



Hackensack Public Schools

Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

Happy New School Year!! Well, it is a bit like that January holiday, isn't it? New (school) Year resolutions and all.

If you're a frequent visitor to the various social media sites, you might have noticed all of the memes that are posted in honor of the new school year. There's the humorous kind, "I've learned so much from my mistakes...I'm thinking of making a few more"? Then there's the adventurous kind, "I may not be there yet, but I'm closer than I was yesterday." And of course, there's always a philosophical meme to latch onto, "Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds, widen their horizons, inflame their intellects, and teach them to think straight, if possible." -- Robert M. Hutchins. Whatever your take on the new school year, grab a meme that you can relate to and go for it. And if you can really relate to it and it motivates you, print it out and stick it everywhere that you can see it. There's nothing like a constant reminder to keep you on course.

We're off to a great start and while everyone has settled in, before you know it, we will be on the other side of the holiday season and looking forward to the spring break. Unfortunately, time stands still for no one, so make the best of the time you have, whether learning, building relationships, honing those athletic skills or looking over your child's shoulder as he/she studies for that next test or quiz or completing a homework assignment. When the winter newsletter is delivered to you, I'll check in on you and see how all you students, parents and guardians are doing.

Take advantage of the seasonal changes. Get outside and commune with nature. Take lots of pictures as those holidays come and go. Don't forget to hit those books (okay, Chromebooks, lol) like they've never been hit before. Make new friends, cultivate old ones and make sure there's always time for your family. You'll appreciate that more than anything else.

Enjoy the school year and I'll see you after the real *New Year!*

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Cicchelli

Acting Superintendent of Schools



2017

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IMPORTANT DATES:

November 29th

BOE Regular Meeting- 7:30pm

December 1st & 2nd

12:30pm Dismissal HHS
7:00pm Parent/Teacher
Conferences

December 6th-9th

12:30pm Dismissal Grades K-8
Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 13th

BOE Regular Meeting- 7:30pm

December 26th-30th

Holiday Recess
(School Closed)*



Fanny M. Hillers School

Summer Reading Scholars at Hillers School

Students at Fanny Meyer Hillers School took part in their first national Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge over the warm summer months. Students in Kindergarten through Fourth grade read over 60,000 minutes in total. The top three readers in each grade were honored with a breakfast having family members, teachers and administrators by their side. Each winner received a reading medal and reading certificate. The winners were also featured on Hillers TV for all of their peers to see. The Hillers' family couldn't be more proud of all of the winners and students that participated in the summer reading challenge.



Article submitted by Shannon Echeverria, Reading Specialist

Fairmount School

Fairmount School's New Piano!

After two years of fundraising efforts, Fairmount School was able to purchase a new Steinway piano for the school auditorium in the Summer of 2016. Although we loved our "Over 100 Year Old Steinway", it could no longer be tuned and needed more care and attention than we could give it. Our fundraising efforts included: the sale of piano keys on a large display in the Fairmount School Lobby, Fun Runs at our 2015 and 2016 Fairmount School Field Days, t-shirt sales and the most memorable occurred at our 2016 Annual Fun Fair. Students and adults purchased pieces of tape to "Tape Mr. Bennett to the Wall". The children and adults laughed with delight to see their favorite gym teacher hanging from the wall in the gymnasium.

At the end of the 2015-2016 School Year, the Fairmount School PTA donated the remaining funds needed to purchase our new Steinway, a cover and a climate control system to help regulate the temperature of the piano in the auditorium. Ms. Davila has played for the Fairmount School Community on a number of occasions since delivery; the most recent at our Hispanic Heritage Assemblies on October 14th. Everyone agrees that the new piano is a joy to listen to and a work of art to behold. The students, faculty, staff and administration at Fairmount School are grateful and appreciative to everyone who played a part in helping us to reach our goal. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Jackson Avenue School

Redbull Program at Jackson Avenue School

Many people feel that school is an institution that cares solely for academics and that at school, we are required to teach only from the neck up. However, there are many other facets of learning and wellbeing that schools support. These other areas of learning are not tested, but they are critical to student growth and development. These facets include emotional, physical, and social learning.

In support of these areas of learning, *Wendy Lamparelli*, Jackson Avenue School's nurse, is a passionate crusader. She is currently tackling many health issues faced by students in our community--one of which is obesity. This summer Ms. Lamparelli contacted Sips and Kicks (<https://www.facebook.com/Sips-Kicks-897386400302565/timeline/>) a not for profit smoothie company offering healthy smoothies to low income students. Each Monday Chad Dichtenberg and Andy Pada, creators of Sips & Kicks, delivers fresh fruit and vegetable smoothies to our students. What's more... the students LOVE them. They are sipping kale, pineapples, mangoes, and bananas--a much more beneficial breakfast than the traditional bowl of sugary cereal. A healthy breakfast impacts the student's emotional, physical, and academic learning for the rest of the day.



Another program in which Ms. Lamparelli brought to Jackson Avenue School is the RED BULL Gym Takeover program. This program started on September 26 and will last throughout the year. The goal is to increase student awareness of soccer and to expose the children to professional players. During physical education classes students participate in soccer training with professional players from the Red Bull Team. Anthony and Nicole, Jackson Avenue School trainers, offer physical education in a way that students enjoy, but also support social learning through working together as a team. Students are taught the moves, terms, and goals of soccer, but emphasis is on working as a team. Students must work together to get the goal--emphasizing the physical and social aspects of learning.

Ms. Lamparelli's goals for these programs are to see improvement in students emotional, physical, and social well being. We are often so involved in seeing how students "test" we forget that part of learning starts with being happy, fit, and friendly. We are indebted to Ms. Lamparelli for finding ways in which to support students through all facets of learning--emotional, physical, social and academic.



Jackson Avenue student learning soccer moves



It's all about the teamwork.

Nellie K. Parker School

Nellie K. Parker 35th Renaming Anniversary Celebration Article

Nellie K. Gets Her Day

On the evening of September 20th, 2016, students, staff (current and past), and community members packed the Thelma C. Smith Auditorium at Nellie K. Parker School in Hackensack, New Jersey. Those in attendance and those participating were paying homage to the school's namesake, Nellie Katherine Morrow Parker.

The program marked the 35th anniversary of the renaming of Maple Hill School to honor Mrs. Parker, the first African American teacher in Bergen County. NKP Fourth grade teacher Toney Jackson put the program together with the help of current and former staff members, several of whom participated in the event. The program honored the legacy of Mrs. Parker, as well as those who have helped to keep her legacy alive for the past 35 years as staff members or supporters of the Hackensack elementary school. Former assistant principals Robert Corrado and Ann Small spoke of their recollections of the school and staff; and The Honorable Judge Sandra Robinson who was on the renaming committee in 1981, spoke about her personal experiences with Mrs. Parker, and how her values, and impact continue to live on in the legacy she left behind.



Hackensack Board of Education Vice President Lara Rodriguez presented commendations from the Bergen Country Freeholders acknowledging the significance of the event, and declaring September 20th to be Nellie K. Parker School Day in Bergen County. The crowd roared with approval and joy. Jackson, the organizer and host, read an original poem about Mrs. Parker and her significance. Retired Hackensack teacher Rosemary Flowers-Jackson wrote a powerful litany for Nellie K. Parker, which was read by NKP staff member Frank Rovell.



Several Parker teachers sang a beautiful selection which was written by NKP music teacher Diana Gross. The singers (Saran Sinnette, Terrell Lampley, Myrna Gotrell, and Brenda Walker) accompanied Gross in a stirring song about keeping Mrs. Parker's dream alive, and keeping the fire burning within us all. Art Teacher Cheryll Parisi was honored for her tenure as the longest serving active teacher at Nellie K. Parker. Parisi has been working in this historic school for over 30 years.

After the program, current and former staff members joined together, embraced each other, and shared fond memories and refreshments. A committee is already being assembled to make sure that this day each year is celebrated, and Nellie K. Parker's values, and impact are honored and carried forward.

Early Childhood Developmental Center

Friendship Feasts at ECDC

On November 22 and 23, 2016 ECDC hosted successful Friendship Feasts, in which parents were invited to share food items and join with their children in celebrating friendship, cultural diversity and Thanksgiving.

Many parents and family members participated in the feast. Students, Staff and Families enjoyed a collaborative school community activity to celebrate friendship and diversity via various cultural and ethnic food dishes. The events were successful in bringing the various shareholders of the school community together to celebrate and share the diverse backgrounds of the ECDC school community.



Hackensack Middle School

Coloring for a Cause at Hackensack Middle School

This year, students at Hackensack Middle School are making their community a little more colorful. Meet *Coloring for a Cause*, the first-ever coloring book created by students and staff! More than 90 black-and-white drawings fill the 48-page book, each with a unique perspective on hobbies, pop culture, and the world around us. An integral part of being a proud Comet is service to the community. That’s why proceeds from the sale of the professionally bound coloring book will be donated to Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County, a local organization that provides free tutoring to adults in need of basic literacy education. This coloring book truly celebrates the arts, literacy, and the vibrant Hackensack Middle School community.



Maureen E. Carroll, MLIS
Library Media Specialist

Hackensack High School

Hackensack High School hosts its Annual Hispanic Heritage Night

Each year, Hackensack High School observes National Hispanic Heritage Month in October by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. We take pride in recognizing the contributions and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture. This year’s event featured poetry, singing, dancing and scenes from plays. The students and faculty performed in front of a packed house and a great time was had by all in attendance. We recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.



Thank you!

To the Hackensack School District for your
dedication and hard work.



Wishing you and your families a joyful
Holiday Season and a very prosperous New Year!

