

# FORT LEE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



# DISTRICT NEWS

FALL EDITION - NOVEMBER 2024

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

*By Robert L. Kravitz, Ed.D., M.B.A., Superintendent of Schools*



### **Hello Fort Lee Community!**

Welcome back to another exciting school year! Autumn is such a wonderful time to soak in the beauty around us—the colorful leaves, breathtaking sunsets, and the buzz of preparations for winter. It's also when our schools dive back into their main mission: nurturing and educating our children.

At Fort Lee Public Schools, we're all about creating a warm and engaging learning environment where every student can flourish. Education is a lifelong adventure, and we're here to encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and independence in our students. Our amazing teachers are key to this journey, inspiring students

to ask questions and explore new ideas.

I'm truly looking forward to another fantastic year working with such talented individuals. Be sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming newsletters! We're excited to share updates and gather insights from our students—the future stars of communication.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of leading our schools. Together, we're crafting an extraordinary educational experience for everyone.

**Fort Lee is the place to be!**

## FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 1

### **FOREVER TILES!**

As the 2023 - 2024 school year came to an end, School No.1 wanted to make sure our 4th grade students left their mark before moving onto the IS. After all, once a School 1 Knight, always a School 1 Knight! So, with the help of the School No.1 PTA, our art teacher Mrs. Park, and head custodian Mr. DeLuise, the students began working on a project we are calling "Forever Tiles."

Each fourth grade student received a blank, white tile that they decorated and designed to reflect their feelings about a theme selected by our 4th grade team. The theme, "Leave behind positivity," helped to guide our students to compile a beautiful mosaic of art, which now hangs in School No.1's halls and will hang there for years to come. This year's group of students are the first to participate in this new tradition, as moving forward each year we will have outgoing 4th graders leave their mark with their "forever tiles", and I for one look forward to how they come out.



## FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 2

### Welcome Back To School!

The Eagles soared into their first day of school with such courage! Mr. Brennan and Ms. Rambala welcomed students with high-fives as they entered through the main door. You could feel the excitement in the gym as they all gathered in their classroom lines.

Some favorite parts of the 1st Day of School were...

- **PreK R's class said-** "Read a book with my teacher and colored with markers."
- **KP's class said-** "Lunch, playing with playdoh, meeting my teacher and making new friends."
- **1-2 Ro's class said-** "Liked seeing Ms. Jen and doing math."
- **1Z's class said-** "Seeing my new classroom."
- **2W's class said-** "They were nervous at first but they were very excited to make new friends."
- **3C's class said-** "Having Ms. Cella, seeing familiar friends at lunch and seeing who was in my class this year."
- **4Mo's class said-** "Recess because I got to play with all my friends."
- **4J's class said-** "Love feeling like a big kid, like their new classroom and love going to recess."
- **Mr. Brennan said-** "My favorite part of the day was at arrival seeing all our returning students and meeting the new students of School 2!"

## FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 3



## FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 3 IS A 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Congratulations to the School No. 3 community for receiving the 2024 National Blue Ribbon School award. The National Blue Ribbon Award recognizes and celebrates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities. School No. 3 continues to foster a great school culture and support student learning through strong engagement and challenging academic content. Fort Lee School No. 3 is a multiple National Blue Ribbon School awardee, 2010 and 2024 under the principal leadership of Dr. Robert Kravitz in 2010 and superintendent leadership in 2024. School No. 3 is proud of this distinction, recognizing phenomenal teaching, learning, and community partnerships. Great work TIGERS!



Teamwork and great thinking in Media with Ms. Antimario. Students worked together to create the tallest free-standing artifacts.





# DISTRICT NEWS

## FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 4 PENGUIN P.R.I.D.E.

School No. 4 opened the school year with energy and enthusiasm! We are looking forward to a successful year. Here is a glimpse of special programming we are starting the year with!

The School No. 4 Community continues to model what it looks and feels like to have "Penguin P.R.I.D.E." Students are recognized for making good choices demonstrating positive penguin P.R.I.D.E. behaviors. "Penguin P.R.I.D.E" students promote a **P**ositive mindset, show **R**espect for others, **I**nclude others, work with a **D**etermination to succeed, and have **E**mpathy and understanding. We continue to congratulate and induct new members every Friday to our Penguin P.R.I.D.E. Pack.

In order to promote inclusivity, kindness, and connectedness amongst students, the School No.4 community will be celebrating Sandy Hook's Promise Program, "Start with Hello Week," during the week of 9/16-9/20, 2024.

The purpose of this program is to teach students in grades K-4 to help their peers in a fun and meaningful way by completing challenges. The simple but powerful actions the student will participate in will build a positive and inclusive school environment.

Each day students will engage in a challenge and complete a school activity to help with developing interpersonal relationships with their peers and support students who may need a little helping hand to socialize and feel connected to their school community.

We are looking forward to a great school year!

## LEWIS F. COLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

### LFCIS PARTNERS WITH MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER TO BRING STEAM EDUCATION TO THE STUDENTS OF FORT LEE

Here at the Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School, there is a significant emphasis on developing students' critical thinking skills. This is done through collaborative, engaging learning activities throughout the four core content areas, as well as our STEAM program. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. By integrating these disciplines into a cohesive curriculum, students are challenged to meet the ever-changing tasks that today's society demands. Part of our STEAM curriculum includes out of the classroom experiences that are offered to both 5th and 6th grade students at different times throughout the school year. Our 5th grade students have the opportunity to participate in our Family STEAM Nights, which are scheduled for November 13th and November 20th. For our 6th grade students, we offer a Mobile Food Lab in the Spring, where students participate in three separate, engaging activities that challenge them

to think outside of the box and embrace their inner creativity. These experiences are brought to the students of LFCIS by the Meadowlands Environmental Center, located in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, who have been bringing scientific programs and experiences to the students of New Jersey since 2003.

#### Family STEAM Night

This November, our 5th grade students are invited to discover the wonders of the night sky through the Star Lab Planetarium. Students and their families will have the opportunity to create star charts, comets, and luminaria, all while building connections to both their school and community. Meadowlands Environmental Center will be facilitating the activities, and will offer two separate sessions to 5th graders and their families; one on November 13th and another on November 20th. It promises to be a night to remember at the Intermediate School, taking students "out of this world!"



#### Mobile Food Lab

Coming to the Intermediate School in Spring 2025 will be our 6th Grade Mobile Food Lab, facilitated once again by the Meadowlands Environmental Center. Students will be rotating through different science related activities during a two hour period over the course of four days.

In the past, students have engaged in lab experiments, such as Garden in a Bottle, Create Your Own Tea Bag, and Popcorn Flavor Creations! Our students love learning about the science behind everyday items and tasks, bringing the joy of discovery and innovation to the Intermediate School!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### WINGMAN PROGRAM AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL: BUILDING COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

The Wingman program at Lewis F. Cole Middle School is a unique initiative designed to foster community, leadership, and collaboration among students. Each year, approximately 80 students are selected to participate in the





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program, supported by eight dedicated teacher-leaders who guide and develop the initiative.

The mission of the Wingman program is clear: "Our mission is to nurture empathy, empower courage, and inspire hope in people of all ages. As a movement dedicated to enhancing the lives of all humans, we instill the belief that everybody matters. Our programs focus on fostering leadership skills and team-centered mentalities that inspire these core values."

In the spring of 2024, seventh-grade Wingman students visited School 1 and School 4. They engaged the students in a variety of community-building activities aimed at strengthening relationships and promoting a positive school culture.



This year, the program continues to grow, with all participating students set to undergo training in October to prepare for their roles as leaders and mentors. Starting in November, these Wingman students will extend their outreach by visiting the Intermediate School, where they will continue their mission of building connections and promoting inclusivity.

The Wingman program offers a valuable opportunity for students to develop essential skills while making a positive impact on their school community.

## FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS AAPI NIGHT OF CULTURE SHOW

On May 22, 2024, Fort Lee High School hosted its second annual AAPI Night of Culture Show, celebrating the rich cultural diversity within the school and the broader community. Teachers and students played a key role in the event, showcasing their talents and cultural identities. This year marked the first time the event was held in the evening, allowing for greater participation from families and community members.

The AAPI Night of Culture Show featured a wide range of participants, including students, teachers, staff, and their families. The evening's program was packed with engaging activities and performances. Students proudly displayed their talents through dance, singing, taekwondo demonstrations, and musical performances. The fashion show, which included both students and staff, further highlighted the inclusive, community-driven nature of the celebration.

The event was the result of two months of planning and preparation by students and staff, whose enthusiasm and dedication made the process both enjoyable and rewarding. Their commitment was evident in the success of the evening.

Teachers and students of AAPI descent, in particular, aimed to share a message of unity, pride, and mutual respect. Through their performances and personal stories, they sought to foster a deeper appreciation of the AAPI culture within the community. Traditional and contemporary art forms, from music and dance to culinary delights, were showcased to emphasize the importance of celebrating cultural identity. The event also provided an opportunity to educate others about the unique aspects of AAPI culture while honoring their ancestors.

Looking ahead, there is excitement about the continued growth and success of the AAPI Night of Culture Show. Organizers hope the event will inspire other communities to host similar cultural celebrations, promoting greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.

Such efforts contribute to a more inclusive society, where the contributions of all cultural groups are recognized and celebrated.



A No Place for Hate Club has been established at Fort Lee High School for the 2024-2025 school year. Developed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the program is designed to foster a positive, inclusive, and respectful school environment. Schools participating in this initiative commit to guidelines aimed at reducing bias, preventing bullying, and promoting diversity and acceptance.

At Fort Lee High School, the No Place for Hate Club will lead efforts to organize events, workshops, and activities that educate students on issues related to bias and bullying. By encouraging student leadership and involvement, the club aims to empower students to take active roles in building a more inclusive and respectful school culture.