Heritage Middle School students helped grant wishes for children in need this holiday season by participating in the Livingston Youth and Community Service’s annual “Toys for Tots” toy drive. The HMS Student Council and Builders’ Club organized the collection effort, which resulted in boxes full of playthings, from dolls and trucks to board games. Shown with the dozens of items that were generously donated by the HMS community are Student Council and Builders’ Club Officers Marianna Sassone, Isabelle Ruppe, Tanvi Dembla, Anusha Bansal, Isaiah Chang, Harris Rosenthal, David Zoller, Sarah Zoller, Ethan Davinson, Frankie Pellegrino, Tripta Dhaliwal, and Kathleen Zhang.

CALENDAR REMINDER: Livingston Public Schools will have a partial day on Friday, December 21. Schools will be closed from Monday, December 17, through Tuesday, January 1, for winter break.

New This Week

Don’t stop scrolling!
Find information on the following news, and more, in this week’s DISCOVER.

- Public Forum on Superintendent Search
- LHS Speech and Debate Winners
- Hour of Code Family Night

Superintendent Search

TONIGHT: Tell us your thoughts.
This evening, Livingston Public Schools will hold a Public Forum to solicit feedback on the traits and characteristics that members of the community would like to prioritize in selecting the next Superintendent of Schools. The forum will be held on Monday, December 17, at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building, 11 Foxcroft Drive. Those who cannot attend the meeting in person will be able to view and comment during the livestream broadcast. Click HERE for the link.

**District Matters**

**Kindergarten Pre-Registration**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Kindergarten Pre-Registration will open on January 2, 2019. Please keep an eye out on our website for the link so that you can start the registration process. Please note that you need to complete the entire kindergarten registration process by May 15th in order to be notified of your child’s school placement by June 1st. This includes families with older siblings already attending a school within the District.

**Update Emergency Contacts**

There are times when the district may need to use our automated alert system to contact parents.

It is vital that you log into your Genesis Parent Portal account and under “CONTACTS” be sure that you have checked off the box for “Emergency Broadcast” for any phone numbers/email addresses at which you wish to be notified in these instances.

**Please "Like" and "Share"!** www.facebook.com/LivSchools is the OFFICIAL Facebook page of the Livingston Public School district. Click here to visit!

Click HERE to view videos of past Board of Education meetings on our website.

How does LPS decide on weather-related school closings? Click HERE for information.

**Students Matter**
Collins Elementary
What is poetry? Collins students will surely answer that question in a different way after being treated to a show by Mayhem Poets. During this cultural arts assembly, students learned that POETRY IS ALIVE through the group’s unique performance that combines spoken word poetry (meant to be performed on stage, not just read!), with elements of rap, improv, and comedy… an entertaining, educational, and inspirational experience! Shown with the Mayhem Poets are Zach Marrache, Zach Zaslow, Jordyn Harman, Joseph DeCorso, Ethan Wernick, and Brody Lederman.

Hillside Elementary
First graders Shrinidhi Lokanath, Bobby Meyer, Elizabeth Girgis, Naisha Jarvis, Sophia Sosa, and Jael Lee showed their Hillside spirit during the Student Council's "Wear Your Ugly Sweater Day."

Harrison Elementary
In their media classes at Harrison School, third grade students are learning about the "genres within the genre" of fiction. Recently, they demonstrated their understanding by creating clay figures and drawings of something that could represent the fantasy genre, such as dragons, mermaids, and magic wands. Shown with their projects are Hadley Skidds and Sean Mamouzette.

Burnet Hill Elementary
Burnet Hill students participated in “Wear a Pair, Bring a Pair” day, during which they wore their PJs to school, and give a pair of new PJs to be donated to the “Pajama Program,” an organization that helps create cozy bedtimes for children in need. Shown, third grader Marco Bottiglierie, adds to the huge pile of donated sleepwear. The school collected 342 pairs of pajamas in all!

Mt. Pleasant Elementary
Kindergarten through fifth grade students at Mt. Pleasant Elementary participated in a visit with Jarrett Krosoczka, author of books such as Punk Farm, Monkey Boy and the Lunch Lady series. Krosoczka shared his journey to becoming an author and illustrator, and talked about the perseverance he needed when publishers did not accept his initial ideas. Shown with the author
Riker Hill Elementary
Ms. Aubrey DeNigris’ second grade class learned about Vincent Van Gogh during Art Appreciation Day. Shown, Carly Goldstein displays her version of Van Gogh’s Sunflower portrait, while her classmates Justin Simon and Lea Guberuk work on their projects in the background.

LHS Speech/Debate Winners
On Saturday, December 15, 24 members of the Livingston High School Forensics Speech and Debate Team competed in the third Newark CFL tournament for the season at Montville High School. The Lancers came away with seven awards, including the fifth place team sweepstakes trophy.

Who is your child’s counselor at LHS? Where can you find important information for the upcoming graduating classes - from the Class of 2019 to the Class of 2022? Click HERE to find these answers and more in the LHS School Counseling Newsletter!

Technology Matters
The "Hour of Code" is a nationwide initiative by Computer Science Education Week and Code.org to introduce students to one hour of computer science and computer programming education. LPS students from kindergarten through 12th grade recently participated in the initiative, which aims to raise awareness about the rapidly expanding and increasingly important field of coding –
the art of telling a computer how to perform complex tasks. One of the goals of the initiative is to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics!

Our 21st century students learned about coding through interactive lessons, and discovered that code is fun and creative, and that anybody can learn the basics!

A highlight of the initiative was Family Code Night, where more than 260 third to fifth grade students/parents practiced problem solving, critical thinking, using logic, and employing creativity, all while bonding with a parent. The event, held at Harrison Elementary, was run by district tech coaches and Harrison media specialist Coleen Caulfield. Along with members of three community robotics teams, they offered support as students displayed their coding prowess. With children leading the way, adults learned all about the benefits (including academic growth and increased confidence, not to mention having fun) of learning to code.

Follow LPS Ed Tech on Twitter

Coding Activities

Music Matters

LHS Chorus/Orchestra Winter Concert, December 19

The Livingston High School Chorus and Orchestra will present their Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 19, at 7:30pm in the high school auditorium. At the concert, the Tri-M Music Honor Society will be holding a food drive for those in need, and will be accepting donations of nonperishable food items. The concert is free and open to the public.

District Winter Concert Schedule

Parent Matters

Parent Development Programs

Mark your calendars! From special education support, to health and wellness programs and help with the college application process, Livingston Public Schools offers a wide variety of informative Parent Development programs. For a comprehensive list of programs offered during the 2018-2019 school year, click below.
The Livingston Education Foundation (LEF) is a non-profit organization providing school-community partnerships and shared resources to enhance educational opportunities for Livingston Public Schools.

SAVE THE DATE! The LEF will hold its second annual Community Book Club event on Monday, January 14. The program will feature Livingston High School graduate Ann Schonwetter Arnold, author of Together: A Journey for Survival. She will be joined by her father, Holocaust survivor Mark Schonwetter, and sister Isabella Fiske.

READ: 2019 Book Club Event

Don't Miss That Call/Text:

In the case of an emergency, or weather-related school closing, or school bus transportation issues, our alert system allows us to quickly communicate with parents and staff by text, email and phone. Please make sure that your contact information is up to date. Log on to Genesis and click the "Contacts" tab at the top of the page to review the information that is currently on file. Please be sure to check the "Emergency Broadcast" box to receive Emergency Broadcast Messages. Don't have Genesis? Contact your child's school for assistance.

What's On Your Mind?

We're interested in hearing what's on your mind. Share a story. Ask a question. Let us know about your concerns, anything from school safety and security to budget matters. Give a shout out to a special teacher. Talk with the Superintendent or Board of Education. Email your message c/o the Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator.
Community Matters

The Livingston Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (LCDI) invites the community to attend the township’s annual “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service” on Monday, January 21. During this day of service and celebration, community members have the opportunity to participate in a variety of service projects at the Livingston Senior/Community Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Any individual or group who wishes to host a service project, should inform the interim co-chairmen Billy Fine or Keith Hines at enifylib@aol.com and keithhinez@gmail.com, respectively, by December 19, 2018.

“"This event reminds us in Livingston that just because it is a day off, doesn’t mean we can’t do our part in service to our community. As we like to say, ‘it is a day on, not a day off’,” said Mr. Fine.

LACD Offers After-School Sports

The Livingston Advisory Committee for Disabilities (LACD) offers great programs, free of charge, for people with special needs and their families.

Something for Everyone at Library

Become a Crossing Guard
Check out the Livingston Public Library's event calendar, which features events and programs for all ages! From book clubs, to musical programs, and events for senior citizens, the library offers something for everyone! Visit the library's website for more information.

The Township of Livingston continues to look for crossing guards for its many posts throughout town. Crossing guards provide an important service to our students, helping them navigate the streets around our schools safely each day. Click HERE for application.

Staff Matters

Substitute Nurses Needed

Livingston Public Schools is seeking substitute school nurses.

Applicants must hold current license issued by the NJ Board of Nursing as a professional registered nurse (RN) and possess or be eligible for a Substitute Nurse Certificate. CPR/AED certification is required.

Interested candidates should contact Carolyn Ross at cross@livingston.org

Help Wanted: Lunch/Recess Aides

Livingston Public Schools is always looking for cafeteria and playground aides. Those who are interested should download and complete the application by clicking below, or stop by the Central Office at 11 Foxcroft Drive to pick up an application!

Application Information

DISCOVER Livingston Public Schools
2018-2019 School Year / No. 17

Michelle Bent
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