

Welcome to our District Highlights!

As the seasons change, so does the incredible energy across the Bayonne School District. This fall has been filled with meaningful learning, inspiring accomplishments, and moments that remind us why our schools are such special places. From innovative classroom experiences to outstanding student achievements, dedicated staff initiatives, and vibrant community partnerships, we are proud to share the stories that reflect our commitment to excellence in education. We invite you to explore these highlights and celebrate the people and programs that make our district thrive. Together, we continue to build a bright future for every student—this season and all year long.

Ernie & Superintendent John J. Niesz

Thriving in the Hive: Honors & Scholars Shine at BHS

Bayonne High School is proud to celebrate the continued success of our Honors and Scholars Programs. These pathways give students meaningful academic experiences, enrichment opportunities, and the confidence to thrive.

This year marked the second annual Honors & Scholars Open Houses, where families explored program expectations, elective options, and support systems. To help incoming students feel welcomed and prepared, members of the BHS administrative team visited every elementary school across the district, delivering acceptance letters and answering questions.

The Honors and Scholars Programs provide rigorous instruction, structured guidance, and an environment that empowers students to think critically, stay motivated, and develop strong academic habits. Students consistently report feeling connected, encouraged, and ready to take on new challenges.

Scholars student Gianna Amaro shared, “I’m more focused and determined to get higher grades. I’ve also made a lot of friends through the program.” She highlighted National History Day as a favorite project and noted how participating in both Scholars and the Fine & Performing Arts Program has helped her grow: “Having a double period to work on something I love has really helped me advance.”

Malak Cheboubi said, “I chose BHS because you can gain a lot of experience and prepare for college. My favorite part has been meeting new classmates and connecting with my teachers.” As a dancer and Class of 2029 President, Malak reflected, “The program has taught me time management and how to balance schoolwork with extracurriculars. My advice to future students is to know your interests and make choices that are right for you.”

Avery Chrzanowski added, “My favorite memory is being in a group with motivated students who have the same academic goals.” A varsity soccer player, Avery noted, “The coursework has challenged me and helped me grow, and I enjoy being part of a community where everyone is motivated to do their best.”

Bayonne High School is proud to celebrate the achievements of all Honors and Scholars students who embody what it means to be a Bayonne Bee: curious, resilient, and always ready to thrive in the hive.



Lincoln Community School 8th Grade Peer Leaders Model Kindness

During the Week of Respect, the 8th Grade Peer Leaders at Lincoln Community School demonstrated true leadership and compassion as they partnered with the kindergarten classes for a series of activities promoting kindness, empathy, and respect.

The Peer Leaders, under the guidance of their advisor, Esther Rentas, spent time in the kindergarten classrooms leading discussions and hands-on projects designed to expand on the stories about friendship. They completed activities about what respect looks like, feels like, and sounds like, and shared ways to make their school community a more caring place. Peer advisor, Ms. Rentas stated, “the peer leaders really helped out our littlest lions understand the importance of having good manners.”

This collaborative event not only reinforced the values of respect and inclusion among the kindergarteners but also gave the 8th graders an opportunity to serve as positive role models within the school. Their patience, encouragement, and enthusiasm were evident as they guided the younger students through each activity. Kindergarten teachers Lindsay Sanchez and Diane Creswick valued the partnership and collaborative approach that these activities brought to their classrooms. The week ended with Peer Leaders working in partnership with the kindergarten classes during the fall pumpkin patch.

Principal Malanowski praised the initiative, noting, “It’s heartwarming to see our Peer Leaders embody the spirit of respect and kindness while mentoring our youngest learners. This is what community is all about.” The Week of Respect served as a meaningful reminder that small acts of kindness can have a big impact—and that at Lincoln Community School, respect begins with everyone, from kindergarten to 8th grade.



Balloons Over Henry E. Harris Community School Parade

Each year, the 5th graders at Henry E. Harris Community School bring the magic of the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade right into the school hallways through their *Balloons Over Henry Harris* project. Inspired by the picture book *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet, students embark on a rich, cross-curricular learning experience that blends ELA, Math, STEM, creativity, and authentic real-world problem solving.

After reading the story, students apply engineering design skills to construct an original parade balloon using paper and various materials. They collaborate to map out a parade route across our very own city of Bayonne and write broadcast scripts that include balloon features, commentary, commercial breaks, timing, and cost calculations. This experience challenges students to plan, revise, design, analyze, measure, calculate, write, and bring imagination to life.

When the final parade day arrives, their school community lines the hallways as the 5th graders proudly parade their balloons throughout the building. The excitement is contagious as students showcase their creations with confidence, joy, and ownership.

This project not only strengthens academic skills—it builds confidence, collaboration, and pride in the Hawks. *Balloons Over Henry Harris* reminds us that learning should feel magical, memorable, and joyfully hands-on.



Tradition, Taste, & Togetherness: Honoring Hispanic Heritage at Robinson School

Dr. Walter F. Robinson Community School recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15), with Mrs. Melissa Reyes' kindergarten class participating in a series of activities designed to honor and celebrate the diverse cultures, traditions, and contribution of Hispanic and Latino communities.

Students began by coloring and exchanging flags representing the Hispanic countries from which they or their families originate. Many students were delighted to discover shared cultural backgrounds with their classmates. The classroom was filled with enthusiasm as proud voices echoed, "Yo soy de...Tambien!" ("I am from ... too!), celebrating the diversity and unity within our class community.



As part of the show and tell presentations, Mrs. Reyes' students shared special items from their home countries—ranging from cultural artifacts and traditional keepsakes to family heirlooms. Each presentation allowed students to connect their personal stories to a broader classroom community. The students proudly presented their items while sharing their stories.

The celebration concluded with a cultural potluck and dress day, where students came dressed in traditional attire from their countries and shared homemade dishes that represented their heritage. The event was filled with music, dancing, and a spirit of unity and appreciation.



Through these experiences, students gained a deeper understanding of the richness and diversity within the Hispanic community and the importance of honoring and preserving cultural traditions.



Horace Mann Community School Veteran's Museum Visit

Fifth-grade students from Horace Mann Community School recently participated in an impactful educational visit to the Joyce-Herbert VFW Post 226 Military and Veterans' Museum. This field trip provided an invaluable, hands-on connection to American history, including a guided tour led by CMDR. Glen J. Flora. A meaningful part of the visit was meeting and hearing personal accounts from Walter Kaczmarek, a U.S. Marine Corps Corporal and a two-time Purple Heart recipient. The students had the opportunity to view a significant collection of military artifacts, representing conflicts from the Civil War through the Gulf War. The educational experience concluded with students learning and performing a song to express their sincere gratitude to all veterans for their service. This initiative successfully fostered civic appreciation and enriched the curriculum with direct historical engagement.



Horace Mann Community School—Fall Softball

This season was an exciting one for Horace Mann's softball program coached by Ms. Napier and Mrs. Ruh. The league offered two levels of play—Instructional and Competitive—so that every athlete had the chance to grow and shine. The Instructional team focused on learning the fundamentals of the game, with practices and games where players could put their new skills into action. The Competitive team provided opportunities for more experienced players to take their game to the next level, batting against live pitchers and competing in matchups. Special thanks to league coordinator, Jessica Petti, for organizing another fantastic year of softball for the students!



Grand Opening of *Flourish Café* at Washington Community School

Under the direction of Mrs. Zisa, the students in Washington Community School's life skills program have opened the Flourish Café in room 211. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 7, 2025, and the first of many meals was served. The students have contributed to the inception of the cafe, including decisions regarding decor, menu planning, recipes, food shopping, pricing and more. The students have been working together to prepare staff lunches for purchase with dine in, take-out and delivery options. All proceeds go back to the program and toward eighth grade events and activities.

The Flourish Café at Washington Community School is a special place where learning comes to life. Our students are gaining real-world experiences from cooking & baking to serving, greeting, and communicating with others.

Each day, they learn the value of teamwork, responsibility, and kindness as they create meals and moments that bring smiles to everyone's faces. The café gives our students the chance to feel proud of their work, confident in their abilities, and excited to come to school knowing they're part of something meaningful and full of heart.

Flourish Cafe's purpose is to teach and practice life skills, through real-life problem solving opportunities. Our café gives students the chance to build confidence and skills, teaching them how to budget and shop, prepare food for themselves and others, and collaborate with those in their community. Flourish Café is about more than themes and meals; it's about belonging, pride, and the belief that everyone can make a difference.

The idea for Flourish Café grew from a love of vintage treasures — taking something old and giving it a new purpose. That same spirit of transformation inspired us to turn an ordinary classroom into a warm and welcoming café filled with character and charm. Every student adds their own story, laughter, and creativity to the space. Here, they're not just learning life skills — they're learning how to connect, share, and flourish as young adults. It's a place where everyone belongs, every story matters, and every plate is served with a smile.



Washington Community School
Mrs. Zisa's Class



Washington Community School
Mrs. Zisa's Class



Red Ribbon Week at Horace Mann Community School

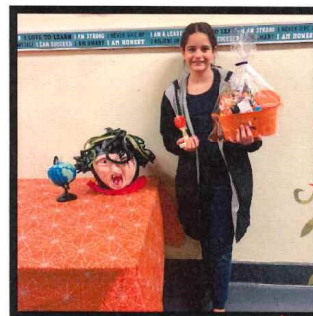
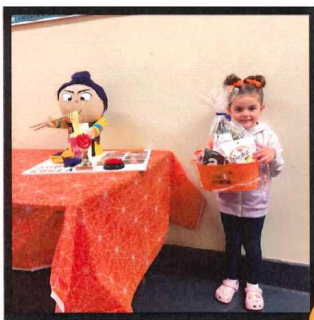
During Red Ribbon Week, students proudly wore their red ribbons to show their commitment to living a life of kindness, free from bullying and drugs. By taking the pledge to be drug free, the school community came together to promote positive choices and support one another in creating a safe and caring environment.



Pumpkin Contest at Horace Mann Community School

The annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest held at Horace Mann School brought creativity and global flair to the school this October. The theme was “Pumpkins Around the World.” Students and families showcased incredible artistry by transforming pumpkins into symbols of countries and cultures from across the globe. From pyramids to Big Ben, each entry celebrated international traditions, and diversity. The hallways were filled with color, imagination, and cultural pride, making it one of our most vibrant contests yet!

Congratulations to all participants for sharing their creativity and helping all to explore the world— one pumpkin at a time!



MJD School is Building Curiosity & Joy Through Interactive World Language Learning

Mary J. Donohoe Community School students have been actively engaged in their world language classes by working on an interactive computer based platform designed to build foundational vocabulary and communication skills. This digital tool allows students to learn at their own pace while participating in activities that strengthen listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With audio models, visual cues, and instant feedback, the platform provides an accessible and supportive environment for all learners, encouraging them to take risks and explore a new language with confidence.

As students navigate the lessons, they are exposed not only to language structures but also to rich cultural content. They explore greetings, traditions, foods, music, and everyday expressions used around the world, helping them develop a broader appreciation for global communities. The platform transforms the classroom into an immersive experience, giving students a window into diverse cultures and helping them understand the purpose and beauty of learning another language.

Teachers continue to guide students through these activities, making sure that independent computer work is paired with meaningful learning outcomes. Blended instruction combining digital practice with guided conversations, games, and small group activities ensures that students stay motivated and feel supported. Remember, these are introductory classes designed to spark curiosity, celebrate culture, and create joyful learning experiences. We want students to be engaged and excited about World Language, so lessons are interactive, fun, and enriching.

Overall, the use of this world language platform has strengthened student participation and enthusiasm. Students enjoy the variety of tasks, the challenge of progressing through levels, and the opportunity to showcase what they've learned. Their growing confidence is evident as they begin using new words and phrases both in class and with their peers. Through engaging digital tools and creative teaching practices, students are building a strong, joyful foundation for lifelong interest in world languages.



Melodies of Belonging: Debut of Woodrow Wilson School's Autism Program Choir

Woodrow Wilson Community School, under the leadership of Mrs. Lindsey Robinson, Music Therapist, recently launched "The Sounds of Inclusion" group creating an inclusive musical ensemble that welcomes students on the autism spectrum alongside their neurotypical peers.

Principal Furmaniak stated: "This choir is part of a broader effort to foster belonging and self-expression: by participating, these students gain opportunities to improve communication, emotional regulation, and social skills through structured rehearsals and performance." This program is carefully designed with sensitivity to the needs of autistic students, including flexible rehearsal structures and supportive peer mentoring.



Early reactions from stakeholders have been positive, as this choir not only provides a creative outlet but also helps strengthen community and understanding across diverse learners. By continuing to invest in adaptive arts programs, the school aims to champion a culture where every student's voice is valued, celebrated, and heard.

Gifted & Talented Psychomotor Enrichment in Action

The Gifted and Talented Psychomotor Field Day enrichment for grades 3 through 8 offered students a dynamic day of hands-on learning, athletic development, and creative exploration. Guided by Bayonne High School Varsity Coaches, elite athletes, and the G&T Team, students engaged in a variety of skill-building challenges, discovered new extracurricular pathways, and experienced high-energy demonstrations that highlighted the many extracurricular opportunities available at BHS.

The day also included collaborative team activities, music, and recreational games, all designed to promote growth, confidence, and enthusiasm in a supportive environment.



William Shemin Midtown Community School's PTO Shines

The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" resonates today as much as ever in our world. In an elementary school with over 1200 students and over 100 staff, the village is quite large and includes everyone within the school community, from parents, to teachers, to all of the school faculty and staff. However, there is one group of outstanding individuals that adds so much to the WSMCS village each and every day. The Parent Teacher Organization is a vital part of many of the special programs and events students participate in throughout the course of the school year.

Since September, the PTO has sponsored many initiatives, such as our successful Half Day Pizza sales, an annual Pumpkin Patch event, and providing prizes for a pumpkin decorating contest winners. They have also coordinated several fundraisers to help support the school, including the Al Richards' chocolate sales, various dine arounds that support local businesses while raising funds, a popcorn fundraiser, and a new Book Buddies program! Looking forward to the rest of the year, everyone is excited for Photos with Santa, the Holiday Bazaar, and Field Day, just to name a few! There is so much time and dedication that goes into planning these events for such a large school. From contacting businesses, to creating and distributing flyers and products, to ordering over 1300+ t-shirts, and much more. The PTO Leadership Team spends a lot of time at the Den, and they make the William Shemin Midtown Community School an even better place!

Principal Pondillo, Assistant Principals Romano and Carroll, along with the rest of the WSMCS community are grateful for their efforts and collaboration for all they do. The village and school are positively impacted by their willingness to volunteer and work together as a team. A special thank you to the Executive Board Members: Mayra Gonzalez, President; Lisa Lynn, Vice President; Vivian Diaz, Treasurer; Elizabeth Holland Vazquez, Secretary; Tara Genzel, Hospitality, Gilbert Diaz, Membership Representative; and the many other volunteers that assist with PTO events. Thank you for being such a big and important part of the village!



BHS Fighting Bees Bring the Courtroom to Life

Every winter, while most students are busy studying for midterms or bundling up for the cold, the Bayonne High School Mock Trial Team is gearing up for something far more dramatic: taking over an actual courtroom. Since 1988, BHS has proudly competed in the prestigious Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition, sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Association—and each season brings new thrills, challenges, and unforgettable moments.

This is no ordinary after-school club. Mock Trial drops students right into the heart of the legal world. Each year, the State Bar releases a brand-new fictional case—sometimes civil, sometimes criminal—that mirrors the kinds of issues seen in real courtrooms. From dangerous products to domestic disputes to deferral crimes, the cases demand sharp minds and strong voices.

Armed with binders of evidence and highlighters in every color, students prepare both sides of the case, becoming attorneys, witnesses, jurors, courtroom reporters, and even sketch artists. They write powerful opening statements, craft strategic lines of questioning, and learn how to deliver a knockout cross-examination. They master courtroom procedure, from pretrial motions to objections—the dramatic “Objection, Your Honor!” moments included.

Then comes the best part: competing at the historic Brennan Courthouse in Jersey City, where real lawyers and judges preside over each match. Under the bright courtroom lights, students argue their cases with passion, poise, and professionalism that often surprises the adults in the room.



The impact reaches far beyond the courtroom. All team members consistently report major gains in public speaking, writing, critical thinking, and confidence. Many alumni even credit the program with inspiring their careers in law, law enforcement, and criminal justice.

This year’s case tackles a timely and intense topic: a criminal “swatting” incident involving false public alarm. It’s giving students the chance to explore cyber issues, emergency responses, and the consequences of false reports—a truly modern legal challenge.

And the team enters the season with extra pride. After last year’s standout performance, Superintendent Mr. John J. Niesz surprised the students with custom team sweatshirts emblazoned with their fierce logo—a fighting bee wielding a gavel. The team wears them like a badge of honor.

With tradition behind them and talent leading the way, the BHS Mock Trial Team is ready to step back into the courtroom spotlight—and once again prove why Bayonne High School’s Fighting Bees are a force to be reckoned with.

Community Support Shines at Nicholas Oresko Community School



In September, Senator Angela McKnight donated backpacks filled with essential school supplies for our students. Her thoughtful contribution ensured that every child started the school year prepared, supported, and confident. These backpacks not only eased the financial burden for families but also helped create an exciting and positive start to the academic year.

Assemblyman William B. Sampson demonstrated tremendous support by donating safety helmets to our PreK 4 classes. Riding a tricycle helps young learners build balance, strengthen coordination, develop gross motor skills, and enhance core and leg strength. It also promotes hand-eye coordination, independence, problem solving, and confidence. Assemblyman Sampson's donation ensures that our students can enjoy these developmental benefits safely.



Third graders at Nicholas Oresko Community School showcased their creativity by completing a book report and designing a pumpkin to represent the main character from their chosen story. After finishing their projects, they proudly presented their character pumpkins and summaries to the fourth graders, sharing what they learned and celebrating their love of reading.

Bailey School Kindergartners Visit Rutgers University Farm

Kindergarten students at John M. Bailey Community School are participating in an enriching educational experience that brings agriculture, science, and literacy together in a meaningful way. Each class adopted a calf through the Discovery Dairy's Adopt A Cow Program. The program allows our youngest learners to explore the world of dairy farming while strengthening foundational reading and writing skills. This cross-curricular initiative encourages students to think like scientists, write like authors, and engage as curious learners discovering all of the important factors that play a role in farming. Throughout the school year, students will follow their adopted calf's journey as it grows on a farm. Students will receive updates, photos, and videos of their calf, helping students learn where milk comes from, how farmers care for animals, and why agriculture is so important.

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Bailey School Kindergarteners Visit Rutgers University Farm (continued)

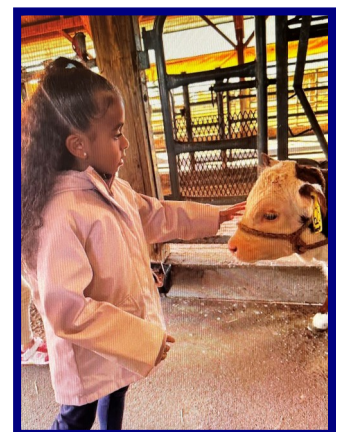
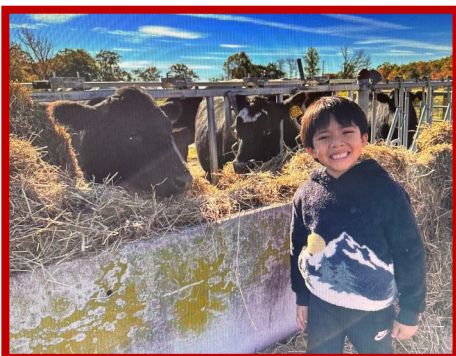
It's already been a month of having the calves and they have received photos and videos of how the calf has grown. For example, in a month, Mrs. Sette's calf, Cora from Myerwood Farms in South Jersey, has grown 7 inches and gained over 50 pounds.

The students recently visited Rutgers University Farm for a guided tour. During this trip, students had the opportunity to learn about farm animals, how they are cared for, and enjoy the unique experience of visiting a real farm. Students were able to engage in discussions with the farmer about the various animal needs, farming tools used, and the many people involved in producing the food we eat. The highlight of the trip for the children was meeting a calf, around the same age as the class's "adopted" cow from the Dairy Cow Discovery Program. Students were thrilled to pet the calf, learn how she would grow and be cared for, and make a personal connection to what they had been studying. This moment truly brought their learning to life, sparking joy, empathy, and curiosity among every young learner.

Following their visit, students engaged in reflective writing projects to capture their experiences. They composed personal narratives describing the sights and sounds of the farm, and illustrated their favorite moments to accompany their writing. These reflections provided opportunities for teachers to assess growth in vocabulary, sentence structure, and expressive language, while also allowing students to take pride in their developing writing skills. The trip to Rutgers University Farm helped build science and social studies skills while sparking curiosity about the world around them, a truly *moo-velous* learning experience!

The Dairy Cow Discovery Program and the Rutgers Farm experience together created a powerful learning opportunity that supported both academic growth and real-world understanding. By combining science, literacy, and experiential learning, the kindergarten team helped students build curiosity, confidence, and a lasting appreciation for the world around them.

At John M. Bailey Community School, experiences like these reflect their ongoing commitment to hands-on, inquiry-based education that nurtures the whole child. Even the youngest Bailey Eagles are already soaring, discovering, writing, and learning that every day truly is a great day to be a Bailey Eagle!



A Literary Adventure: Mrs. Woods' BHIS Class Visits Irving's Home

Mrs. Woods's Horror and Detective Literature class embarked on an exciting field trip to the historic Sunnyside Estate, home of renowned American author Washington Irving, on November 13th. Students explored the beautifully preserved Gothic Revival cottage where Irving lived and wrote many of his famous works, including *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*. The visit gave students a firsthand look at the atmosphere and landscape that inspired some of America's earliest horror and detective stories. As they toured the grounds, they learned about Irving's writing process, his role in shaping early American literature, and the cultural impact of his storytelling.

During their time at Sunnyside, students took a guided tour of Irving's picturesque home, which is filled with period furnishings and historical artifacts. Students strolled through the picturesque gardens and scenic paths along the Hudson River, gaining insight into the setting that influenced Irving's imaginative tales. The trip also featured interactive elements such as storytelling sessions, historical demonstrations, and exhibits on folklore, which deepen students' understanding of the era. For Mrs. Woods's class, the experience connected classroom learning with real-world history, making the world of Washington Irving feel vivid, tangible, and unforgettable.



Class of 2028 Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Bayonne High School's Class of 2028 Executive Committee held the first annual pumpkin decorating contest during BHS's Haunted Hallways. The contest helped raise funds for the Class of 2028 and is the first of many wonderful events the executive committee has planned for their time here at Bayonne High School.

Pictured are:

Stephanie Rendon, '29 (1st Place),

Jesse Wolleon (Class Advisor, '28), and

Mandisa Amedoh, '28 (2nd Place).

The theme was "Movies" and BHS students brought their enthusiasm and spirit to life with their winning entries.



Winners were granted a free spot on the future class trip and are looking forward to participating in future events and raising school spirit. The Executive Committee would like to thank Mrs. Sandra McGrath (Class Advisor, '26) and the Class of 2026 for allowing them to host a pumpkin decorating contest during Haunted Hallways; they are looking forward to collaborating again soon!

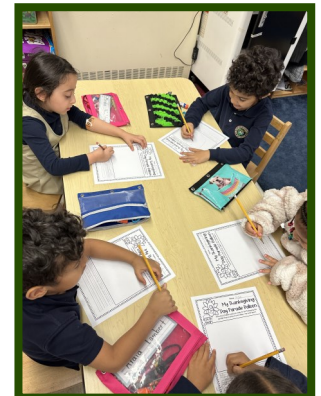
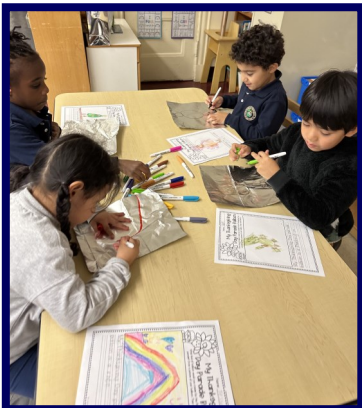


Balloons Over Bailey

The John M. Bailey Community School's Early Childhood community, spanning Pre-K through Grade 3, proudly came together this month for a magical learning experience inspired by *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. The book tells the fascinating true story of Tony Sarg, the imaginative puppeteer and balloon engineer whose creativity helped shape the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Students learned about Sarg's inventions, the evolution of the parade, and how innovation, problem-solving, and perseverance contributed to one of America's most beloved holiday traditions.

After learning about the history of the parade, students began the creative process by brainstorming the design for their very own parade balloon. They engaged in thoughtful discussions, reflecting on what brings them joy, whether it was a favorite activity, a beloved book or TV character, an animal they adore, or something special from their everyday lives. Students then completed a writing piece describing the inspiration behind their idea, explaining why they chose it and how it connected to their personal interests. Once their concepts were finalized, the artistic work began. Children sketched their designs and carefully transferred them onto foil balloons, using vibrant colors and creative details to make their ideas "float" off the surface. Excitement filled the classrooms as balloons of Sonic, Mario, Bluey, Pokémon favorites, princesses, sports themes, and many imaginative original creations came to life, each one a reflection of our students' individuality, creativity, and pride in their work.

The project culminated in their very own **Thanksgiving Day Parade**, where students proudly showcased their handmade balloons throughout the halls of John M. Bailey Community School. Hallways transformed into parade routes filled with music, cheers, and brightly colored creations floating overhead. The event not only celebrated student creativity but also highlighted collaboration, writing, design, and the power of bringing literature to life. These young learners, just like Tony Sarg, proved that with curiosity and imagination, anything can take flight.



Honoring a Hero: Nicholas Oresko Community School Participates in Field of Heroes

Nicholas Oresko Community School proudly participated in this year's Field of Heroes ceremony, honoring the bravery and legacy of Master Sergeant Nicholas Oresko. Students represented the school with dignity as they shared his story and paid tribute to his extraordinary service.

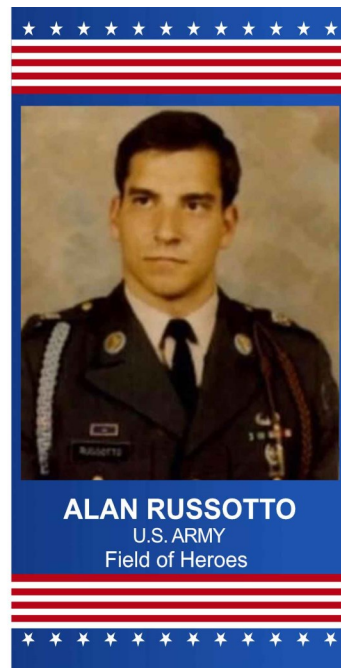
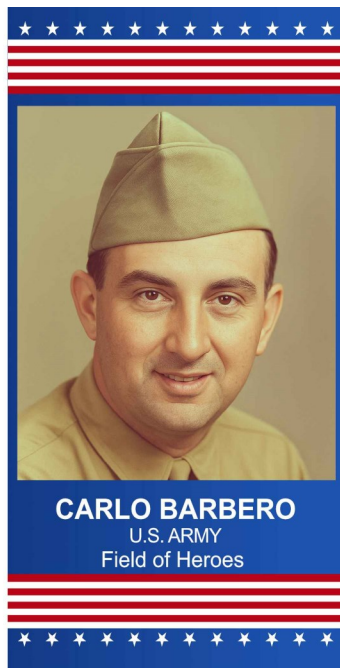
They also expressed their gratitude to Ms. Lastra, President of the SWFL Military Museum in Fort Myers, Florida, for returning Master Sergeant Oresko's uniform and Medal of Honor to Oresko School after being displayed in her museum for the past 15 years.

Students from grades 6 to 8 took part in the presentation: Emily Estremera led the Pledge of Allegiance, Logen Abdelmalak shared a message about Master Sergeant Oresko's courage, and Kailyn Muniz presented his biography and heroic actions during World War II.

Nicholas Oresko Community School is proud to honor his legacy and are grateful for the opportunity to teach our students the true meaning of bravery, sacrifice, and service.



2025 Field of Heroes Honorees



Hométown Author Visit Brings Story of Pèrsévèrance & Community to Life

Philip G. Vroom Community School was thrilled to welcome local author Stephenie Fisette-Cotter, who shared her heartwarming children's book inspired by a true story close to home. The book tells the tale of a beloved tortoise cared for by her husband at a local park who was accidentally taken away—but through determination, teamwork, and a little bit of luck, she was found and brought safely back home. Students were captivated as Mrs. Cotter read her story and shared the real-life inspiration behind it, reminding everyone of the importance of compassion, curiosity, and caring for the animals in our community. Thank you to Mrs. McMahon (Title I teacher) for extending the invitation to Mrs. Cotter!



Mrs. Cotter reading Sally, the Tortoise's Great Adventure to Mrs. Micek and Mrs. Montalvo's 1st grade class.



Mrs. Cotter reading to Ms. Hoy and Ms. Schiavone's 2nd grade class.



Ms. Mueller and Ms. Sgardelis's 3rd graders listening to Sally, the Tortoise's Great Adventure by Mrs. Cotter.

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