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JANUARY 12, 2015 | VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 5

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Ladies and gentlemen, *The Conwell Kidz!*

PS 3 STUDENTS TO PERFORM IN ATLANTA

Drama students to perform at Junior Theater Festival later this month

Frank R. Conwell PS 3's 4th and 5th grade drama students, the "Conwell Kidz," will be attending the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend.

The Conwell Kidz Drama Program's mission is to encourage students to develop an appreciation for the Arts through creative expression, as well as connecting cross-curricular content in alignment with the Common Core. The drama program, under the direction of Drama Specialist Nicole Oliver, has performed at many high-profile events in and out of the area, such as Macy's in the Jersey City Newport Mall where they raised over \$5,000 for "The Make-a-Wish Foundation." The group was also featured at Mayor Fulop's Inauguration Festivities. Students were also featured on ABC News (covered by Michelle Charlesworth). Other credits include: "I Love Jersey City Public Schools" Festival, The Van Vorst Children's Festival, Hoboken: The Debaun Annual Young

Performers Festival, runners-up for Disney's Planet Challenge, Tempest Productions "Oh, Freedom," NJEA and Educational Law Center's "Kids in Concert," and numerous JCETV appearances.

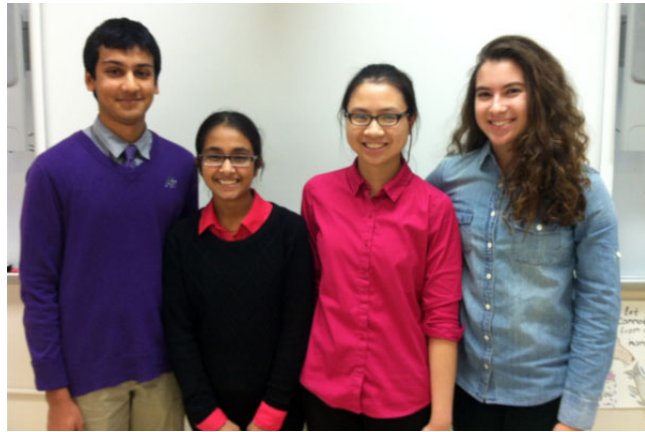
Principal Darren Mischel explains, "I think the Kidz' talents deserve recognition. They are truly inspiring, and to see them on stage performing at a level that is so much more advanced than one could imagine is truly something special."

We wish the students much luck as they prepare to hit the stage in Atlanta!

[Learn more about the Junior Theater Festival](#)

MCNAIR STUDENTS MAKING POWER MOVES

The McNair Academic community is proud to announce that Nikunj Jhaveri and Lauren Russell have been selected as the school's candidates for admission to the 2015 NJ Scholars Program. The mission of the NJ Scholars Program is to bring together thirty-nine scholars for an intellectual experience that will challenge their ways of thinking. Scholars will participate in lectures and work closely with faculty members, not to receive a final grade, but to discover a love of learning.



McNair students all smiles.

Juniors Nahuyen Pham and Sarbari Sarkar have been selected as the school's candidates for admission to the 2015 NJ Governor's School. The NJ Governor's School seeks to broaden the scholars' appreciation of the sciences. Scholars will partake in intense college-level research for three weeks during the summer, either at Drew University's School in the Sciences or Rutgers University's Governor's School of Engineering & Technology.

Acceptance into either the NJ Scholars Program or the NJ Governor's School would be a very prestigious honor for the school's nominees. We wish all four students good luck!

[Learn more about the NJ Scholars Program](#)
[Learn more about the NJ Governor's School](#)

PS 23 BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO SENIORS

The Character Education Club of Mahatma K. Gandhi PS 23 has visited the Cusack Care Center in Journal Square for the past 8 years. Students performed short holiday plays, brought gifts for the residents, shared some delicious snacks, and had a visit with Santa. Most recently, they added the Hispanic Leadership Club and the Drama Clubs to perform on this trip. The children, who got along so well with the seniors and made them feel special around the holidays, also learned a valuable lesson during their visit.



Senior citizens at the Cusack Care Center in Journal Square enjoyed some caroling by PS 23 students.

FERRIS WELCOMES NEWEST NAF COHORT

Forty-six freshmen from the James J. Ferris High School Finance and Hospitality & Tourism SLCs participated in a program where they were accepted into the National Academy Foundation (NAF). NAF students complement their core academic studies with a focus on a career theme. The structure and rigor of an academy education inspires self-discipline and prepares students to handle the demands of higher education and employment. Students refine their competitive edge through job shadowing, student conferences, and public speaking opportunities. Ferris High School's objective is to provide rigorous academic and challenging technical curricula coupled with industry-certified curriculum assessments and certified work-based learning experiences to become college and career ready. Students in both SLCs are required to complete NAF-required courses as part of their 4-year education. The students will also receive a wide array of support to help them meet their individual goals and stay on track.



Ferris Finance students proudly show off their banner.

[Learn more about the National Academy Foundation \(NAF\)](#)

MS 4 WINS STATE AWARD IN ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Students showcased their infusion of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) by participating in the district's First LEGO League competition. The theme of this year's challenge was World Class. Students were given a task to redesign how knowledge and skills are gathered in the 21st century. Teams taught adults about the way that kids need and want to learn.

Sixteen district schools participated in the event held at Frank R. Conwell MS 4 in Downtown Jersey City.



Students competed in the First LEGO League competition at Frank R. Conwell MS 4 in December.

Teams advancing to the State First LEGO League tournament held at Mount Olive High School were from schools 4, 17, 37, and 38. Our four teams competed against fifty-six other teams from all across NJ. MS 4 received the Innovative Solution Award, 1st Place. Principal Joanna Veloz said of the win, "It is with great pride that we congratulate the Conwell Robotics Team as they honored our school and district with a total of three 1st-Place trophies from the district and State competitions. The entire MS 4 community is so proud of all their hard work and dedication."

[Learn more about First LEGO League](#)

SCHOOL DISTRICT TELEVISION STATION JCETV WINS

STATE AWARD

JCETV, Jersey City Public Schools' Educational Access Television Station, has received a statewide award for the intern-produced *JCPS News* program. The Award, "Best Production: Non-Professional," was for the magazine-format show that is produced by interns from all of the Jersey City Public High Schools.

The award was presented at the Jersey Access Group JAM Awards Dinner on Wednesday, December 10, at the Spain Inn in Piscataway, NJ. Jersey Access Group (JAG) is a statewide consortium of Public-Educational-Governmental (PEG) stations.

This "JAM" trophy recognizes the high production values and hard work of future media professionals. JCETV is shown on:

- Comcast/Jersey City on channel 1;
- Verizon in Jersey City, Bayonne, Hoboken, and many other northern and central NJ communities on channel 43;
- Online at www.jcboe.org;
- Live and on demand; and,
- The ROKU Box with other PEG stations.

Program Director Tom Horan stated, "JCETV Interns come from all of our high schools and are assigned the task of highlighting achievements of their classmates in news stories they produce. This JAG/JAM award serves to highlight the interns' achievements in storytelling through words, shot-selection, graphics, and editing--all skills that will enhance their career choices, whether it will be in broadcasting or any other career they wish to pursue. My staff and I look forward to continuing our JCETV Internship Co-op Training program in telecommunication skills so we may share the positive efforts of students, teachers, and staff in the Jersey City Public School System with our ever-increasing television audience." Patric Fharah is Supervising Producer for the newscast.

[Learn more about Jersey Access Group \(JAG\)](#)



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE WINNER!

PS 11 has earned best attendance for the month of December with a 96.28% attendance rate. Congratulations!

*LIBERTY LINES IS AN IN-HOUSE PRODUCTION OF THE JERSEY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
THE JERSEY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.*

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