



## Governor Lamont visits, takes students' queries

By Dr. Alena Cybart-Persenaire  
Faculty Advisor

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont paid an impromptu visit from 11:44 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. period 3A, thanking students from invited classes for an energetic, applause-filled welcome then answering questions in the auditorium Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

"Okay, the ball is now in your court," Lamont said at the conclusion of his remarks, after discussing educational inequities, funding, property taxes, summer job opportunities, and the school's namesake - urging students to step up and make their own opportunities.

A bevy of local dignitaries and state officials accompanied Lamont, including Kenneth J. Curran, Alderman for District 1, who spoke about the city's positive qualities. *Continued on page 2*



**SEEKING STUDENT INPUT** Mayor Paul K. Pernerewski, Jr. (left) stands with Governor Ned Lamont answering students' questions in the auditorium Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Photo by Dr. Cybart-Persenaire/Advisor

*Continued from front page*

“Waterbury picks people up and cares about them,” he said, citing anecdotes of city students who excelled at Harvard and internationally, including basketball star Anthony Ireland, named Greater Waterbury YMCA president and CEO in July 2025, who spoke.

“Waterbury was a town and community that really poured into me,” 2009 Crosby H.S. graduate Ireland said, while also answering a student who asked about summer jobs. “We’re more than welcome to have you on board (at the Y).”

Ireland mentioned playing basketball in France and Los Angeles (at Loyola Marymount University where he excelled) after growing up in Waterbury, and urged students to find their passion as he did.

“I encourage all of us to find that passion ... that will propel you to the next level,” he said.

Despite criticism from a student who questioned Lamont about funding for Hispanic/Latinx communities, the Governor admitted there is still work to do at the state level but focused on Kennedy’s positive qualities.

“I hear your band is pretty good,” he said. “You have some of the best teachers in the world right here.”



**AWAITING GOVERNOR’S ARRIVAL** (Top photo) Freshman Adairis Genao-Hernandez was one of the students from selected classes awaiting Governor Lamont’s arrival in the auditorium Wednesday, March 4, 2026. (Bottom photo) Students enthusiastically applauded the arrival of Governor Lamont (second on left, following Mayor Pernerewski), at 11:44 a.m. with one student even standing (on right)! Photos by Dr. Cybart-Persenaire



**GOVERNOR'S AUDIENCE** (Left photo) Juniors Melissa McLaughlin, Khalia Jules and Hillel Desamour await the arrival of Governor Lamont, who visited Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 11:44 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. in the auditorium (above) with Waterbury Mayor Pernerevski (left) and Principal Mr. Johnston (right). Photos by Dr. Cybart-Persenaire



### Note the date

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
 Wednesday, March 4  
 Saturday, March 14  
 Tuesday, March 17  
 Thursday, March 19  
 Friday, March 20  
 March 20 - 21  
 Wednesday, April 1  
 Friday, April 3

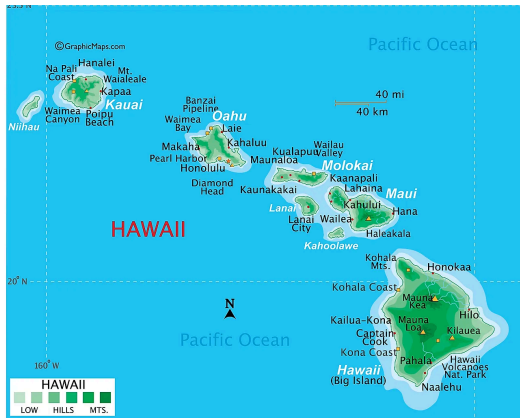
Purim  
 Holi, Hindu Festival  
 Pi Day  
 St. Patrick's Day  
 St. Joseph's Day  
 No school for Eid  
 Student Theatre presents *Mean Girls*  
 Preparing to Take Flight Night  
 No school for Good Friday

# Band heads to Hawaii for parade

By Corinna Hunter  
Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

The Kennedy Marching Eagles and Jazz Band have been performing and fundraising, and soon have a pasta dinner to raise money for their trip to Hawaii at the Harmony Lodge on 531 Highland Avenue Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.



**MAP OF HAWAII** This is where the band will be going, specifically Honolulu, to perform in a parade representing state veterans. Photo from WorldAtlas.com

These students have been working hard and putting their skills to good use, hosting pasta dinners and giving a show during them to raise money for their trip. They've been invited to perform in a parade that's honoring lives lost in Pearl Harbor, and they're making sure to put the hard work where it counts.

Not only do these students do fundraising, but most also balance the chaos with doing



**HONOLULU, HAWAII** is where the Marching Eagles and Jazz Band will perform from March 25-March 31, 2026! Photo from ncl.com

jazz band as well. They practice after school, as well as go on trips to other schools for jazz festivals and performances. Their next jazz festival is the Oxford Jazz Fest. Yet in between all of this, these students are juggling school work, and personal lives, as well.

There was originally doubt surrounding the trip, with people wondering if it was worth it and parents asking how they'd get their money back if this didn't happen. But band director Mr. Nick Drabik decided to stay positive and see it through until the end, holding a neverending belief in his students.

And it worked.

The trip originally needed around \$250,000, but as of now, they only have \$20,000 more to go. They are set to go March 26 to March 31. We wish them safe travels and a lot of fun on their trip, and thank them for representing how positive and hard working the students of Kennedy H.S. really are.

# Join 'No Place For Hate' group

*Goal is for students to enjoy positive influence at Kennedy*

By Joslyn Tremblay  
Managing Editor

Be kind to everyone, this is what the club is all about!

The No Place for Hate Committee run by Social Studies Department Chair, Mrs. Catricala, is a national program whose goal is to inspire movements of students to have a positive influence to build a safe and inclusive school environment for all students by making a difference and sharing their voices, and they meet almost every Tuesday and Thursday in room 203.

"I really like it; so far it's been pretty cool. We have been implacing a positive place in Kennedy," said Catricala in November.

The club, which meets after school on days when the late bus is available, is about combatting bullying and discrimination.

"So the No Place For Hate is about anti-discrimination and anti-bullying," said Catricala.

The whole goal of this club is an amazing goal to have!

"The whole goal of the club is to prevent the

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE** by joining No Place for Hate. This is a positive and respectful environment. Do you want to make a difference? Show your support and voice! For more information go to the website [noplacementforhate.org](http://noplacementforhate.org) or see Mrs. Catricala in room 203. Courtesy photo of Mrs. Catricala

mentality of genocide...So essentially the Holocaust is the most famous genocide but it's not the only genocide that happened," said Catricala.

Here is some advice for all from Catricala.

"My biggest advice for students here at Kennedy (would be to consider), we come from different ways in life but we all come from the same human race," said Catricala.

# International Women Of Color Day

*March honors matriarchs of bravery, beauty, courage*

*By Natalia Martin*  
Staff Writer

The first day of March honors the matriarchs of beauty and bravery, women of color.

This monumental day honors women of color and their achievements as well as strengths that are often overlooked, through community events, educational programs, and recognition ceremonies, with at least 25 U.S. states celebrating as well as other countries Sunday, March 1, 2026.

“As we continue to amass our collective energy to acknowledge the immeasurable contributions and achievements of women in history, as well as the present, let’s remember to kick Women’s History Month off the right way by celebrating International Women Of Color Day on March 1st,” according to nywici.org, the nonprofit association whose mission is to empower women in the communications fields at every career stage.

Did you know where this international holiday was first celebrated?

“The day was first celebrated in Washington, D.C. The day is a reminder that all the contributions made by women of color will be recognized and given fair judgment. It is celebrated in the U.S. and is a global event happening all over the world,” according to nationtoday.com, a website that brings celebrations to local and national media.



**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COLOR DAY** is celebrated March 1, but why not focus on fabulous women every day? A fun fact is the celebration of this day got women to vote in Russia. Image from [redi.med.ubc.ca](http://redi.med.ubc.ca)

This holiday highlights WoC achievements and ongoing struggles against racism and sexism.

“WoC (Women of Color) often face compounded forms of discrimination and marginalisation due to both their gender and race. International Women of Color Day aims to highlight these intersecting issues and celebrate the resilience and achievements of WoC. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggles against racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression and the importance of solidarity and support for these women,” according to uts.edu.au, the University of Technology Sydney, a top-ranked Australian university with a commitment to create meaningful change and positive social impact.

# Since '87 March hosts Women's History Month

By Adrianna Perez  
Staff Writer

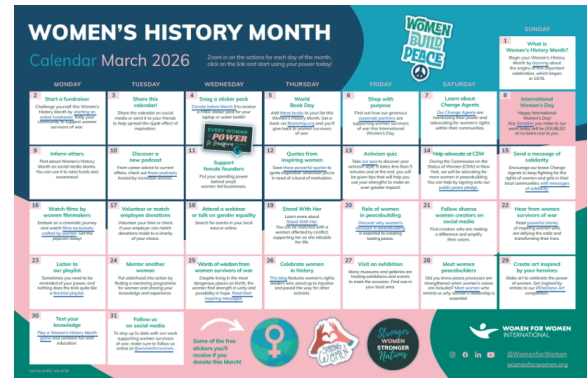
Women's History Month was created to honor women and their contributions to history that were overlooked nationally and internationally during the month of March.

"Since 1987, Women's History Month has been marked annually, honouring women's contributions often overlooked in history books and putting a spotlight on gender inequality," according to [womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org), a site whose vision is to create a world where women can determine their own lives.

Surprisingly, it wasn't always a whole month but only a week.

"Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a 'Women's History Week' celebration in 1978," according to [womenshistory.org](http://womenshistory.org), a website for the National Women's History Museum based in Washington, D.C.

Some may wonder, how can you honor and celebrate these women's contributions?



**MARCH DAILY FACTS/ACTIVITIES** for Women's History Month help honor and celebrate U.S. women. Image from [womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org)

"From joining local or online events to supporting women-led businesses and women's rights organizations to hosting your own fundraisers, there are plenty of ways to get involved," according to [womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org).

President Donald Trump acknowledges women's contributions to U.S. history.

"For 250 years—from the diligence of Betsy Ross, the faith of Katharine Drexel, and the courage of Amelia Earhart to the ingenuity of Annie Oakley, the selflessness of Clara Barton, and the timeless integrity of Harper Lee—strong women have brought our Nation to countless new heights and moments of triumph. To this day, across every industry, women are champions of success, trailblazers in their fields, and models in their homes. Whether they serve our Nation as service members, government leaders, entrepreneurs, or mothers, every devoted woman guides our Nation's strength, prosperity, and way of life," according to [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov), a website based out of the White House featuring the current administration.

# Eat pizza, fruit for Pi Day; why?

*By Favour Agboola*  
Staff Writer

Pi Day was founded by physicist Larry Shaw to commemorate the mathematical constant and honor Albert Einstein; it is celebrated annually March 14 (3/14), often at 1:59 p.m. to match the digits (3.14159...) by eating fruit or pizza pies, reciting (3.14159), participating in 'pie-themed' activities, and attending parades.

"Pi is a mathematical constant that expresses the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It is part of many formulas used in physics, astronomy, engineering and other fields, dating back thousands of years to ancient Egypt, Babylon and China," according to wvtm13.com, a website that talks about developing stories.

The homophone (pie/pi) and the celebration of circular food (pie/pizza) to represent a mathematical concept make them easily interchangeable.

"March 14 has been celebrated as 'pi day' at least since 1988, when the San Francisco Exploratorium hosted an event in honor of this transcendental number. A transcendental number cannot be expressed as the root of a polynomial with rational coefficients. The set of them is uncountably infinite, and can be very hard," according to maa.org, a site furthering understanding through Math.



**WHAT IS PI [PIE] DAY?** It was founded by physicist Larry Shaw to celebrate all math geniuses, and is held annually March 14, often at 1:59 p.m. to match the next digits (3.14159...). Some people even eat fruit pies or pizza pies! Photo from Google Images

Pi has been calculated to more than 50 trillion digits; how many can you name?

"Pi has been calculated to over 50 trillion digits, and a common activity on Pi Day is for students or adults, in general, to calculate it to the highest decimal point. The initial celebration was reportedly marked by a circular parade and guests eating a variety of fruit pies. The museum continues to host the celebration every year," according to foxnews.com, the news website.

Welsh mathematician William Jones founded the name pi, which is really a ratio.

"It's actually a ratio, denoting the relationship between the circumference and the diameter of a circle. If the outline of a circle is traced, unwound and then measured, the length is called its circumference," according to cbsnews.com, the Channel 3 News website.

# Macabre Ides of March: beware!

By Bryan Cruz Santiago  
Staff Writer

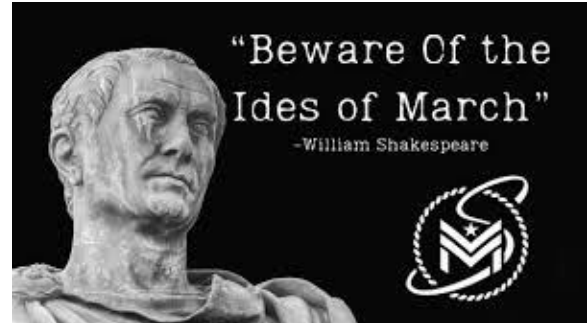
Alongside Friday the 13, people are cautious around the Ides of March.

Julius Caesar, former Roman Dictator, was assassinated by Roman Senators at the Curia of Pompey in Rome, Italy, after misleading him into a false meeting and stabbing him 23 times under the belief they were saving Rome from his influence, with his murder taking place March 15, 44 BC.

“The term *Ides* derives from the Latin word *iduate* (Latin: ‘to divide’),” according to [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com), a website for Britannica which fact-checks and provides a reliable informational source. “The Ides corresponded with the rise of the full moon in the middle of the month.”

Some believe that the date itself held significant importance to the Senate members or was simply convenient; some evidence tells otherwise about Caesar.

“(H)e would be leaving three days later for a potentially long military campaign against Parthia, and the Senate would meet on the Ides, thus putting Caesar within reach of the conspirators,” according to [daily.jstor.org](http://daily.jstor.org), a digital daily newspaper published by JSTOR, a nonprofit digital library that stands for “Journal Storage.”



**POPULARIZATION** The fear of the Ides of March, which falls annually on March 15, is primarily thanks to none other than William Shakespeare, who created a play in which it details the life of Julius Caesar. Photo from [missionmilspouse.org](http://missionmilspouse.org)

Throughout the years, this “cursed” day has withstood the test of time.

“Since then, some folks have kept a wary eye on March 15, but not everything that has happened in mid-March has been...tinged with badness,” according to [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org), the official website for the National Constitution Center, a private, nonprofit organization which leads nonpartisan, constitutional education and debate.

Though the superstition lasted a long time, historically, the Ides of March weren’t a time of fear but rather, celebration.

“The Ides specifically occurred on the 15th day of every month containing 31 days & on the 13th day of remaining months,” according to [sohoshakes.org](http://sohoshakes.org), a website for a nonprofit charity organization which is dedicated to looking over Shakespeare’s works in multiple lenses. “Consequently, they aligned with the full moon, including the 1st one of the New Year ... bringing about annual festivals & feasts!”

# March 17 honors 5th century missionary

*By De'Jaunae Thompson*  
Staff Writer

Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, supposedly passed away March 17 after he brought Christianity to the country; therefore, he's celebrated heavily and given a day to be remembered, going back to 1631.

"The March 17 celebration started in 1631 when the Church established a Feast Day honoring St. Patrick... Patron Saint of Ireland who had died around the fifth century," according to [time.com/4261456/st-patrick-day-2016-history-real-saint/st-patrick-day-2016](http://time.com/4261456/st-patrick-day-2016-history-real-saint/st-patrick-day-2016), the TIME Magazine website.

St. Patrick, once just a normal person who is said to have been kidnapped at age 16 and enslaved for six years, according to [www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Patrick](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Patrick), the encyclopedia's website, now is considered worth a major holiday for making Christianity meaningful to people in Ireland.

"He is said to have converted many of the country's residents to Christians, and now St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the day Patrick supposedly died," according to



## **KIDNAPPED AT 16, LATER BECAME A SAINT**

This is the famous St. Patrick, a man who converted many Irish to Christianity and is highly appreciated. Image from Google

[kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com), a website from the National Geographic Society.

Do you celebrate St. Patrick's Day like some people do in America with all things green?

"In America, St. Patrick's Day is recognized by shamrocks, leprechauns, parades, and all things green. Irish soldiers—often indentured servants—in the British Army brought the holiday to America as early as 1762 when the first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City," according to [npg.si.edu/blog/st-patricks-day-america](http://npg.si.edu/blog/st-patricks-day-america), the website from Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, which was authorized and founded by Congress in 1962.

# March 19 marks St. Joseph's Day

By Autumn Bohlman  
Staff Writer

*Wearing red symbolizes protection*

Father of Jesus and husband of Mary, Saint Joseph is the patron saint of workers and protector of families, and originating from the Middle Ages the holiday of his day, Thursday, March 19, 2026, is honored with large feasts to express gratitude for his help in the coming of rain believed to have ended a devastating drought.

“When the clouds opened, the desperately-needed rain poured down, and there was much rejoicing! After the harvest, to show their gratitude, they prepared a table with special foods to honor St. Joseph and to share with the poor,” according to [yearofyearofstjoseph.org](http://yearofyearofstjoseph.org), a website from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, which details the drought occurring in medieval Sicily.

For how long has St. Joseph's Day been celebrated?

“Since the 10th century, this date has been observed as the principal feast day of St. Joseph in Western Christianity and commemorates the life of Joseph. The husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus, Joseph is often referred to as the father in the shadows,” according to [sju.edu](http://sju.edu), Saint Joseph's University, in Philadelphia, Penn.

What foods are eaten at St. Joseph's Day feasts?

“On St. Joseph's Day, Italian tables are filled with fig dishes, including fig cookies. (St. Joseph also happens to be the patron saint of pastry chefs.) Zeppole or sfinge—dough fritters covered in sugar—are also traditionally eaten on this day,”



## HEARD OF ST. JOSEPH'S DAY? BUT DID YOU KNOW ITS ORIGINS?

The annual holiday held March 19 is in honor of St. Joseph (pictured above), the earthly father of Jesus and Mary's husband. Some people celebrate with “a traditional altar or ‘St. Joseph's Table’ ” with feasts including the pastry zeppole. Image from [orderisda.org](http://orderisda.org), the Order of Italian Sons and Daughters

according to [delish.com](http://delish.com), a group of passionate food enthusiasts and home cooks.

Why is it celebrated March 19? “One of the earliest examples of recognition of St. Joseph in the Western Liturgy appears on a calendar from the 9th century of the Benedictine monastery of Reichenau — an island off the coast of Germany above Switzerland. It mentions for March 19, ‘At Bethlehem, [the commemoration] of St. Joseph, foster father of the Lord.’ The implication appears to be that this was indeed considered the day St. Joseph died,” according to [marian.org](http://marian.org), a website of the fraternal community of consecrated life in the Roman Catholic Church.

# See significance of Eid al-Fitr

By Farha Ahmad  
Staff Writer

Eid al-Fitr is a Muslim holiday celebrated worldwide to mark the end of Ramadan by communal morning prayer, as well as spending time with family and friends, with a strong focus on community charity and gratitude, from the evening of Thursday, March 19 to Friday, March 20, 2026.

Why is Eid celebrated?

“Eid al-Fitr is one of two major holidays celebrated by Muslims and commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast daily from before dawn until sunset. It is commemorated by a large, community-wide prayer service in the morning, followed by meals and conversation with friends and family,” according to brandeis.edu, which was founded in 1948 by the American Jewish community at a time when Jews and other ethnic and racial minorities, and women, faced discrimination in higher education.

On the morning of Eid al-Fitr, Muslims come together as a community to pray.

“Prayer is a crucial part of both Eid celebrations – Eid al-Fitr (which marks the end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (celebrated during the Hajj season). On these special days, Muslims join in



## DID YOU KNOW?

Eid shifts about 11 days every year due to the moon cycle just like Ramadan! Photo from shutterstock.com

congregational prayer and give thanks to God through the Eid salah (prayer),” according to islamic-relief.org, which was founded in 1984 in Birmingham by medical student Hany El-Banna in response to famine in East Africa.

Did you know that some Muslims donate charity specifically before the Eid prayer?

“*Zakat al-Fitr*, or the Zakat of Breaking the Fast of Ramadan, is the special obligatory alms paid by all Muslims at the end of the Ramadan fasting month. It is also called *Sadaqat al-Fitr*, ‘the Charity of Breaking the Fast’ of Ramadan, and *Zakat al-Fitrah*, the Alms of Human Nature, or the Human Creation, because it is a mandatory charity due on every Muslim at the end of Ramadan, regardless of age or gender,” according to zakat.org, a charitable giving website that enables individuals to donate, whether fulfilling a Zakat obligation or simply supporting those in urgent need.

As a reminder, Waterbury Public Schools will close Friday, March 20 but staff must report for Professional Development.

# BHM showcase receives great support from JFK students

By Tefta Mino  
Sports Editor

## COMMENTARY

Organizer and Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Catricala, along with countless students, hosted and performed in the Black History Month showcase in the auditorium to celebrate black history and culture by putting on a variety of performances Friday, March 6, 2026 from 12:30 p.m.-1:50 p.m., rescheduled from Feb. 27 due to snow days.

As someone who loves theater and has done it for years... this showcase was beyond incredible. I felt actual chills and goosebumps. Here is what I gathered!

Curtains closed, music blasting while everyone is getting situated in their seats.

Everyone is seated, but suddenly the music cuts, lights are out, screams and cheers are flying around the room as the hosts enter. Standing in front of the podium were seniors Dhonnivon Cosme and Tanai Miller!

Curtains open for us to see Zeni Phoenix singing the Black National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, with immediate support from everyone.

People stood up, hands in the air and eventually on their hearts.

“While we’re loud enough, one more round of applause,” Cosme said, leading to the poem, *United in Grief*.

Just to clarify, these are bits and pieces of the poem that stuck out to me.

“18 was an age I never thought I’d see,” and “Our situations are the same, at the end, we all have so much to gain,” were some lines.

When Cosme was reading, I heard a member of the audience shout, “You got it! You’re right there!” I genuinely loved all the support from the community.

Then, onto the JFK choir singing *Chapel of Love*; I don’t know about you... but this song has been on repeat for me.

Immediately, as the curtains opened, I saw everyone wearing black and red. Music teacher Ms. Pape played piano, and while students were singing and snapping, the crowd snapped and clapped with the beat.

“(It is) a big reason why we have our music today,” said Cosme, explaining three black women from New Orleans wrote that song.

Freshman Alayah Parker wrote a poem in Mrs. Cusack’s Creative Writing class and here is what stuck out to me:

“Who asked you?” “I’m just a human. I’m

*Continued on page 14*

*Continued from page 13*

just a girl.” “I just run.” “I’m not hiding no more.”

The dance from freshmen Ianaya Jackson and Janiyah Jones was mind blowing—amazing would be an understatement. And I loved their outfits; they were very stylish!

Before these dancers were introduced, Cosme told the crowd, “Ya’ll not ready,” ... and he was right.

Ultimate cheering continued throughout the dance, and even more when the music stopped since they supported them for continuing.

Also, I felt so many mixed emotions during sophomore Joel Glover’s performance of *I Have Nothing* from Whitney Houston.

Everyone was shushing each other before he started singing, people swayed their hands in the air, some people quietly cheered so we could still hear him sing... but it got louder once he started raising his voice.

Onto sophomore Naseem Mable, reading *Just Because*.

Lines included: “My skin color doesn’t define who I am.” “I can prove these stereotypes wrong.” “Fight for what’s right.”

And after, everyone chanted, “Naseem,” over and over again.

Senior Christian Lewis Clark went on stage to perform piano, to which a friend yelled out “Batman voice Chris,” cheering him on.

During his playing, Cosme and junior Jamar Grant were speaking in the background.

“One brave voice can inspire the world.”

“Black history is American history.”

“Our voices and stories matter.”

Senior Adalia Paredez read *Let America be America Again*.

“You ready to hear a poem?” she asked.

“Yes!” people shouted.

Seniors Gloriandy Genao and Alanah Butler danced too and killed it!

Another piano performance, played by junior Carlos Medina.

“Yes Carlos!” “Play that!”

For the grand finale... our band!

While a drum major was standing on a chair in front of the auditorium instructing the band, Clark was speaking in the background.

The room was full of support and cheering the whole time.

# Easter holiday holds importance

By Autumn Bohlman  
Staff Writer

*Easter occurs Sunday, April 5, 2026*

Easter, a holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion, is one of the most important holidays in Christianity, representing new hope and the beginning of spring while many celebrate through the painting of hardboiled eggs, egg hunts, Easter baskets, feasts, and family gatherings Sunday, April 5, 2026.

“During the Easter season bakeries display hot cross buns, and candy counters feature butter-cream eggs and chocolate rabbits. There is also Easter music, Easter perfume, Easter jewelry, Easter clothing for men and women and Easter dinners. And not to be overlooked is the Easter parade, in which hundreds of thousands parade on New York City’s Fifth Avenue alone, to be seen or just to see,” according to wol.jw.org, an online library for research and publications.

Did you know Easter isn’t always on the same date every year?

“Easter Sunday and related celebrations, such as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, are considered ‘moveable feasts,’ although, in western Christianity, which follows the Gregorian calendar, Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter typically falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox,” according to History.com, a resource website for educators with links to learning tools and guides.

Where does the rabbit come from?



**HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE?** Painting hardboiled eggs may be an Easter tradition for some, while others commemorate the Holy Week leading to Easter Sunday with church services.

“The rabbit and the hare come from pagan ritual it seems. They were known to be particularly fertile, and so became associated with Easter as a time of rebirth. In German folklore, the rabbit was connected to the Christian Easter idea of eternal life because they were born with their eyes open, and thus people believed they had always been ‘awake.’ This tradition of the bunny was brought to the U.S. by German settlers who arrived in Pennsylvania in the 18th century,” according to ef.edu, a website dedicated to spreading culture around the world.

Where does the term Easter come from?

“In his book *The Reckoning of Time*, Bede states that the term was derived from a goddess named Eostre, whose annual festival was celebrated in the springtime by the pre-Christian Anglo-Saxons,” according to desiringgod.org, a religious website that shares the idea of Christianity.

# Orthodox Easter occurs April 12

*By Autumn Bohlman*  
Staff Writer

Much like Easter, Orthodox Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ; however, it takes place later in the year through the Julian calendar between April 4 and May 8, focusing on the celebration of passing over from life to death using red dyed hardboiled eggs to represent the blood of Jesus and with family gatherings, taking place this year Sunday, April 12, 2026.

“Known as Pascha, the Greek word for ‘passover,’ Easter in the Orthodox Church celebrates ‘the eternal Passover from death to life from earth to heaven.’ Great Lent, the church’s strictest time of fasting, takes place for 40 days, ending eight days before Easter on Lazarus Saturday—when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, according to Eastern Orthodoxy,” according to [history.com](https://www.history.com), a resource website for educators.

What are some traditions of Orthodox Easter?

“Observed in many Orthodox Christian churches is the blessing of food baskets. The baskets are usually filled with bread, cheese, meat, eggs, butter, salt, and other types of food used for Paschal celebrations. The fasting period has ended and meat and dairy products can be eaten,” according to [timeanddate.com](https://www.timeanddate.com), a nonprofit website for information on time zones and English history.

Why is Orthodox Easter on a different date than Easter Sunday (April 5, 2026)?

“Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar, which was established by the Roman emperor Julius Caesar in 45 BC. The determination of the date is based on the solar



**ORTHODOX EASTER IS APRIL 12** Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar, which was established by the Roman emperor Julius Caesar in 45 BC, so Orthodox Easter (which can feature red-dyed hardboiled eggs, seen above) is held one week after Easter Sunday, which is April 5, 2026.

Image from Google

cycle — in other words, the Earth’s revolutions around the sun,” according to [abc.net.au](https://www.abc.net.au), a website committed to spreading culture and identity.

What is served at Orthodox gatherings?

“At Orthodox Christian Easter dinners, along with red-dyed hardboiled eggs, which are symbolic of the blood of Christ, lamb is typically served. John 1:29 says, ‘Behold the lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world.’ Lamb also has a strong Jewish significance, as it was used as a sacrifice and is often served during Passover,” according to [history.com](https://www.history.com).

# Ms. Klem covers, thanks students for feedback

## *Subbing for Mrs. Drewry*

By Joslyn Tremblay  
Managing Editor

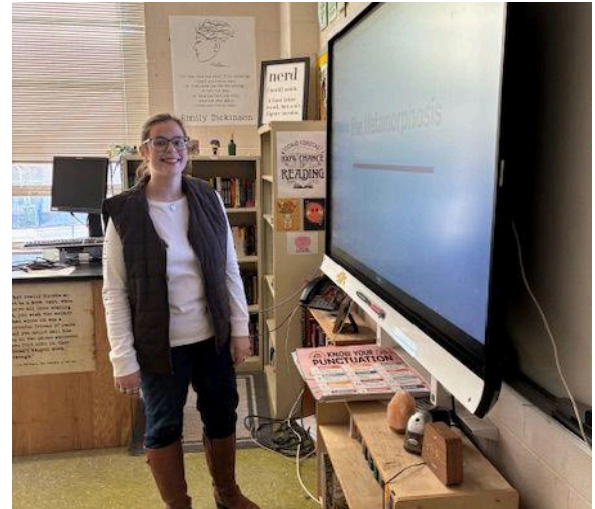
They say a sub is only there for a day, but this teacher had a long-term positive effect.

Ms. Klem, who has been a substitute teacher for four years, has been subbing for Mrs. Drewry since she is on maternity leave but Klem has also subbed in other schools nearby like Wolcott and Cheshire, and got this position by filling out an online application. She started in mid January and will work through March 18, 2026.

“I think it’s better than student teaching because you are in control of your own classroom. And with sub teaching, I’m able to navigate the challenges that come with it,” said Klem, when asked how her experience as a substitute is preparing her for her very own classroom someday.

Her ability to learn how to run her own classroom is her positive experience while subbing, plus she appreciates the feedback!

“I feel like learning how to run my own classroom in long-term subbing and getting (great) feedback from students, they are the



**COVERING ENGLISH CLASSES** in room 112 for about three months while Mrs. Drewry is on maternity leave, long-term substitute Ms. Klem has only a couple days left! Photos by Dr. Cybart-Persenaire

best teachers for me,” said Klem, who went to Cheshire High School and will also have a certification in Special Education.



**USING TECHNOLOGY** Long-term sub Ms. Klem teaches English 10 Period 2 Monday, March 9, 2026.

When asked why high school? She feels more connected to the students.

“I feel I relate to them (high school students) more. It’s a very important time in life so if I can change one student’s life I’ll be satisfied,” said Klem.

# Keys to success: hard work, practice

*Senior Cosme, cheer team  
keep excelling through winter*

*By Tefta Mino*  
Sports Editor

Seniors Dhonnivon Cosme and Tanai Miller placed #1 and #3 at their respective NVLs and Battle at Viking Valley for their skill with indoor track and cheerleading during competitions Jan. 30 and Feb. 28, 2026.

“I like running — (I have) since I was little. My motivation was to be faster than my older brother,” Cosme said.

Cosme has been running for his whole life, and now he has several medals: three gold, one silver and one bronze!

“It’s been three years, three long ones,” he said. “It feels gratifying. It’s just proof that the work you do actually pays off.”

Cosme has different ways of preparing himself for competitions.

“It depends because for me I usually practice on my own,” he said. “It’s me doing drills then full runs to work on my acceleration and speed.”

He mentioned meditation and working on your mental health in between helps a lot and with the right wind, you can push yourself far.

Lastly, he wanted to tell everyone...

“Shoot for the stars and you’ll hit the sky.”

Onto cheerleading, who participated in another weekend event.

“Overall, it was a great competition. Girls performed great, a little mishap but nothing too crazy,” said Joshua Saliva, cheer coach.

For that being their first time at Battle at Viking Valley, they loved it and had a great first impression.

“First time there, girls loved it. Our sister team, Career, we supported them on their 3rd place win,” Saliva said.

The team added new stunts to their routine!

“We added full downs and then we also added tumbling to our routine as well to bring our scores up,” he said.

And they improved while getting 3rd place for overall routine!

“Our scores from last week improved by 2.3 percent,” Saliva added.

The girls did find out at the very end of the competition over text message and stayed motivated.

“(They are) all growing into the sport. They’re not just doing it just to do it,” he said.

*Continued on page 19*

*Continued from page 18*

“I can say that Tanai was very scared, very nervous, wanted to pull out,” he mentioned, but eventually reassured her, “No girl, you have to do it.”

This was Miller’s first year cheering, placing 3rd out of six!

“She thought she wasn’t gonna place at all,” he said.

“When they called my name I was really shocked,” said Miller.

She is very thankful to her coach for helping her through her cheer journey.

“I’m like so nervous but I think we’re gonna do good,” she said in regards to the state championship coming up, since the team has been doing better and better with each competition.

Miller’s favorite memory from that day was...

“Cheering on our sister team, Career Academy,” she said. “Everyone was like positive, smiley and it made me happy.”

The team is seeking boys to join, with perks being that they get new uniforms for free! Any questions, visit Josh in the VP’s office!



**AWARD-WINNING ROUTINE** Cheerleaders have been performing stunts, including new ones, at weekend competitions and they excelled at the recent Battle at Viking Valley. The team is also seeking boys to join. For more information, see coach Josh Saliva in the VP’s office. Photo courtesy of J. Saliva

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Check out the front page  
of the April 2026 Eagle Flyer  
to see a group photo of Kennedy’s cheer team,  
and read more about their competition season!

## March SCRAMBLED!

Unscramble these five words related to March or articles in this issue.

**RESTAE**

**XODORTHO**

**BATECELERES**

**ASPOVERS**

**NADCLEAR**

Email answers to [acybart-persenaire@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:acybart-persenaire@waterbury.k12.ct.us)

First to email receives a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card. Separate prizes given for students and staff.

Page text, layout and design by Autumn Bohlman



# Student Theater set to perform *Mean Girls* March 20-21 with 3 shows

By Tefta Mino  
Sports Editor

## COMMENTARY

Kennedy Theater Department is putting on their second show of the year, *Mean Girls*, in the auditorium to let students show off their skills while doing what they love by funding the club which allows us to gain more resources and equipment to help us grow as a community for future shows.

You will be exposed to cool set pieces, crazy characters and shocking music.

Not to mention, our amazing choreography!

Former Kennedy student and theater member Athena Petrakapolous, who is now a sophomore at Thomaston High School, still comes by to choreograph shows for us!

Show days: Friday, March 20 @ 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 21 @ 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets:

Adults \$12

Students/seniors \$7

JFK students \$5

*Kennedy High School*  
*presents:*  
**MEAN GIRLS**  
*High School Edition*  
**MARCH 20 @ 7PM**  
**MARCH 21 @ 2PM & 7PM**  
**TICKETS:**  
**ADULTS ~ \$12**  
**STUDENTS/SENIORS ~ \$7**  
**KENNEDY STUDENTS - \$5**  
Questions: [apape@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:apape@waterbury.k12.ct.us)  
\*\*This production is rated pg-13

# Connecting classrooms

## *AP Comp. Gov't. students visit virtually with Scotland*

By Aisha Ahmad

Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

Students in Kennedy's Advanced Placement Comparative Government course were able to connect with students from the Robert Burns Academy in Scotland by participating in a virtual Q&A session through a Google meet where both parties asked questions to learn more about life in the other's country, Thursday, March 5, 2026.

The conversations covered a number of topics, from questions about school systems to others about daily routines or even stereotypes seen in the media. It was quite interesting to see the differences between life in the United States and Scotland. For example, the students in the Robert Burns Academy brought native Scottish snacks to show us. It was small moments like these that made the experience so informative, really giving us a glimpse into their lives.

Another very interesting part of the meeting was learning about slang and expressions Scottish students use. First and foremost, it was fun trying to guess what each word or phrase meant. Though it was like a bit of a game, digging deeper, it was actually really informative. We were able to see how



### **Q&A WITH STUDENTS IN SCOTLAND**

Students in AP Comparative Government class stand facing the smartboard during a virtual Q&A session with students from Robert Burns Academy in Scotland Thursday, March 5, 2026. Image from Instagram @Therba\_2024

culture can shape things as important as language. Though we both spoke English, our accents and slang were entirely different, and it was fascinating seeing how language can reveal so much about one's experiences and culture.

Overall, the meeting with the Robert Burns Academy was truly a memorable experience. We were given the chance to share our own experiences, while learning more about life as a student from another perspective, something that textbooks alone cannot teach you.