



THE HERALD

WEEKLY NEWS FROM THE HOBOKEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.hoboken.k12.nj.us

February 21, 2017

A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you were able to take advantage of the long holiday weekend, and enjoy the time off with your family. There is a lot of news to share with you in this edition of The Herald. Take a moment to read and enjoy all that is going on in the Hoboken Public Schools.

In this week's edition, you will read about Hoboken High School's revolutionary Personal Growth Period, the Culinary Arts Program's celebration of the Chinese New Year and the once-in-a-lifetime trip for HHHS students to perform at the Richard Rodgers Theater, interact with the cast of Hamilton: The Musical, and experience the show for themselves.

I'd like to also remind you that the application and interview process for the next cohort of Project Lead The Way high school students will begin in the upcoming weeks. Current 8th and 9th grade students can apply for any of our three tracks of the Project Lead The Way Program: Biomedical Science, Computer Science, or Engineering. Be on the lookout for information posted around Hoboken High School and on our website!

The Hoboken High School Redwing student-athletes have been busy as well. The Redwings swim teams will dive into the Hudson County tournament this week, while both the girls' and boys' basketball teams are back on the road to state title again this year. The girls will host Bloomfield Tech in the first round of the state playoffs on February 28 at 5:00 PM, immediately followed by the boys taking on American History (Newark) at 7:00 PM, at Hoboken High School.

Our elementary schools have shined equally as bright. On Wednesday, February 15th, this hosted a Day of Visitation for prospective Kindergarten and Grade 1 families. This event provided all in attendance with a comprehensive overview and Q&A session with Assistant Superintendent Mr. Gerald Fitzgugh, II and Principal of Brandt Primary Mr. David Rodriguez-Gomez. After the presentation, parents were unable to attend the Day of Visitation or know of any friends or neighbors that may be interested in our schools, you can find the presentation link here.

In this week's newsletter, you will also get a glimpse at some of our elementary school work our "100th Day of School" celebrations, and all of our exciting upcoming events, like the Brandt Spring Musical.

Tomorrow evening, February 22nd, our administrative team will be hosting our next Parent and Guardian Academy workshop series. Please join us for one of the following sessions:

- Grades K-2 Eight Mathematical Practices and PARCC Math Specifications at Brandt Primary School, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- Grades 3-6 Eight Mathematical Practices and PARCC Math Specifications at Calabro Elementary School, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- Grades 7-12 Eight Mathematical Practices and PARCC Math Specifications at Hoboken High School, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

At the start of the school year, the Hoboken School District launched a new district website. I would like to encourage you to get acquainted with the new layout, features, and content. Resources like our district calendar, program information, and important notices are always published online. I would also like to steer your attention toward our social media platforms. Our Facebook, Twitter, and WordPress pages bring district and school events, news, and accomplishments to you in real time.

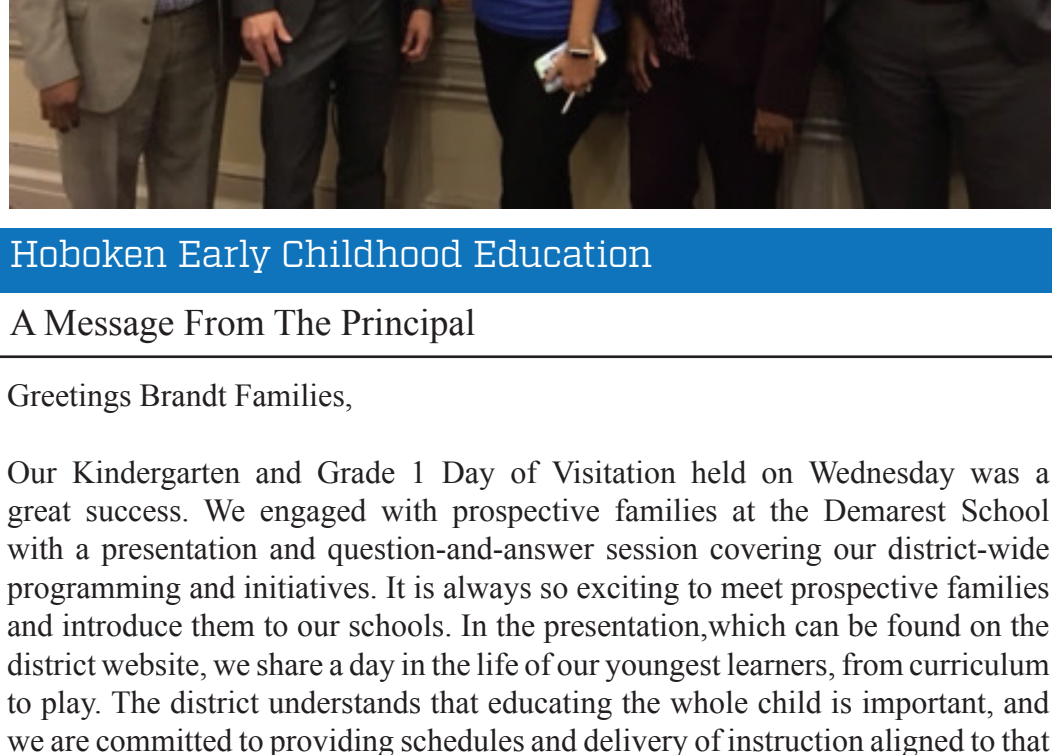
Sincerely,

Christine A. Johnson

Christine A. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools

PLTW: Inspiring our Students

A Hoboken Public School District Video Production



The entire Project Lead The Way Team in the Hoboken Public School District has been busy. Check the picture above to watch a short highlight video from this year.

The application and interview process for the next cohort of PLTW students is coming up! Interested 8th and 9th grade students should look for the link to apply, and an interview will be scheduled once the application has been received.

Use the links below to view a snapshot of the course overview for each track.

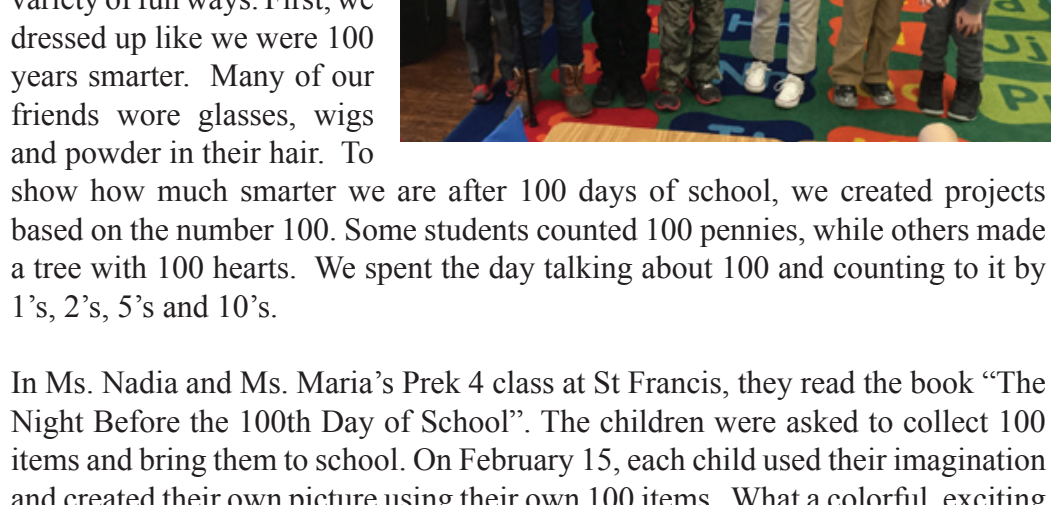
[Biomedical Science](#) [Computer Science](#) [Engineering](#)

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Day of Visitation

The Kindergarten and Grade 1 Day of visitation allowed prospective families to engage with our administration and Early Childhood Team at the Demarest School, with a presentation and question-and-answer session detailing our district-wide programming and initiatives. At the presentation, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Gerald Fitzgugh, II and Director of the Early Childhood Program Mrs. Sandra Rodriguez-Gomez shared a day in the life of our youngest learners, covering everything from curriculum to play. After the presentation, parents were given the opportunity to visit each of our elementary schools and meet with our staff.

If you missed the Day of Visitation, you can still view the presentation below!

[Kindergarten & Grade 1 Day of Visitation Presentation](#)



Hoboken Early Childhood Education

A Message From The Principal

Greetings Brandt Families,

Our Kindergarten and Grade 1 Day of Visitation held on Wednesday was a great success. We engaged with prospective families at the Demarest School through a presentation and question-and-answer session covering our district-wide programming and initiatives. It is always so exciting to meet prospective families and introduce them to our schools. In the presentation, which can be found on the district website, we share a day in the life of our youngest learners, from curriculum to play. The district understands that educating the whole child is important, and we are committed to providing schedules and delivery of instruction aligned to that thinking. I had the honor of speaking with many parents as they toured Brandt, and I want to share that our current student body was very impressive. The children were expecting visitors and we ready to share all that they have learned in these first 100 days. Many parents were in awe at the writing and math applications that our students were engaged in, and left our school feeling very pleased and confident in the rigorous work at our school.

In other news this week, our students and staff celebrated 100 days in school this week! Students dressed like they were 100 years smarter, and made collections of 100. I am certain that in kitchens across Hoboken, there were many students counting out fruit loops, cheerios, and pennies. Was that the case in your home?

I am excitedly looking forward to what the latter part of the year has to offer, and I am eager to go on this journey with you!

Sincerely,

Principal Sandra Rodriguez-Gomez

The 100th Day of School Celebration at Brandt



All classrooms at Brandt enjoyed various celebrations of the 100th day of school on Wednesday, February 15th.

In Ms. Impevedato's first grade class, we celebrated the 100th day of school in a variety of fun ways. First, we dressed up like we were 100 years smarter. Many of our first graders wore glasses, wigs, and powder in their hair. To show how much smarter we are after 100 days of school, we created projects based on the number 100. Some students counted 100 pennies, while others made a tree with 100 hearts. We spent the day talking about 100 and counting to it by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's.

In Ms. Nadia and Ms. Maria's Prek 4 class at St. Francis, they read the book "The Night Before the 100th Day of School". The children were asked to collect 100 items and bring them to school. On February 15, each child used their imagination and created their own picture using their own 100 items. What a colorful, exciting way to celebrate being 100 days smarter by sharing our artistic creations.

Our Mile Square Pre K 4 classes enjoyed a 100 Day of School Thematic Activity by participating in an interactive version of Rocket's 100 Day of School by Ted Hilde. Students also engaged with Tessa the puppet and asked her questions about being 100 years old, what she likes to do, where she lives, and her favorite food. Students also created a set of ten steps, ten times, to C.A.S.E. Stop the Feeling by Justin Timberlake. Our Pre K 4 friends showed how they are 100 days smarter as actors, dancers, and creative thinkers.

It has been a pleasure watching all the children have learned and how they have grown in 100 days. We cannot wait to see how smart they are after the next 100 days!

Salvatore R. Calabro Elementary School News

A Message From The Principal

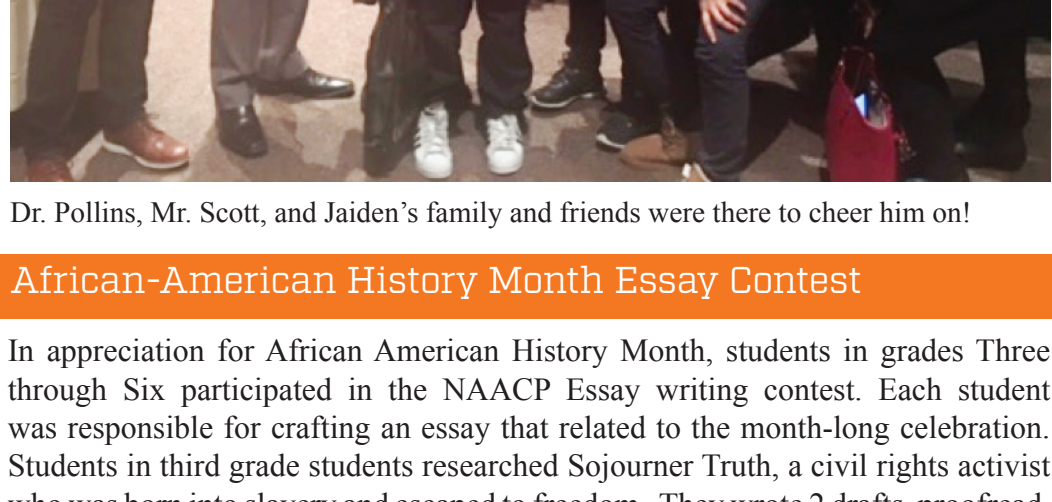
Dear Calabro Learning Community,

In this edition, you will see some of the exciting activities taking place in Ms. Monblatt's Music class. We are especially proud of our word walls, which every classroom including our specialists use daily to engage students in academic vocabulary. As students participate in their Music, Spanish, Physical Education, and Art classes, our teachers make cross curricula connections to ELA and Math by way of vocabulary.

A big thank you to our School Improvement Panel (Mr. Baker, Mrs. Monblatt, and Mrs. Tehanne) and our Kindergarten team (Mrs. Aquino and Mrs. Monasco) for their support and assistance during our Kindergarten 1st Grade Day of Visitation this week. Families enjoyed a tour of Calabro and had the opportunity to explore our classrooms.

Best,

Joseph P. Vespiagnini, Ed.D.



Thomas G. Connors Elementary School News

A Message From The Principal

We had an amazing Kindergarten and First Grade Visitation Day here at Connors! I had the opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful parents who are considering Connors School for their child. Our tours were led by Mrs. White, Mrs. Lucignano and Ms. Sogolizzo. Our potential parents were able to see the amazing work that our teachers do with our students. I was very happy to share with them the great learning opportunities that happen here daily!

As a reminder, Sherry Shine will exhibit her artwork here at Connors on February 22nd and will host a parent session from 9:00-9:45. Ms. Shine will discuss how to get your children involved in the arts. We will also host a resume workshop on the 22nd at 4:00 for parents. Please return the registration form that was sent home with your child by February 21st. We have space for 20 participants.

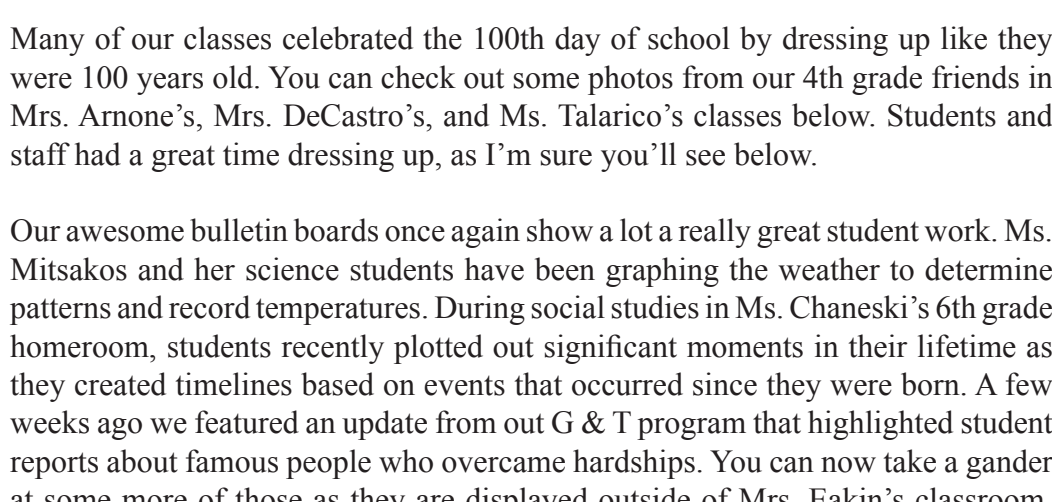
We also want to give a very special Connors Shout-Out to Jaiden Soriano, a third grade student. Last weekend, Jaiden represented Connors Elementary in the 58th Annual Hudson County Spelling Bee. Jaiden's friends and family were in attendance to cheer him on. Jaiden did an awesome job and made it all the way to the third round, before coming up short on the word "fletcherism." Here is the definition for those of you who want to learn a new word (since most adults in attendance were not even familiar with word!):

Fletcherism (noun): the practice of eating in small amounts and only when hungry and of chewing one's food thoroughly

So when you sit down to eat your next meal, be sure to engage in some fletcherism and thank Jaiden!

As always, I look forward to the continued work that we do together for the success of every child.

-Dr. Pollins

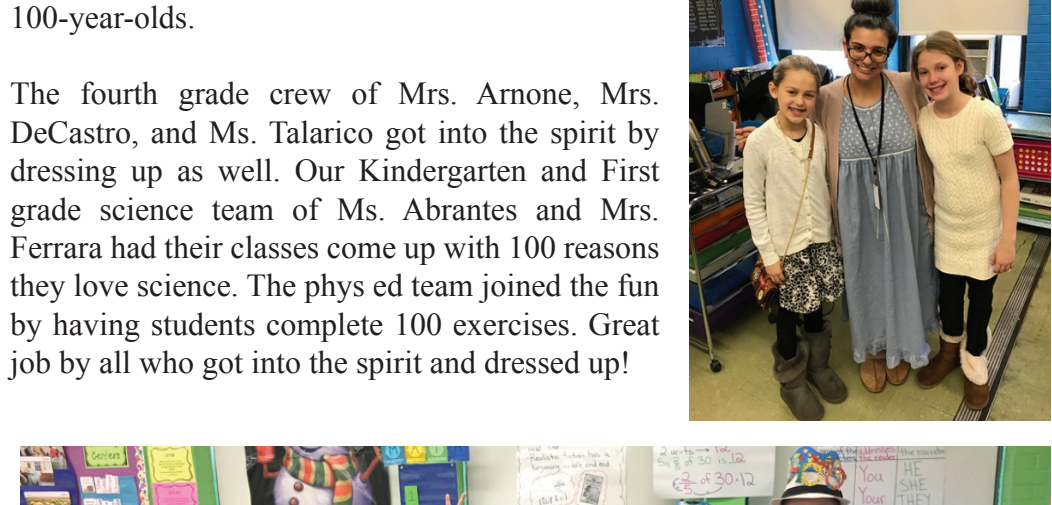


Dr. Pollins, Mr. Scott, and Jaiden's family and friends were there to cheer him on!

African-American History Month Essay Contest

In appreciation for African American History Month, students in grades Three through Six participated in the NAACP Essay writing contest. Each student was responsible for crafting an essay that related to the month-long celebration. Students in third grade students researched Sojourner Truth, a civil rights activist who was born into slavery and escaped to freedom. They wrote 2 drafts, proofread, then typed their essay on chrome books for their final submission.

Students clearly enjoyed learning about such bravery and have implemented such into their daily lives.



Wallace Elementary School News



A Message From The Principal

Over 100 days, if you can believe it. Our academic year is now over 100 days old. In this time, we've seen some really beautiful work produced by our staff and students. We've seen many new district initiatives rolled out as well. We've watched the tribulations together, celebrated many successes, and I feel we've grown closer and more cohesive as a school community. While there is much work that still needs to be done to ensure our educational family continues on this upward and far-reaching trajectory, let's take some time once again to reflect on another great week here at Wallace School.

Many of our classes celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up like they were 100 years old. You can check out some photos from our 4th grade friends in Mrs. Arnone's, Mrs. DeCastro's, and Mrs. Talario's classes below. Students and staff had a great time dressing up, as I'm sure you'll see.

Our awesome bulletin boards once again show a lot of really great student work. Ms. Mitsakos and her science students have been graphing the weather to determine patterns and record temperatures. During social studies in Ms. Chanek's 6th grade homeroom, students recently plotted out significant moments in their lifetime as they created timelines based on events that occurred since they were born. A few weeks ago we featured an update from our G & T program that highlighted student reports about famous people who overcame hardships. You can now take a gander at some more of those as they are displayed outside of Mrs. Eakin's classroom.

Mrs. Frene and her friends recently "returned" from China, as they continue the theme of exploring different countries around the world. And Mrs. DiVincenzi's class investigated and wrote about the animal that represents their birth month to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Students continue to engage in authentic writing pieces in all of our grade levels. This week, our friends in grades 3-6 compared two pieces of literature. Our K-2 friends had the chance to write another narrative piece. Our night writers continue to build writing skills and show students the power of perseverance and practice. Our specialists continue to weave literacy into their lessons. We will also begin a round of PARCC-style math extended constructed response in the coming week. As you can see, engaging and challenging work is the norm at Wallace--let us be quite proud of.

Be sure to see the updates from our Phys Ed and Pre-K teams featured this week, and enjoy the long weekend with family and friends. See you for another great week on Tuesday...

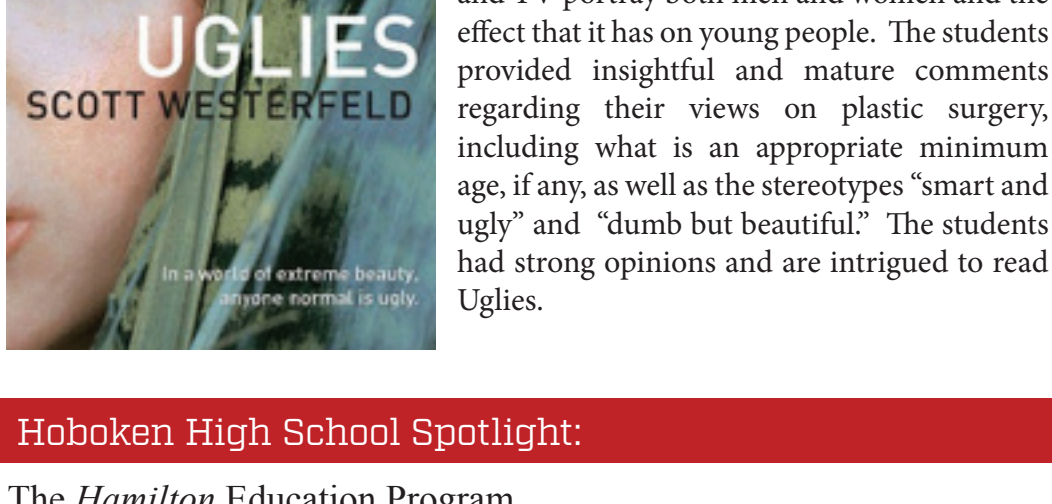
Martin Shannon

Principal

Wallace Students Go "Old School" to Celebrate 100 Days

This week, many of our classes marked the milestone of 100 days in school by dressing up in 100-year-olds.

The fourth grade crew of Mrs. Arnone, Mrs. DeCastro, and Mr. Talario got into the spirit by dressing up as well. Our Kindergarten and First grade science team of Ms. Abrantes and Mrs. Ferrara had their classes come up with 100 reasons they love science. The physics ed team joined the fun by having students complete 100 exercises. Great job by all who got into the spirit and dressed up!



Mrs. DeCastro's class all decked out for the 100th day of school.



Mrs. Arnone's crew all dressed up for the 100th day of school.

Students in Physical Education classes completed and logged 100 exercises. Next week, we will be our Jump Rope for Heart Event. Students will be participating in several jump rope activities during physical education class.

Please help us reach our school goal of raising \$10,000 for the American Heart Association. Fundraising directions/paperwork were distributed to all classes. If you need another copy, please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher. Stay healthy!

Hoboken Middle School News

A Message From The Coordinator

Congratulations to Matt McCreivry, who made it to round 6 at the Hudson County Spelling Bee last weekend. At that point there were only 14 spellers left. Great Job Matt!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Working, especially all of our middle schoolers, on a great production; your hard work and long hours paid off. It was a great show under the direction of Ms. Miller.

We are continuing our monthly assessments, and we are starting to see growth there as well. Students were hard at work yesterday on their literary analysis task. Everyone was talking about the dedication of the students. Next up: research simulation task next week. Keep up the hard work, your dedication to this process does not go unnoticed.

Over the course of the long weekend, remind your child to keep their skills sharp, spending time on Khan Academy and reading from their novels. Thank you for your continued support of Hoboken Middle School. Enjoy the break!

-Tara Donnelly

Inside the Classroom...

"Sleep dwell upon thine eyes..."

Ms. Falcone's Period 2/5 English class spent Valentine's Day finishing up their reading and analysis of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Students read an abridged version of the play to gain a better understanding of the lessons that Helling Hoodhood was exploring with his teacher, and even the discussions he was having with his Valentine's Day date, Meryl Lee! At the end of the play, students completed a quiz, "Who are you in Romeo & Juliet?" A majority of students ended up with Juliet, Mercutio, and Friar Laurence.

Uglies

SCOTT WESTERFELD

In a world of extreme beauty, being normal is deadly.

Last week in Mrs. Dickerson's class, in anticipation of starting Uglies by Scott Westerfeld, the students watched a "Tex" talk by Ashley Graham, "Plus Size! More Like Me" on body image. They looked at short break for lunch, and TV portray both men and women and the effect that it has on young people. The students provided insightful and mature comments regarding their views on plastic surgery, including what is an appropriate minimum age, if any, as well as the stereotypes "smart and ugly" and "dumb but beautiful." The students had strong opinions and are intrigued to read Uglies.

Hoboken High School Spotlight

The Hamilton Education Program

Hamilton: The Musical is easily one of today's most sought after attractions. With standard seating already sold out until September, it's safe to say experiencing the musical is nothing more than a wish list item on most regular agendas.

On Wednesday February 15th however, Hoboken High School students in Mr. Taraszkiewicz's AP US History II and Mrs. Miller's Theater Arts classes were able to cross-attend Hamilton of their list. Students had a great time at the Richard Rodgers Theater, while benefiting academically, artistically, culturally and socially.

The trip was made possible thanks to Mr. Taraszkiewicz's tireless efforts that awarded HHHS a grant from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, in conjunction with the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History formed an innovative educational partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation in part, to foster new artistic programs and increase the capacity for innovation throughout New York City and the surrounding communities. The Institute has over 20 years of experience in developing educational programming in American History studies.

For Hoboken High School students, the trip was the culmination of a project that lasted several weeks. Students were challenged to analyze primary source documents and create original performance pieces such as poems, song, raps, monologues and dialogues. Their work showed a capability to conduct research, demonstrate creativity and use information that is historically accurate.

The day kicked-off with a selection of student performances at Richard Rodgers Theater, which included a dialogue performed by HHHS juniors Deby Moretti and Anthony Sparacino. Students were then treated to a Question & Answer session with the members of the cast. After a short break for lunch, the students were finally able to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime performance of the Tony Award winning musical, Hamilton.

For additional information about the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Hamilton Education Program, please visit:

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/about-hamilton-education-program>

For additional information about the Rockefeller Foundation and their efforts to support cultural education, please visit:

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/our-work/initiatives/nyc-cultural-innovation-fund/>

Click on the picture to see a snippet of the HHHS student performance at the Richard Rodgers Theater!

Connect With Us On Social Media!

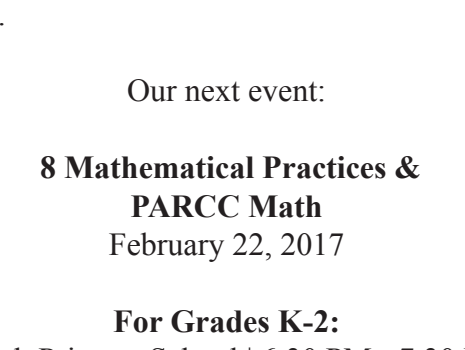
For the latest District information, be sure to connect with us on social media! We publish all of our school news, upcoming event information, announcements, and more, for your convenience!



www.facebook.com/hobokenpublicschools

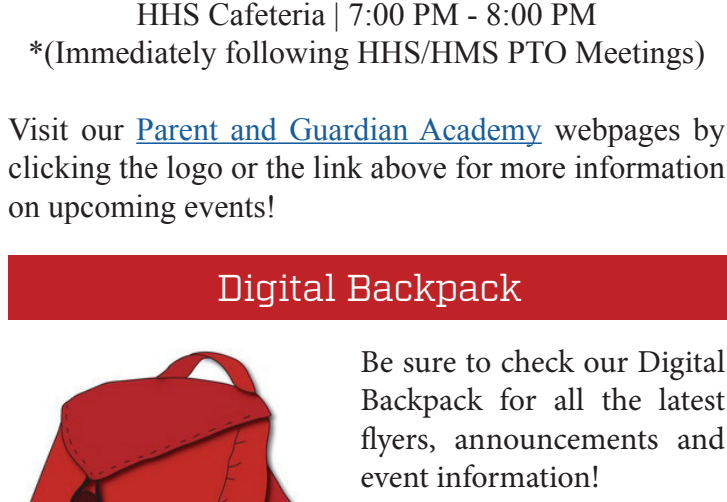


www.twitter.com/hobokenschools



www.hobokenschoolsdistrict.wordpress.com

Parent & Guardian Academy



Don't forget about our Parent & Guardian Academy!

Each month, we offer workshops on topics detailing ways to set your children up for success inside the classroom.

Our next event:

8 Mathematical Practices & PARCC Math

February 22, 2017

For Grades K-2:

Brandt Primary School | 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

For Grades 3-6:

Calabro Elementary School | 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

For Grades 7-12:

HHS Cafeteria | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

*(Immediately following HHHS/HMS PTO Meetings)

Visit our [Parent and Guardian Academy](#) webpages by clicking the logo or the link above for more information on upcoming events!

Digital Backpack



Be sure to check our Digital Backpack for all the latest flyers, announcements and event information!

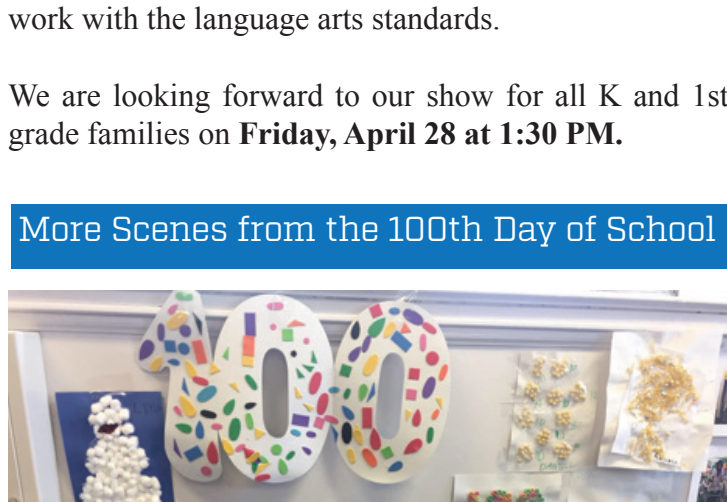
[Click here to visit our Digital Backpack page.](#)

Passport to Learning

In Passport to Learning this week, students at Brandt worked on a dance to *Hold My Hand* by Jessica.

Students start the dance in a circle and alternate movement in different directions while counting in eights. Students demonstrated locomotive movement in the circle by keeping in rhythm while moving to the right, left, inside, and out. They also reviewed structured improvisation with movements like playing an air guitar, drums, or piano.

Dance is a great way to improve physical strength and endurance, but it also helps redirect and focuses children's energy in a positive manner.



Ivy & Bean, The Musical

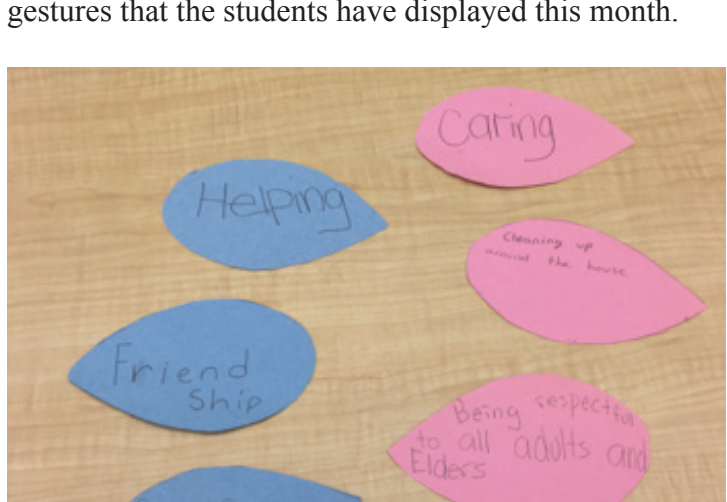
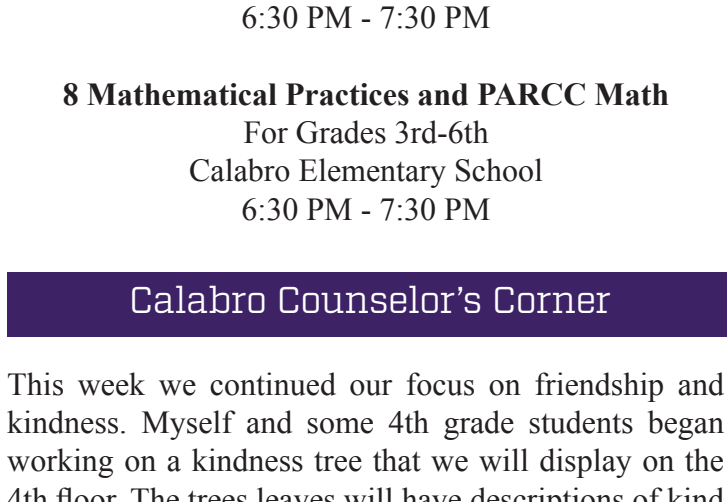


In Theatre class we have been working on our spring musical, *Ivy & Bean, The Musical*, a play based on the book series by Annie Barrows. The Musical, written by Scott Elmergreen, is being brought to us through Theatrical Rights Worldwide and Mr. Cercone. Mr. Cercone is a Brandt parent who brought us Tilly the Trickster and No Dogs Allowed last year. Thank you Mr. Cercone for your ongoing contributions to our Brandt Theatre Arts program.

Our musical will incorporate Music, Art, and Spanish, to continue demonstrating the cross curricular work we do in our specials classes. All children will participate as they learn the important aspects of theater production and acting. In addition, we will be doing writing narratives to discuss character, plot, and resolution to align our work with the language arts standards.

We are looking forward to our show for all K and 1st grade families on **Friday, April 28 at 1:30 PM.**

More Scenes from the 100th Day of School



Hoboken Early Childhood Advisory Council

The Hoboken Early Childhood Advisory Council (HECAC) volunteered at the Kindergarten-1st Grade Day of Visitation this week. HECAC members were proud to lend support to the event by leading family tours and answering questions from prospective parents.

We have a new blog post on Medium. The new entry features an interview with Mr. Michael Scott, the Vice Principal of Connors Elementary. Mr. Scott discussed how Connors is his home away from home and how it is his goal for all of the students to feel the same.

Check it out at:

<https://medium.com/@hecac/introducing-mr-scott-vice-principal-of-connors-elementary-486a8b818a19f9268w5q2l>

Upcoming Events

February 22, 2017

Authentic Literacy & PARCC ELA

For Grades K-2nd

Calabro Elementary School

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

*For those families who missed the presentation on January 11, 2017 at Brandt.

8 Mathematical Practices and PARCC Math

For Grades K-2nd

Brandt Primary School

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

8 Mathematical Practices and PARCC Math

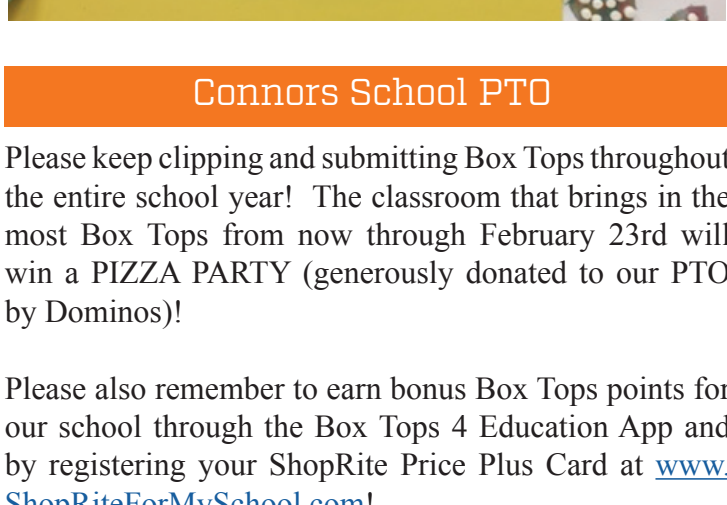
For Grades 3rd-6th

Calabro Elementary School

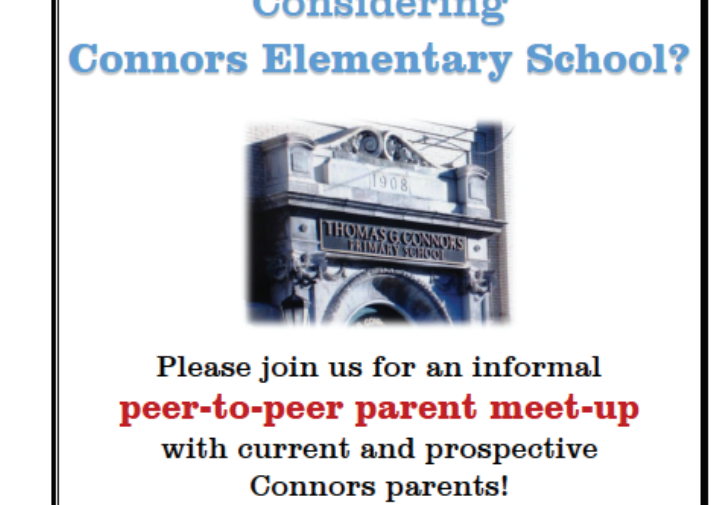
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Calabro Counselor's Corner

This week we continued our focus on friendship and kindness. Myself and some 4th grade students began working on a kindness tree that we will display on the 4th floor. The trees leaves will have descriptions of kind gestures that the students have displayed this month.



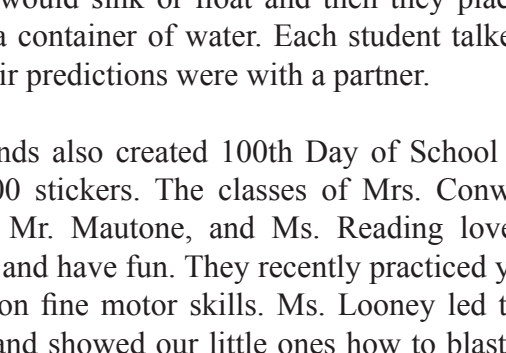
Jump Rope and Hoops for Hearts Program



The Jump Rope and Hoops for Hearts Program is an opportunity to teach the younger generation about heart-healthy living. There are many ways to live healthy, and it's important to teach students how regular exercise and a healthy diet can contribute to living a healthy life. Physically active students are shown to have better attendance, focus, behavior and academic performance. Students will practice and have a chance to win prizes and awards during the Jump Rope for Hearts Program.

Social Media Connection

Connors Elementary School is on Facebook and Twitter! Stay up to date by liking and following our social media pages!



TG Connors Elementary



@ConnorsSchool

Upcoming Events

February 7 PTO Meeting 8:00 AM
February 10 Report Card Distribution
February 16 School PTO discussion on
February 17 & 20 School Closed for President's Day

100th Day of School at Connors

This week, the students of Connors were very excited to celebrate an important milestone in the 2016-2017 school year—the 100th Day of School. Throughout the school, projects were created, counting exercises took place, and students created special 100th day accessories including hats! Students in the kindergarten were especially impressed to see how many items it took to create posters of 100 things. It was exciting to look back and realize we have spent 100 days in school, but we all know there is plenty more work ahead for all students at Connors.