respect
Wall proudly displayed in
the LMA Main Hallway**



**Describing our
SAFE/DREAM school**



**Start with Hello Promise
Pledge**

LMA Alumni Corner

A special message from LMA Alumni Shanea

Hey everyone! I just wanted to let you guys know how I've been doing since I've graduated. I graduated college and I am a ABA therapist. In addition to being a therapist; I've been running my own Amazon store and I do healthcare billing from home. I have a son and his name is Josiah Jonah. If you ask Mr. Bromell the meaning behind his name he will tell you how powerful it is. I'm still living in NJ in a beautiful 2 bed 3 bath luxury townhome. I am leaving Jersey next year and moving to Las Vegas to buy my first home. I am not with my son's father but that's okay I'm doing very well for myself. I was able to go to a psychologist and I was diagnosed with PTSD right after high school. They took me off every medication and I started therapy. I was misdiagnosed my whole life but it's okay it made the person I am today. I speak so highly of you guys because I needed you more than you knew at the period of time. Now look at me I'm doing great. My 2 year has had his passport since he was 5 months and has been on nothing but first class flights. I'm extremely grateful for everyone there! Thank you guys for everything!



School in the Community

1. Post-Graduate Program is fully engaged in WBL with students going to Walgreen's and Chili's on a consistent basis.
 2. Monthly Community Meetings to celebrate student progress and growth.
 3. Students go out in the community to Chester to visit Alstede Farms, and to Edison for Top Golf field trips.
 4. Students have been visiting and helping out at The Westfield Food Pantry with retired LMA Teacher, Mr. Convery.
-

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.



LMA Smore

LMA is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



HILLCREST ACADEMY NORTH

OCTOBER 2023

Principal's Message



Dear Hillcrest Academy North Campus (HAN) Student and Family,

We have really enjoyed so much success during the month of October with students feeling a sense of community in the classrooms. Teaching and learning is at its very best evidenced by the engagement that I see when I walk into any given class.

Students are asking meaningful and thoughtful questions, they are taking risks in wanting to improve in their academic skills, and are treating one another as part of a team that is "crushing" the content! Time spent with students and staff in my office during administrative review has been rewarding for us all. It gives the teacher time to specifically celebrate student success while making the student feel recognized and appreciated for the skills they are learning. Students and staff are feeling safe, supported, and empowered everyday which makes my job so rewarding! Keep it up, HAN!

Please feel free to contact our main office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Marquet
Principal

Monthly Data

Current Enrollment - 71

Enrolled - 5

Disenrolled - 2

Fire Drill - 10/24/2023

Lock Down Drill - 10/5/2023

Upcoming Dates

November 9-10th - School Closed

November 22nd - Early Dismissal

November 23-24th - Thanksgiving Break - School Closed

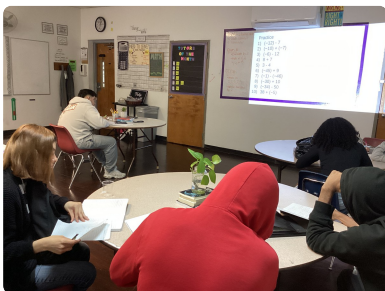
Staff Spotlight - Mrs. Rivas



Mrs. Rivas has been the Teacher Assistant at Hillcrest Academy North since 2021 and is an integral part of the HAN team. Mrs. Rivas assists with planning field trips and school wide celebrations, covering classes whenever needed, and building rapport with students and families! Students are required to complete Community Service hours before they graduate and Mrs. Rivas is always finding new and exciting ways for students to earn

their hours, including finding events happening at the Elizabeth Public Library so students can give back in their home community. HAN students and staff are lucky to have Mrs. Rivas!

Classroom Spotlights



Mrs. Machado, Mathematics Teacher

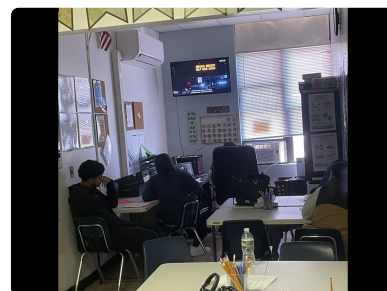
Algebra students have been learning the foundation of Solving Equations. They have used variables to organize data, find missing values and study the results of inverse operations. The “Unboxing” lesson demonstrates how wrapping a surprise gift is like creating an equation with a variable, an unknown. First, the teacher demonstrated wrapping a gift, placed the gift in a box, then

surrounded the box with wrapping paper and lastly tied a ribbon. The inverse operation helps discover the value of the unknown (gift). First, removing the ribbon (the opposite and the last step), then removing the wrapping paper, and lastly opening the box. All steps to solve the problem were the inverse of the steps needed to create the equation.

The Geometry class used October to study the comparisons of different conditional statements and check their validity or provide counterexamples. What may have felt like a chapter from a language arts course, geometry's inductive and deductive reasoning chapter exercises student's logic and reasoning, preparing them for the chapters to come.

Ms. Miller, Social Studies Teacher

It has been a great start to the new school year and being more than half way through the first Marking Period, students have settled into classroom routines and rituals nicely. Economics students have started out the year learning about three Economic theories, Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism. Students have learned details about the theories and analyzed the pros and cons of each. Students will synthesize the information to create their own economic theory before the end of the Marking Period. Criminal Justice students have been learning about the different parts of the court system and how the criminal process works. Students viewed the movie *12 Angry Men* and engaged in discussion about how evaluating all the evidence and being unbiased is important in a jury member. Students are looking forward to the next unit which will focus on various case studies of different crimes.



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration



Food Presentation

HAN students and staff cooked different Hispanic dishes for a Food Presentation Station! Students were able to taste test the dishes and had a special lunch of more Hispanic dishes to end the celebration!



Student Projects

Students in Mrs. Flores' Spanish classes not only planned the activities and acted as Student Ambassadors for each station, they completed projects about different Hispanic countries. Students researched the country's culture, traditions, foods, famous people and painted posters of the country's flag!



Music and Dancing

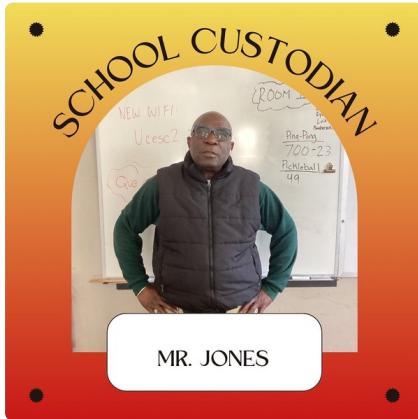
Students were able to learn a brief history of Hispanic music from music teacher, Mr. Cerria and play various instruments including shakers, a cow bell, and bongos. Students were also able to learn Salsa dancing from UCESC SAC Mrs. Ramirez!

A vertical strip of a photograph showing several pumpkins. The pumpkins are orange and have a ribbed texture. One pumpkin's stem is visible, and there is a small, light-colored, circular object (possibly a seed or a small pumpkin) in the foreground.

A vertical strip of several pumpkins, showing their orange color and ribbed texture.

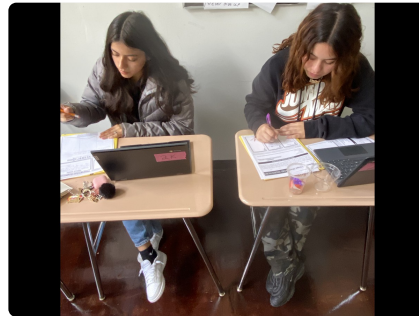


October at HAN



Custodian Appreciation Day!

On October 2, HAN celebrated Mr. Jones for Custodian Appreciation Day! Mr. Jones works tirelessly year round to ensure HAN is always a safe and beautiful place. Mr. Jones is also known to pop into classes to encourage student learning. Thank you for all that you do for HAN Mr. Jones!



Hispanic Heritage Projects

Ms. Killeen's English classes worked on a Hispanic Heritage Month project where the students researched a person of Hispanic Heritage and made a poster about them.

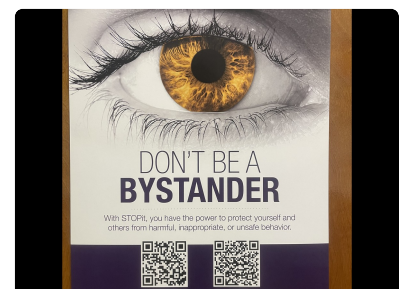


Fingerprinting in Forensics

Students in Mr. Grez's Forensics class completed a unit on the science of fingerprint evidence and they ended the unit by practicing taking their own fingerprints.

STOPit Solutions

Students and staff were introduced to STOPit Solutions, a program that allows students and staff to report any concerns about unsafe, harmful, or inappropriate behavior to the HAN Safety Team. Students are encouraged to download the STOPit App onto their phones.



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](https://www.google.com/maps/place/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

