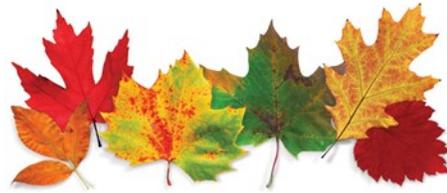




Hackensack Public Schools

# Newsletter



It's that time of year again. The season of autumn colors, piles of leaves on the ground, cooling temperatures and harvest time. In the days when agriculture drove our economy, the cycle of sowing, planting and harvesting, meant that farmers paid careful attention to their crops and the weather. Making choices about what kinds of crops to plant, deciding whether to sow seeds or plant seedlings, and understanding the growing conditions, were all important considerations, for ensuring that crops grew well and provided a bountiful harvest.

During this beautiful season when the earth is preparing to "go quiet" for the winter, those of us who are privileged to work with children, are reminded of how important it is to sow seeds of personal responsibility, a strong work ethic, understanding, and respect for one another. We understand that school provides many opportunities to learn — not just about academic subjects — but about character, teamwork, service to the community, responsibility and treating others, as we would like to be treated, ourselves.

We are also reminded that for a bountiful harvest, the seeds we plant need to be cultivated with care: the soil needs to be tended to, plants need to be watered, and crops need to be harvested at just the right time. As Hackensack educators, we understand that we are part of a wonderful family and we are committed to serving our school community, to ensure our students learn to their fullest potential and do their personal best so that we may all reap a bountiful harvest—for today and for tomorrow... For our children are our future!

In the spirit of the harvest, Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

*Rosemary Marks*  
Acting Superintendent of Schools



**FALL 2017**

**Volume 2, Issue 1**



## IMPORTANT DATES:

### **November 7th**

School Closed for Students  
PD for Staff

### **November 9-10**

NJEA Convention—School  
Closed

### **November 22nd**

12:30pm Dismissal  
Staff and Students

### **November 23-24**

Thanksgiving—School Closed



## Fairmount School

### Celebration of Respect at Fairmount School

Fairmount School kicked off the month of October celebrating with a “Week of Respect”. Then, all through the month, teachers prepared lessons to teach and involve students in activities of promoting ways to be respectful in the school, home and community. Charts were made by each kindergarten through fourth grade class and were displayed in the classrooms, then moved to the cafeteria to decorate for a school breakfast on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast attendees included Fairmount School administrators, faculty, staff, Student Council representatives and winners of the K – 4 Respect Contest. The contest focused on what respect means to each student with an illustration and sentence for the younger grades and a 100 word essay for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Fairmount School congratulates our contest winners, pictured from left to right: Mikey, Jonathan, Valery, Mackenzie and Devin. Mikey was also selected as the grand prize winner from 4<sup>th</sup> grade and shadowed Mrs. Ashton-Loeb during the morning to see firsthand what the morning in the life of a principal looks like. Congratulations to all of our winners!

In addition, we also celebrated National Principals’ Month by hosting former and current principals in the Hackensack Public School District. Pictured from left to right: Joy Dorsey-Whiting, Joseph Cicchelli, Rhonda Ashton-Loeb, Richard Vega, Ann Small and Christopher Moran. After the breakfast, the administrators visited Fairmount School classrooms to speak with students about ways to show respect. Mr. Cicchelli stated, “The children and their views on being respectful to others were reaffirming to the future of civility with the next generation.” It was truly a month of respect at Fairmount and we will continue to reinforce respectful ways, acts and deeds during the 2017-2018 School Year.



## Fanny M. Hillers School

### Hillers School H.U.G. (Help Us Grow) Academy for Parents Takes Learning to a New Level

This year Hillers School decided to do something a little different by starting a learning academy just for parents. The title of this new initiative is the H.U.G. Academy which stands for Help Us Grow. The goals of this program are three-fold:

- to help grow the parents into a better understanding of how their children learn
- to give them the tools and knowledge to be able to assist their children with reading, writing and math assignments
- to offer parents technology assistance so they will have the digital tools to work with their children at home to support and enrich their learning

The response of parents to the H.U.G. Academy offerings was wonderful. The 40 minutes courses, which were taught by Hillers School STAR staff members ranged from “Tips for Improving Sentence Writing” to “Study Tips and Techniques to Motivate Your Child to Achieve”. These courses were offered in both English and Spanish. What a wonderful sight to see the parents engaged in the learning process and eager to help their children become better learners.

And that’s not all...by attending at least 2 workshops, the parents earned a ticket for their child to be part of the Homework Help/BOOST After School Club which will start this month. It’s definitely a win-win for everyone. As can be seen, the Hillers-Home to School Connection is alive and well!

*Submitted by Joy Dorsey-Whiting*



# Jackson Avenue School



## MINDFULNESS IS IN FULL BLOOM AT JACKSON!

*Social-Emotional Learning is an essential part of the curriculum at Jackson Avenue. We use a Mindfulness Approach to instill in students that when their mind is calm we do our best work; when our thoughts are positive we are kinder to others and to ourselves; and when lessons are challenging, social, and interactive, we put our best efforts forward.*



FAMILY FRIENDLY CENTER  
 Our FFC has launched! Students selected for our FFC are enjoying classes in Makerspace, Health & Fitness, and Literacy!

## OUR TITLE I PARENT ACADEMY IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

On October 23rd, we kicked off our parent evenings with a packed house! Families shared a meal together, learned together, and socialized. Over 75 families attended! Thank you to all the parents, presenters, and volunteers!

October 13, 2017

Jackson celebrated Hispanic Heritage with Flamenco, Folkloric Colombian Music, history lessons, and Latinamerican song and dance! Thank you to all the performers, the Grade 4 Team, and Mrs. Recarte!

## Hispanic Heritage Assembly



## **Nellie K. Parker School**

### **Lighting Up Parker School!**

On Thursday, November 2, 2017, all students at Nellie K. Parker School celebrated Diwali, "The Festival of Lights." It is a cultural celebration that marks the victory of Good over Evil and Righteousness over Wickedness. It is the time for a new beginning where people wish for Peace and Prosperity for everyone across the world. Our celebration was led by Mrs. Pallavi Nair, parent of a third grade Parker student, Mihika Nair. She coordinated the celebrations and was supported by the Parker Community. Everyone was joined in the festive mood!

During the festivities, students viewed a table with beautiful and colorful Rangoli (sand art), decorated by the parent volunteers. While the Indian parents and children wore traditional Indian outfits, the Parker teachers also sportingly adorned exotic sarees (traditional 5-yard fabric), which added to the grandeur of the celebration. The teachers also received beautiful Mehendi (Henna) designs drawn on their hands by parent volunteers.

The teachers and children learned about how Diwali is celebrated and its significance through a PowerPoint presentation and Imovie that was created by Anushka Nair. Indian music filled the air and the teachers crowded the stage in order to shake a leg to the tunes of popular Hindi songs from Bollywood such as Baby Doll, London Thumakda and India Wale. All the teachers and Parker staff members were treated to a variety of delicious Indian food. Students also received a special treat.

All in all, it was a fun and electrifying event that filled everyone's heart with love and joy. Diwali sparkled in the hearts and minds of the Parker family as the day came to an end. We value and appreciate all cultures at Nellie K. Parker School.



## Hackensack Middle School

### Blended Learning: Hackensack Middle School

Hackensack Middle School recently had professional development involving training teachers in Virtual Reality (VR). This training will enable teachers to bring the VR experience to the classroom. Using VR technology, teachers will create engaging lessons for the students at Hackensack Middle School. Soon students will experience virtual field trips and Google Expeditions, allowing them to experience the places that they are learning about in their content area classes.



Hackensack High School

# Hispanic Heritage Celebration



## HHS



**W.E.B.S. Dept.**

Every fall, Hackensack High School recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month with a special production that celebrates Hispanic history and culture. This year, Mrs. Colacino and Mrs. Gonzalez organized a phenomenal showcase of Hispanic cultures that illuminated our students' unique and varied talents. Audience members were treated to an informative and entertaining presentation that included historical facts, beautiful songs, inspiring poetry, and amazing dances.

This beautiful assembly not only helped to foster an appreciation of Hispanic cultures within our student but also inspired a greater understanding of the multicultural community in which we live. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly so special.

## Early Childhood Developmental Center (ECDC)



Hackensack Schools celebrated the opening of a new, full-day, Pre-Kindergarten class today, Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 8:50 a.m. as a result of additional funding received from the State of New Jersey Department of Early Childhood Education. Through the *Preschool Education Expansion Aid Grant*, the district is now able to provide one more full-time Pre-Kindergarten class. Fifteen additional students and their families will benefit from the expansion. Hackensack Schools' Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is located at 100 South Main Street, Hackensack.

The district applied for the grant, which was offered in August 2017. "After we prepared a plan for the Preschool expansion, the State approved the district's proposal, and awarded Hackensack Schools with \$189,866 of additional funding," Superintendent of Schools Rosemary Marks explained. This funding enabled school officials to provide another additional Preschool teaching position. The program features Dual Language Instruction so that all students will develop a foundation to become bi-lingual, making them competitive for a global economy.

"Our goal is to increase access to early childhood education in our community and provide more and more Hackensack children with rich learning experiences. We believe that increased access to Preschool will help to better equip our students with skills that will translate into the ability to interact successfully in the world and ultimately support students in being career and future ready," Superintendent Marks stated.

The Pre-School class will serve four-year-olds, helping them to develop reading readiness, math, writing, science, social studies, and social skills. An extensive children's library with books in both English and Spanish will be housed in the classroom, along with updated technology to prepare students for Kindergarten. According to the NECTAC Clearinghouse on Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education, in recent years, research on young children's early brain development has underscored its importance for later development.

Recognizing the Preschool expansion as an additional opportunity for Hackensack families, The District's Curriculum Director, Dr. Lauren Kazmark, said, "Early childhood education is a vital first step in our students' learning, and it is something that we continue to prioritize."



*ECDC New Pre-K Classroom*



*HBOE Trustee Mark Stein and Acting Superintendent of School Rosemary Marks commemorating the opening of the new full-day Pre-K class*



*Pre-K Teacher Noemi Gomez and her Para Professional welcoming students and parents to the new class*



*From left to right: Acting Superintendent Rosemary Marks, HBOE Trustee Mark Stein and Assistant Superintendent Andrea Parchment.*

*To Our Staff, Students and Families,*

