



LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# #LindenCelebrates

Respect for Diversity ■ Excellence in Education ■ Commitment to Service

Linden, NJ

[www.linden.k12.nj.us](http://www.linden.k12.nj.us)

Jan. 28, 2021

## They're *virtually* the best

Our Staff Members of the Year stand out, in a year like no other

Thank you to our Teachers of the Year and Educational Service Professionals of the Year, who were selected from each of our schools for their outstanding dedication and performance in teaching and supporting our students and their colleagues. [Click here to meet each honoree.](#)

School No. 1  
teacher chosen  
as NJ Exemplary  
Educator. Page 3



## Programs give students a boost on multiple fronts

### Extra help available at night, on Saturday

Teachers from various grade levels and subject areas will be offering extra help at nights and on Saturdays for any student or parent who wants it. Since January 19, students or parents have been able to stop by designated Webex rooms, Monday to Thursday nights or Saturday mornings, to meet with a teacher who can offer support in a particular grade or subject area. [Click here to find out more and to see full schedule.](#)




Soehl Middle School Principal Isabella Scocozza, Linden High School Principal Yelena Horr , and McManus Middle School Principal Atiya Perkins are among the 38 administrators who are mentoring students.

### Mentors reach out to those who struggle

Linden Public Schools administrators have begun mentoring at-risk students to ensure that they do not fall behind or get overlooked while the district continues with remote learning. More than 400 high school and middle school students were paired up with an administrator who will maintain contact with the student, their parents or guardians, and their teachers. [Click here to learn more about the program.](#)



**Linden  
Public  
Schools****Superintendent**  
Marnie Hazelton, Ed.D.**Assistant  
Superintendent**  
Denise Cleary**Business  
Administrator/  
Board Secretary**  
Kathleen A. Gaylord**Board of Education**  
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Coordinator**Gary Miller  
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# Board welcomes three new members



De La Cruz



Flemming



Thomas

The Linden Board of Education swore in three new members at its annual organization meeting on Thursday, Jan. 7. Samuel De La Cruz Jr., Jennifer Flemming, and Malaysia Thomas were sworn

in to three-year terms. All were elected on Nov. 2. The new board chose Doris Johnson as its president. Carlos Rivas was chosen as vice president. [Click here to learn more.](#)

# High points of 2020



## Year of overcoming obstacles had plenty to celebrate

2020 will be remembered as the year that COVID-19 separated students from teachers and made virtually everything “virtual.” But Linden Public Schools pressed forward to make sure

that this past year was about much more than that. 2020 was a year of change, of overcoming obstacles, and rising to the challenge. Many of the highlights had to do with adapting to a new

reality and forging new paths, but 2020 was also about continuing to celebrate our achievements in education excellence. [Click here to read the district's top stories of 2020.](#)

## Key dates to remember

**Feb. 1**

Interim reports released for elementary school second trimester

**Feb. 1**

Third marking period begins for high school and middle school

**Feb. 4**

High school and middle school report cards available through Genesis Parent Portal

**Feb. 15**

School closed for Presidents Day

**Feb. 23**

Board of Education work session

**Feb. 25**

Board of Education meeting



# Webex surprise for School No. 1's Exemplary Educator

School No. 1 fifth-grade teacher Amy Maloney has been chosen as an Exemplary Educator by the New Jersey Department of Education. She is one of just 93 teachers across the state who are being honored for 2020. This program identifies outstanding educators who



exhibit strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a positive impact. Maloney learned of the honor when she was surprised by Principal Dona Preston and her colleagues during a meeting on a Webex videoconference. [Click here to read more.](#)



## LHS seniors honored in art and essay contest

Two Linden High School seniors were honored in the 10th annual Peace Islands Institute Art and Essay Contest, whose theme was "Solidarity in the Middle of a Pandemic." Javaree Gordon won third place and a \$200 prize for a [gripping essay](#) titled "Silence" about a girl struggling during quarantine. Daniyel Brackett received an honorable mention and \$100 prize for her beautiful artwork seen here. Both will be honored at a virtual award ceremony on Jan. 28.



## Tigers get All-Star treatment

Numerous Linden High School athletes were chosen for postseason honors for the fall season. [Click here for the full list.](#)





# Soehl teacher visits students with surprise gifts

Soehl Middle School language arts teacher Jennifer Veltre paid a surprise visit to the homes of two students to reward them for their faithful and active participation in her after-school enrichment class. Veltre surprised Amanda Banton and Alina Noble with backpacks filled with school and art supplies to help them create something beautiful. The backpack included pencils, markers, stickers, books, and other craft supplies. The girls put their new supplies to great use to create 2021 vision boards, to highlight the importance of setting goals



and remembering that there is always something to look forward to, especially after such a trying year. [Click here to read story and see more photos.](#)



*Here's to the Holidays*

## Toy drive brightens families' holidays

The annual Linden Public Schools holiday toy and gift drive was once again a big success thanks to the generosity of district staff and community contributors. The district was able to provide gifts to hundreds of district students and their

families, spreading joy during a holiday season greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Gifts were purchased with donations of cash and gift cards from throughout the school community. [Click here to read more and for more photos.](#)



## A season of song



A joyous video presentation by students from several schools and a special message from Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton helped to boost holiday cheer. [Click here to watch video.](#)

## Santa's sled leads School 1 parade



Santa Claus and his helpers led School No. 1 staff in a holiday car parade around the neighborhood to spread joy and kick off Winter Break. [Click here to watch video.](#)