

Excellence News

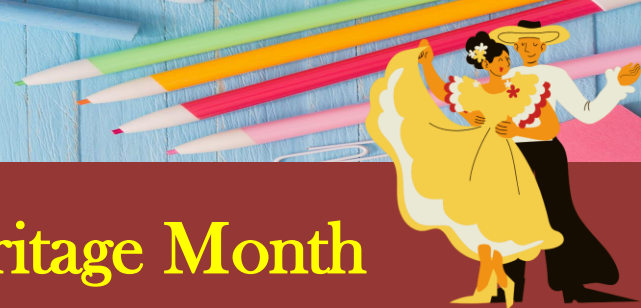
OCTOBER 2025



A "Carme(noir)" Sensation: EHS Marching Band Thrills Crowd at Fiesta Night

The Elizabeth High School Marching Band kicked off their competitive season with a spectacular annual Fiesta Night performance at Williams Field. Their 2025 showcase, "Carme(noir)," offered a stunning, Latin jazz-infused twist on the classic opera Carmen by Georges Bizet. The students delivered an outstanding performance to an enthusiastic crowd that included key community leaders like Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, and Business Administrator Harold Kennedy, among many family and friends. This highly anticipated yearly event is a cherished tradition, brilliantly spotlighting the remarkable talents of our award-winning marching band for the community.





EPS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

On September 25 at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, the Elizabeth Board of Education hosted an evening of performances in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. President Stanley J. Neron welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Board Member Isaias Rivera who sponsored the initiative Hispanic Heritage Month. Rivera shared about the history of Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States and the significance of the celebratory month beginning on September 15. He also spoke about how he looked forward to visiting schools over the next few weeks to see the different lessons and activities throughout Elizabeth Public Schools that are highlighting Hispanic cultures and traditions.

The student performances for the evening included "Snapshots of Cultura" by students of Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 that offered a vibrant showcase of Hispanic culture, dance, and community spirit, "El Pescador", a song with a rhythm of traditional Colombian Cumbia, by students of John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, and "Viva Mexico", a dance by students of Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28 that proudly showcased traditional music and dance to honor the Mexican culture and heritage.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Winfield Scott School No. 2



On October 10, School No. 2 celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a schoolwide assembly. The assembly showcased different Hispanic Heritages through dance and poems. Students dressed in traditional Hispanic attire for their presentations which were performed in both English and Spanish.

Robert Morris School No. 18



Students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a student led assembly made up of singers, dancers and orators. Hispanic inspired artwork adorned the cafetorium as students led the audience in song and dance. This vivacious celebration honored the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 Annex

Mrs. Perry's 3rd grade bilingual class celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with pride and creativity. The students created colorful trifold brochures to showcase important facts about their countries and cultural traditions.

Each project emphasized the beauty and diversity of Hispanic heritage, helping all students learn more about their classmates' roots. The hallway was filled with pride, color, and a sense of community as everyone celebrated together.



Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28



Ms. Alvelaez and Ms. Villareal's students proudly represented School No. 28 with a spirited performance of Viva Mexico in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month! Their vibrant display of music and dance honored the richness of Mexican culture and brought joy and pride to the entire school community. ¡Qué viva la cultura!

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Benjamin Franklin School No. 13



School No. 13 came alive with color, music, and pride during the Hispanic Heritage Month Parade. Along with parents, everyone joined together to honor the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of the Hispanic community. The parade was a beautiful celebration of unity and diversity with students displaying traditional costumes and waving their colorful flags. School No. 13 thanks everyone who helped make this event unforgettable with their energy and brought the school community together.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27



The students in Mrs. Ringler's class practiced their English Language Arts skills by using figurative language during Hispanic Heritage Month. The students created unique similes for famous Hispanic leaders who have influenced them. Some examples include: Gloria Estefan is as sweet as candy, and Lin-Manuel Miranda is as clever as a fox. The students dedicated time to researching each leader and created their own similes in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26



Students joyfully came together to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month through research, presentations, and creative displays that highlighted the remarkable contributions of Hispanic and Latino individuals across history. Throughout the celebration, the students eagerly shared their learning with classmates and teachers—demonstrating curiosity, respect, and appreciation for the diverse cultures that enrich the world. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) School, the school takes pride in fostering global awareness and celebrating the cultural heritage that connects everyone.

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy



On September 26, Dwyer Technology Academy kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant celebration organized by the Junior class of 2027. Under the guidance of Mrs. Fernandez, the Junior advisor, a fundraiser was initiated to support the class's upcoming events.

Students participated by wearing shirts that represented various Latino countries, showcasing their cultural pride while contributing to the Junior class fundraiser. With a significant portion of Dwyer Technology Academy's student body being immigrants, particularly from Hispanic backgrounds, this event fostered a sense of community and solidarity.

This initiative not only raised funds but also served as a platform for students and staff to recognize and appreciate the rich diversity within their school. By sharing their cultural heritage, participants helped cultivate empathy and collaboration among all members of Dwyer Technology Academy, reinforcing the importance of unity in a culturally diverse environment.



Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



School No. 5 proudly celebrated Week of Respect, a special time dedicated to promoting kindness, empathy, and positive relationships throughout our school community. Students participated in daily activities, discussions, and spirit days that highlighted the importance of treating others with dignity and compassion. Each classroom engaged in meaningful conversations about what respect looks like at school, at home, and in the community.



Joseph Battin School No. 4



School No. 4 proudly celebrated the Week of Respect with a vibrant and joyful parade that brought our entire school community together. Throughout the week, students engaged in meaningful activities that promoted kindness, empathy, and mutual respect. The culminating parade was a powerful display of unity, school spirit, and the values we strive to uphold every day. It was inspiring to see students and staff come together in celebration of respect, reminding us all of the importance of treating one another with dignity and care.

WEEK OF RESPECT

Madison-Monroe School No. 16



School No. 16 celebrated the Week of Respect with a vibrant “Defying Gravity” Wicked-themed series of events for students in PreK through 8th grade. Each day featured a themed color and message, encouraging students to embrace kindness, courage, and respect, such as wearing green to silence bullying and purple to honor the positive impact we have on others. Teachers led classroom discussions on respect and during morning announcements featured the character trait of the month of respect. The school social worker, Mr. Luciano, and school counselor, Ms. Calderon, visited classrooms to engage students in meaningful conversations about respect. Both the Main and Annex buildings offered themed activity sheets for independent student reflection. The week concluded with assemblies led by Latif Rivers from the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team, focusing on anti-bullying for younger students and life skills for middle schoolers.



iPrep Academy School No. 8



School No. 8 students celebrated the Week of Respect. All students were encouraged to wear pink on October 9 to show respect to everyone battling breast cancer. Kindergarten students read “How to Fill your Bucket” and were encouraged to practice kind gestures that will fill our friends’ buckets. Teachers took part by filling their students’ buckets each time they were caught being respectful in the classroom. Students also created an anchor chart to help track their progress.

WEEK OF RESPECT

William F. Halloran School No. 22

The school community came together to celebrate the Week of Respect with a series of inspiring and inclusive activities:

Chalk the Walk: Students filled the sidewalks with colorful messages of kindness, encouragement, and unity, turning our school into a vibrant path of positivity.

Kindness Poems: Creative voices shined as students penned heartfelt poems celebrating empathy, friendship, and the power of kind words.

Race for Respect: Staff ran together to promote respect, teamwork, and a shared commitment to a caring school environment.



Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 and Annex



The Week of Respect was a tremendous success. Students engaged in a variety of activities aimed at promoting kindness and inclusivity throughout the school community. Highlights included the PBSIS Kickoff soccer games, where students showed great sportsmanship and team spirit. Additionally, children contributed by writing positive messages on the playground and sidewalks, spreading encouragement and respect in colorful displays. The week also featured important lessons on bullying prevention, helping students understand the importance of empathy and standing up for one another. Overall, the school's commitment to fostering a respectful environment was clearly evident, making the Week of Respect a meaningful and memorable event for all.

WEEK OF RESPECT

Christopher Columbus School No. 15



On October 7, students and team members participated in a fun and engaging PBSIS Rally. PBSIS directly aligns with the Week of Respect, which is celebrated during the week of October 6-10. The “kick off” event promoted positive behavior, teamwork and respect within the school environment. Students and staff enjoyed working together to strengthen the positive school climate.

Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3

“Everyone Counts” and “Kindness is King” were two of the key themes celebrated during the Week of Respect. Each grade level participated in activities supporting the school’s ongoing anti-bullying campaign.

Students created colorful illustrations depicting what kindness looks like, while older students composed poems inspired by the word respect and took part in a “bully-free” chalk walk. Middle school students showcased their creativity and teamwork by participating in an *Anti-Bullying Door Decorating* contest, designing doors that promoted kindness and respect.

To emphasize unity and inclusion, students wore numbered jerseys to symbolize that everyone counts.



Madison-Monroe School No. 16



On October 3, Madison Monroe School No. 16's Pre-K and kindergarten students had an exciting and memorable visit from Elizabeth's very own firefighters. The children were thrilled to explore the inside of a real fire truck, sparking wide-eyed wonder and endless curiosity. They got an up-close look at the firefighters' gear, learning about the helmets, jackets, and tools that help keep our community safe. One of the highlights was seeing the fire hose, which fascinated the students with its size and power. The visit was both educational and fun, giving the young learners a chance to meet real-life heroes. It was a day filled with smiles, laughter, and newfound admiration for the brave work of firefighters.



Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

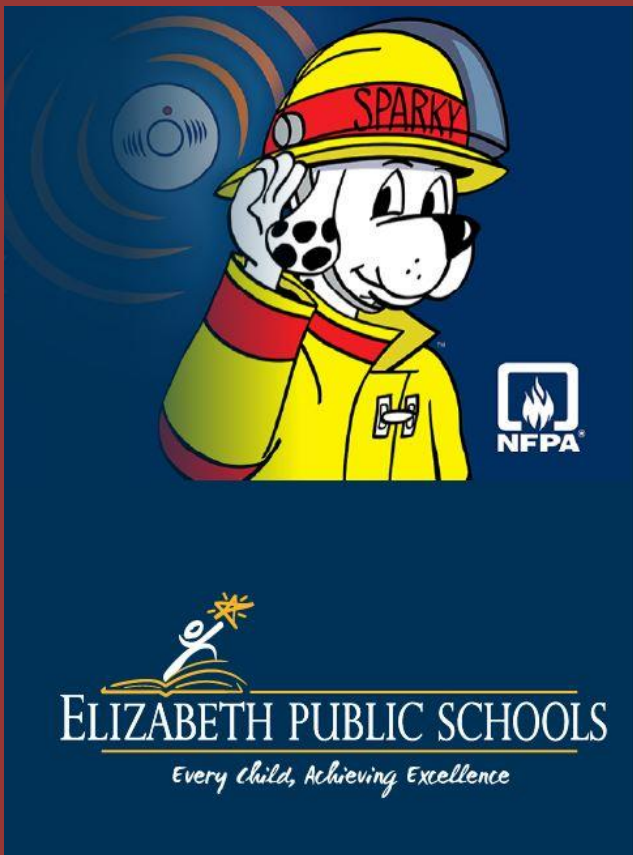


To celebrate Fire Prevention Week, students in grades K-7 participated in an exciting and educational assembly with the Elizabeth Fire Department's Engine 8 crew. Students had the opportunity to watch firefighters gear up, explore the inside of a real fire truck, and even try using the fire hose! It was a memorable, hands-on experience that both students and teachers enjoyed while learning valuable fire safety tips.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

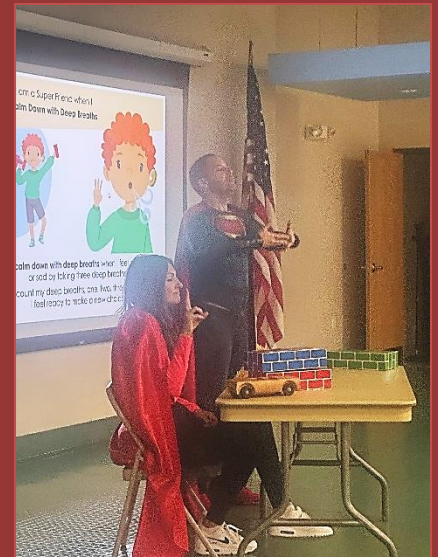
Toussaint L'Ouverture–Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

The Elizabeth Fire Department came to School No. 6 to help us celebrate Fire Prevention Week! During their visit, the firefighters reviewed important safety procedures to follow in the event of an actual fire. Students learned about the firefighter's uniform and the special equipment stored on the firetruck that helps them extinguish fires quickly. Students also had the exciting opportunity to use the fire hose and spray water, getting a hands-on experience of what it's like to be a firefighter. To top it off, each student received a red fire helmet to wear throughout the day, a fun reminder of the importance of fire safety!



**FIRE PREVENTION
WEEK / OCT. 5–11**

Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50



School No. 50 celebrated the Week of Respect with many fun activities for our students. We held our Super Friend kickoff assembly and read the story *I Can Be a Super Friend*. The children decorated feathers during Art class and our Art teacher, Mrs. Hill, made them into a collaborative display of wings.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52



During the Week of Respect, students welcomed members of the Elizabeth Fire Department Station #2 for an engaging and educational visit on fire safety and prevention. Firefighters shared important tips about staying safe, created excitement with hands-on demonstrations, and encouraged students to always respect community helpers who keep us safe. Our young learners were inspired to be brave, responsible, and aware, making this visit a valuable part of our Week of Respect activities!

Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51



From the beginning of the new school year, the students visited and cared for their school garden.

On October 15, the students and teachers from Room 131 took a special trip to the school garden! The children were full of excitement as they explored the garden path, observed colorful flowers, buzzing bees, and even a few wiggly worms. They talked about how plants grow and what they need to stay healthy—sunlight, water, and care.



The children had a chance to dig in the soil, smell herbs like mint and basil, and water some of the plants with small watering cans. As part of their garden exploration and lessons on kindness, the students participated in a very special school-wide activity—donating fresh-picked vegetables from the school garden. With helping hands and happy hearts, the students picked vegetables and then donated them to The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless.




"When you teach a child to garden, you show them how to grow their own future."
- Unknown
LitLitYellowStarTeaches.com

Elmora School No. 12

School No. 12 is thrilled to share a truly special gift! Mrs. Dawn Sandholm, our dedicated 7th Grade ELA teacher, along with her wonderful family, has built and donated a beautiful Lending Library to our school. This thoughtful and generous act is a shining example of kindness and a deep love for learning. Placed proudly in front of the school, the Lending Library stands as a daily reminder that reading is wisdom—and wisdom opens doors to endless possibilities.

Inspired by her lifelong passion for books and education, Mrs. Sandholm and her family created this library as a gift to every student, family, and neighbor in our community. Her commitment to teaching and her belief in the transformative power of reading continue to inspire us all. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Sandholm, her husband, and their children, for this meaningful contribution. Your generosity will spark curiosity, imagination, and joy for years to come.

Thank you, Sandholm Family!



Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



Students are celebrating creativity this October with a fun and inspiring art challenge called “DrawTober.” Each week, students from both the elementary and middle school grades are introduced to a new drawing prompt that sparks their imagination and challenges them to think creatively. During Week 1, students were given the prompt to draw a cat, and the submissions were nothing short of amazing! Each drawing reflected the artists’ unique perspectives, creativity, and individual style — from playful and colorful sketches to realistic, detailed portrayals full of personality. As we move into Week 2, students will take on the next prompt — drawing an owl — giving them another opportunity to showcase their imagination and artistic growth. The DrawTober contest not only highlights the incredible talent of Terence C. Reilly’s young artists but also encourages self-expression, creative problem-solving, and pride in their work.

George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1

School No. 1 proudly hosted their annual Fathers Walk, celebrating the vital role fathers and father figures play in our students' lives. Dozens of dads joined their children for a morning walk to school, sharing smiles, laughter, and encouragement along the way. The event promoted family engagement, community pride, and the importance of showing students that education is a shared journey.



Woodrow Wilson School No. 19



Students who excelled on the NJSLA were officially welcomed into the brand-new NJSLA Passers Club, and the school made sure to celebrate in style! The school threw a fun-filled celebration filled with music, treats, and high-energy shoutouts from the administration to honor their amazing achievement. It was a day all about recognizing the hard work, determination, and brainpower that led to the students' success. Laughter, cheers, and proud smiles filled the room as students basked in the spotlight they earned.

This exciting event marks the start of a proud new tradition at Woodrow Wilson, and the school looks forward to seeing next year's club grow even bigger. Congrats again to all the superstar NJSLA Passers!



Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson STEM Academy & Annex



JVJ STEM Academy celebrated the Week of Respect from October 6-10 with activities promoting kindness, inclusion, and awareness. Activities ranged from surveys and discussions to interactive workshops, all designed to better understand students' sense of belonging and strengthen our school community. Students also participated in an Anti-Bullying Workshop focused on cyberbullying and respect, where our dedicated guidance counselors reviewed the NJ HIB law and taught the importance of respect and empathy in fostering a safe school environment.



On October 9, JVJ STEM Academy planted a Red Delicious Apple Tree that was awarded through the EEA Pride grant for the Agricultural Engineering Club. The tree was dedicated to the senior class of 2026, having been planted by our Principal, Theodore Panagopoulos, along with our senior class advisor, Kristina Medeiros, our Agricultural Engineering Club advisor, Grace Serralheiro, and our Senior Class Council.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy & Annex

Since 1992, SEEDS – Access Changes Everything has transformed the lives of motivated high-achieving students from low-income households by providing them with exceptional academic opportunities. In 2021, 100% of SEEDS' College Scholars matriculated into "Most Competitive" or "Highly Competitive" colleges and universities. On October 16, the top 10% of Hamilton's graduating Class of 2027 were invited to attend a presentation by Mr. Tucker, Director of Admissions. Hamilton is especially proud to have two current seniors participating in the SEEDS program.



During the Alexander Hamilton Annex Week of Respect Assembly, students came together to celebrate the importance of treating others with kindness and understanding. The assembly highlighted student voices as they presented and shared their own ideas about what respect means to them both in school and in everyday life. To show unity and school spirit, students and staff wore red as a symbol of respect and togetherness. Ms. Larin's English classes also contributed by creating a powerful school-wide video that showcased messages of respect and unity from students. Through thoughtful reflections, creative presentations, and the inspiring video, students demonstrated that respect begins with empathy, inclusion, and recognizing the value in everyone. The event served as a meaningful reminder of the positive impact that mutual respect has on building a supportive and caring school community.



Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy

This month, our Halsey Bulldogs came together to celebrate Week of Respect and Hispanic Heritage Month with pride and creativity! Students participated in daily morning messages focused on empathy, kindness, and respect, ending each day with thoughtful prompts that encouraged positive connections throughout our school community.

“Respect Through Music” Alternative Dress Day on October 10th invited students to wear shirts featuring artists known for spreading uplifting and empowering messages through their music. The celebration continued with engaging activities where students painted their hands to be part of a “Be the I in KIND” mural, and Boo Crew Day on October 31, when friends will coordinate matching Halloween shirts to show their squad spirit. Students also enjoyed participating in Bingo, organized by junior class advisor Mrs. Miles.

In recognition of School Violence Awareness Month, students have been channeling their creativity in art classes by designing powerful anti-violence posters promoting peace, unity, and safety. Their artwork will be proudly displayed throughout the school to inspire a culture of respect and awareness every day.

Together, Bulldogs continue to show that respect, kindness, and creativity make Halsey a stronger, more connected community!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THOMAS JEFFERSON ARTS ACADEMY PTO PRESENTS

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Book & Lyrics by **Howard Ashman** Music by **Alan Menken**

Based on the Film by Roger Corman. Screenplay by Charles Griffin Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)

Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization

OCTOBER 30 & NOVEMBER 1, 2025 AT 7PM
NOVEMBER 2, 2025 AT 2PM

THOMAS JEFFERSON ARTS ACADEMY THEATRE
27 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PLAZA
ELIZABETH, NJ 07208

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IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com)

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Learning Excellence

DISTRICT FINANCIAL AID NIGHTS

OWE YOUR JOURNEY

OCTOBER 22ND
NOVEMBER 13TH
DECEMBER 3RD
DECEMBER 16TH
5:00PM - 7:00PM

STUDENTS & PARENTS MUST BRING LAPTOPS

JOHN E. DWYER TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY
123 PEARL STREET

FAFSA:
 • CREATE FSA ID PRIOR TO ATTENDING AT WWW.FAFSA.GOV
 • MUST BRING LAPTOP & TAX DOCUMENTS FOR FAFSA COMPLETION WORKSHOPS

SCHOLARSHIPS:
 • CREATE A GOING MERRY ACCOUNT PRIOR TO ATTENDING AT WWW.GOINGMERRY.COM

PRESENTATIONS IN ENGLISH & SPANISH

FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD IN 2026

Please visit www.epsnj.org for more information.



BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT RESOURCES




TRANSPORTATION

You are empowered to Achieve Excellence!
 Send us excellent news on the great things happening in your school to Delilah Sousa email: enews@epsnj.org

Elizabeth Board of Education

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