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Students gather at Liberty Science Center during the Jersey City Science Fair Challenge. *(photo courtesy of Reena Rose Sibayan, Jersey Journal)*

Budding Scientists Celebrated at Jersey City's District-Wide Science Fair

Student winners from all grade levels announced

"Science is the embodiment of imagination, invention and inspiration," said District Science Supervisor, Manisha Shah, as she summarized the projects presented at the Jersey City Public School's Science Fair

Challenge on Monday, January 11. Fifth through eighth graders from schools throughout the City filled Liberty Science Center's first floor with their projects and discussed their work with judges from Liberty Science Center, District supervisors, and science research students from Dickinson and McNair Academic High Schools. Over 240 student scientists explained their questions, their hypotheses and performed experiments as they vied for the opportunity to present their work at the Hudson County Science Fair.

The Science Fair Challenge is an important part of the science curriculum because it gives students an opportunity to design and conduct scientific investigations. Every student in grades 5-8 is expected to do a project, and schools hold their own science fairs in November and December to select three winners per grade. Each of those winners in grades 5-8 presented their projects at Liberty Science Center last Monday and three winners per grade from this group were selected to compete in the County Science Fair to be held on February 29, 2016, also at Liberty Science Center. So many projects were outstanding that the judges found their task very difficult. The winners selected are listed in the chart below.

The Science Fair Challenge "makes science relevant to students and sparks their curiosity to seek answers to questions that will benefit society," Manisha Shah noted. Superintendent Dr. Marcia V. Lyles added, "We are so proud of the quality and creativity of the student experiments and of the energy and excitement our students bring to their projects. Our teachers have done a great job."

The 2016 Jersey City Public School Science Fair winners for each grade are:

Grade	School	First	Last	Title of Project	Place
5	38	Tyler	Riscoe	Shake, Rattle and Fall	1st
5	16	Ashita	Birla	Yeast Busters: Stopping Fungus in its Tracks	2nd
5	3	Darius	Rush	The Pain Game	3rd
6	27	Morgan	Canizares	Do You Eat Germs?	1st
6	39	Gretchen	Encarnacion	Beautiful Crystals	2nd
6	24	Leian	Macapagal	Let it Melt	3rd
7	Academy I	Masha	Musthafa	Electromnia	1st
7	Academy I	Ahmad	Khalil	Rewards on Performance	2nd
7	28	Jennifer	Fuehrer	Emergency Batteries	3rd
8	4	Mariam	Nasief	Vapor Cigarettes less hazardous than regular	1st
8	17	Amira	Shalaby	Dancing Bacteria	2nd
8	27	Elena	Gurczeski	Super Worms to the Rescue	3rd

PS 6 EXPLORES DRONES AS MATH LEARNING TOOL

Jotham W. Wakeman PS 6 is excited to begin implementing the new Division B Drone Initiative: Using Drones in Math Education. The initiative framework was designed by Division Director Dr. Norma Fernandez and Math Supervisor Kimberly

Crowley. Principal Nicholas Capodice would like to capitalize on student interest based on school level surveys. Mr. Capodice states, "I feel our students perform best when engaging hands-on learning experiences are provided." Collaboration between division and school leadership has begun to ensure the initiative hits the floor running. Drones will be used during math lessons to offer opportunities for real-world application and increase student engagement. In addition to Division B Drones and Professional Development, PS 6 has also purchased their own drones and professional development to support their staff. Principal Capodice feels the added resources will complement the on-going initiative. Assistant Principal Joseph Apruzzese states "The possibilities are endless for students and staff to collaborate on engaging lessons."



PS 6 Principal Nicholas Capodice (seated right), meets with staff members to discuss the Division B Math Initiative.

BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL SUCCESS AT MS 41 CELEBRATED

To celebrate the success of the "Breakfast After the Bell," program in the Jersey City Public Schools, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, Superintendent Dr. Marcia V. Lyles, Deputy Mayor Vivian Brady and Principal Glenda Jennings recently joined advocates for Children of New Jersey, the NJ Food for Thought Coalition, Jersey City schools and city officials, as well as other dignitaries at the Fred W. Martin Center for the Arts MS 41 to see the program firsthand. After being targeted for improvement in serving free breakfast to students three years ago, Jersey City is now considered a leader among school districts, having increased its student participation from 26 to about 70 percent, according to a report compiled by Advocates for Children of New Jersey and the NJ Food for Thought Campaign. The Martin Center for the Arts will continue to shine a spotlight on school breakfast to ensure that all kids start their day with a healthy breakfast.



From left, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno with Dr. Marcia V. Lyles and Principal Glenda Jennings celebrating the "Breakfast After the Bell" program.

PS 12 WELCOMES FORMER STUDENT BACK AS MUSIC TEACHER

Former Julia A. Barnes PS 12 graduate, Kendall Bass, recently returned to his school as their new music teacher. They, and we as a district, appreciate the many talents Mr. Bass will share with our students on a daily basis. We are proud to announce his most recent accomplishment, singing at the NJPAC in Newark, NJ. Mr. Bass performed in November in the Michael Raphael's Garvey three-act opera. Congratulations and welcome, Mr. Bass!



Kendall Bass, former student of PS 12, and accomplished artist, is now back as the school's music teacher.

PS 23 HELPS THOSE IN NEED DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." That is exactly what students, staff, and the community of Mahatma K. Gandhi PS 23 accomplished in giving, and being willing participants during their first annual "Season of Giving" event this past holiday season. Students and staff worked tirelessly for weeks as toys were collected and donated to families in the school, the community, the Hope House Shelter, and the Jersey City Medical Center Barnabas Health Pediatric Ward. Toys were packed, wrapped and decorated by students to make the holiday season a little bit brighter for those in need. PS 23 Principal Pete Mattaliano said, "It is important to learn each discipline well, have exposure to real life experiences, and incorporate lifelong lessons for students to become productive citizens that are an asset to society. Working in a collaborative manner with staff, parents, and the community are essential tools for the success of all students." Great job by PS 23.



Reena Rose Sibayan, Jersey Journal Photo Director (center holding plaque), posed with students and staff, including Asst. Principal Cynthia Small (front right) at an assembly celebrating the *Season of Giving*.

STUDENT LIFE & SERVICES GIVES BACK

Every year the staff of the Student Life and Services Department bring a little Christmas cheer to the children of Hope House, located in Jersey City. Hope House is a safe haven and shelter for children and families who are victims of domestic violence. Student Life and Services, under the direction of Franklin Walker, organized a party for the families. Each department staff member was paired with a child staying there and got to become "Santa's helper" by buying gifts on that individual child, which are then delivered by Santa and his Elves. This year, John Ross, Attendance Supervisor played Santa and was supported by Victoria Ross (Science Teacher) and Karen Colello, District Student Assistance Coordinator. To protect the identity of the victims only the staff is pictured.



Attendance Supervisor John Ross, posed here as Santa, along with Student Coordinator Karen Colello (left) and Science Teacher Victoria Ross, prepare to celebrate a special Christmas for children at Hope House.



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE WINNER!

PS 28 has earned best attendance for the last month of 2015 with a 95.8% attendance rate. Congratulations!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES (tentative)

- **1/19** - Board of Education Caucus, CO, 6 p.m.
- **1/20** - Citywide Parent Advisory meeting, CO, 6-8 p.m.
- **1/21** - Board of Education meeting, PS 11, 6 p.m.
- **1/23** - SAT Administration, Dickinson HS
- **1/25** - HS Midterm Exams, through 1/29
- **1/27** - Title I Parent Advisory Council meeting, CO, 6-8 p.m.
- **1/29** - Elementary & Middle School 2nd Marking Period Quarterly Assessments, through 2/4

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STAY CONNECTED

