

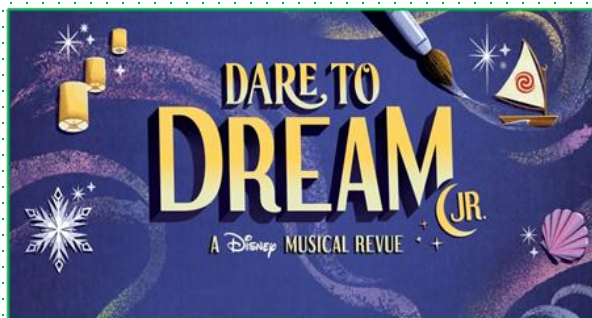
Excellence News

February 2026



School No. 7 Presents "Dare to Dream Jr."

Under the direction of Mrs. Camuccio, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Rodriguez, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7's third through eighth grade dance and performing arts students presented "Dare to Dream Jr.", a Disney Musical Revue! The performance celebrated students' growth in acting, dancing, singing, and technical theater skills.



Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50



Students created a **Peace Tree** to honor the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The tree symbolizes *friendship, love, and kindness!*

Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51



A hands-on **Chick Hatching Project** led by Farmer Will introduced children to the basic agricultural science. Students observed eggs in an incubator, watched chicks hatch, and recorded their observations with drawings and new vocabulary.

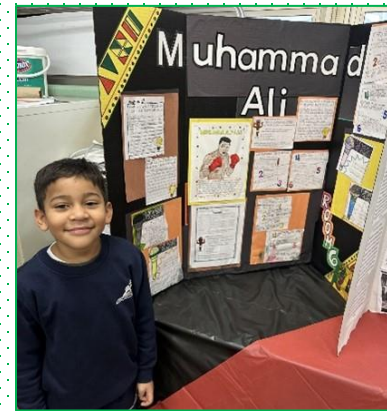
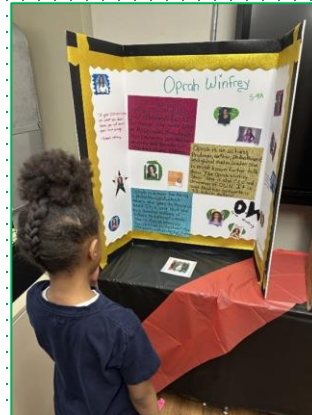
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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



During **African American Heritage Month**, the preschoolers explored the legacies of heroes like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson to foster kindness and respect for diversity. A special highlight featured Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space. Through rocket-building and "pretend missions," the children learned the power of dreaming big. By celebrating her courage and determination, the young learners discovered that with hard work, anything is possible!

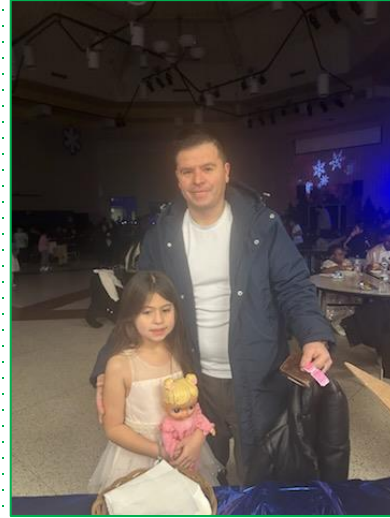
Joseph Battin School No. 4



The school community is proud to present the **2nd Annual Gallery Walk**, a "living museum" spanning the Main and Annex buildings. To create this exhibit, students collaborated to research historical icons and modern changemakers. Their vibrant displays showcase the powerful achievements and contributions that continue to shape the world. Each class will have the opportunity to tour the gallery and celebrate the incredible creativity and hard work of these young scholars.



Robert Morris School No. 18



Young learners took part in the annual **Snowflake Dance**. Students and parents enjoyed an evening filled with music and danced the night away with school community. You can witness all of the smiling faces in the photos!

Victor Mravlag School No. 21



On February 6, **Jack Hartmann** brought learning to life with a personalized virtual concert for PreK through 2nd grade students. His performance featured a variety of engaging educational songs that support early literacy, math skills, social emotional development, and listening skills. Through music and movement, students were encouraged to actively participate, creating a joyful and memorable experience that combined learning and entertainment. The concert was highly interactive, with students singing along, moving their bodies, and responding to prompts throughout the performance. The energy and enthusiasm were felt in every classroom, and students were visibly excited and engaged from beginning to end., enjoying every moment of it.

Elmora School No. 12

Ms. Poyotte's second and third grade Special Needs students recently visited Ms. Pena's third grade Advanced Bilingual Class (ABL) to plant squash, yams, and milkweed in the school garden. This collaborative activity gave students the opportunity to work side by side, learning about gardening, teamwork, and the importance of caring for our environment. Students are especially excited to watch the garden grow throughout the year. By planting milkweed, they are helping create a welcoming habitat for monarch butterflies.

The **Elmora School Garden** will soon become a vibrant space where students can observe monarchs living and thriving right in their own schoolyard. Together, the Eagle Gardeners are planting more than seeds—they're planting curiosity, responsibility, and community.



Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23



On February 11, members of the Omega Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated generously presented **Winter Warmth Kits** to the students. The kits, which included hats and gloves, were proudly received by our Butler Ambassadors on behalf of the student body.

In addition to the Winter Warmth Kits, Omega Psi Omega donated school supplies to further support scholars. Based in Elizabeth, the chapter is committed to improving the lives of others through impactful programming that serves Elizabeth and surrounding communities. **For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org*

iPrep Academy School No. 8



iPrep Academy would like to say Nǐ hǎo, which is “hello” in Chinese as they celebrate the **Chinese New Year** (Lunar New Year) on February 17. Students will commemorate the rich, vibrant culture, tradition, and history of China. They are learning about different themes including family, luck, and new beginnings through the creation of different crafts such as lanterns, red envelopes, and symbolic foods. Students will engage in an immersive, joyful, and inclusive learning experience. 新年快乐 (Xīnnián kuàilè) Happy Chinese New Year from iPrep Academy School No 8.



William F. Halloran School No. 22



On February 12, William F. Halloran School welcomed the newest members of the **National Junior Honor Society** Class of 2026. The evening celebrated students who exemplify the core pillars of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. It was a proud moment as these young leaders took their pledge before an audience of families and educators. The school looks forward to the continued growth and leadership of these exceptional students. Congratulations to the Class of 2026! **For more photos, please visit www.epnsj.org*

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

School No. 26 recently hosted a successful **Uniform Swap and Lost & Found** event that brought everyone together in support of one another while promoting sustainability. The event reunited many long-lost hoodies, jackets, and lunch bags with their rightful owners and provided gently used uniform items with new homes. Initiatives like this not only reduce waste but also strengthen our sense of collective responsibility and care. Most importantly, they help ensure that every student has what they need to feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn. Thank you to the volunteers and families whose support made the event a success. The day was a powerful reminder that small, coordinated community efforts can have a meaningful and lasting impact.



Chessie Dentley Academy School No. 30



Students participated in a Black History Month Wax Museum, where they researched influential historical figures, created tri-fold display boards, and memorized short biographies to present as “living exhibits.” The school’s Jazz Band and Choir performed blues and civil rights era selections to enhance the experience. Families, teachers, and community members were invited to tour the museum and celebrate the rich history and contributions of African Americans. **For more photos, please visit www.epsnj.org*

Juan Pablo Duarte–José Julián Martí School No. 28



School No. 28 proudly celebrated Children’s Dental Health Month with the theme “**Bright Smiles, Bright Futures!**” The school welcomed representatives from Colgate, who delivered engaging, age-appropriate dental health lessons to student. The presentation emphasized the importance of proper brushing, flossing, healthy eating, and maintaining good oral hygiene. Following the presentation, free dental screenings were provided, offering families valuable insight into their children’s dental health. Students left with dental care kits, new knowledge, and a strong reminder that healthy habits begin early.

Christopher Columbus School No. 15 Annex



The **Colgate Bright Smiles Program** provided students with oral health education, free dental screenings, connection with follow up care and encouragement of health habits at home. Inside the van, volunteer dentists or dental professionals did visual dental screenings for our students. They received referrals for a dentist if something needed a follow-up as well as oral-care tools and educational materials to take home.



Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5

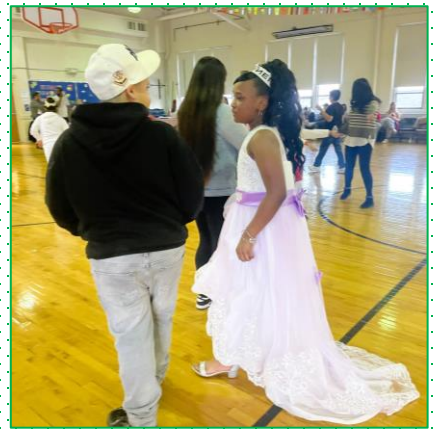
On February 11, fifth grade students participated in the **MADD Power of Me** assembly, an engaging prevention program that promotes healthy decision-making, substance awareness, and personal responsibility. The presentation encouraged students to recognize their power to make safe choices and lookout for themselves and others. School No. 5 is proud of their students for their thoughtful participation and commitment to positive habits.



MADD'S POWER OF ME PROGRAM AT MABEL G. HOLMES



Madison - Monroe School No. 16



On February 9, the school continued its annual tradition for Grades K-5 with the **Someone Special and Me Dance**. This cherished event welcomed fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, or any meaningful person in a child's life to enjoy an evening of dancing together. Students and their special guests made lasting memories as they took photos and enjoyed cupcakes and other sweet treats. The school community came together to celebrate connection, joy, and family in all its forms. It was a heartwarming night that students will surely remember for years to come.



John Marshall School No. 20



School No. 20 had its first **Sound-Bowl Therapy** program, led by Kris Silvestry from Peace of Mind Wellness Center. Through this experience, students learned self-regulation strategies that could easily be done from a classroom desk. The entire John Marshall community engaged in 20 minutes of sound bowls resulting in pure relaxation. Teachers shared with mental health staff that following the sound bowl session, students appeared to be more engaged and focused for teaching and learning. The John Marshall team is incredibly grateful to Ms. Wilson of the Kimberly Anne Wilson Foundation for her generous sponsorship of this event.

Madison - Monroe School No. 16



During the month of February, School Social Worker Mr. Luciano delivered classroom SEL lessons to kindergarten students focused on the character trait of **Kindness**. Students learned why kindness matters and how everyone deserves to be treated with care and respect. They listened to the story *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller and participated in a fun game of Kindness Bingo, where 2–3 students from each class won a prize. Students also practiced identifying real-life opportunities to show kindness in their classrooms, homes, and community.

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy Annex



John E. Dwyer Technology Academy was awarded “**Model Level**” from the National Academy Foundation (NAF). NAF is a nationwide organization that connects high school students with professional industry training and networking to make learners “future ready”. Ninth grade students were invited to the main building to tour the classrooms and learn from the upper-classmen about the courses they will take during their high school tenure. Students were able to operate robots, view the recording studio and see a demonstration of Ethernet connectivity in the NAF classroom. What better way for students to get “future ready” than to see your immediate future in your own high school? The Dwyer Technology Academy NAF courses are ready to receive the next group of students who are ready to begin training for their future today.

Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy Annex



Students demonstrated outstanding leadership, service, and compassion by donating more than **400 food items to the St. Joseph’s Social Service Center** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Through their generosity and teamwork, they brought Dr. King’s message of service to life, and made a meaningful, lasting impact on the community. This inspiring act of kindness reflects the school’s core values of empathy, responsibility, and civic pride and highlights the students’ strong commitment to helping others.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Mrs. Ali's AP Environmental Science Classes, participated in the **Cookie Mining Lab** Activity. The cookie mining lab is a hands-on STEM activity that simulates mining operations to teach environmental science, economics, and engineering. It challenges students to extract "mineral" (chocolate chip) resources from a "land" (cookie) while managing costs, maximizing profit, and minimizing environmental damage (reclamation). This lab activity taught students about the environmental, economic, and operational realities of mining nonrenewable resources. By "mining" chocolate chips from cookies using tools like toothpicks, students learn to balance costs (equipment, time) against profits while experiencing the challenges of land reclamation, waste management, and sustainability. The students had fun doing this activity but also learned a great deal about the environmental costs of mining!



Congratulations to Steven Blair who has been awarded the prestigious **W.E.B. Du Bois Scholarship**, an honor recognizing his academic excellence and leadership potential. Through the ALA initiative, the Du Bois Scholars Institute connects high-achieving students with a professional STEM network designed to foster the next generation of diverse innovators. This milestone supports Steven's aspirations to pursue a career in psychology or medicine. The community celebrates Steven's hard work and looks forward to his future contributions to the field.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex

Mr. Luzio and Mr. Nicoletta have received the **Gold Level Recognition Award from the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program**. This highlights their leadership and commitment to creating a safer, and healthier school community. The Gold Award is given to schools that go above and beyond in promoting walking and biking, discussing safety about riding bikes in school areas, and encouraging students to be more active outside of school. The program, supported by EZ Ride and the New Jersey Department of Transportation, recognizes schools that make real, long-term improvements for students and families.



Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy



February has been a month filled with celebration, culture, and community at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy. In honor of **Black History Month**, students and staff participated in a variety of meaningful activities, including a Black History Month Door Decorating Contest, daily morning announcements recognizing influential African Americans, and a student-created display organized by the Multicultural Club outside the main office. The celebration continues with “The Culture Speaks” Shirt Day on February 27, encouraging everyone to wear shirts reflecting Black contributions to music, language, art, fashion, film, sports, and innovation. Valentine’s Day festivities also brought school spirit and kindness to the building. Students created a festive display and organized a Valentine’s Day Gram initiative, for which ninth graders purchased goodies for friends, classmates, significant others, and staff members, with student volunteers assisting in deliveries. The “Love Is in the Air” Shirt Day promoted friendship and community, while a staff led initiative strengthened staff–student connections through anonymous acts of appreciation. In addition, students recognized School Counselor Appreciation Week (February 2–6) by creating heartfelt thank-you notes to honor the support and guidance of our counselors.

Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy



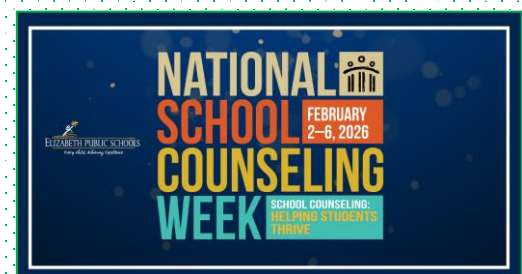
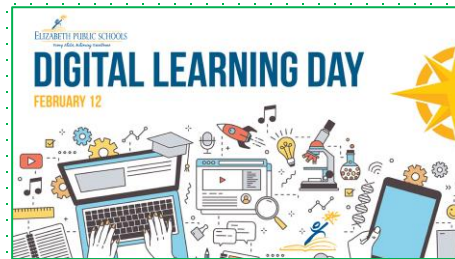
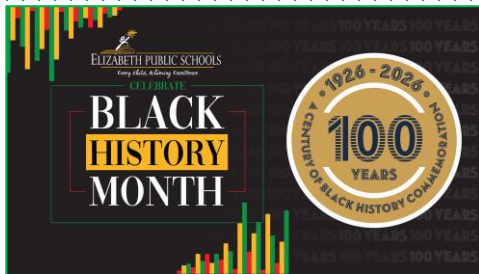
During a school assembly, poet, author, and disability advocate **LeDerick Horne** shared his experience growing up with a learning disability and talked with students about the power of asking for help and navigating challenges both in and out of the classroom. This presentation is part of the EPIC program which is working to empower students, families, and team members within Elizabeth Schools.

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy



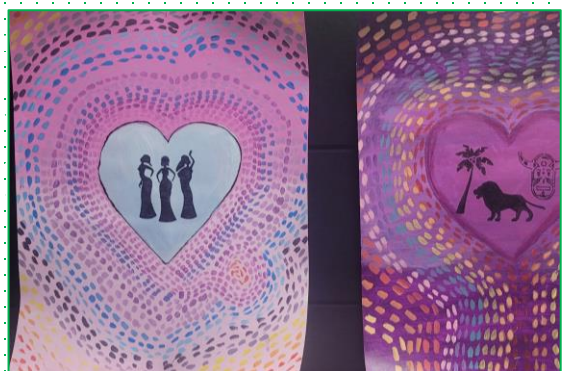
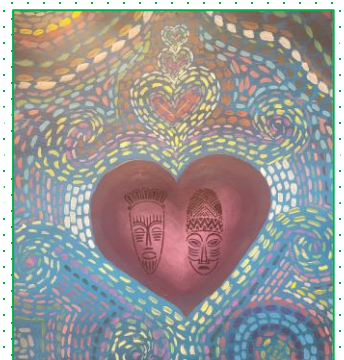
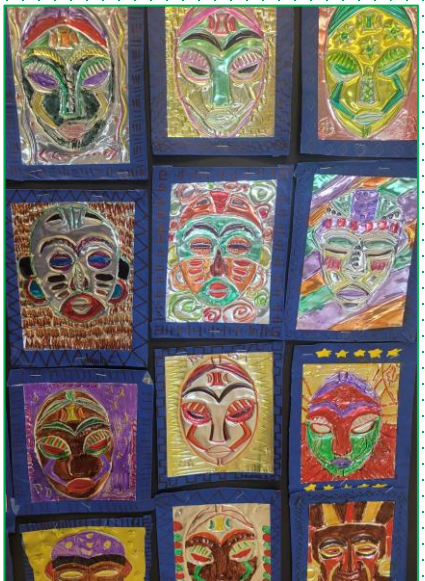
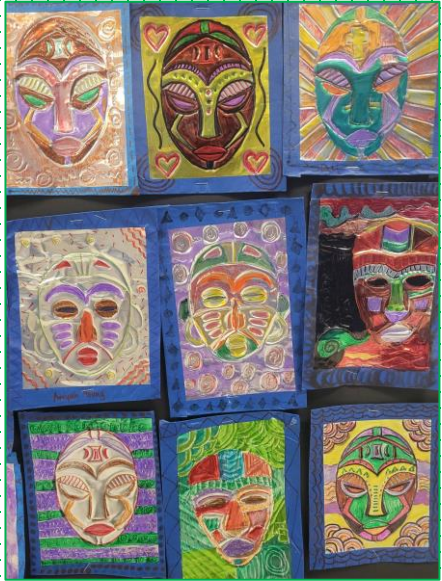
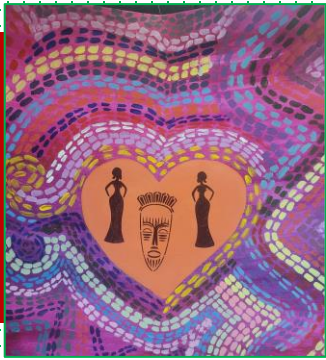
The Multicultural Club gathered this month to collaborate on a service project for **Valentine's Day**. The club members expressed their appreciation and gratitude to our service men and women stationed at Earl Naval Base located in Colts Neck, New Jersey. Each note was attached to a "sweet treat." The Naval Station functions as the premier East Coast installation for storing, maintaining, and supplying ammunition, explosives, and missiles to the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard fleet. It supports the Atlantic Fleet Carrier via a 2.9-mile-long, high-security pier complex in Sandy Hook Bay.

FEBRUARY'S CELEBRATIONS



JVJ STEM Academy

The current art curriculum highlights how various mediums communicate identity and mood. In Sculpture I, students are focusing on metal etching, creating low-relief interpretations of African masks to study the relationship between form and relief. Meanwhile, Drawing and Painting I students recently completed a unit inspired by the style of African American artist Alma Thomas. By utilizing her signature technique of rhythmic lines and vibrant color hues to create movement, students framed central African silhouettes, bridging contemporary abstraction with traditional imagery.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



CALLING ALL PARENTS!

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every child, achieving excellence

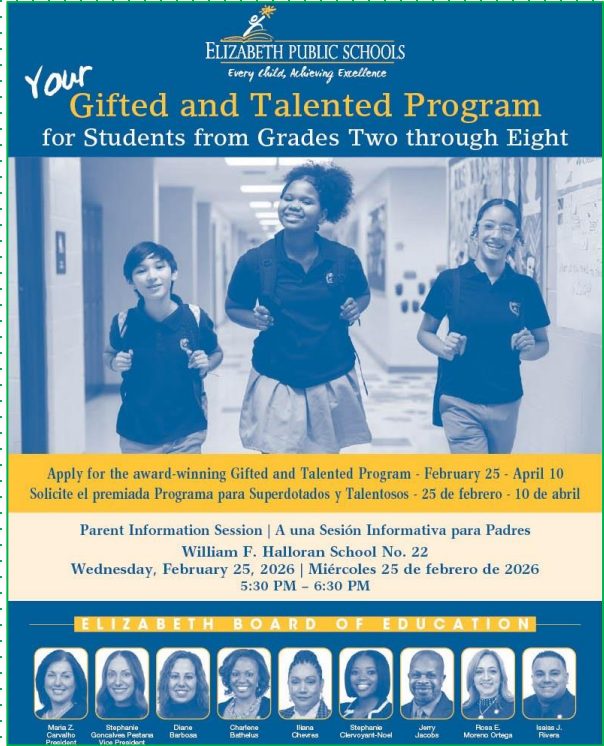
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FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 19, 2026

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REGISTER NOW!
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- Fun learning experiences to develop language & math skills
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Your Gifted and Talented Program
for Students from Grades Two through Eight



Apply for the award-winning Gifted and Talented Program - February 25 - April 10
Solicite el premiada Programa para Superdotados y Talentosos - 25 de febrero - 10 de abril

Parent Information Session | A una Sesión Informativa para Padres
William F. Halloran School No. 22
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | Miércoles 25 de febrero de 2026
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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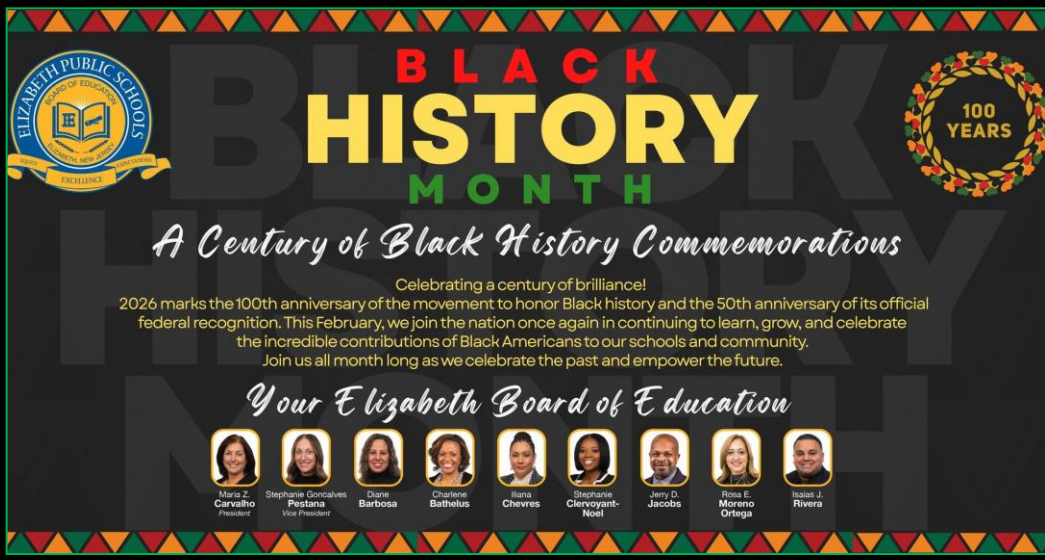


BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT RESOURCES






TRANSPORTATION



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Century of Black History Commemorations

Celebrating a century of brilliance!
2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the movement to honor Black history and the 50th anniversary of its official federal recognition. This February, we join the nation once again in continuing to learn, grow, and celebrate the incredible contributions of Black Americans to our schools and community.
Join us all month long as we celebrate the past and empower the future.

Your Elizabeth Board of Education

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You are empowered to Achieve Excellence!

Send excellent news on the great things happening in your school to Delilah Sousa
email: enews@epsnj.org