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Positive Happenings through Roselle Schools - Feb. 10 to 14

Abraham Clark High School Students Enjoy Visit from Chef Jesse Jones

Passion, opportunity and work - or POW - is the mantra that drives professional chef Jesse Jones to do his best each day.

Cooking saved “Chef Jesse” from a life on the streets. During his recent visit to Abraham Clark High School (ACHS), Jones explained to an attentive group of culinary students the difficulties he faced growing up without a father in the South and later in Newark.

Jones was invited to ACHS as part of the school’s Black History Month program to hold a live cooking demonstration and talk with students about his impressive culinary journey.

As the culinary arts room filled with the delicious aroma of sweet potato waffles and maple syrup, Jones shared an inspiring story. He’s known across the country for his Southern-style cooking with a Country French twist, catering to celebrities such as Tyler Perry.

Culinary arts teacher Jeff Wierzbicki selected three of his top students to assist Jones during his demonstrations. During the two sets, the students helped to prepare one of the chef’s favorite recipes: chicken and sweet potato waffles.

“Our hope is that Chef Jesse’s visit has inspired some of our culinary students to go out and pursue their own dreams,” said Interim Superintendent Dr. James Baker. “There is nothing stopping them, other than hard work and commitment.”



Grace Wilday Junior High School Students Enjoy Ladysmith Black Mambaza Performance

The Grace Wilday Junior High School Visual and Performing Arts Department recently took 150 students to the State Theater in New Brunswick to see Ladysmith Black Mambaza to help celebrate Black History Month.

This group is part of the time-honored tradition of South African Zulu male choral music called “isicathamiya,” a Zulu word meaning “to walk or step on one's toes lightly.”

“Taking our students to view live performances allows them to experience and appreciate a greater musical experience than merely listening to a recording or a lecture,” said Principal Tomeeko Hunt. “Not only did the students learn the history of this form of music, they were also exposed to the culture and language of the people. It was a new and positive experience for the students that sparked questions and conversations.”



Leonard V. Moore Middle School Hosts Local Resident for Black History Month

Leonard V. Moore Middle School arranged a Black History Month assembly for all students on Feb. 12 that featured a Roselle resident, the Rev. Stephen Green.

Green talked to fifth and sixth graders about the background of Black History Month, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the role of the NAACP, the Civil Rights Movement and positive messages regarding staying in school, getting a quality education and solving problems appropriately.

After his presentation, there was a Q&A session. Students were eager to share their ideas and appreciated a chance to be heard.

Fourth Graders at Harrison Elementary School Host “Lenape Showcase”

Harrison Elementary School's fourth-grade students hosted a “Lenni Lenape Showcase” this week that featured many handmade projects.

The students created a "touch museum" about the Lenni Lenape tribe – the original people to inhabit New Jersey. Students presented information to children in other grades as they walked through the "museum."

“It was a great showcase in which our fourth 4th graders shined and were able to show off their research skills,” said Principal Melissa Nevarez.



Washington Elementary School First Graders Celebrate the 100th Day of School

First graders at Washington Elementary School had a blast dressing up as 100-year-olds for the 100th day of school on Feb. 14.

All first graders dressed up as

(Soft food only!)



Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School Celebrates Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School

February 14 marked two exciting events at Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School: Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school.

In honor of Valentine's Day, balloons and candy grams were sold for students to hand out to their friends.

Students also dressed up as centenarians and created festive posters to mark the 100th day of school. Posters included ones with 100 pieces of cereal, marshmallows and goldfish.

Kindergarten Success Academy Celebrates Black History Month with Door Decorating

At the Kindergarten Success Academy this week, students learned about individuals who make contributions to African American history. Through stories and art, students learned about various individuals who made contributions to civil rights, science, music, and culture. Each class decorated their classroom door to commemorate these historic contributions.

Each class also enjoyed a "Wall Walk," in which they had the opportunity to visit all classrooms throughout the building to see the creations of their classmates.

"This experience allowed the children an opportunity to learn about the additional icons in African American History. It also emphasized the many contributions embedded within American history. Students learn that although we celebrate these icons in the month of February, the contributions are long-lasting and forever embedded in our history," said Principal Dr. Nathan Fisher.

Roselle Preschoolers Love Learning About Technology

Preschoolers began exploring technology this week with a fun and interactive activity through the Osmo learning game system.

The students engaged in alphabet learning. They are building letters and pieces of art using squishy, colorful sticks and rings.

"Osmo is helping the students gain confidence in letter recognition, vocabulary construction and phonics, while exploring their visual perception and art skills," said Head Teacher Gelin Brand.

