



LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# #LindenCelebrates

Respect for Diversity ■ Excellence in Education ■ Commitment to Service

Linden, NJ

[lindenps.org](http://lindenps.org)

Jan. 25, 2022

## SELebrate good times!



### SELebration Day gives students and staff time to destress and have fun

Linden Public Schools' first "SELebration Day" was a tremendous success, allowing students and staff a chance to take a break from the daily grind, have fun, and destress. The district's special observation on Friday, Dec. 10, put the focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students and staff. Formal instruction of the curriculum was suspended, and teachers and staff members thought up creative ways for students to relax,



connect with one another, and focus on their own mental well-being. Among the activities at the schools were staff raffles, costume and school spirit contests, arts and crafts, yoga, scavenger hunts, art projects, karaoke, indoor golf, dancing, stuffed "snowball" fights, visits with Santa, indoor bowling, cornhole, and board and card games including bingo, Uno, Jenga, checkers, chess, and Pictionary. [Click here for full story, video, and more photos.](#)



## McManus selected for arts program that promotes unity

McManus Middle School has been chosen to take part in the United We Create Project, whose goal is to promote understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim students in Grades K through 8 through the arts. The project is sponsored by Young Audiences, an arts-in-education

organization serving New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. Students, teachers, and families will participate in the United We Create Project through storytelling, visual arts, music, drumming, and poetry to learn about Muslim cultures around the world and improve understanding

of connections and shared values among different religions and cultures. "We're ecstatic to see our school's mission and vision continue to grow through this fully-funded arts education program," said McManus Principal Atiya Perkins. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Board of Education swears in three members

### Linden Public Schools

**Superintendent**  
Dr. Marnie Hazelton

**Assistant Superintendent**  
Denise Cleary

**Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary**  
Kathleen A. Gaylord

**Human Resources Manager**  
Dr. Karen Baldwin

### Board of Education

**President**

Carlos A. Rivas

**Vice President**

Dr. Marlene Berghammer

Lymari Cintron  
Samuel De La Cruz Jr.  
Jennifer Flemming  
Sheenaider Guillaume  
Gregory R. Martucci  
Antoinette Pino  
Malaysia Thomas

**On the Web**

 LindenPS.org

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linden\_public\_schools

 YouTube

Linden Public Schools

**Communication Coordinator**

Gary Miller  
gmiller@lindenps.org



The Linden Board of Education swore in three members at its annual organization meeting on Thursday, Jan. 6. From left, Dr. Marlene Berghammer, Lymari



Cintron, and Antoinette Pino were sworn in to three-year terms. Cintron and Pino are newcomers. Berghammer had joined the board in July to complete an



unfinished term. All were elected on Nov. 2. The new board chose Carlos A. Rivas to continue in his role as president and selected Berghammer as its vice president.



## School No. 4 delights board members

Students from School No. 4 performed and made presentations for our Board of Education at the Nov. 23 meeting, showing off their commemorations of Hispanic Heritage Month. [Click to see video.](#)

### Key dates to remember

**Jan. 28**

End of 2nd marking period for middle and high schools

**Feb. 4**

Middle and high school report cards available in Genesis Parent Portal

**Feb. 22**

Board of Education work session

**Feb. 2**

Early dismissal for staff in-service day

**Feb. 21**

Schools closed for President's Day

**Feb. 24**

Board of Education regular meeting

# At the head of the class!

Congratulations to our Teachers and Support Staff of the Year



**McMANUS:** Science teacher Patricia Klingert and school counselor Ricardo Ciprian



**LHS:** Child study team member Lauren Bosio and Chinese teacher Lin Lin Hu



**SOEHL:** Science teacher Kimberly Leight and instructional coach Christine Urbanczyk



**SCHOOL NO. 1:** Paraprofessional Bogumila Madej and second-grade teacher Michelle Padovano



**SCHOOL NO. 2:** Kindergarten teacher Wendy Squeglia and paraprofessional Karen Sales



**SCHOOL NO. 4:** Second-grade teacher Gina Divito and paraprofessional Mary Ann Polini



**SCHOOL NO. 5:** Fourth-grade teacher Elena Sandoval and paraprofessional Jane White



**SCHOOL NO. 6:** Paraprofessional Susan Ortiz and first-grade teacher Donna Didyoung



**SCHOOL NO. 8:** Paraprofessional Donna Longo and kindergarten teacher Joan Dolan



**SCHOOL NO. 9:** Fourth-grade teacher Theresa Rogakos and reading coach Rachel Cordero



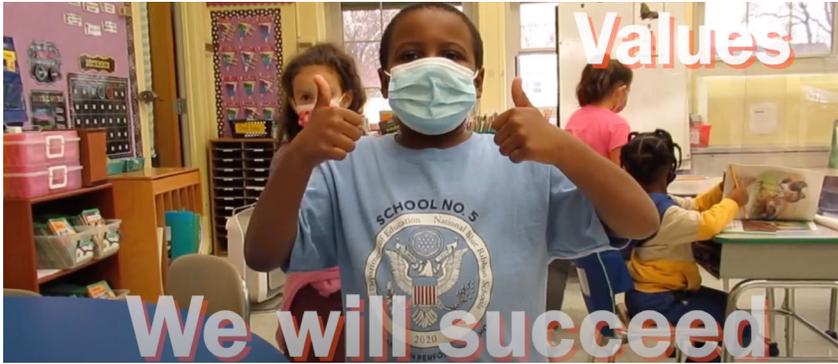
**SCHOOL NO. 10:** Second-grade teacher Allison Smith and paraprofessional Jessica DeJesus

## LHS teams with Union County College for dual-enrollment classes

Linden High School is pioneering a new program along with Union County College in which students can get college credits while in high school. This dual-enrollment program allows students to get both high school and college credits

at no cost. The classes are being taught virtually by UCC instructors after the high school day has ended, and are consistent with the community college curriculum. Students will take English 101 starting in January and ending in

May. Students will take virtual classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3 to 3:55 p.m. Students must be passing all their current classes at Linden High School to be eligible for the program, and space is limited to 40 students.



## Highlight reel shows what distinguishes School No. 5

School No. 5 created a video to show some of the special things that helped it to be selected as a National ESEA Distinguished School. The school was chosen by the New Jersey Department of Education and the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators in recognition of the success of its education programs and progress of its students. [Click here to watch video.](#)

# A boost for Haitian community

## Holiday gifts just part of School No. 9 teacher's efforts

School No. 9 teacher Danie Orellien-Armstead spearheaded a gift giveaway on Dec. 21 as part of a greater effort to help recent Haitian immigrants who are facing difficult circumstances and were in need of extra holiday joy. Children and their families were able to select from a wide selection of age-appropriate toys and gifts. The event was part of a larger effort to help members of the Haitian immigrant community who face significant hurdles in their new country. [Click here for the full story, see more photos, and learn how you can help.](#)



# Digital visitor brings online safety lessons to School 10

Third-graders at School No. 10 got a virtual visit on Nov. 11 from Clicky, a robot character who has helped them through the years with lessons about staying safe in a cyber world. Kim Kefalas, technology teacher at Schools No. 8 and 10, invited Clicky to talk to students on Nov. 15 as part of their technology curriculum, in which they are taught digital citizenship, issues such as cyber

bullying, sharing information, online etiquette, and trustworthy websites. "This was a wonderful way to show students the positive power of technology and social media and reminded them that the videos and lessons they have participated in are relevant and valuable to their digital life every day," she said. [Click here for the whole story and more photos.](#)

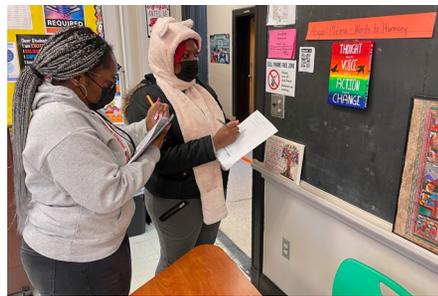


## Soehl VP makes connecting with students a priority

Angela Paternostro grew up elsewhere, but Linden was always like a second home. Having a mother who was a teacher in the district kind of made her an honorary Tiger. “I’ve been coming to things in Linden for forever,” she said. “I could feel the vibes of it being a good place and a good community with good people. And having gone to schools outside of Linden makes me appreciate what goes on here. I never had a lot of what these students have.” Paternostro brings that love for her adoptive hometown into her new job this school year as vice principal at Soehl Middle School, where she hopes to use her passion for building relationships to help struggling students find a path to success. [Click here to read full story.](#)



## Using art to explore social justice



### LHS Intro to Ed students examine bias and racism

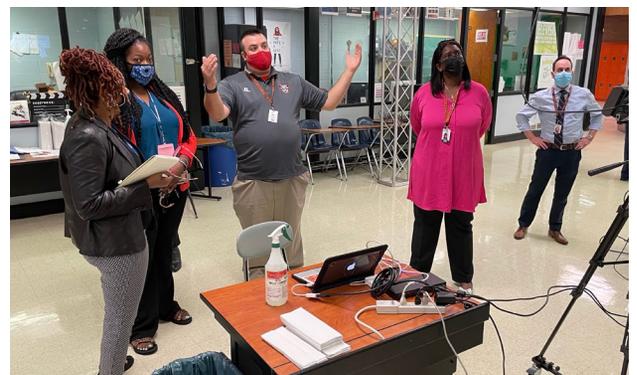
A class at Linden High School used creativity to explore how racism, bias, and inequity affect their school and the world outside. The assignment was part of the Introduction to Education class, where students who may want to become teachers take the first step in learning what it takes to prepare lessons, run a classroom, and shape young minds. Teacher Anthony Fischetti asked his students to create a piece of art exploring the area of social justice and to record a video discussing the meaning behind the piece. When the projects were done, the class held a gallery walk where the students examined and critiqued one another's work. [Click here for full story.](#)



## TV/digital media program impresses visitors to LHS

Linden High School hosted a contingent of educators from Plainfield Public Schools on Oct. 21 to show off its TV studio and to discuss the LHS student news program. Plainfield High School is interested in expanding its multimedia program and reached out after seeing LHS' TNT Student News. Playing host on the Linden side were Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton, TV/Digital

Media teacher Chris Paskewich, TV/Digital Media teacher Gary Miller, and Supervisor of Instructional Technology Joseph Scaldino. Paskewich showed visitors around his classroom/TV studio, highlighting equipment his students use to plan, film, and edit the TNT News show that airs weekly for LHS students and staff. [Click here for full story and more photos.](#)



#LINDENLEADS

#LINDENLEARNS

#LINDENCELEBRATES

#LINDENCARES

#LINDENSPIRIT

# McManus tech students work together on holiday videos

Students in the integrated technology class at McManus Middle School had a blast using green screen technology to create personalized video holiday cards leading up to winter break. Technology teacher Jennifer Detrollo helped them find background images using a Google search.



Students then danced to holiday music in front of the green screen and their image was superimposed on their chosen background. Students guided by technology teacher Howard Schulz helped them create the finished product. [Click here to see more photos.](#)



## A special holiday wish

Dr. Hazelton sent a message with the help of the LHS Dance Company and the McManus Select Choir. [Click to see video.](#)



## Feliz Navidad from School No. 2

School No. 2 students and staff were in a festive mood to dance leading up to the holidays. [Click to see video.](#)



## School No. 4's rockin' holiday

School No. 4 became a rock-and-roll time machine for a 1950s-style holiday bazaar. [Click to see photos.](#)



## School No. 10's wish list

School No. 10 shows that grown-ups can celebrate the holidays like a kid with a little tech trickery. [Click to see video.](#)

# One shining moment for LHS fall athletes



After each athletic season, Linden High School student athletes are honored on sports awards night by their coaches, teammates, and families. A highlight of every awards night is the “One Shining Moment” photo montage. Click the links for the fall sports videos for [boys sports](#) and [girls sports](#), edited by students in the LHS TV/Digital Media advanced class.

## NJROTC impressive at drill competition



Congratulations to the Linden High School Navy Junior ROTC for taking second place overall at the Bethel High School Drill Competition in Connecticut on Nov. 27. The varsity team took first place in Armed Platoon and Unarmed Platoon, and the new cadet team took first place in Unarmed Platoon. [Click for more photos.](#)





Linden Public Schools and St. Georges Family Pharmacies present



# Vaccine Clinics

For Students, Staff, and Families

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**  
3 to 6 p.m.  
St. Georges Specialty Pharmacy  
521 N. Wood Avenue, Linden

**Wednesday, Friday, Saturday**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
St. Georges Family Pharmacy  
332 W. St. Georges Ave., Linden

Click to register:  
<https://stgeorgesrx.com/vaccines/>

The following COVID-19 vaccines will be offered:

- Pfizer Pediatric for ages 5-11
- Pfizer 1st, 2nd and Booster (ages 12+)
- Moderna 1st, 2nd and Booster (ages 12+)
- J&J 1st and Booster (ages 12+)