

## EHS Marching Band Achieves Historic Success at State and National Competitions

The **Elizabeth High School (EHS) Marching Band** concluded its competitive season with outstanding performances at two championship weekends, garnering stellar commentary from judges on their program. The band achieved significant milestones at both the state and national levels.

### State Competition Achievements

At the **State Championships**, the EHS Marching Band secured **5th place** overall out of 10 competing ensembles.

In addition to their strong placement, the band earned two major **NJ Group 4 Open caption awards**:

- **1st Place in Percussion**
- **1st Place in Colorguard**

### National Competition Triumphs

The band went on to compete at the **USBands Nationals competition** held at MetLife Stadium, where they were named **2025 Bronze Medalists** among 11 participating bands. A key highlight of the national competition was the **EHS Percussion section** completing an **undefeated season** by also taking **1st place in Percussion** at Nationals.

The EHS Marching Band's performance was further solidified by achieving a historic score of **94.00**, marking the **highest Open Class Nationals score in EHS history**.



CHRIS MAHER  
Corpspey Photography



Group IV Selmer Awards

# FALL FESTIVITIES

## Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



For more photos,  
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[www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)



# FALL FESTIVITIES

## Abraham Lincoln School No. 14



# FALL FESTIVITIES



## Victor Mravlag School No. 21



# FALL FESTIVITIES

## William F. Halloran School No. 22



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

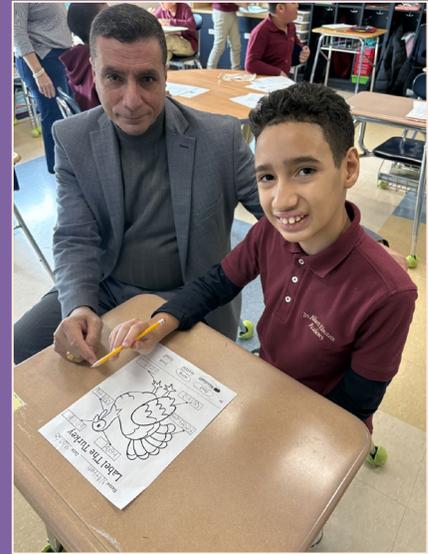
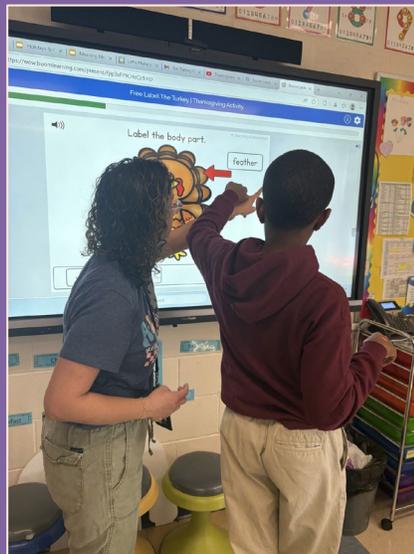
Students are truly living out the character word of the month: gratitude. As part of a schoolwide activity, each student was invited to write something they are thankful for on a feather that would be added to School No. 3 "Gratitude Turkey."

Their responses were heartfelt, thoughtful, and reflective of the strong community we are building together. Some students wrote messages such as, "I am thankful for my parents, my teacher, my friends and my school. I love my friends because they respect me and play with me", "I am grateful for every day that I wake up with a roof over my head and for my parents that work hard to provide for me and my baby brother", "I am thankful for my family and school and money. I like to go to school and learn", "I am thankful of having good grades, they teach me good, and also to have good teachers and math teachers", and "I am thankful for my family".

These expressions of appreciation highlight compassion, empathy, and a deep sense of community within the students. Their words remind all how meaningful it is to practice gratitude every day and to recognize the people, opportunities, and experiences that enrich the lives at School No. 3.



## Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29



This month students in Mrs. Perrotta's autism class have been learning all about turkeys and Thanksgiving. Supporting Mrs. Perrotta's classroom lessons, speech-language specialist Dr. Nordelo has been targeting speech and language skills in thematic mini-lessons focusing on vocabulary, sentence building, and social skills. Integrated classroom speech-language sessions focus on the generalized hands-on activities where students review materials, ingredients, and sequence recipe instructions to make a fun food activity. This month's food creations were an Oreo Turkey and Crockpot Cornbread.

# EARLY CHILDHOOD

## Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50

Students worked with Operation Gratitude to create pictures and notes for veterans.

The teachers taught lessons to the students explaining what veterans do for our country. Physical Education teacher Mr. Chacon came in uniform and spoke to the children.



## Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51



Pre-K students were thrilled to receive a special visit from the local fire department as part of their American Education Week celebration. This event highlighted the importance of connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences and community helpers. Firefighters shared essential fire safety tips in a fun and engaging way, teaching children how to “stop, drop, and roll” and recognize smoke alarms.

The students explored the fire truck and asked curious questions, making the experience hands-on and memorable. Afterward, the children returned to their classroom to reflect on what they had learned and discuss how they might become future firefighters. This follow-up conversation reinforced safety awareness while inspiring them to think about helping others in the future. American Education Week reminds us that education goes beyond textbooks—it’s about building knowledge, fostering curiosity, and strengthening community connections.

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

Fall Fest was full of laughter and creativity. Students played group games, decorated foam pumpkins, and enjoyed lively rounds of musical chairs. Hands-on painting stations, a spider sand table, and eyeball fishing added spooky, sensory fun, while a ball catching activity kept everyone moving and smiling. It was a wonderful event that brought students, families, and staff together to celebrate the season.



## Dr. Orlando Edreira School No. 26 @ 31



School No. 26 celebrated American Education Week with a series of lively and meaningful activities. Students reflected on what they appreciate most about their school community, took on the role of “Educator for a Day,” and engaged in classroom discussions about the value of an International Baccalaureate education. Featured here are students from Miss Norek’s third-grade ABL class, who proudly shared what they love and admire about school.

## Elmora School No. 12

School No. 12 proudly hosted College Day as part of American Education Week, sparking college awareness and excitement across all grade levels. The event was designed to inspire students by opening their eyes to the possibilities of higher education and encouraging them to dream big about their futures.

Middle school students participated in a lively roundtable discussion with staff members. Teachers and administrators shared personal college experiences, answered thoughtful questions, and offered valuable insights into campus life and academic journeys.

Students in grades 3 through 5 enjoyed a dynamic presentation led by six student teachers. These future educators shared their own perspectives and stories, helping younger learners imagine their own paths toward college.

Kindergarten to 2nd grade students joined the celebration by wearing college-themed shirts and creating colorful ornaments featuring college mascots. Their artwork will brighten holiday trees while reminding everyone of the joy of learning and the promise of future opportunities.

The day was a resounding success, fostering enthusiasm and awareness throughout the student body. Students left feeling inspired, motivated, and eager to explore the educational journeys that await them.



# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

## Terence C. Reilly School No. 7



During American Education Week, the team gathered for their faculty meeting with the intention of strengthening connection and community. Recognizing the importance of supporting the well-being of the adults who facilitate student growth, the meeting began with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)-focused activities. These exercises were designed to encourage team members to pause, reflect, and reconnect, reinforcing the idea that supported educators lead to supported students.

A highlight of the meeting was the celebration of the school's long-time security guard, Mr. Larry Meadows. With 33 years of dedicated service, Mr. Meadows was honored for his commitment, compassion, and pride in his work. Notably, he was nominated by a student to receive Terence the Tiger, an award reserved for individuals who make an exceptional positive impact. The staff acknowledged and expressed gratitude for his contributions, both visible and unseen. His recognition served as a reminder of the significant difference one individual can make in the lives of students and colleagues. The staff concluded the meeting carrying the conviction that community is their strength and connection is essential for continued growth.

## Christopher Columbus School No. 15

During the week of November 17-21, students and team members celebrated American Education Week with a variety of fun and engaging activities. One such activity, "Educator for a Day," provided students with the opportunity to teach the class and to experience the "responsibility and challenges of being an educator."

Eighth grade students in Mrs. Raghavendra's science class researched and created PowerPoint presentations on science topics of their choice which included climate change and rocky planets. Students presented their "lessons" to the class and provided opportunities for classroom discussions. The students in Mrs. Raghavendra's class had a great time teaching the science lessons for the day and learning about new topics.

*American Education Week*  
NOVEMBER 17 - 21

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
*Every Child, Achieving Excellence*

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



School No. 6 proudly celebrated its 11th annual Pink Out Celebration, a heartfelt tradition that brings the school community together in support of breast cancer awareness. This event holds special meaning for us as we honor and celebrate two of their very own survivors, Mrs. Elizabeth D'Alessandro and Ms. Ebony Bittings. Students and staff filled the halls with pink, showing their love, unity, and strength in recognition of the courage and resilience within the School No. 6 family.

## Juan Pablo Duarte - José Julián Martí School No. 28

Unity Day is the highlight of National Bullying Prevention Month, and every year it grows stronger—spreading a powerful message of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. This day reminds us that bullying is never okay and that every student deserves to feel safe—at school, online, and in the community. School No. 28 celebrates Unity Day by coming together as one family. The eight houses represent values that guide us: friendship, kindness, giving, courage, dreaming, unity, success, and uplifting. These aren't just words—they're the foundation of who we are.

On Unity Day, they make a bold, visual statement: that their actions matter—not just today, but every day. Most importantly, standing united as School No. 28, proving that together, they can create a world where everyone belongs.



## Madison – Monroe School No. 16 & Annex



School No. 16 held its first-ever student council election for the 2025–2026 school year on November 3, 2025. Students voted to fill the positions of Secretary, Vice President, and President, helping to shape the leadership and direction of the school. Each candidate submitted an initial essay, participated in an interview with Principal Mrs. Gaeta and Vice Principal Ms. Ferrera, and delivered speeches to students in grades 4 through 8. On Election Day, November 3, students in grades 4–8 cast their votes to elect their representatives for this academic year. The experience was both exciting and educational, as students enjoyed the process and learned firsthand what a real voting election is like, gaining a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and leadership.



The Mental Health Team of school social worker Mr. Luciano and school counselor Ms. Calderon were honored to partner with Prevention Links during November to deliver an engaging presentation to 2nd-grade students entitled, “Brave Little Hearts: Healthy Ways to Handle Big Feelings.” The session introduced essential coping skills through interactive activities and age-appropriate discussions, empowering students to develop effective strategies for managing emotions, reducing stress, and building resilience.

# iPrep Academy School No. 8



School No. 8's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive brought the community together once again in the spirit of generosity and gratitude. Throughout the month, students, families, and staff donated non-perishable items to help ensure twenty local families have a warm and nourishing holiday meal. Thanks to everyone's kindness, we collected an impressive variety of canned goods, boxed staples, and seasonal treats. We are grateful for the tremendous support and proud to see our school community embody the true meaning of Thanksgiving—sharing, caring, and lifting one another up.



## HAPPY Thanksgiving

We are incredibly thankful for our amazing students, committed team members, and supportive families. May everyone enjoy a day filled with joy and wonderful company!



## Winfield Scott School No. 2



Winfield Scott School No. 2 invited parents to visit their child's classes. Parents were given a closer look at what learning looks like at our school through several different instructional activities. Teachers were able to provide parents with a firsthand experience of the child's daily routine while celebrating student work, growth, and achievements.

## Robert Morris School No. 18



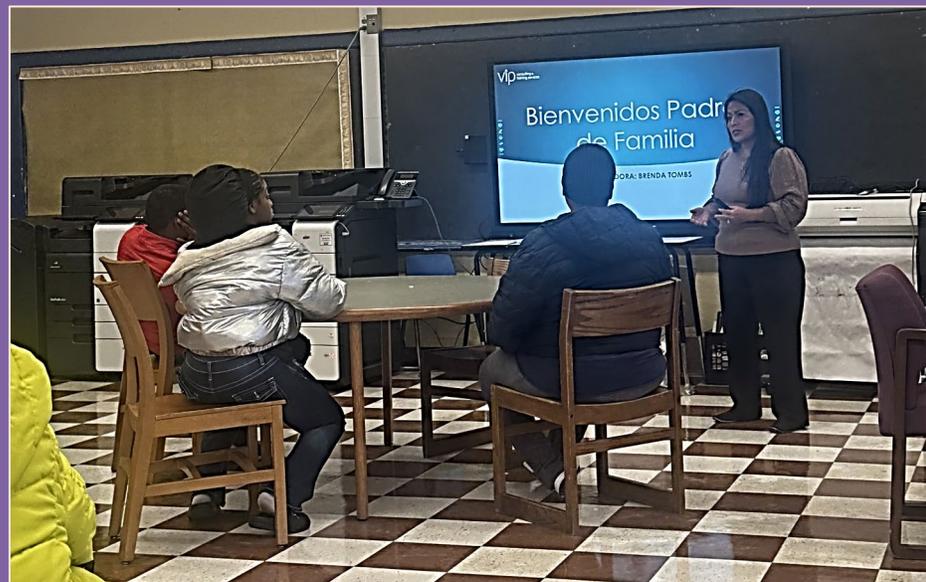
The month of November is a month to spread kindness and be thankful. At School No. 18, they are so thankful for their wonderful kitchen staff. The kitchen staff goes above and beyond to provide wholesome and delicious meals for students all while serving up smiles, warmth, and love. In response to recent events, they worked tirelessly to provide lunch and dinner options for students to eliminate hunger. Their dedication, time, and efforts are being celebrated here at Robert Morris all month long!

## Victor Mravlag School No. 21



The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures mobile van recently visited School No. 21. During the visit, the BSBF team provided free dental health and wellness education to all students. Children who participated in the program received complimentary visual dental screenings, along with a free toothbrush, toothpaste sample, brushing chart, and a list of local dental offices for follow-up care if needed.

## Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5



On November 13, School No. 5 proudly hosted a parent workshop focused on Maximizing Student Attendance. Families joined us to learn practical strategies for building strong morning routines, reducing tardiness, and supporting consistent school attendance. Parents engaged in meaningful conversations, received helpful resources, and collaborated with staff to strengthen attendance. A special thank you to all the families who attended and remain committed to helping every student show up, succeed, and shine!

## Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 & Annex



Miss Drobniowska's first grade class recently learned in Social Studies about the importance of helping others during disasters and crises, and the value of volunteering and acts of service. The students were so inspired by these lessons that they decided to act themselves! Together, they collected 120 canned and dried goods and donated them to "Be The Change NJ" for the organization's Thanksgiving food drive. Miss D's students are proud to make a difference and show that kindness has no age limit!



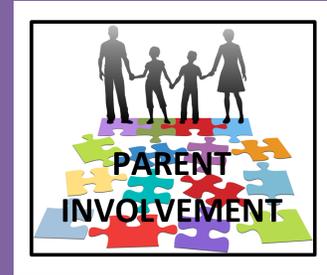
Students at School No. 23 Annex played "Minute to Win it" which promoted working together as a team and having a great time in the process. Everyone including the teachers participated in the fun and it was a success.

## Joseph Battin School No. 4



School No. 4 was delighted to welcome parent guests for Family Day.

It is important for families to be involved in their children's education, and sharing these special moments makes the experience truly meaningful.



## George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1

GWA families were invited for a special Book & Craft activity in their child's classroom. Parents and caregivers shared a read-aloud with their child, talked about the story together, and then worked side-by-side on a craft.

This time was meant to celebrate the joy of reading, strengthen home-school partnerships, and give students a chance to proudly show their grown-ups how they learned in class. It was nice to see everyone and create something meaningful together!



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



JVJ STEM Academy proudly held its first ever Homecoming Dance, creating a milestone moment the school community will never forget. Students from both the main campus and 9th grade annex joined together for a night filled with excitement, connection, and school pride. The glamorous Hollywood theme came to life with a vibrant photo booth, great music, and a red-carpet atmosphere that students fully embraced! It was a truly memorable bonding experience that set a beautiful foundation for new traditions at JVJ STEM.



Mrs. Christodoulou's Transition Program from JVJ Stem Academy visited LifeTown in Livingston, New Jersey. The students participated in Community-Based Instruction doing simulated life skills and job skills in a "small town" environment.

# John E. Dwyer Technology Academy

September 2025

»»» EAGLE EXAMINER «««

## STUDENTS SHINE IN SUMMER SCIENCE AT KEAN UNIVERSITY



**KEAN  
UNIVERSITY  
GSSRP**

»»» **READ MORE**

This summer, a group of our outstanding JEDTA students — *Santiago Paez, Gabriela Jarvis, Sheila Gomez, Mariel Maza, and Joao Desouza* — proudly represented our school at Kean University's Group Summer Science Research Program (GSSRP).

**READ MORE** «««

Through this immersive experience, the students worked alongside university faculty and peers to conduct hands-on research in areas such as biology, chemistry, and environmental science. The program allowed them to strengthen their critical thinking, collaboration, and scientific inquiry skills while gaining valuable exposure to college-level research. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and enthusiasm for learning, and we look forward to seeing how this experience inspires their future academic and career goals!

**GROUP SUMMER  
SCIENCE RESEARCH  
PROGRAM**

# J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy



On November 12, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy welcomed local veterans from Elizabeth to speak with students. During the event, students learned about each veteran's experiences serving in different branches of the military, including the Marines, Army, and National Guard.

Each veteran shared a profound personal account of what inspired them to join the armed forces and how their service shaped their lives. They also spoke about their time as students in Elizabeth Public Schools and how they continue to serve their community today as Sergeants, Detectives, and Police Officers with the Elizabeth Police Department.

Overall, students enjoyed asking questions and were excited to meet community members they can interact with both inside and outside of school.



# Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy wrapped up a wildly successful weekend with their Parent-Teacher Organization-sponsored production of Little Shop of Horrors. Packed houses enjoyed spooky, classic fun as the student body took full control, showcasing dazzling skills in everything from choreography and costume design to complex lighting and powerful vocal performances.



For more photos, please visit [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)

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

Ms. Cannon's students celebrated Halloween with a festive Pumpkin Painting Party! Students expressed their creativity while practicing key Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills such as collaboration, communication, and self-expression. The activity encouraged teamwork and built a sense of belonging as students worked together to design and display their colorful pumpkins.

Students also had the opportunity to explore higher education during college information sessions, including presentations from Fairleigh Dickinson University and Montclair State University, as well as visits from New Jersey Institute of Technology and Kean University.

In addition, the school celebrated American Education Week with a variety of engaging activities. Students participated in morning announcements featuring inspiring quotes. Students also created thank-you notes for staff members to show appreciation.



**Happy Thanksgiving**

May your day be filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of family and friends. Here's to a season of gratitude and joy. Enjoy the feast and cherish the moments that make life beautiful. Wishing you a wonderful and bountiful holiday!

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Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy's Liberty Players  
Presents

**It's a Wonderful Life** *A Radio Play*

*'It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play' Adapted by Joe Landry*  
*'It's a Wonderful Life' is based on the story 'The Greatest Gift' by Philip Van Doren Stern*  
*'The Greatest Gift' is used by permission of The Greatest Gift Corporation*

• Directed by Erika Hicks •

• Friday, December 12 @ 7pm & Saturday December 13 @ 7pm •  
• Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, Elizabeth, NJ •  
• For tickets and info visit [www.tjtheater.org](http://www.tjtheater.org) •

Scan for tickets →

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