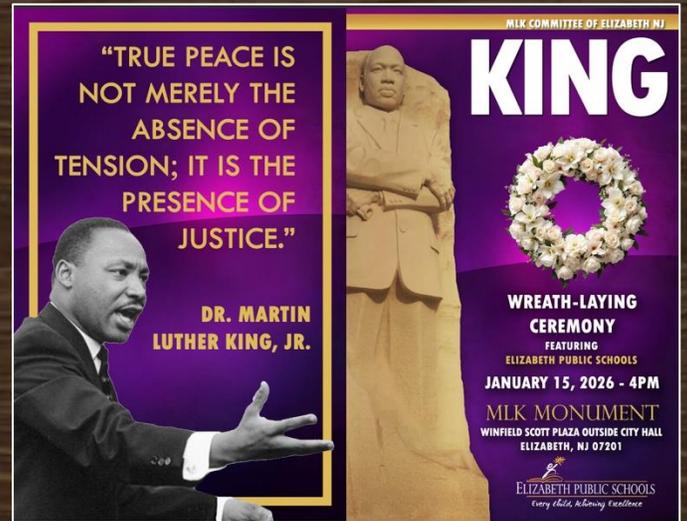


## Wreath-Laying Ceremony

The MLK Committee of Elizabeth NJ, with the support of Elizabeth Public Schools, held a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15 at the MLK Monument in front of Elizabeth City Hall. City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Z. Carvalho, EPS Director of Curriculum and Instruction Samuel Etienne, Mount Teman AME Church Reverend George Britt, and Union County Commissioner Stanley J. Neron all gave remarks at the ceremony. The performances at the ceremony began with “Star-Spangled Banner” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, performed by George Washington Academy School No. 1 & Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 Music Teacher Kerry Stubbs. Additional performances included “Be the Change”, performed by the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Choir under the direction of Kelly Ann Cubias, an excerpt from “I Have a Dream”, performed by Winfield Scott School No. 2 students, “Litany of Commemoration”, performed by Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy student Dory Madrid, and “My Country, 'Tis of Thee”, performed by the FJC Ensemble Band, under the direction of Miguel Bolivar.



## Winfield Scott School No. 2



Students at Winfield Scott School No. 2 were given the opportunity to enter an essay competition to be Principal and Vice Principal for the day. Winners, Jacob Cardoza from 4th grade and Darlenny Palacios from 5th grade, had the opportunity to visit classrooms, read to students, and monitor the hallways.

## Victor Mravlag School No. 21



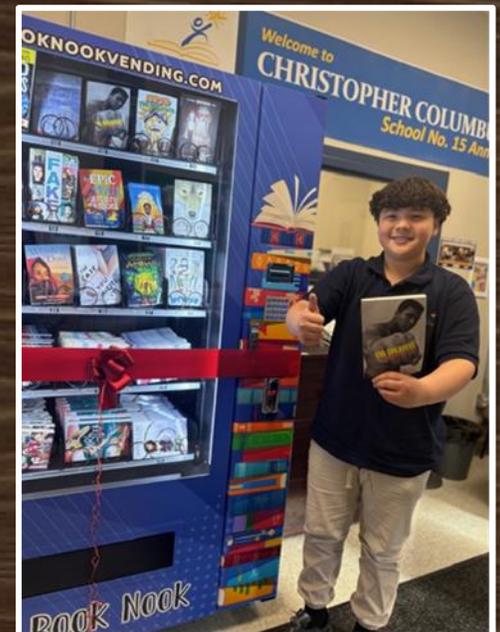
School No. 21 came together to perform a variety show in support of Harmony Power, an organization dedicated to recognizing individuals who take action to stop bullying, embrace human differences, and empower the lives they touch. Students collaborated to create skits and perform songs centered on standing up against bullying, promoting positive reinforcement, and advocating for human equality. In addition to the assembly, several students and staff members were honored with Harmony Power Awards in recognition of their efforts.

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



George Washington Academy focused on a Day of Service, on the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Students from various School 1 Programs such as L.O.T, First Ladies, Student Government, and The National Junior Honor Society dedicated a portion of their afternoon to the serving others. Students participated in a school wide clean up, in addition to reading to students in lower grades.

# Christopher Columbus School No. 15 Annex



Christopher Columbus School 15 Annex was excited for the arrival of the Book Nook Book Vending Machine. The official ribbon cutting ceremony took place on December 11, 2025, to celebrate the debut of the Book Nook along with the first recipient of the gold coin receiving their prize book. Students are eager to earn tokens and exchange them for their favorite text.

## Benjamin Franklin School No. 13



The NJ4S services through Prevention Links are partnering with Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 to provide a small group intervention for students in middle school. They will be providing a peer group called Sister2Sister and Brother2Brother. As teens continue to develop, finding their sense of self and establishing autonomy, peer and mentor support offers room for connection and growth. The Sister2Sister and Brother2Brother Support groups are designated as a safe space for teens to navigate and engage in discussion with their peers and mentors.

## Robert Morris School No. 18



First and second grade students participated in a schoolwide parade after reading and discussing the text “Balloons Over Broadway.” This hands-on and interactive experience helped students deepen their understanding of the story and its themes. Students were able to explore their own independence and creativity, design their own character, and make meaningful connections to the text. The entire rest of the school clapped and waved as they paraded through the building, and a wonderful time was had by all!

# Miracle of Winfield Scott

City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, the City of Elizabeth, the Department of Recreation, and Elizabeth City Council hosted the Miracle of Winfield Scott holiday night out event on December 9 outside of Elizabeth City Hall. The community and family event included a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, fun activities, giveaways, and performances from Elizabeth Public Schools students.

Among those representing Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education at the event were Board President Stanley J. Neron, Board members Iliana Chevres, Jerry Jacobs, Rosa Moreno Ortega, and Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board member elect Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel, as well as Elizabeth Public Schools Chief of Operations and Councilman-at-Large Frank Cuesta.



# Winter Festivities

## Saturday Arts Program

The Saturday Arts Program wishes to extend warm wishes to all students, staff, and families. May your days be filled with joy, creativity, and cherished moments with loved ones. Special thanks for your unwavering support and enthusiasm for the arts and looking forward to continuing the artistic journey together in the new year.



# Winter Concerts

## Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27



# Winter Concerts

## iPrep Academy School No. 8



# Winter Concerts

## Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

The Terence C. Reilly Chamber Orchestra, led by Ms. Hsin-Ting Feng, continued their tradition of spreading joy throughout the community with a special holiday performance for the Elizabeth Rotary Club. Their music filled the room with warmth and festive spirit. They were especially honored by a return visit from Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, who once again took the time to congratulate our young musicians on their dedication, talent, and service to the community. A truly inspiring morning for everyone!



## Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26



## Elmora School No. 12

School No. 12 celebrates the holiday season with a unique twist—combining festive cheer with college and career readiness. Students designed ornaments that proudly display the emblems of colleges they aspire to attend or symbols of their future career goals. This creative project not only brightens the school with holiday spirit but also encourages students to stay motivated and focused on their futures. Each ornament reflects a personal student dream. By weaving together celebration and aspiration, Elmora School No. 12 continues to inspire students to envision their futures while spreading joy throughout the school community.



## Nicholas S. LaCorte Peterstown School No. 3

On December 6, School No. 3 proudly hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa family event, welcoming another packed house of students and their families. The morning was filled with holiday cheer as families enjoyed a delicious breakfast, connected with one another, and captured special memories with Santa during photo opportunities. Students delighted in a wide range of festive activities, including arts and crafts, coloring, a holiday sing-along, and writing personalized letters to Santa. The event was made possible through the generous support of School No. 3 team members, their families, and former School No. 3 high school students, who volunteered their time to decorate, organize activities, and serve refreshments. Their dedication helped create a warm, joyful environment that encouraged meaningful family engagement and quality time between students and their parents, making the event a memorable start to the holiday season.



# Holiday Cheer

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

The School No. 28 community gathered for an unforgettable evening of learning and holiday cheer at our annual *Literacy Night and Tree Lighting* celebration! Families participated in engaging literacy activities that sparked creativity and a love for reading, while students proudly showcased their talents. The evening concluded with the cherished tradition of lighting our holiday tree, filling the school with warmth, joy, and festive spirit.



## Joseph Battin School No. 4

School No. 4 proudly celebrated its Second Annual Ornament Decorating Event, where students and their homeroom teachers came together to create festive ornaments for our school holiday tree. Classrooms were filled with creativity, teamwork, and holiday cheer as each student designed an ornament that reflects our strong sense of community. This growing tradition continues to strengthen relationships, build school spirit, and showcase the artistic talents of our students.



# Holiday Cheer

## Woodrow Wilson School No. 19

School No. 19 kicked off the holiday season with their first Cookies with Santa event, and it was a huge success! Families joined together for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and festive activities. Students enjoyed delicious cookies while waiting for their special moment with Santa. Families also explored holiday craft stations, wrote letters to Santa, enjoyed music, and built with blocks and Legos, filling the room with cheer and creativity. The event was a wonderful celebration of community, bringing together students, families, and staff. Cookies with Santa captured the holiday spirit perfectly, and School No. 19 looks forward to continuing this joyful tradition for years to come.



## Madison Monroe School No. 16

Winter Wonderland was held for Pre-K students, and it was a warm and joyful event. Students enjoyed winter-themed snacks, hot cocoa, and hands-on activities while spending quality time with their families. The event provided a welcoming space for parents to engage with their children and take part in seasonal learning experiences that supported community building and early childhood development.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD

## Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50

Students at School No. 50 got into the spirit of the season, preparing for its holiday concerts and engaging in many fun activities. Students also had a special visit from Santa.



## Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51

Students proudly presented their Home-School Connection Projects to classmates and dressed as the professionals they aspire to be in the future. Parents participated as guest readers, sharing stories about their careers and explaining how their work benefits the community. They explored the concept of our school community and celebrated with a Panda Pride Parade, showcasing unity and school spirit. Students, staff, and parents were recognized with Harmony Awards for promoting harmony within the school. A special moment occurred when Principal Rodriguez was surprised with a plaque expressing gratitude for her hard work and outstanding character.

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

School No. 52 welcomed members of the community who provided a truly memorable visit. Police officers, firefighters, and Chief Deputy Counsel Mrs. Savage-Ford kindly joined to read to our Pre-K students. Their visits introduced the young learners to a variety of future career possibilities and sparked excitement about learning.



# Holiday Cheer

## William F. Halloran School No. 22



## Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



# January is SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Maria Z. Carvalho  
President



Stephanie Goncalves Pestana  
Vice President



Diane Barbosa



Charlene Bathelus



Iliana Chevres



Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel



Jerry D. Jacobs



Rosa E. Moreno Ortega



Isaias J. Rivera

JOIN US THIS MONTH TO **RECOGNIZE** THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF **OUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS** WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY.

Please visit [www.epsnj.org](http://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](mailto:enews@epsnj.org)