



LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#LindenCelebrates

Respect for Diversity ■ Excellence in Education ■ Commitment to Service

Linden, NJ

www.linden.k12.nj.us

October 29, 2020

School No. 5 chosen as Blue Ribbon School



School No. 5 has been selected to join the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, a coveted designation from the U.S. Department of Education that celebrates excellent schools and effective educators.

Faculty and staff were surprised with the good news on Thursday, Sept. 24. School No. 5 was chosen in the “Ex-



emplary High Performing School” category based on a combination of state assessment data, student growth scores, absenteeism rates, and graduation rate. It is one of 367 schools in the nation and one of just nine

schools from New Jersey selected for 2020. [Click here for full story, more photos, and videos.](#)

Back to class

Elementary takes 1st step in return to in-person



All of our elementary schools welcomed students back to in-person learning on Oct. 13. It was the first day back in school since virtual learning began in March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. About 50 percent of students returned for half-day sessions five days a week, with the other half opting to remain at home for virtual learning. District administration is working on plans for the return on high school and middle school students to in-person learning. [Click here for more information and more photos from students’ first day back.](#)



Veteran administrator to lead charge in push for equity

Kcyronne Zahir, who has been director of the district’s alternative high school at the Academy of Excellence since 2016, has an added role this school year. He has been tasked with making sure that every student in the district gets an equitable shot



Zahir

at a quality education as the new director of equity in education. “It’s not new for me. It’s what I was already doing on my own,” Zahir said. “It’s right up my alley.” Zahir will lead a team of principals in coming up with a district-wide plan to eliminate opportunity gaps and make sure all students get the resources they need to be successful. [Click here for more about the push for equity.](#)

**Linden
Public
Schools**

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Marnie Hazelton, Ed.D.

**Assistant
Superintendent**
Denise Cleary

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

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Linden Public Schools

**Communication
Coordinator**

Gary Miller
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District communications earns 2 statewide awards



Linden Public Schools won two awards in the 2020 New Jersey School Communication Awards on Friday, Oct. 16, including a first-place win in the Media Relations – Human Interest category. The winning story was about the Linden High School broadcasting students keeping their weekly show on the air even after schools went to virtual learning. The second award was a third-place win for photography for a photo taken at a ceremony held in February to retire the number of girls basketball legend Tamecka Dixon. Both were produced by Communication Coordinator Gary Miller. [Click here for more information on the winning entries.](#)

A shoutout for school leaders

11 everyday heroes recognized for National Principals Month



Soehl - Isabella Scocozza



LHS - Yelena Horr 



McManus - Atiya Perkins



No. 1 - Dona Preston



No. 2 - Peter Fingerlin



No. 4 - Suzanne Olivero



No. 5 - Laura Scamardella



No. 6 - William Mastriano



No. 8 - Michelle Rodriguez



No. 9 - Larry Plummer



No. 10 - David Walker

Throughout October, Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton sent out emails to all district staff to celebrate National Principals Month. Each email celebrated a different one of our

district's school principals by telling a bit about their background and personal life, and added input from their staff about what makes them special. Many of the emails were fol-

lowed by responses from staff members affirming the dedication and professionalism their principals demonstrate. [Click here to learn more about our school principals.](#)

School scarecrows stand guard



Each of our schools designed and created their own scarecrow to be on display during the Halloween season outside Linden City Hall. The project was sponsored by the Linden Halloween Parade Committee. [Click here to see close-ups of each scarecrow.](#)



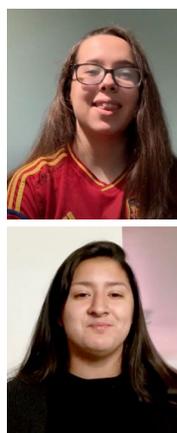
Supervisor of Instructional Technology Joseph Scaldino and Chief Technology Officer Slawek Pajak.

Tech keeps students and staff connected

Since remote learning took hold in March, no area has been put to the test more than the district's technology. When students are at home, their ability to learn hinges greatly on their ability to seamlessly connect with their teachers, access their lessons, and get the virtual support they need to thrive. At the hub of everything digital, has been the LPS Technology De-

partment. This small but savvy group has gone to great lengths to keep the educational data flowing day after day. With some students returning to school buildings, the hurdles are only increasing. But major upgrades being completed to the district's computer infrastructure will allow students and staff to meet these challenges head on. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Celebrating Latino culture



Students, staff, and community members came together virtually to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. [Click here to see video.](#)

Polish pride on parade



Polish Heritage Month wasn't the same, but technology allowed us to celebrate the culture and history. [Click here to see video.](#)

