



Hackensack Public Schools

Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

As I sit at my computer, the snow is falling and beginning to coat the surface of the road, sidewalks and cars. Also from my vantage point, I can see the snow building up on the hillside of the soccer field. I stared at the dancing flakes, lost my sense of surroundings and was transported back to a more simple time.

As many of you know, I've spent almost all of my childhood and all of my adult life in Hackensack. My daydream drifted me back to sometime around the '60s, to a day very similar to today. I was staring out of the classroom window at the Hackensack Junior High School (today, the middle school). I was watching as the cars were sliding around on the street below. There weren't any SUVs back then, mostly just cars with snow tires.

My eyes could not stop jumping from the snowy window scene outside, to the clock on the wall. As much as I wanted to go home, there was still 40 minutes of school left in the day. I swear that clock was working against me. I looked at the cars navigating the snow ruts and the bus stopping to pick up its passengers, yet the hands of the clock barely moved. It was sheer agony watching the time ticking so slowly by.

When the dismissal bell finally rung, it was "off to the races." I had to get home and change into my jeans, boots and a waterproof coat. I grabbed my favorite gloves, hat, sled and off to Ross Avenue I went. Everyone knew that if speed was what you crave, there was no place better than Ross Ave! Unless of course, your goal was to prove your control prowess, and then, it would be the two-prong, Euclid Ave. route. Pick a friend; claim a side (north or south) countdown from three to one and off you went. The goal was to drift through the gentle curve and try to hit the apex before your friend did, straighten out and fly until you crossed Prospect Avenue. "Last one there is a rotten egg!" was very popular back then.

Just when I was getting close to the finish line, in first place I might add, my secretary dropped some materials in the "In Box" on my desk and just like that, I was back in the present again. I noticed that the students are dismissing from the high school and as they walked past my window, I notice how entrenched they are in their cell phones. Very few were talking with their neighbor but those fingers were dancing on the glass, signifying a conversation somewhere.

I wonder what these children will daydream about in their future. What will be their respite from the monotony of the 9-5? Enjoy the winter. Go for a hike or, wait a minute, why not take a sled to that hill above the soccer field and go for a ride.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Cicchelli

Acting Superintendent of Schools

WINTER 2017
Volume 1, Issue 2



IMPORTANT DATES:

February 7th

12:30pm Dismissal—All Students
PD for Staff

February 20th

President's Day
(School Closed)

February 28th

BOE Regular Meeting- 7:30pm

March 7th

12:30pm Dismissal—All Students
PD for Staff

March 28th

BOE Regular Meeting- 7:30pm



Fanny M. Hillers School

Hillers School Walk in My Shoes Career Day

Article Submitted by: Karen Sisto

Fanny Meyer Hillers School proudly hosted its 5th Annual Career Day called, "Walk in My Shoes"! With a large turnout of over 40 participants, the hallways were bustling with various professionals. Some of our guests included an orthopedic surgeon, landscaper, engineer, architect, mortgage broker, judge, salesperson, computer specialist, hair stylist and Hackensack's bravest firefighters and finest police officers. Our students were able to experience hands-on use of equipment and tools of different trades. Hackensack's very own mayor, John Labrosse, came to visit and share his experiences with our Hillers School STARS! It was a fantastic day of learning. Hillers School students were encouraged to "walk in the shoes" of some phenomenal professionals and dream BIG dreams!



1st grade students learning about being a hairstylist from a volunteer from Parisian Beauty Academy.

Fairmount School

Holidays at Fairmount School

December 2016 was an exciting month at Fairmount School. Teachers taught Social Studies lessons about many of December holidays and crafts such as wreaths, kinaras, menorahs and trees were made in the younger grades. One class made Mrs. Ashton-Loeb a "love" sign to hang on her door and each student made one as a gift to give as a holiday gift.

Sandra Crespo, Fairmount's head administrative assistant organized a Holiday Card Drive to send cards to veterans in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Students and teachers in grades first through fourth wrote over 600 caring messages in holiday cards for the veterans. Ms. Crespo sent the cards to the veterans and purchased a small treat for each of the classes who participated. We are sure that the cards brightened the holidays for all veterans who received them and brought them much joy! Thank you Ms. Crespo!



The PTA sponsored a Holiday Gift Shop and set up in the school Media Center for the week. Students were scheduled by class to visit the store and shop if money was sent in. Gifts started at 25 cents and included rings, necklaces, mugs, key chains as well as many other reasonably priced gifts. Students were encouraged to make a shopping list at home and then pick the gifts with the help from teachers, para-educators and PTA members. PTA president Melissa de Barr and PTA Vice President Tom Meyer as well as other PTA members volunteered at the event. The students pictured are: Michael, Jhahid, Kyra, Emilia, William, Vanessa, Carlos and Alicia. The PTA raised \$979 with this endeavor and will be used to sponsor PTA activities throughout the duration of the school year. As a reminder, the annual

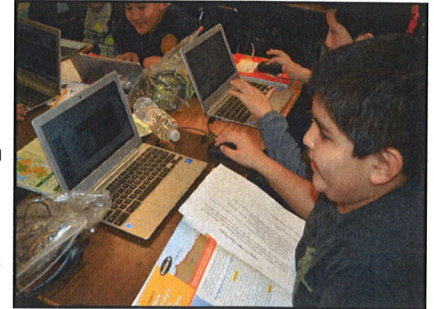
Fairmount School Fun Fair will be on March 25th. We hope that you will be able to join us!

Jackson Avenue School

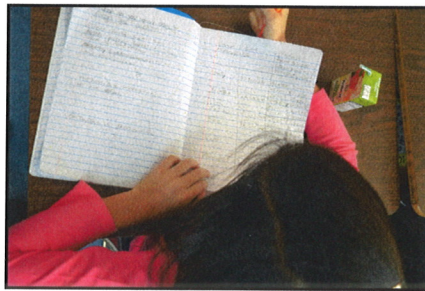
JAS Happenings!

The school year is moving along quickly. The beginning of the year jitters have settled and the nice weather turned gray and cold. However, students at Jackson Avenue Elementary School are abuzz with learning. Here are some highlights.

Fourth grade students have each been assigned Google accounts and have begun exploring all that Google Apps for Education has to offer. This web-based platform allows students to create, communicate, and collaborate on projects in a more organized and interactive way. In Mrs. Marquez's class, students are creating presentations based on the four regions of NJ using Google Slides. This requires students to synthesize all that they learned during Social Studies class. Now, they must present all that information in a slide presentation! What's more... the students are enjoying learning!



Ms. Luciano is experimenting with the Next Generation Science Standards which encourages hands on science learning through experimentation, observations, analyzing, and hypothesizing. Ms. Luciano is teaching measurement through remote control cars. Students must demonstrate an understanding that the faster something moves, the less time it takes to cover the same distance. The students work collaboratively to move the car and measure its distance and time. As they record their information, they look for patterns to help them understand the important underlying concepts.



Students in Ms. Luciano's third grade measuring, recording, and analyzing data.

Jackson Avenue School is gearing up for Jump Rope for Heart. This program helps raise money for the American Heart Association. Students learn the importance of exercise to combat heart disease and the importance of raising money for a good cause.



Special thanks to all the Physical Education Instructors of Hackensack for bringing this important program to our schools.

Nellie K. Parker School

Nellie K. Parker Winter Concert

by Gyasi J. Blanton

On Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm, the Nellie K. Parker Band and Chorus (The Village Voices) performed many pieces during the Winter Concert. The concert was entitled "Shine on Me", a traditional Spiritual song which was arranged by Dr. Rollo A. Dilworth of Temple University. This song explains that we should all take the light we have and let it shine on others especially in the world we live in today.



The choir entered the auditorium while singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" and was accompanied by our very own principal, Ms. Whitaker. They went on to sing a Jamaican Folk Song called, "Jamaican Noel" in which the audience really enjoyed. One of the most powerful lyrics the choir sang that night was "Star by star up above and kindness by human kindness. Light this world with your love and God bless us everyone." These powerful lyrics by Lynn Ahrens with music by Alan Menken are from the musical, "A Christmas Carol". The choir shared the stage with our "Tiny Tim" who was played by Joshua Torres from Ms. Carella's class.

This was a terrific winter concert done by the 3rd and 4th grade students. They worked very hard, practiced often and gave a great performance. The groups received many compliments from parents and others who attended. It was a great mixture of winter songs with some non-traditional sounds from other parts of the world. Our 3rd and 4th graders only had one month to prepare for this concert. They have since been learning more about the musical alphabet, scales and patterns and how to read music on the staff with the treble clef.



I hope you enjoyed your children performing at our holiday show. Thanks to those who volunteered to chaperone during our evening performance. Thanks to all for being such a wonderful audience.

Early Childhood Developmental Center

Cookies with Santa

Dec. 16, 2016 The ECDC PTA sponsored Cookies with Santa, in which ECDC Students were visited by Santa Claus and received a candy cane, milk and cookies from the ECDC PTA.



Hackensack Middle School

6th Grade Field Trip to the Newark Museum

Ms. J. Clemente January 2017

Over 60 students in Ms. Clemente's and Ms. Soukas' creative art classes traveled to The Newark Museum this December. Students participated in The Ballantine House Mystery: "Who Done It?" where they became detectives as they stepped into the Victorian era through an exploration of the Ballantine House to find the home's missing jewels!

Collaborating as a team, the students solved the mystery using clues they find in the house's gilded rooms and vast display of ornate objects. Students were able to explore the community of Newark during the turn of the century and draw comparisons to communities today. They loved comparing family life for children living during the Victorian Era to modern times.



Our students then participated in a guided gallery tour of American Art to discover symbols and stories in American art from the 18th, 19th & 20th centuries. Our presenters included cross curricular activities that combined language arts literacy, social studies and visual arts to develop critical thinking skills. Students were able to contribute to group discussions with peers and educators by listening to and posing different viewpoints.

Although it was chilly, we were able to quickly walk through the sculpture garden back to the warm busses to take us back to Hackensack.

Overall, the Newark Museum is a wonderful resource for our students, offering a nice variety of programs focusing on arts and humanities and science. We look forward to a spring trip to participate in the African and Asian Art Programs.



Hackensack High School

Hackensack High School Winter National Honor Society Induction

In November, the E.T. Marlatt Chapter of the National Honor Society at Hackensack High School hosted their semi-annual induction ceremony. Standards for consideration for selection into the Honor Society include enrollment in grades 11 and 12, minimum G.P.A. of 3.3, 300 service or volunteer hours, and three teacher recommendations. This year, the National Honor Society inducted students in a special ceremony held in the High School's Media Center.



Congratulations!

Hackensack Middle School, "Coloring for a Cause"

Article featured in the Hackensack Chronicle



Take Care of your Heart!
February is Heart Health Month!



REMINDER!

Black History Month Assemblies are scheduled as follows:

Fairmount School

Friday, February 10, 2017

Call school for time

Fanny M. Hillers School

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:15am & 1:15pm

Jackson Avenue School

Call school for date & time

Nellie K. Parker School - Thelma Smith Auditorium

Friday, February 24, 2017

Time: 9:15am ~ Gr. 2, 3 & 4, - - 1:30pm ~ Gr. K & 1

