



LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# #LindenCelebrates

Respect for Diversity ■ Excellence in Education ■ Commitment to Service

Linden, NJ

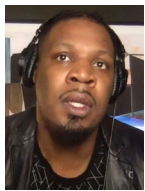
www.linden.k12.nj.us

March 25, 2021

## Courageous conversation

### Educators discuss bias with Grammy winner who met it face to face

Linden administrators and other staff members took part in a unique conversation with Grammy-winning trumpeter Keyon Harrold on March 2 about bias and the “adultification” of young people of color. The sessions stemmed from an incident that gained worldwide attention after Harrold’s son was falsely accused of stealing a phone at a New York hotel. “This is what I hope will be the first of many courageous conversations about race and equity in our schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton, who invited Harrold to speak to Linden’s educators. “It’s always a difficult



conversation to have, however it is a necessary one if we are to truly understand and learn from one another. Mr. Harrold

is a Grammy-award winning trumpeter, but today he is joining us as a father.” [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Show of love for missing colleague

More than 100 members of the Linden Public Schools community rallied together Friday afternoon, March 19, in support of an effort to find colleague Brian Gooney, who has been missing since March 9. Gooney is a paraprofessional at Soehl Middle School and was last seen leaving his home in Rahway. Staff came together for “Bring Brian Home” to support Gooney’s family members. [Click here to read more and see more photos.](#)

**BRING BRIAN HOME**

Linden Public Schools ask for your help in finding our friend Brian Gooney, who has been missing since March 9. If you’ve seen him or have any information on where he may be, please call Rahway Police at **732-827-2200**

## New HR manager eager to support students and staff

Veteran educator Dr. Karen Baldwin will be joining Linden Public Schools as human resources manager. Baldwin has 25 years of experience in education, having previously served as a superintendent, HR director, and athletic director. She will begin in her new role in Linden starting April 1. The Linden Board of Education approved her hiring on March 2. [Click here to read more.](#)



**Linden Public Schools**

**Superintendent**  
Marnie Hazelton, Ed.D.

**Assistant Superintendent**  
Denise Cleary

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

**Board of Education**

**President**  
Doris Johnson  
**Vice President**  
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Samuel De La Cruz Jr.  
Jennifer Flemming  
Patrick Gargano  
Sheenaider Guillaume  
Marianthe Manganello  
Gregory R. Martucci  
Malaysia Thomas

**On the Web**

 linden.k12.nj.us

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lindenpublicschools

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LindenSchoolsNJ

 Instagram  
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 YouTube  
Linden Public Schools

**Communication Coordinator**  
Gary Miller  
gmiller@lindenps.org

# Marshalls donation to help keep schools safe



Marshalls in Linden generously donated personal protective equipment to be distributed to students and staff. Each school got a box of reusable masks, sanitizer, and other PPE to distribute. The donation was facilitated by Board of Education member Sheenaider Guillaume. [Click here to see a photo from each school.](#)

# Students go extra mile for teacher

As teacher Walter Schweikardt made the switch from School No. 9 to Soehl Middle School, the students in the class he's leaving wanted him to know he would be missed. Parents and students held a drive-by parade



past his house, then stopped to give him balloons and a class photo collage, and to show him posters that they made thanking him for his love and dedication. [Click here to see more photos.](#)



## LHS Chinese Club video is a hit

Congratulations to the Linden High School Chinese Club for winning Best Video in the Chinese New Year video contest. LHS was competing against 14 other schools in the contest, organized by the N.J. Chinese Language Association of Secondary Schools. The video features students Shanell Holmes, Adam Zieba, Malachi Celetine, and Robert Lane, and was edited by Bruno DelaCuadra. [Click here to see video.](#)

## Key dates to remember

**March 29-April 2**  
Schools are closed for Spring Recess

**April 5-9**  
All schools virtual for "soft quarantine"

**April 16**  
Third marking period report cards for middle and high schools

**April 27**  
Board of Education work session

**April 29**  
Board of Education regular meeting

#LINDENLEADS

#LINDENLEARNS

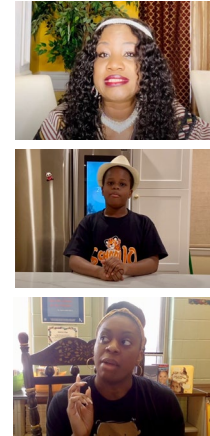
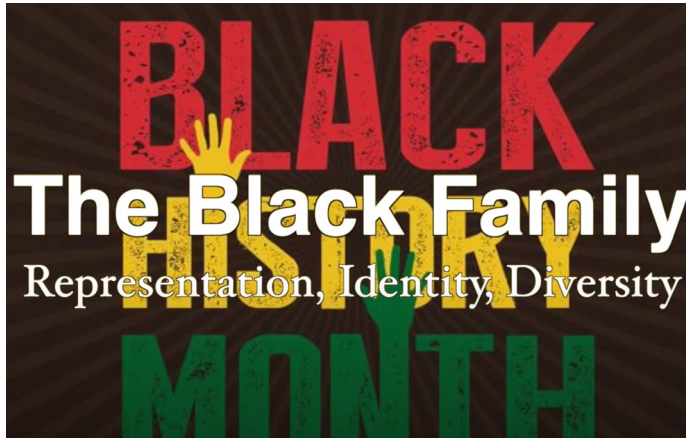
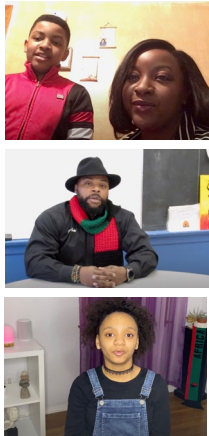
#LINDENCELEBRATES

#LINDENCARES

#LINDENSPIRIT

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# Video celebrates family and culture



The Linden Board of Education unveiled a special tribute to Black History Month at its March 4 meeting. The video brought together staff and students to talk about how they celebrate with their families and what Black History means to them. [Click here to watch video.](#)

## LHS Choir in all its 'Glory'

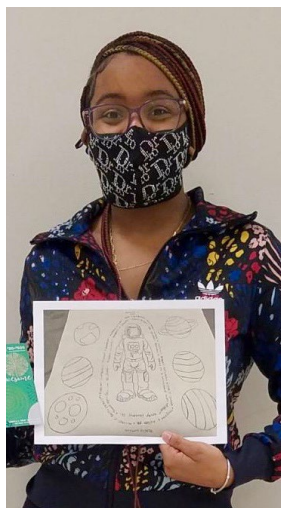


The Linden High School Choir and Madrigals, led by vocal music teacher Duane Cosby, created a video for "Glory" from the movie "Selma" in honor of Black History Month. The video shows the process of peaceful demonstration and how to effect change. The music features solos by senior Nikao Steed and sophomore Nathalie Torres.

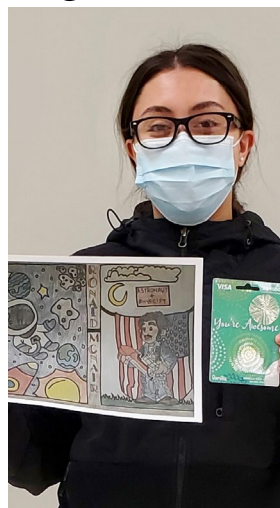
[Click here to see the video.](#)



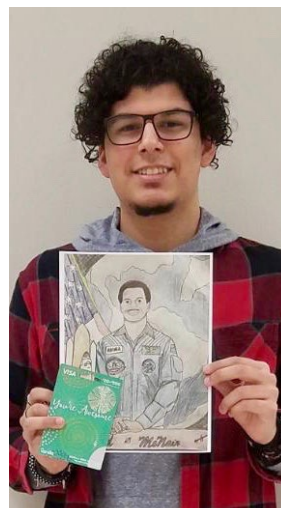
## Students' imaginations soar in Linden poster contest



**Dior Weaver, senior**  
Artwork that represents all Black American astronauts



**Anai Carpio, junior**  
Artwork of astronaut Ronald McNair



**Bryan Figueroa, sophomore**  
Artwork of astronaut Ronald McNair



**Janvi Patel, freshman**  
Artwork of astronaut Mae C. Jamison

Congratulations to our Linden High School students who won the Linden Recreation Department Black History Month poster contest. This year's theme was Black American astronauts and each winner was rewarded a \$25 Visa gift card donated by Mary Phillips of the Bayway Refinery-Phillips 66.

# A week of friends, fiction, and fun!



Our elementary schools celebrated Read Across America the week of March 1 to 5. Schools welcomed guest readers both in-person and virtual and celebrated a love of reading and books with their students. Festivities including crazy sock day, hat day, pajama day, and others helped to add to the fun!



[Click here to see more photos from Read Across America.](#)

## Bingo! McManus pizza party is all fun and games



McManus Middle School families had a blast on Thursday, March 4, when they gathered for a virtual pizza party and bingo night. Families picked up pizza kits, bingo game links, and a dessert from the school, then gathered from home in Principal Atiya Perkins' Webex room for a fun night. The gathering was a Families and Schools Together (FAST) event sponsored by the Linden Education Association. [Click here for more photos.](#)

## Hail to the seniors



Linden High School winter sports celebrated their seniors at the end of a COVID shortened season. Seniors on the boys basketball, girls basketball, cheerleading, and bowling teams were recognized by coaches, family and teammates. [Click here for more photos.](#)

## Keep in touch with IB program

Linden High School is celebrating its 20th year as part of the prestigious International Baccalaureate program, an open-enrollment course of study that offers rigorous classwork alongside community service. IB is a free program open to all juniors and seniors that focuses on independent thinking and student-driven learning. It allows students the opportunity to earn up to a semester's worth of credits toward college at no cost upon completion. Students can select classes from six course groups. [Click here for IB's winter newsletter.](#)



## Bold and beautiful

Soehl Middle School recently got a new school spirit mural in the cafeteria. The beautiful artwork was created by science teacher Kimberly Terwilliger.