

FORT LEE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Mrs. Candace Romba, Vice President
Ms. Elisa Cho
Ms. Paula K. Colbath
Mr. Ralph DiMeglio
Mrs. Holly Morell
Mrs. Kristen Richter
Mr. Michael Rubino
Mrs. Luran Tuck

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Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Sharon Amato
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Ms. Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Director of Human Resources

Visit our Website: www.flboe.com

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

February marks the midway point of the school year. January is over and now we face the unpredictability of February. We have been fortunate to be experiencing a mild winter, so far. As we advance into the winter months, take advantage of the weather. There may be an opportunity for you to try something new. Maybe attend a meeting or a presentation that is available through the schools or the borough. Make an effort to actively engage your family in something fun for everyone during the President's Day weekend. My recommendation is a "digital detox" for you and your children. Turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices and try to plan weekend activities that you can do without any electronics. In 2020, it is not as easy as it sounds. Good luck and enjoy!

REORGANIZATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

1/6/20

Board Secretary, Ms. Haquisha Taylor, reported the results of the election of the Fort Lee Board of Education as follows:

(3) Board Members – Three-Year Terms Votes

Candace Romba	1,808
Paula K. Colbath	1,756
Michael Rubino	1,772
Personal Choice	34

Ms. Haquisha Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Candace Romba, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, and Mr. Michael Rubino.

The Board voted in Ms. Esther Han Silver to the Office of President and Mrs. Candace Romba as Vice President for 2020.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
1/21/20

Mr. Rota congratulated Yeva Grace Davidoff for being selected as the winner for the 2020 “My County” Poster Contest for her outstanding artwork. “My County” Poster Contest is held every April and open to all 4th grade students throughout Bergen County.

Five (5) students from the 3rd grade inclusion class at School No. 1 entered the Young Writer’s Spooky Sagas Contest and won out of 10,000 entries that were read. Mr. Rota congratulated these students for their achievement and for the leadership provided by their teachers.

Mrs. Tuck was thanked for coordinating the MLK Day of Service. It was a very successful and energetic day. Activities included making 80 blankets for Linus, roses for Valentine’s Day, and 100 placemats for Meals on Wheels.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Han Silver
Mr. David Gannon, Partner at PKF O’Connor Davies, presented the Annual Audit Report for period ending June 30, 2019 to the Board. Mrs. Han Silver was pleased to report the school district is in good financial shape. The Board will have further discussion regarding Board priorities in preparation for the fiscal year 2021 budget.

NJSBA Legislation Committee - Ms. Colbath
Ms. Colbath shared that the bill to end religious exemptions for vaccinations failed. Ms. Colbath further shared that NJSBA is encouraging districts to pass a resolution regarding the 2020 census.

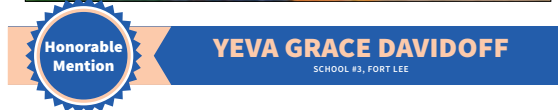
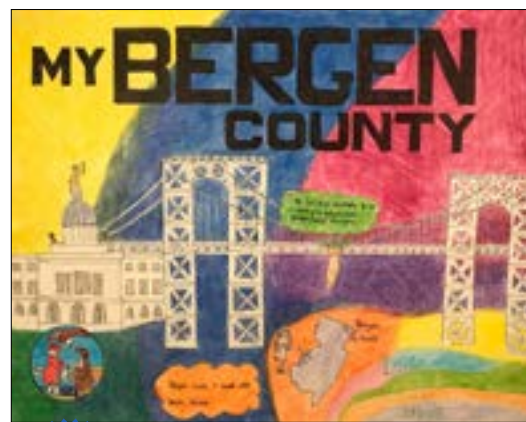


Pictured Back Row L to R: Superintendent Ken Rota, Teachers Jonathan Reinsdorf and Karen Simone Osso. Front Row L to R: Young Writer’s Award Recipients - Students Audrey Lee, Camila Reyes-Ocampo, Sean Compuesto. Not pictured: Jade Alcantara and Celeste Gerlich.

STUDENT RECOGNITION - BOARD MEETING OF 1/21/20
“MY COUNTY” POSTER CONTEST”

The “My County” Poster Contest takes place every April during County Government Week. It’s open to all 4th grade students throughout Bergen County. The First, Second and Third Place winners, as well as Honorable Mentions, are selected by the contest’s sponsors -- Bergen County’s Constitutional Officers (County Clerk, Sheriff and Surrogate Court Judge). All twelve winners, along with their families and teachers, are invited to take part in Bergen County’s annual “Law Day” Ceremony held in May at the Bergen County Justice Center.

Congratulations to Yeva Grace Davidoff for being selected as a winner of the 2020 “My County” Poster Contest. Her outstanding artwork was submitted last year when she was in 4th grade attending School No. 3, and was included as an Honorable Mention for the month of April 2020 in the publication of the 2020 Bergen County Election Calendar.



YOUNG WRITER’S SPOOKY SAGAS CONTEST

Five children in Mrs. Simone-Osso and Mr. Reinsdorf’s 3rd grade inclusion class at School No. 1 entered a Young Writer’s Spooky Sagas Contest and won. The Young Writer’s program was established in 1991. This year over 10,000 entries were read and five students from School No. 1 were selected to be published for the mini saga that they wrote. Congratulations to these five students for their achievement and for the leadership provided by their teachers helping to guide them to learn, enjoy and excel in reading and writing!



Acts of Kindness...



NJ Onnuri Community Church

A special thank you to the New Jersey Onnuri Community Church for their donation of fruit baskets as a sign of gratitude to the Fort Lee Community and for their monetary donations throughout the year in support of Fort Lee Public Schools.

Fort Lee Band Boosters

The Fort Lee High School Marching Band has been granted the honor of being selected to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. in May 2020. Band Booster President, Aya Katayama, presented a check for \$14,000 to Superintendent Ken Rota at the Board meeting of December 16, 2019 to assist in the funding of this prestigious event.



PBA Local 245:

Officer Christopher Richter, President of the Police Benevolent Association, PBA Local No. 245, and Officer Stephen Dominek presented a check for \$5,000 to Superintendent Ken Rota to assist in the funding of Fort Lee High School's Marching Band Trip to Washington, D.C.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - “Day of Service”



(Some of the members of the Fort Lee MLK Day of Service Committee):
Tanya Byers Kang, Angela Bae, Amy Ko-Tang, Lauran Tuck, Jennifer Mane,
Michelle Jean-Louis, Jamie Park Carter



Freeholder Tracy Zur, Superintendent Ken Rota, Fort Lee
Board of Education Member Lauran Tuck, Mayor Mark Sokolich

Americans began commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in 1986, three years after it was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. That's when it was decided to set aside the third Monday of January for the occasion. Even though the date for MLK Day changes every year, Dr. King's birthday was actually on January 15th.

MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service. People around the country take part in community service projects or otherwise volunteer their time. On Monday, January 20, 2020, volunteers gathered at Fort Lee High School for a “Day of Service” in honor of the slain civil rights leader's legacy. Fort Lee's Day of Service was sponsored by the four elementary school PTAs and We The People (a nonprofit organization).

There were 119 elementary school students in attendance, and 7 high school student-athlete volunteers. Together, they made a stunning piece of artwork -- “Tree of Us” which will rotate between the elementary schools and rest permanently at the Intermediate School. These dedicated volunteers also completed 80 blankets for Project Linus, over 90 placemats for Meals on Wheels, and dozens of Valentines for Veterans/Active Duty Troops. “I could not be more proud of our community” stated Board Member Lauran Tuck, “-- incredible that Mayor Mark Sokolich, Freeholder Tracy Silna Zur, Superintendent Ken Rota and Principals Patrick Ambrosio and John Brennan came out to show their support as well! It was truly a day of love and service honoring Dr. King! Thank you so much for your help! Today's event was absolutely a success -- and there is no way it would have happened without each and every one of you.”



“Tree of Us”

MLK Day of Service...



A special thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time to make this MLK "Day of Service" a success!

Lunar New Year - S#1



PHOTO COURTESY OF FARMERSALMANAC.COM

On Friday, January 24th, School No. 1 enjoyed the Lunar New Year celebration.



Lunar New Year - S#2

On January 24th, the students and staff at School No. 2 celebrated the Lunar New Year with an assembly. The assembly featured a professional dance team that performed traditional Korean dances. They were joined by our student members of the Korean Dance Club. The dances were fantastic and the traditional dress made it authentic. Thank you to our PTA for providing the funding and organizing a terrific celebration.



Lunar New Year - S#3

School No.3 celebrated Lunar New Year with a dumpling luncheon provided by our PTA. We also have had several students share their New Year traditions during morning announcements. Our celebrations continued with an assembly program presented by School No. 3 KPAC on February 7th.



Lunar New Year - S#4

The School No. 4 PTA celebrated the Lunar New Year by visiting classrooms and presenting the students with a coin gift enclosed in Red Envelopes along with a Chinese snack. Other classrooms enjoyed presentations from parents informing students of the significance of Lunar New Year!



What's Happening @ S#1...

On January 17, 2020, an International luncheon was held for staff members hosted by the School No. 1 PTA and KPAC.



What's Happening @ S#2...



PTA Recognition of Teachers

We want to thank our PTA for donating a sign that now resides in our foyer. The sign thanks our School No. 2 teachers for the work they do and recognizes that they were ranked among the top in New Jersey.



Community Service

Pre-School students from Ms. Macaluso's class learned about community service. The students and their families collected supplies for a local animal shelter as a culminating community service project.

On January 20th, the district was closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On this day, many School No. 2 students joined other district elementary students for a Day of Service at Fort Lee High School. This event was an excellent way for students to serve the community, bond with other students across the district and honor the legacy of Dr. King.



Holiday Concert

In December, School No. 2 students performed in the annual Holiday Concert. All grades performed under the direction of Ms. McMahon. Our students sounded wonderful and put us all in the Holiday Spirit! Additionally, our students were visited by a host of characters that annually come to School No. 2 right before holiday break. This year we had the Grinch, Minnie Mouse and, of course, Santa Claus. We would like to thank the Fort Lee PBA for arranging the visit. To complete our holiday events at School 2, our PTA purchased a book for each of our students! Thank you to all the students, staff and volunteers who made the season one to remember.

What's Happening @ S#3...



Pictured are the winners of our monthly character theme award who were treated to lunch with the principal. Guidance Counselor Aimee DeSheplo joined the winners. Winners were selected by submitting essays on the monthly character theme at School No. 3.



Santa visited School No. 3 third grade class with gifts from the PTA.



School No. 3 orchestra, under the direction of Oleg Rutkovsky, played at our holiday concert. They were joined by vocal performances from each grade, as well as our School No. 3 Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Hae Yook.



Students working in the School No. 3 library/media center on a Maker Space project, as part of our new library technology program.

What's Happening @ S#3...



School No. 3 celebrated Diwali with our Indian community who created displays in the building.

What's Happening @ S#4...

SADD Committee

During the months of November and December, the School No. 4 SADD Committee held a Food Drive where canned foods were donated to The Epiphany Community Food Pantry. Also, prior to the holiday season, the SADD Committee held a "Spread the Warmth Drive" collecting socks, mittens, gloves etc. for those in need! All proceeds were donated to the Englewood Center for Food Action.

Holiday Concert

On December 16, 2019, School No. 4 held their annual Holiday Concert where the children from Kindergarten through Grade 4, as well as the Chorus and Strings Students, performed for their families! The students performed beautifully.



FLPD Holiday Character Visit

The School No. 4 students were visited by a host of characters including the Grinch, Minnie Mouse, and of course, Santa Claus. A very big Thank You to the FLPD for arranging this!



What's Happening @ S#4...

Spelling Bee

School No. 4 conducted their Annual Spelling Bee and crowned the winner. Congratulations to Zeya M. Grade 4, who will be attending the County-level Spelling Bee in February.



Principal Patrick Ambrosio pictured with Zeya M. - School No. 4 Spelling Bee Champ!



What's Happening @ LFCIS...

On November 22, the Intermediate School's PTO kicked off a night of fun and gathered at its first major event in school history. Students and their families were invited to the Intermediate School to participate in team-building events with the goal of bringing everyone together as an intermediate team. Pictured are intermediate students playing a large game of Connect Four and building a structure with Jenga blocks. This was a highly successful evening and brought many intermediate families together for a night of fun. The Intermediate School's PTO is thanked tremendously for its efforts to make this event a success.



Pictured from left to right are students Idris Khan, Johnny Santana and Fort Lee Fire Safety Inspector Mary Boujotas.

The Fort Lee Fire Department provided fire safety training for our intermediate students in grades 5 and 6 during the month of November at Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School. Students were provided with formal instructions on how to prepare and react to fires and then given the opportunity to practice those lessons in the mobile fire safety house.



What's Happening @ LFCMS...



Lewis F. Cole Intermediate and Middle Schools are excited to bring Black History Month to our classrooms. Our social studies and language arts curricula will be providing lessons throughout the month of February that focus on the positive influence of African Americans in American history. Each day, our students will also learn about a different African American who inspired peace, unity and hope for all Americans. Pictured above is a hallway bulletin board created to inspire our students to think first about their words and actions.



Select students at Lewis F. Cole Middle School were provided the opportunity to attend a special school showing of the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center on November 1. This performance was designed to provide our students with lessons in kindness, acceptance and respect for others. Pictured in front of the Lincoln Center fountain are 8th graders Lenny Colon, Gelson Rojas, Joel Rodriguez and Jun Best. Pictured in front of the circus trailer are students from Ms. Geminani's classroom.

What's Happening @ LFCMS...



PIZZA WITH A PROFESSIONAL

Part of our career path program includes Pizza with a Professional, which provides 8th grade students at Lewis F. Cole Middle School the opportunity to meet career professionals and learn about the details of their background, education, training and their day-to-day professions. This program is organized and run by 8th grade Guidance Counselor Ms. Brigida, who recruits all of the professionals to volunteer their time for our students. Pictured above on top is entrepreneur and owner of "Mac Truck" Dom Tesoriero. Middle left is make-up artist and owner of "Glitz, Glam and Gore" Jessica Pagan. Middle right is MD of emergency medicine at St. Joe's Hospital Dr. Marco Prosperi. Bottom left is attorney Rosemarie Arnold. Bottom right is producer of N.J. Devils games at MSG Network and Fort Lee High School graduate Roland Dratch.



What's Happening @ FLHS...

Debate Tournament:

On November 23 and 24th, Niko Papaioannou (Grade 11) and Matthew Koretsly (Grade 9) participated in the Saint Joseph's University Debate Tournament and won first place in the High School Varsity Public Forum Debate. Congratulations on a job well done!



NHS - Beautification Project

The National Honor Society began our Beautification Project this year. We added quotes to the staircases at the high school. These quotes were selected by NHS students. Our project's goal is to transform our school community and beyond.

The current projects we have lined up include repainting our high school parking lot, adding new designs and inspirational quotes to the teacher's room, and replanting our gardens in the Spring, and hopefully much more. We would like to extend our project to the elementary and middle schools.



ATHLETIC NEWS...

Athletics Winter Update

By Michael Raftery, Director of Athletics

Fort Lee's girls basketball team has qualified for the first round of the BCWCA tournament. The Bridgemen are 10-5 this season, including wins over divisional foes: Ramsey, Mahwah, Pascack Hills and Cliffside Park. Fort Lee is 3-1 when the home team, and have a 7-3 mark on the road. Over the 2019 holiday break, Fort Lee won two games in a row en route to the William Masopust, Jr. Holiday Classic Championship Game in Lodi on December 29 where the Bridgemen defeated Kearny for the title, 46-36.

Boys bowling clinched the 2019-20 Bergen County Group 2 title, coming in second place overall in the county. Fort Lee fell by one pin for all the marbles. The team is currently on a four-game winning streak, dating back to 1/10/20 vs. Ridgefield Park (Fort Lee won, 4-3). From records available through NJ.com, based on winning percentage, the Bridgemen currently sit in second place in the Big North Conference American Division behind an undefeated Mahwah Thunderbird team.

Girls bowling currently sits with a 5-4 record and are 5-3 in the Big North Conference American Division table. The Bridgemen notched early-season shutout wins against Cliffside Park, Ramsey and Ridgefield Park, all by a score of 7-0. With their .556 winning percentage, the Bridgemen sit in third in the division according to NJ.com.

Boys basketball has entered the season having graduated three of their previous starters. Through 11 games played in 2019-20, the Bridgemen sit 1-6 in-division, with the lone divisional win coming on the road at Westwood

Regional on 1/3/20, 67-66. Fort Lee fell to NV/ Old Tappan, Dwight Morrow and Cliffside Park by or within a 10-point margin. Heading into a road game at Cliffside Park, the team had a daunting task against a 6-7 Red Raider squad. The Bridgemen came out strong and finished the first quarter with the score tied at 17. At the half, the Bridgemen held a six-point lead (35-29), but fell in the end on the road, 64-54. Fort Lee will face Cliffside Park on senior night for both the boys and girls on February 20 at 7 P.M.

Indoor track has been off to a flying start this season. This past Wednesday, 1/22/20, the Bridgemen boys indoor track team took the Bergen County Small School Division Championship at the New Balance Track and Field Center in New York. Fort Lee was in a nail-biting race all evening, trailing by eight points with three events remaining. At this meet, the boys 4x400m relay set a new Fort Lee record with a time of 3:29.

Wrestling currently sits with a 1-4 record, 0-3 in the division. The Bridgemen notched a non-conference win at Wood-Ridge on December 19 to open their season. Fort Lee wrestlers came out with wins in eight weight classes on their way to a 45-33 win over the Blue Devils on the road. Fort Lee hosted Pascack Hills in a Big North Conference American Division matchup before a tri-match at Saddle Brook against Saddle Brook and Elmwood Park.

The rekindled Fort Lee Athletic Hall of Fame will induct their second class since 2006 on February 8 at the Fort Lee Recreation Center in William T. Birch Park. Information on this event and the induction class is available on www.FLBOE.com under the 'Athletics' tab and on the department's social media.

For the most up-to-date schedule, scores and event locations, please visit www.fortleehighschool.bigteams.com.



Lewis F. Cole Middle School's Girls Basketball Team recently won the Little Ferry Holiday Tournament in its inaugural season. The girls worked hard throughout the tournament and won all four games played. Pictured above is the middle school team with coaches Ms. Mattesich (far left) and Mr. Schlemm (far right).

MENTAL HEALTH TIP:

Catch some ZZZ's – A good night's rest is important to starting your day off right and to overall health. Lack of sleep can increase the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, and symptoms of mental health disorders.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Monday, February 17, 2020	Presidents' Day - DISTRICT CLOSED	
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	Winter Recess - SCHOOLS CLOSED	
Wednesday, February 19, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting (HS Media Center)	7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 9, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting (School No. 1 All Purpose Room)	7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 23, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting (School No. 2 All Purpose Room)	7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 6, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting (School No. 3 All Purpose Room)	7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 2020	Board of Education Public Meeting (School No. 4 All Purpose Room)	7:30 p.m.