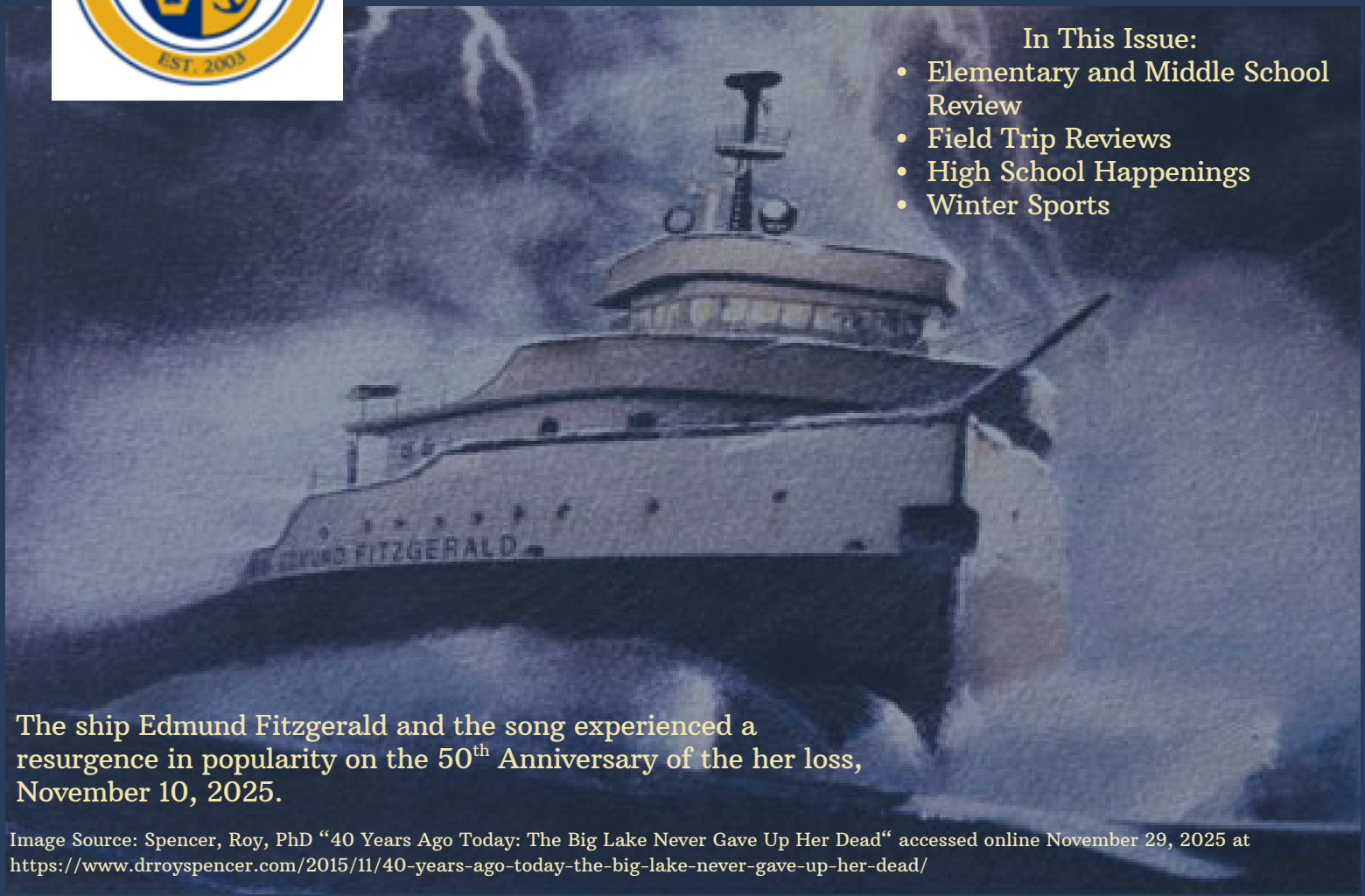
THE MARITIME ANCHOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of
The Maritime Academy Charter School

WINTER 2025-2026

In This Issue:

- Elementary and Middle School Review
- Field Trip Reviews
- High School Happenings
- Winter Sports



The ship Edmund Fitzgerald and the song experienced a resurgence in popularity on the 50th Anniversary of the her loss, November 10, 2025.

Image Source: Spencer, Roy, PhD "40 Years Ago Today: The Big Lake Never Gave Up Her Dead" accessed online November 29, 2025 at https://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/11/40-years-ago-today-the-big-lake-never-gave-up-her-dead/

Maritime Academy Charter ES ▪ 2275 Bridge St. Philadelphia, PA 19137 ▪ Phone: 215.535.4555 I Maritime Academy Charter HS ▪ 2700 E Huntingdon St. Philadelphia, PA 19125 ▪ Phone: 215.427.3090 I Maritime Academy is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax exempt.

Welcome to MACS' First Maritime Coordinator



Maritime Academy Welcomes Andrea Robinson as Maritime Coordinator

Maritime Academy Charter School is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in Maritime's evolution: the appointment of Andrea Robinson to the newly created position of Maritime Coordinator.

This role is a cornerstone of our strategic vision to transition from a school with a "maritime theme" to a true Maritime Academy. Mrs. Robinson's position will support faculty and staff to incorporate authentic and relevant maritime content into our existing K-12 curriculum. Her position will allow teachers to maintain their instructional focus while building a robust maritime identity and providing educational and career exposure opportunities for Cadets.

Mrs. Robinson brings a powerhouse of expertise to our schools. With a degree in Science Education from Virginia Tech and 25 years' experience as a middle and high school science teacher, she possesses a deep understanding of how to make complex concepts accessible and engaging for students.

Beyond the classroom, Andrea is a true mariner. As an active crew member on the Schooner North Wind, she has already spent summers leading our students on overnight nautical adventures. Her passion for the water isn't just academic—it's a lived experience she is eager to share with our cadets.

"Our goal is to be a maritime school in every sense of the word," stated Mrs. Robinson, " This program will provide our Cadets with the tools, experiences, and industry connections they need to navigate their futures."

Building an Enhanced Maritime Program



In developing and executing an enhanced maritime program, Mrs. Robinson will serve as a vital resource for both teachers and administration. To instill an appreciation of our nation's Maritime Heritage via hands-on access to the global transportation industry and history, Mrs. Robinson's primary responsibilities include:

- Curriculum Integration: Designing a complete K-12 "Maritime Map" that outlines what every cadet will learn and experience at each grade level.
- Partnerships & Engagement: Building bridges between our school and the regional maritime industry and community.
- Experiential Learning: Orchestrating hands-on trips that bring the curriculum to life.

Mrs. Robinson will be launching and coordinating our Maritime Calendar with curated age-appropriate opportunities for Cadets:

- Kindergarten and 1st grades: a trip to Churchville Nature Center
- 2nd Grade: New swimming program initiation.
- 3rd Grade: A voyage to the Kalmar Nyckel.
- 4th Grade: a trip to the Schuylkill Nature Center
- 5th Grade: Kayaking expedition on local waterways
- 6th Grade: Exploring the Philadelphia Waterworks.
- 7th Grade: Kayaking expeditions on local waterways.
- 8th Grade: A whale-watching adventure this April.
- 9th Grade: A deep-dive tour of the Port of Philadelphia.
- 10th Grade: Advanced sailing and history aboard the Kalmar Nyckel.
- 11th Grade: College and Career expeditions to SUNY Maritime, Williamson College of the Trades, and the Philadelphia Cruise Terminal.

Mrs. Robinson is also developing after-school sailing and crew opportunities to foster teamwork and competitive spirit on the water.

Elementary and Middle School Review

New and Improved Maritime Signs

Located at the Bridge Street entrance of the Frankford Arsenal



On December 22, 2025, Maritime Academy unveiled two new school signs at the Bridge Street entrance. The reveal was suggested by board member Elizabeth Peterson and coordinated by Maritime staff in conjunction with the Home & School Association.

Cadets that participated in the reveal were treated to pretzels and hot chocolate at the conclusion of the event. Mr. Wilson, CEO, addressed attendees: “The new signs represent much more than the signs themselves. They represent school pride, commitment, and our presence within the community. We will no longer be overshadowed by other signage and our messaging is clear. We are Maritime and we are proud!”

- Mr. Wilson, CEO

Elementary and Middle School Review

New and Improved Maritime Sign

Located at the Bridge Street entrance of the Frankford Arsenal





Elementary and Middle School Review

8th Grade Trip to the Franklin Institute!







Elementary and Middle School Review

8th Grade Trip to the Franklin Institute Continued









Elementary and Middle School Review

Holiday Potluck hosted by Special Events

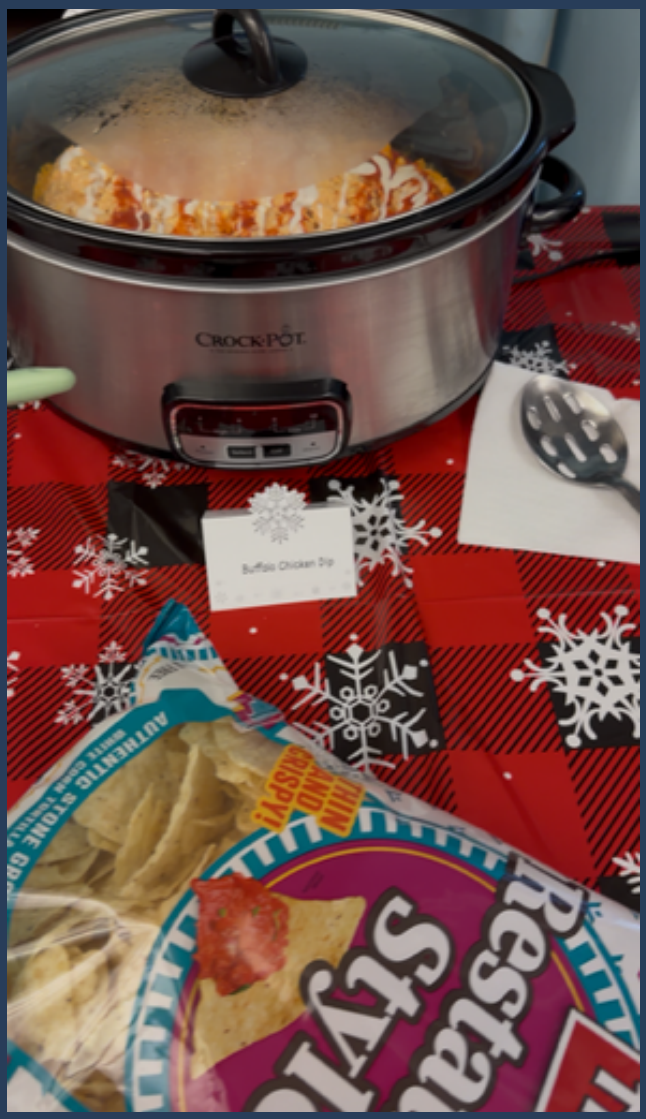
Special Event Coordinators hosted their annual Holiday Potluck, which included a plethora of delicious foods and desserts.



Salmon



BBQ Chicken



Buffalo Chicken Dip

Elementary and Middle School Review

Holiday Potluck hosted by Special Events

Special Event Coordinators hosted their annual Holiday Potluck, which included a plethora of delicious foods and desserts.



Chili



Sausage and Cream Cheese Phyllo Cups



Tandy Cakes



Cookies

And MUCH more!!!

Elementary and Middle School Review

Chess Club with Mr. Rubin!

Chess is a great way to practice strategic thinking and problem solving with new people. Previously led by Mr. Phillips, the club now meets with Mr. Rubin on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the year. The program runs as part of Maritime's after-school CLC offerings. The club currently hosts around twenty students of mixed grades during after-school CLC, many of whom teach or mentor each other.

Mr. Rubin learned from his father how to play the game in elementary school and has come to appreciate chess much more since observing its impact on other young learners. This program aims to build students' mathematical and social problem-solving skills, as well as an awareness of one's own potential to improve. With ready access to chess boards, students learn how to care for shared materials and develop new playing techniques at their level. Chess Club is available to 4-8 CLC students.



Elementary and Middle School Review

Chess Club with Mr. Rubin!

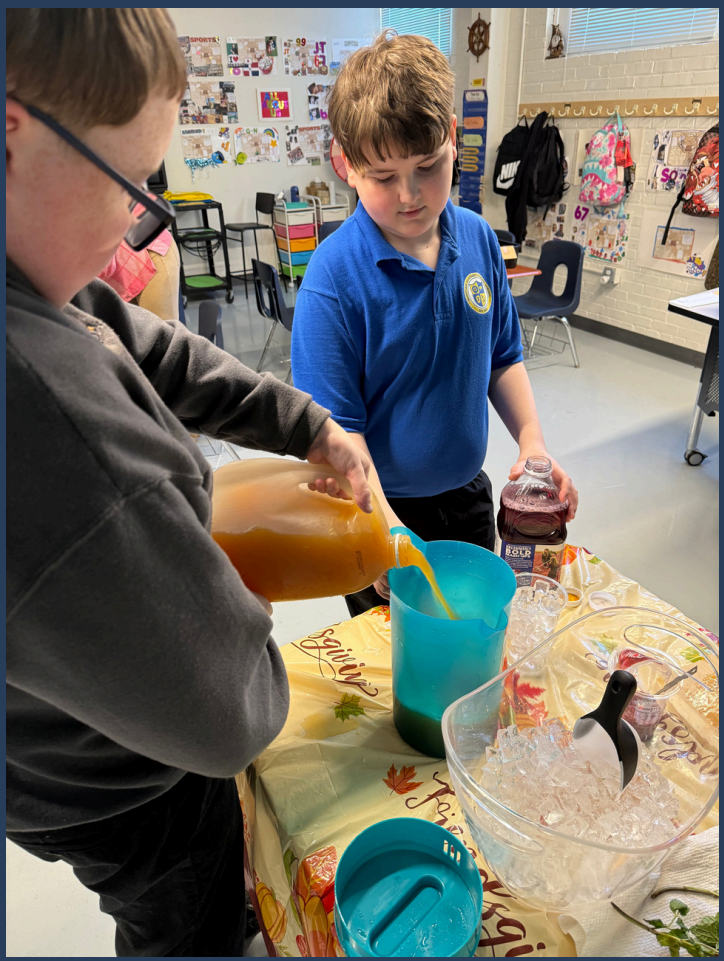


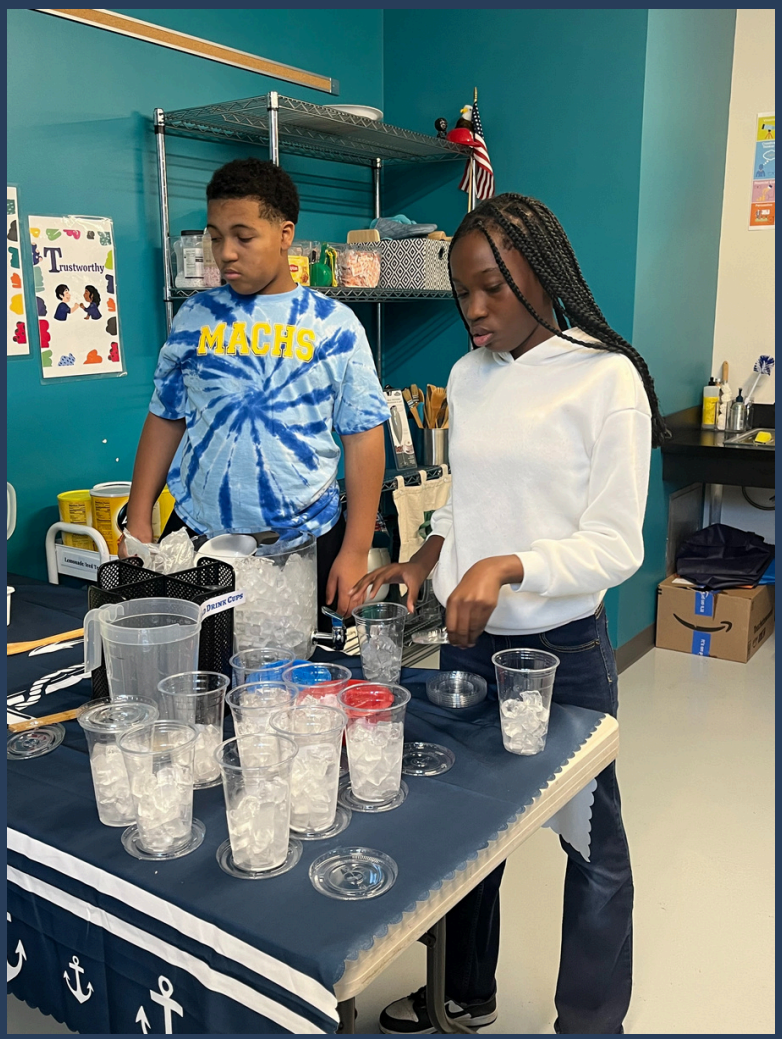


Elementary and Middle School Review

Independent Living

Our independent living crew is working hard! Coffee Crew is a weekly activity that allows teachers to order coffee, tea, and holiday themed drinks that the kids prepare and deliver. There are also shirts that are available for purchase so staff can show their support to these amazing Cadets!

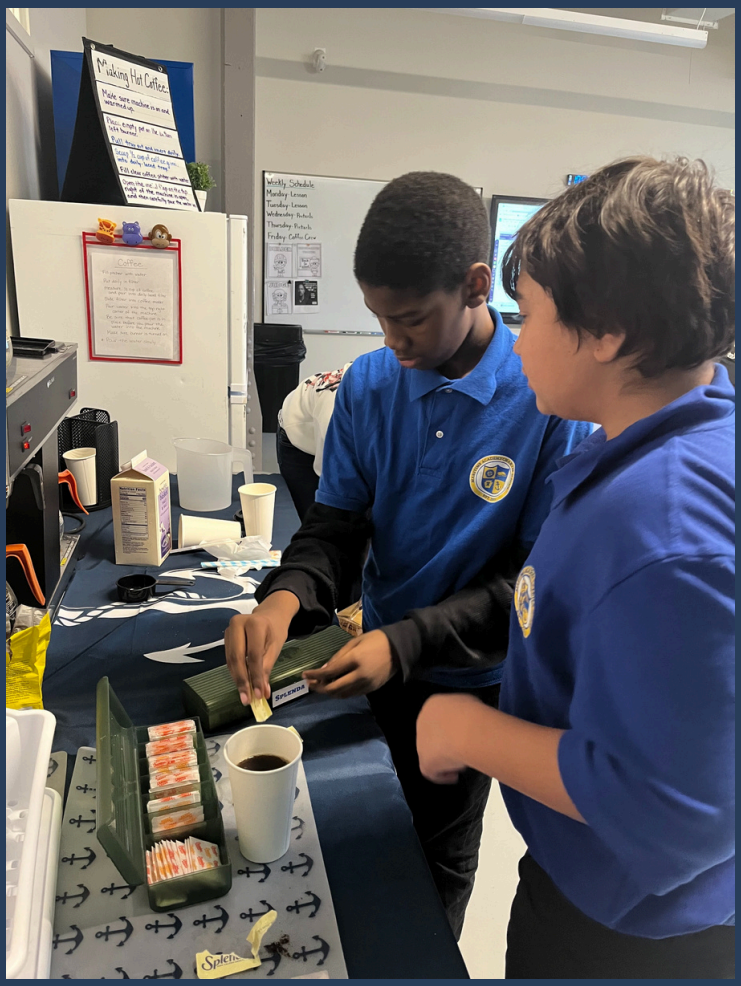




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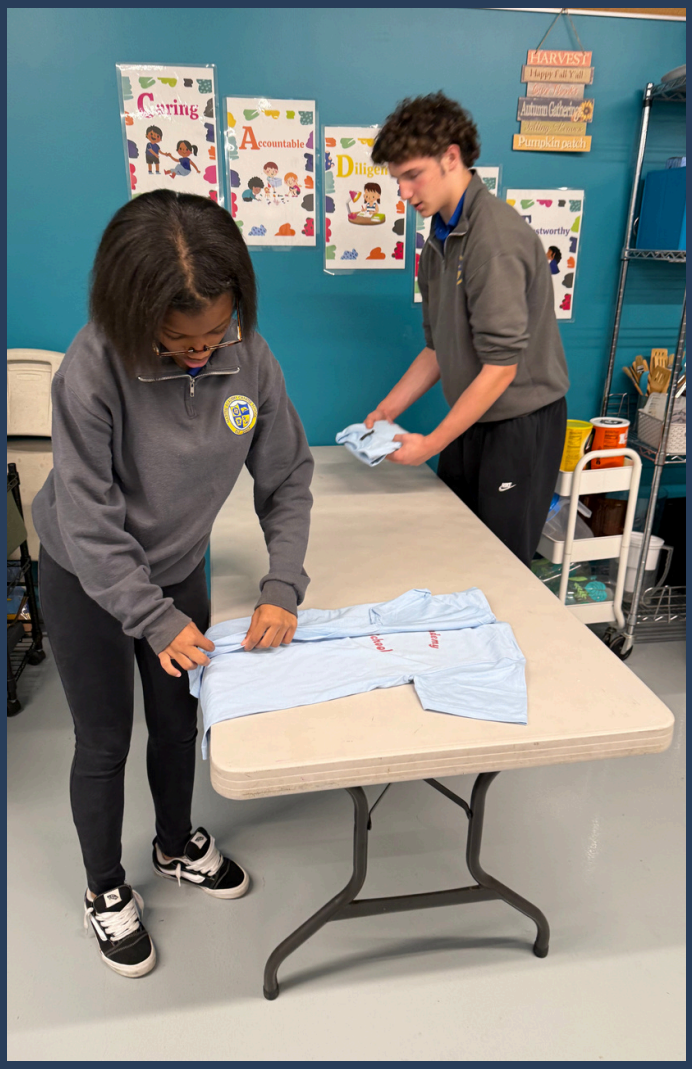


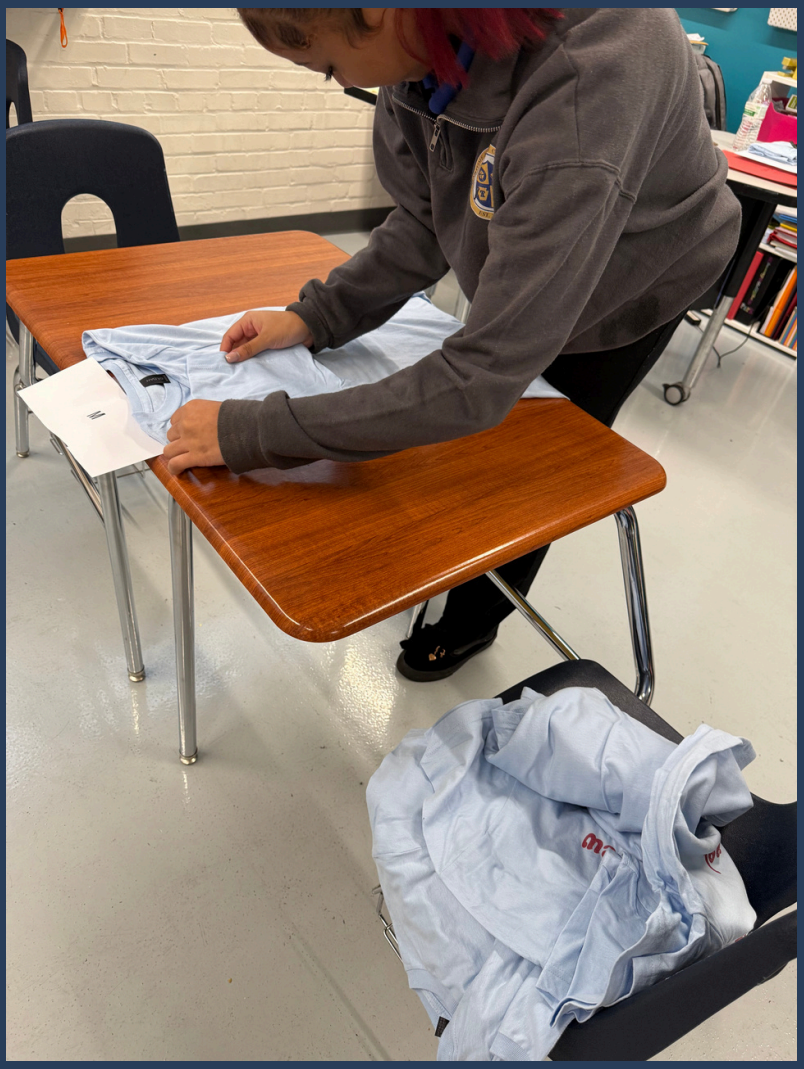


Elementary and Middle School Review

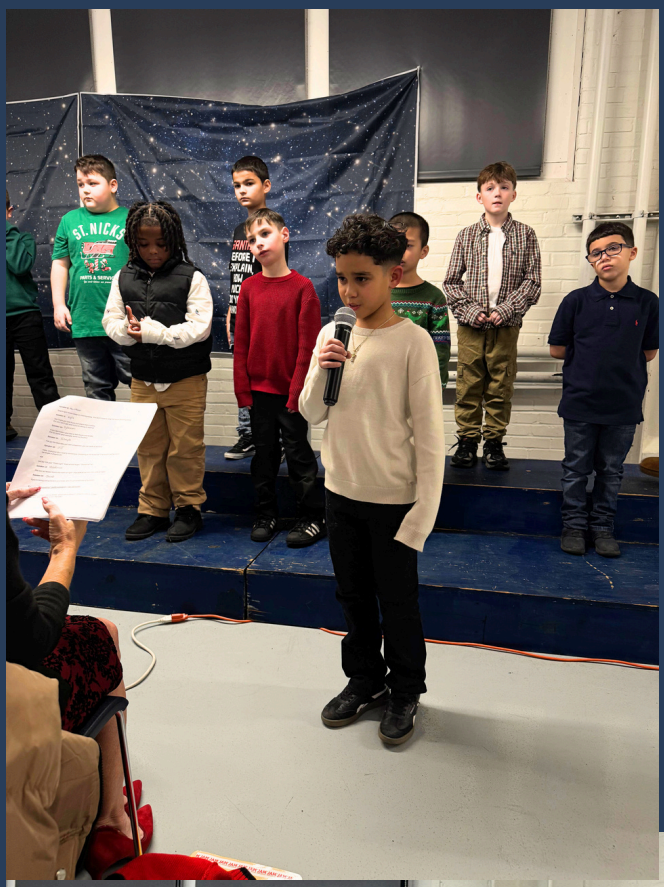
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Holiday Concerts









Holiday Concerts











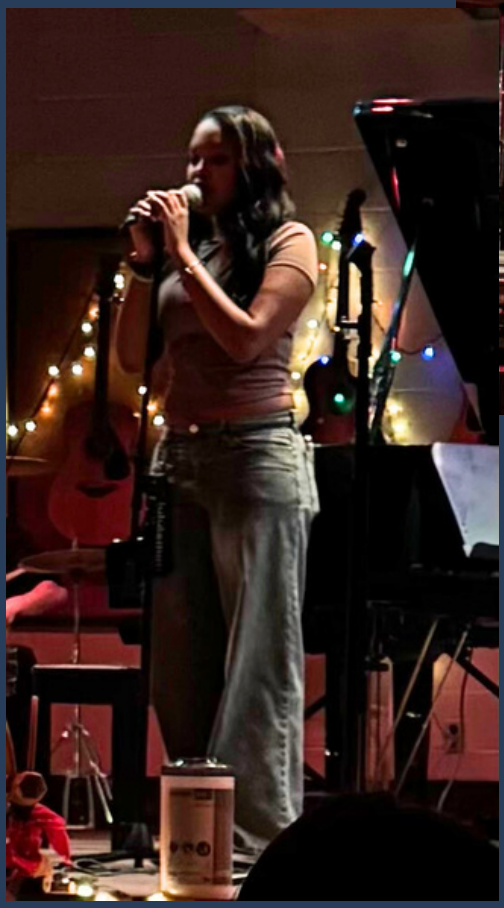


Holiday Concerts











Welcome New Teachers and Roles

My name is Ms. Darby. I am a contracted Special Education Teacher for the self contained 7th and 8th grade classroom 302. I have been teaching for 39 years. I have taught every grade from Pre-K through 12th. I have been teaching in SPED for 18 years. There is not much to tell except that I love what I do. Teaching gives me purpose and a chance to watch the fruits of my labor in real time. I think I love Special Education because the students need so much more of me and I am here for it.



Mr. Rubin teaches 7th grade RELA at Maritime. This is his second year teaching at Maritime after teaching English and Social Studies in Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Rubin drinks lots of coffee and enjoys live music. In his spare time, he can be found drawing or cooking.

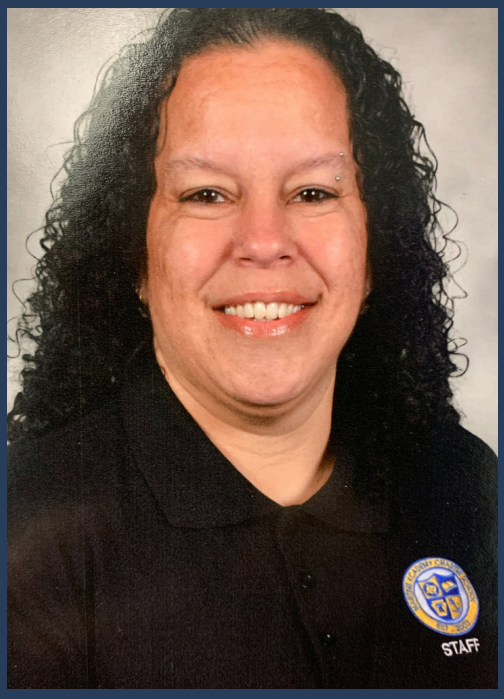


Welcome New Teachers and Roles



My name is Racquel Nosalik and I am the SPED School Counselor for both the elementary and middle schools. I started this past fall at Maritime and I absolutely love working here due to the kindness, welcoming and positivity that I see radiate among the staff, as well as the students! I have been in the mental health field for about fifteen years which allowed me the opportunity to work as a school counselor, as well as an in-home community therapist.

I prefer working in a school setting because I love the school structure, camaraderie among staff and faculty, as well the educational setting. I was born and raised in NJ; where I still currently reside with my two teenage daughters who are in eighth and ninth grade. When I am not at work or running my kids around to their activities/sports; things I like to do include reading, taking long walks, going to the beach, traveling, crafting, and spending time with my family and friends.



Hi Maritime Family, my name is Miss. Cruz. I Started working as a support staff in November. My son Josiah Cruz has been at Maritime since 1st grade and now he is in 6th grade. I enjoy being with my family and playing sports. I also enjoy going to my son Josiah basketball and football games and supporting him. Since I started working for Maritime I have enjoyed meeting and working with you all. I look forward to many more memories with Maritime

Welcome New Teachers and Roles

My name is Ms. Hampton. I teach 6th grade Science here at MACS. This is my first year at Maritime Charter school teaching but 10th year teaching overall. I have plenty of teaching experience from piloting a behavioral alternative school in Dorchester County, MD to teaching 7th & 8th grade science in Wilmington, DE; to running a STEM based after school program for elementary students for several years. I love teaching so much that I've Mastered it with a degree.. :). For fun I enjoy spending time with my children and family, traveling, and giving back to my community.



Like what you see?
Don’t forget to place your order for the 2025-2026 yearbook!

Check out all Maritime Winter Sports schedules and scores at Arbiterlive.com
https://arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=36484

Winter Sports

Girls Varsity Basketball

Photo Essay by Mr. Killian







Winter Sports

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Winter Sports

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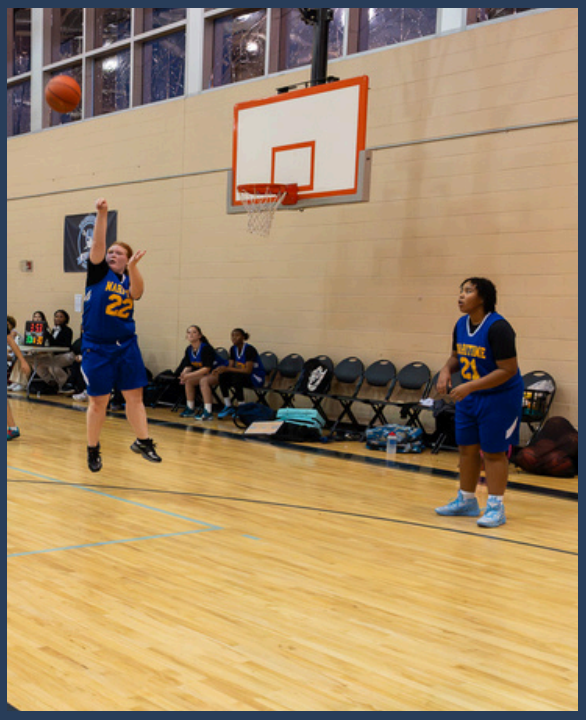


Winter Sports

Girls Varsity Basketball

Photo Essay by Mr. Killian







Winter Sports

Volleyball Wrap-up



Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, proudly wearing their DXII Single A Championship jackets. The team defeated Motivation High School in a thrilling five-set match, winning 3–2 to claim the 1A Championship. The victory was led by seniors Jaycie Clark, Taliyah Holmes-Lyles, and Amber Pickels. Head Coach Elicia Lukasienski became emotional when asked about losing several seniors, stating, “I am really going to miss all of them—they played their hearts out. But I am excited to see what our nucleus of young talent will do next season."





Winter Sports

Varsity Basketball







Winter Sports

Varsity Basketball







Winter Sports









Check out all Maritime Winter Sports schedules and scores at Arbiterlive.com

https://arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=36484

High School Happenings

Halloween Dance and Senior Swap Day











High School Happenings

9th Grade Merit Based Field Trip to FunPlex

9th graders with perfect attendence visited FunPlex indoor amusement park in November. Cadets and teachers had the run of the place; they bowled, played arcade games, rode carnival rides, and go carts for the day!









High School Happenings

9th Grade Merit Based Field Trip to FunPlex











High School Happenings

9th Grade Merit Based Field Trip to FunPlex











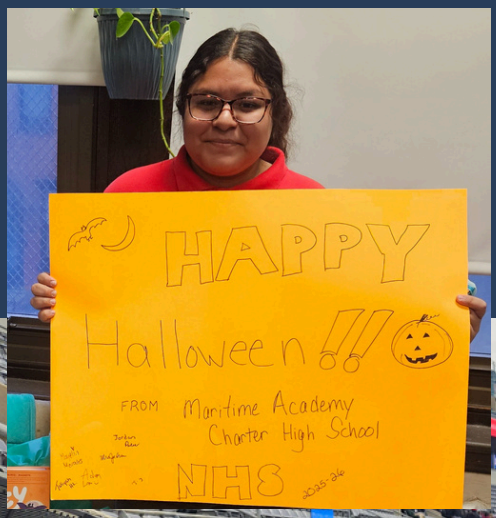
High School Happenings

National Honors Society

National Honors Society Cadets collected and donated more than $200 worth of books and supplies for St. Christopher's Children's Hospital. NHS members attended the HBCU college fair and football game afterward!

Pictured: James Jackson, Adam Lam, Jeremy Gonzalez, Ashley Lopez, Jordan Parker Cameron Small, Sam Liu, Alex Elliot, Taliyah Holmes Kyle, Jamie Arroyo, Andres Chavez Mejia, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Lopez.







High School Happenings

National Honors Society

Mrs. Jackson took National Honors Society members to the NHS trip to the Funny Farm Animal Rescue and Sanctuary in Mays Landing, NJ. Funny Farm is an animal sanctuary for abused, unwanted, and/or special needs animals. They are a nonprofit and have about 700 animals! NHS Cadets helped feed the animals and gave them much needed love.







High School Happenings

National Honors Society Trip to the Funny Farm







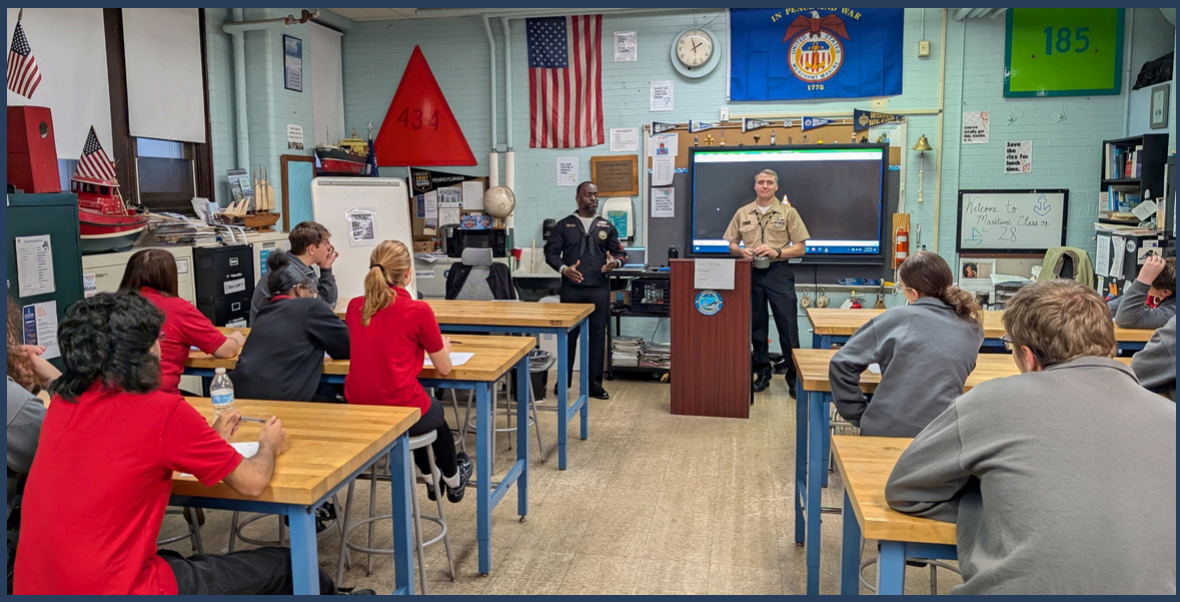
Participants included:
James Jackson,
Jeremy Gonzalez,
Ashley Lopez,
Jordan Parker
Cameron Small,
Sam Liu,
Alex Elliot,
Taliyah Holmes Lyle,
Jamie Arroyo,
Andres Chavez Mejia,
Brittani Dixon,
Lucciana Olmo,
May Morales,
Al Amin Burrell,
Natalie Munoz,
Jasandra Figueroa,
and LIz Filoon



High School Happenings

Career Awareness

Cadets in Mr. Kennedy's Marine Careers Class learned about careers in the U.S. Navy during a recruiter visit.



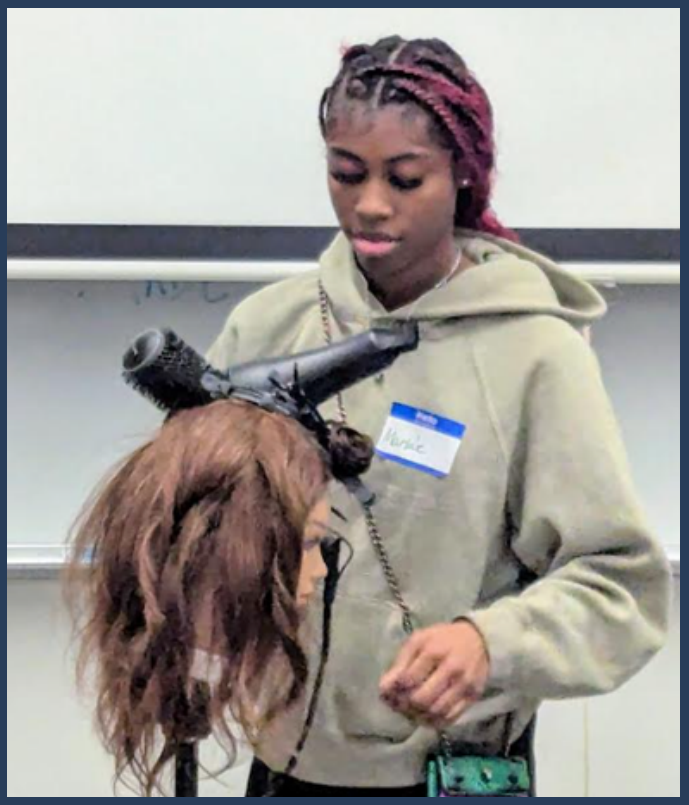
Students visited the Community College of Philadelphia to explore its programs and areas of study, and even had the chance to apply for the fall 2026 semester.



High School Happenings

Career Awareness

Cadets visited the Jean Madeline Aveda Institute to explore paths in cosmetology and esthetics through a tour, live demonstrations, and an information session. They left with a clearer understanding of training and career opportunities in the field.









High School Happenings



Career Awareness

Students visited Orleans Technical Institute to check out career options and certification programs in HVAC, plumbing, carpentry, building maintenance, electricity, and practical nursing. The trip provided them with a hands-on experience of what training for these in-demand fields is truly like.

Students were also given "magic money" for the vending machine for their positive behavior and active participation.



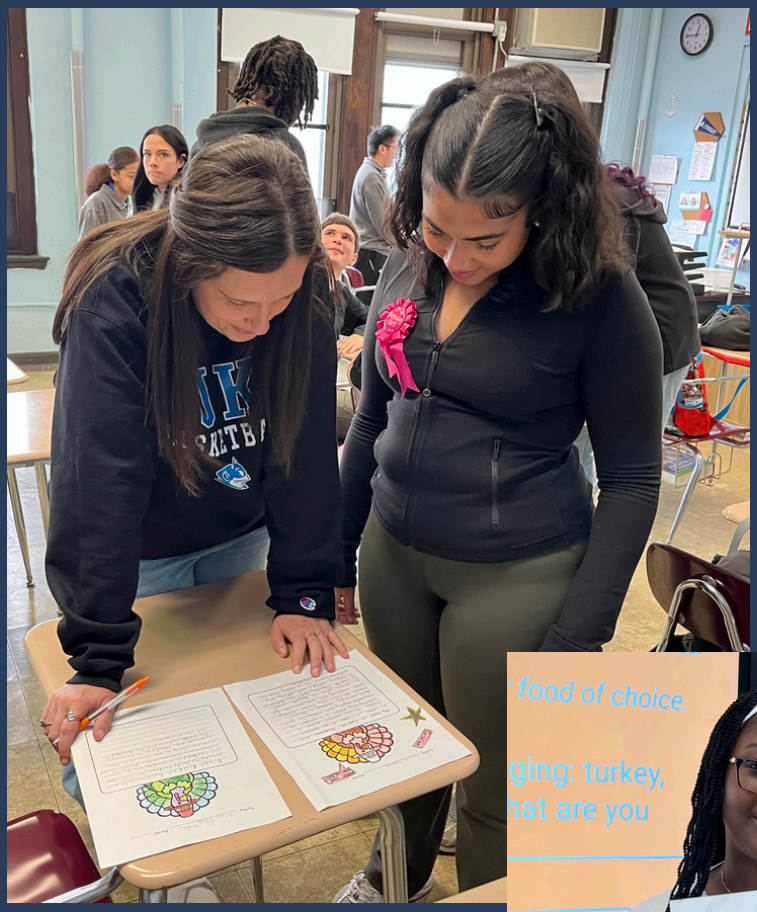
High School Happenings

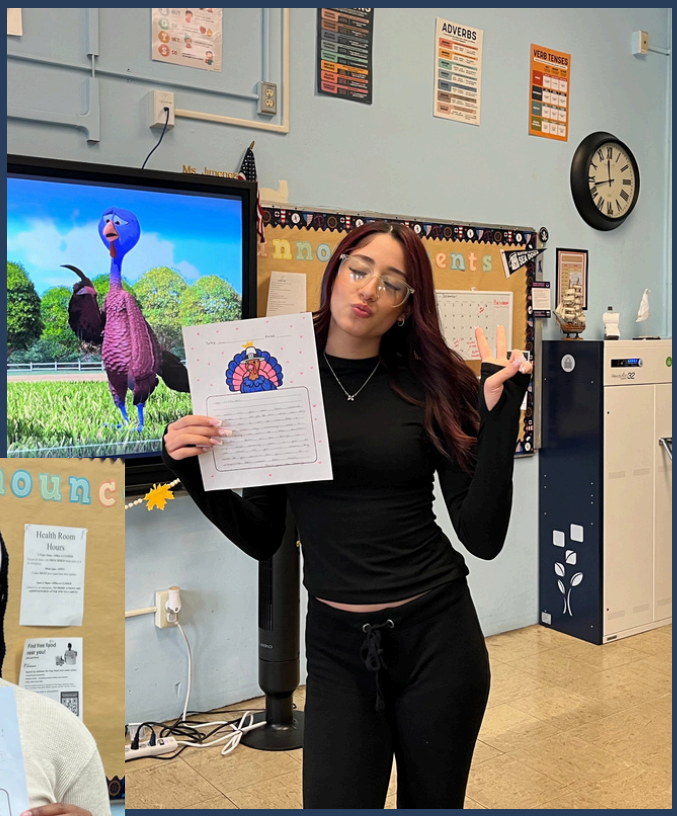
Feathers Fly as Seniors Face Presidential Pardon

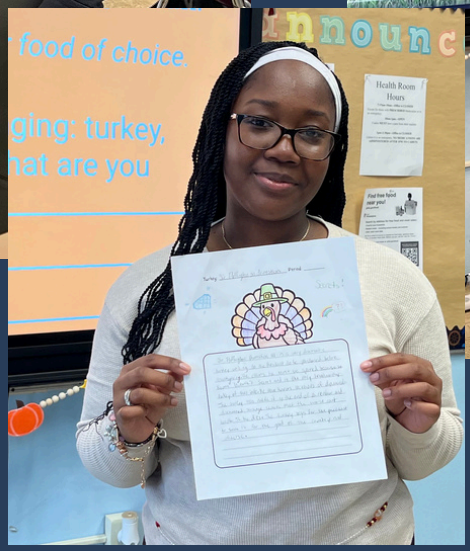
This Thanksgiving, seniors were on the menu in Ms. Jimenez's English IV class. These turkey-seniors worked diligently on essays attempting to convince President Jimenez to pardon them from this fowl holiday.

--Ms. Jimenez







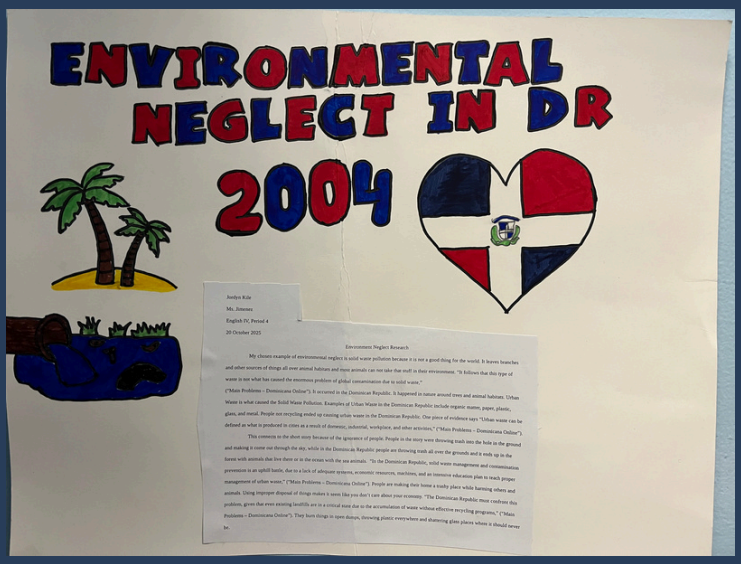


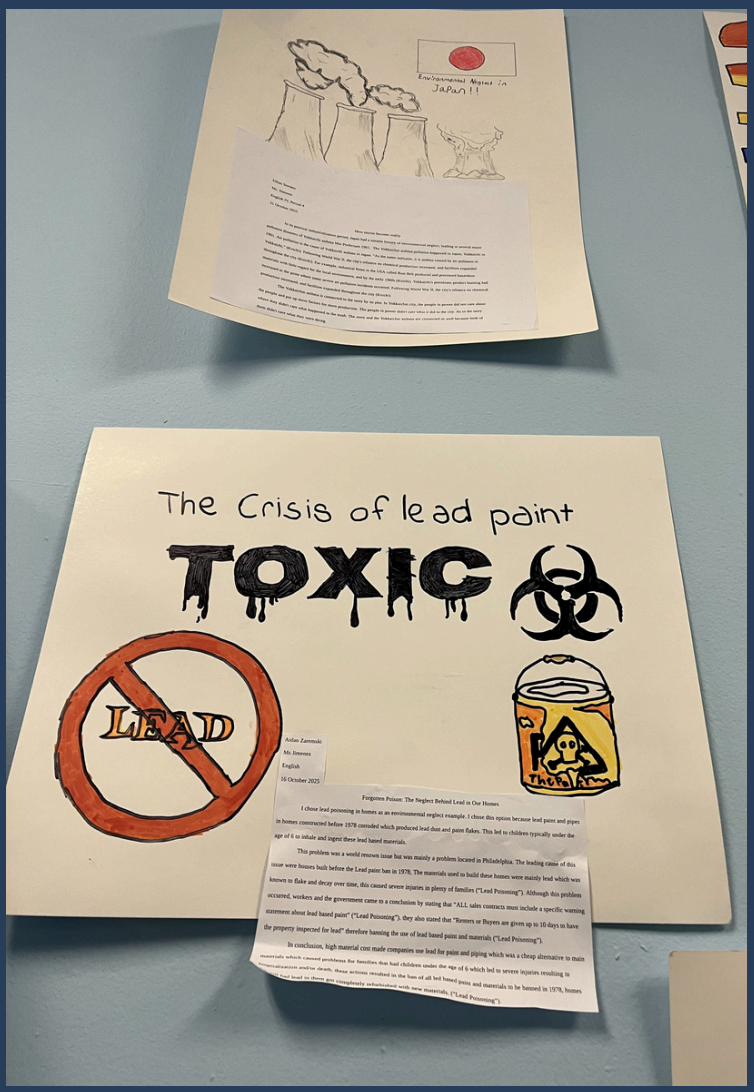
High School Happenings

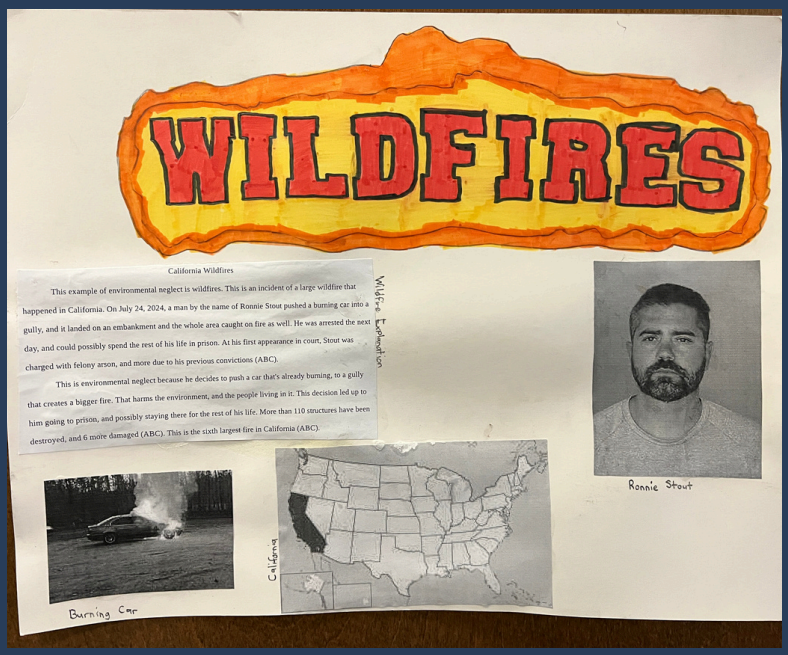
Environmentally Unfriendly: Seniors' Research on Environmental Neglect Around the World

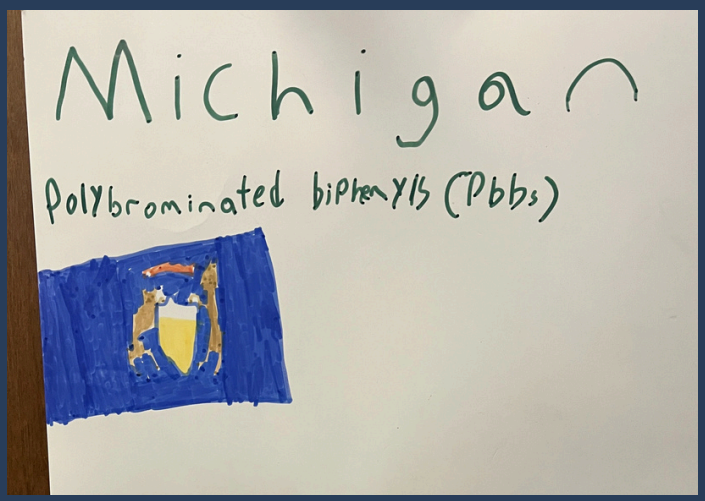
Seniors read Shinichi Hoshi's "Hey Come on Out," a fictional story about human greed and its impact on the environment. After reading, seniors created reports on examples of environmental neglect around the world.

--Ms. Jimenez









High School Happenings

A Streetcar Named Desire Scene 3: Poker Night

AP Composition and Literature Seniors experienced dramatic tension and character-building first-hand when they performed the poker game from Scene 3 from "A Streetcar Named Desire." The stakes were high as round winners quizzed losers with AP-style questions.









High School Happenings

A Streetcar Named Desire
Scene 3: Poker Night, cont'd.





High School Happenings

Food Drive

Our 4th annual food drive has officially come to a close, and I'm excited to share that we donated 183 items to Lutheran Settlement House. We are proud that we collected even more items than last year, allowing us to support more families in our community. Lutheran Settlement House provides vital services, including support for the homeless and victims of domestic violence, as well as essential food access.

Our contributions will help support:

- Free community meals served in a welcoming, restaurant-style setting for neighbors who rely on this program.
- Holiday food packages for families in need, ensuring they have meals during special times of the year.
- A fully stocked food pantry, available at no cost to community members.

In addition to our donation to Lutheran Settlement House, we also provided a box of food to our elementary school to help support their food pantry.





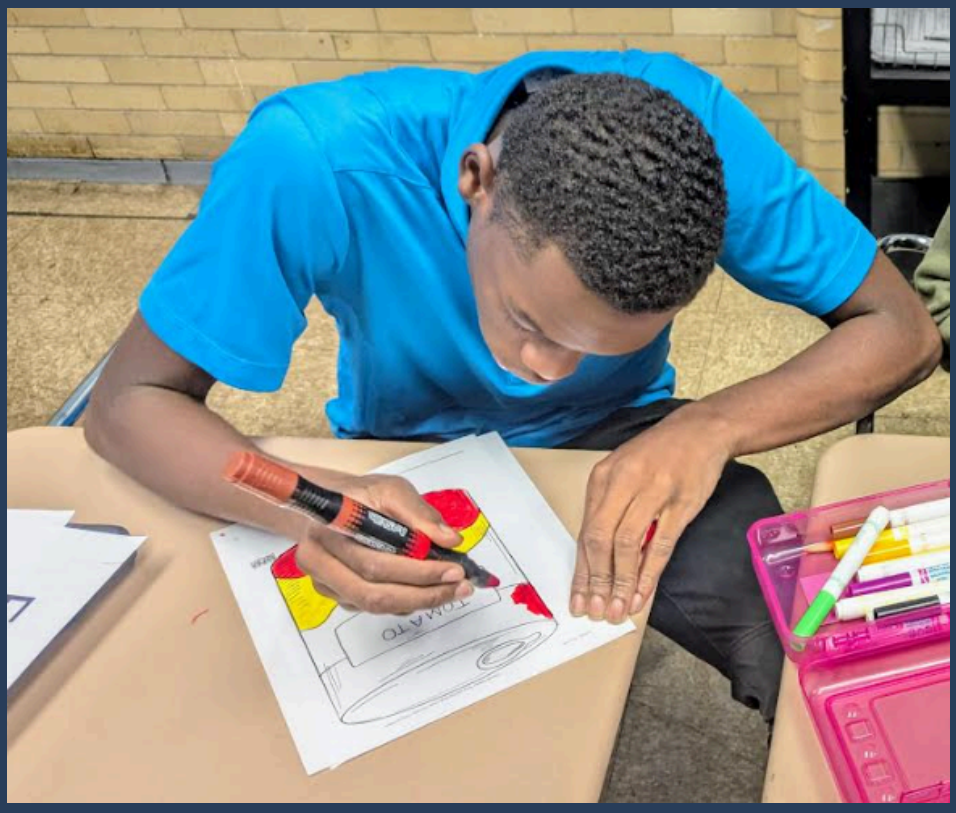
A special congratulations to Ms. Jimenez and her cadets, our overall winners this year! And a big shout-out to Mr. Drain and Mr. Lerro, who came in second and third place. Your generosity truly made a difference.

High School Happenings

Food Drive, continued





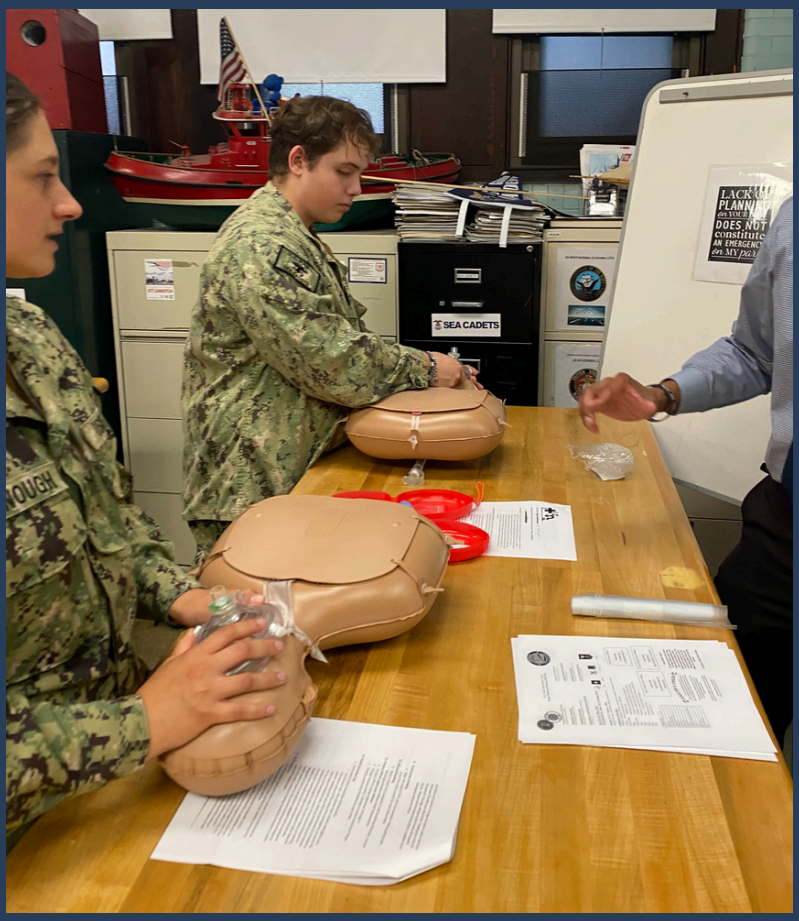


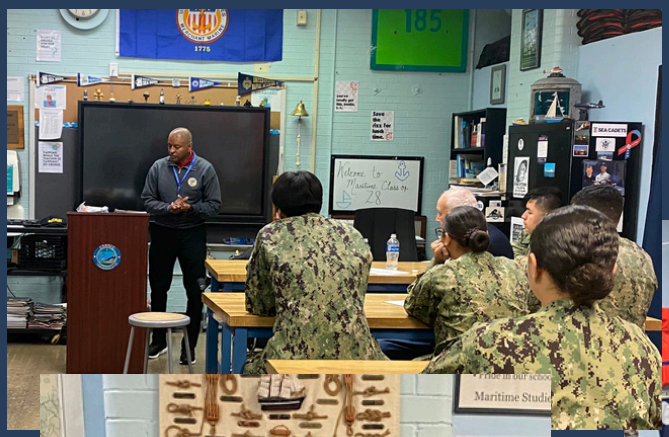
High School Happenings

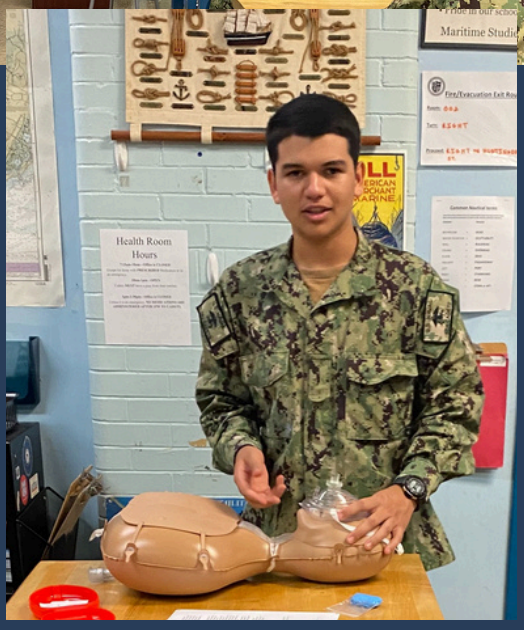
Sea Cadets

Sea Cadets took their CPR certification training with Commander Washington in November. All Sea Cadets are now certified CPR providers.











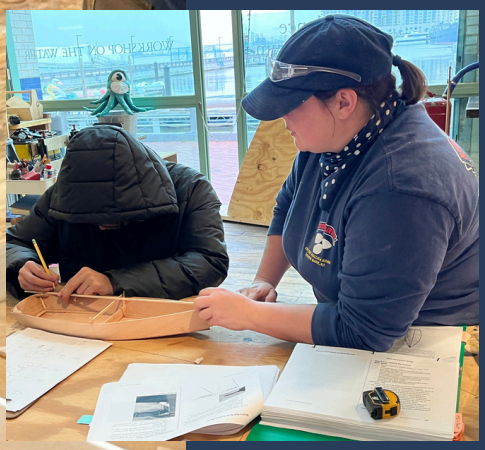
Boatbuilding Update

Basic Class continued to make progress on their ⅛ scale skiff models. The class ended in January, and enrollment for Spring Semester begins the last week of January--no experience needed!









Boatbuilding Update



The Advanced class worked on the Durham boat, a replica of the lumber scow used to ferry General Washington's troops across the Delaware River during the Revolutionary War.



High School Happenings

Kinesthetic Learning at the High School



Jeremy and Jeremiah Dones show off their 3D printed and hand-painted model of a cell for Mrs. Ebron's 9th grade Biology Class.

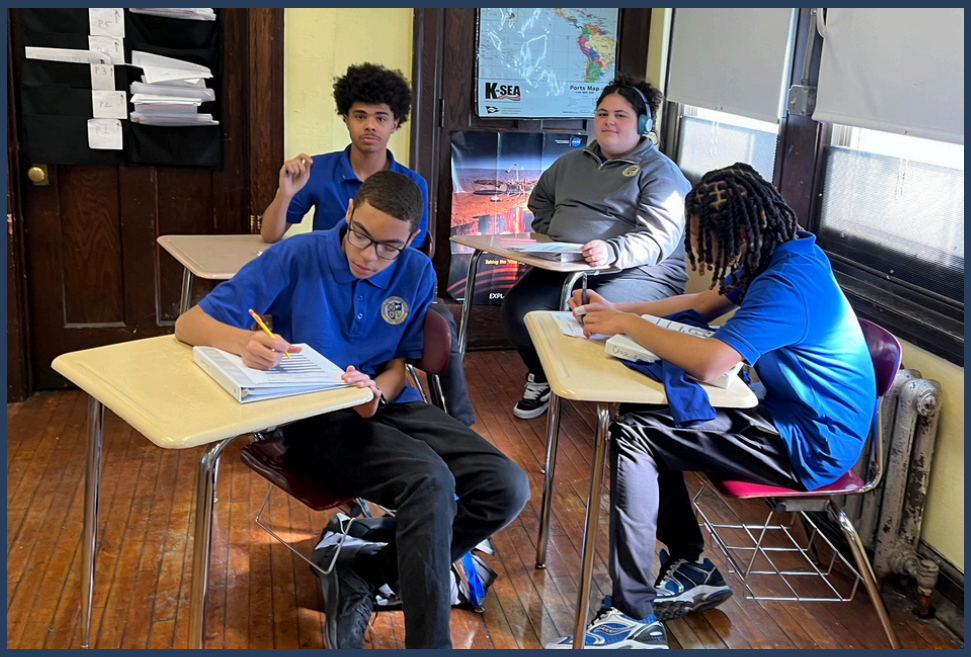


Another Cadet's interpretation of the assignment: an edible cupcake version of the cell!



Sophomore Yinet Torres displays her art from Mr. Rod's Art class.

High School Happenings



9th grade Cadets work in small groups as they begin a "Lost-at-Sea" activity for their Maritime Unit.





Seaperch group develop this year's competition vehicle "Hercules" from their 3D design.



Thank you

to all our photo contributors this month!

Mr. Mattioni
Ms. Harvey
Mr. Killian
Mrs. Ferrigno
Mr. Gosse
Mr. Ballenger
Coach Schultz
Mrs. Lukasienski

Get Involved!

Please send photos, news briefs, articles, class activities, sports, or SeaDog shout-outs to:

theanchor@maritimecharter.org

THE ANCHOR Invites you to contribute to the next issue! Write about your sport, a club you belong to or a school event you attended. We would love to hear about it!