

# Trenton Public School District

## NEWSLETTER

**HAPPY**  
*Holidays*

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing winter break and happy holidays. We look forward to welcoming all of our students and staff back refreshed on January 2.

### Important Dates to Remember

- Dec. 25-29: District Closed for Winter Break
- Jan. 01: District Closed for Winter Break
- Jan. 02: Return to School from Winter Break
- Jan. 15: District Closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 17: Reduced Day for Students/Staff PD
- Feb. 01: End of 2nd Marking Period
- Feb. 02: Schools Closed for Students/Staff PD
- Feb. 07: Grades 7-8 Back to School Night
- Feb. 19: District Closed for President's Day
- Feb. 21: Grades 9-12 Back to School Night
- [Click here for the 2023-24 School Year Calendar](#)

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## Communication

Are you receiving communication from the district and your school(s) via phone, email, and text?

- The district needs to ensure all students have updated parent/guardian information in PowerSchool.
- Please confirm you have created a PowerSchool account and your information is up-to-date.

Questions on [how we communicate](#)?

- Please go to our [communications website](#) for more information on how we will communicate various events and emergencies.
- Opt-In for TPS Text Messaging: Just Text “Y” or “Yes” to 67587 or scan the QR code →
  - [TPS SMS Text Opt-In Flyer](#)
  - [Mensaje de texto TPS Regístrese](#)



\*In this newsletter, red and underlined text is hyperlinked for more information.

# DISTRICT NEWS



## Community Food Pantries Open at Two Schools

Gregory Elementary School and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School have opened their Community Food Pantries in partnership with Mercer Street Friends. Food pantries are a part of the organization's Family Resource Center concept located onsite in Community Schools offering families access to a multitude of resources conveniently located in their child's school. Assistance with SNAP benefits, housing, immigration, and mental health are some of the services offered by Mercer Street Friends.



## Glow Crazy Dance Party

Robbins Elementary School held a "Glow Crazy" Dance Party to celebrate students who have a 95% attendance rate. Robbins is proud to announce almost 250 students were invited to attend!



## Men's Night at Copeland

Dr. Crosby Copeland Elementary School hosted its second annual men's night. Over 100 young men, fathers, grandfathers, and other male figures came together to establish connections with leaders and role models to strengthen ties with the community's heritage and assets.



## Ribbon Cutting at Daylight/Twilight

In October, TPS staff, and community members celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Career Resource and Development Center at DTHS. [To view more photos from this event, click here.](#)



## New Playground at Joyce Kilmer School

Joyce Kilmer Intermediate School hosted its playground ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 16.



## Humanitarian Award

Superintendent James Earle was honored at the 16th Annual Kidsbridge Humanitarian Gala in September. Superintendent Earle received the 2023 Humanitarian Award and was recognized as a steadfast supporter and a long-standing community leader in the greater Mercer County Region.



## TBOE Receives Board Certifications

The Trenton Board of Education was recognized at the Nov. 16 Mercer County School Boards Association Meeting. TPS congratulates the TBOE members on being a part of the certified board and receiving their individual board member certifications. [Click here to read more.](#)



## 2023 NJ Exemplary Educator at Gregory

TPS congratulates Gregory Elementary School Principal Jeannette Harris on being named a 2023 New Jersey Exemplary Educator! She was nominated to the 2023 NJ Exemplary Educator Recognition Program by a co-worker. The program's goal is to identify educators who are valued by their school and community and have exhibited strong knowledge, skills, and a clear vision for quality teaching and learning. [For more information, click here.](#)



## Civics Day at Hedgepeth

Hedgepeth/Williams Intermediate School hosted its 2nd annual Laura Wooten Civics Day. Sixth-grade students attended an assembly on the importance of being civically responsible. This year's theme was "Everybody Can Be Great." The program included performances from TCHS JROTC, Principal Hill, students, and staff members.



# THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS



## Family & Community Engagement Department

The FACE Department hosted its annual Thanksgiving Food drive to help provide 90 families (totaling 421 students and parents/guardians) with Thanksgiving baskets this year.

### **Thank you to the donors!**

- One Simple Wish donated \$3,500 to supply 90 turkeys!
- Aramark donated 70 laundry baskets filled with side items.
- Horizon donated \$250 worth of sides.
- TPS staff members donated additional food items.



## **Cadwalader Elementary School**

On Nov. 21, Cadwalader School hosted their first Thanksgiving Dinner. Staff members participated and donated their time to make the evening a success.

## Thanksgiving at Jefferson

The staff at Jefferson came together to prepare and serve a Thanksgiving meal to students and their families. They broke bread together and students shared what they were thankful for.



## Turkey Giveaway at Daylight/Twilight

On Nov. 17, Daylight/Twilight High School hosted their Turkey Giveaway. The first families 40 to attend parent teacher conferences on Nov. 13 had the opportunity to receive a free turkey.

## Stokes Friendsgiving

Stokes Elementary School was proud to host its first friendsgiving dinner for students and their families. A special thank you to the school staff who volunteered to make some of the dishes as well as serve the attendees.



Here are just a few of the many celebrations that took place throughout the district

## Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Parker Intermediate School re-invented the "The Restaurant Project" to serve their families for its annual Thanksgiving dinner. The cooking club students, Girl Scouts, and chorus worked as hosts, wait staff, and the entertainment. Parker staff prepared the delicious food.



## **Trenton's Ninth Grade Academy**

On Nov. 21, TNGA celebrated Thanksgiving with a meal for all staff and students



## Thanksgiving Community Outreach at Washington

Washington Elementary School received donations from parents/guardians, the Trenton Police Department, the Trenton Fire Department and school staff members. The school put Thanksgiving boxes together for 40 Washington School families.

# WINTER HOLIDAY SHOWS & EVENTS

## Annual TPS Holiday Toy Drive

FACE hosted the annual Holiday Toy and Book Drive on Dec. 7. Over 500 toys and books were given away to families who attended the event. A special thank you to those listed below for their contributions:

- Bank of America for their generous donation of 80 bicycles for students aged 4-12.
- Shine & Inspire for their support through a mini-grant provided by Aramark, which resulted in \$1,200 worth of toys.
- District staff who generously donated gifts for our students

The kindness and generosity shown within our school community does not go unnoticed.



## Mott Holiday Show

Mott Elementary School hosted its annual holiday show, which included singing, dancing, and sharing fun during the holiday season! Students of all grades performed in front of families, staff, and students. They worked hard practicing their routines throughout December.

## VPA Annual Winter Holiday Showcase

TCHS hosted its annual winter showcase on Dec. 14. Family, friends, and community members had the opportunity to see many student and faculty member performances.



## Holiday Mail

Holland Middle School students created over 250 postcards of well wishes and holiday greetings for troops stationed at or deployed from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.



## Holiday Spirit at Dunn

Dunn Middle School students and staff enjoyed a holiday-themed spirit week complete with a "Candy Cane Day," "Don't Be a Grinch Day," and an "Ugly Holiday Sweater Day."

## Season of Giving

Grant Intermediate School students brought in small items like toys, tooth brushes, and coloring books! Students created over 100 boxes to give to families during the Holiday Season!



\* \*  
These are just a few of the many celebrations that happened around the district.  
\* \*



## Holiday Sing-Along at McKnight

McKnight Elementary School students and staff enjoyed a holiday sing-along. This festive celebration showcased a diverse range of songs and holiday traditions.

## Countdown to the Holidays

Staff and students at Rivera Elementary School took part in activities centered around the Seven Habits for Happy Kids. Students created ornaments, celebrated with family members, enjoyed holiday punch and popcorn, and more!



## Holidays at Franklin

Franklin Elementary School families, students, staff and support providers welcomed the holidays with various activities, music and great food.



# Family & Community Engagement



The flyer is yellow with blue and white text. It features logos for Parent Connect, Trenton Public Schools, Every Day Matters, and Parents Inc. The title 'Parent Support Group' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, it says 'Trenton Public Schools and Parents Inc. Would like for you to join us for a session of how to support each other'. There are three blue rounded rectangles containing the dates: 'DECEMBER 12TH FROM 1PM-2PM', 'JANUARY 9TH FROM 1PM-2PM', and 'JANUARY 23RD FROM 1PM-2PM'. The location is 'Trenton Central High School ROOM B104 400 Chambers St. Trenton, NJ'. It also mentions 'Light refreshments will be served'. At the bottom, it provides contact information for Ms. Brenda Diaz: 'Phone: 609 656-4900 ext. 5639' and 'e-mail: bdiaz@trenton.k12.nj.us'. There are colorful hand icons in green, blue, and pink.

Parent Connect

Trenton Public Schools

Every Day Matters  
Attain today. Achieve tomorrow.

PARENTS INC.

## Parent Support Group

Trenton Public Schools and Parents Inc.  
Would like for you to join us for a session  
of how to support each other

DECEMBER 12TH FROM 1PM-2PM

JANUARY 9TH FROM 1PM-2PM

JANUARY 23RD FROM 1PM-2PM

Trenton Central High School ROOM B104  
400 Chambers St. Trenton, NJ  
Light refreshments will be served

For more information please  
contact Ms. Brenda Diaz  
Phone: 609 656-4900 ext. 5639  
e-mail: bdiaz@trenton.k12.nj.us

TPS and Parents Inc. invite you to join them for a session on how to support each other from 1-2 p.m. at Trenton Central High School (400 Chambers Street). Light refreshments will be served.

- Jan. 9
- Jan. 23

Ms. Erykah Jones, a parent leader, will facilitate these sessions. Parents Inc. is dedicated to protecting children by strengthening families through mutual support, leadership, and advocacy. The organization believes that seeking help is a sign of strength and offers confidential assistance to parents and caregivers.

Key features of these parent support groups:

- **Shared Experiences:** Parents share their personal stories, challenges, successes, fostering understanding and reducing feelings of isolation.
- **Information and Resources:** The groups offer valuable information on parenting, child development, family well-being, and community resources.
- **Emotional Support:** A safe space for parents to express their feelings, and receive empathy, and encouragement from others going through similar situations.





# TPS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Trenton Public School District invites you to a monthly community conversation series.

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Please join us on Zoom for the next community conversation on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from 6-7:30 p.m.

*Goal 5: Facilities & Infrastructure  
(Resources, Safety)*

Stay tuned for a zoom link closer to the event.

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During the 2023-24 school year, the district will host monthly sessions to engage in conversations about the TPS Five-Year Strategic Plan implementation and progress. Each session will focus on one of the five goal areas.

**For more information and future dates, please check [trentonk12.org](https://www.trentonk12.org)**

# The Office of Teaching and Learning

The office of Teaching & Learning has been busy since the start of the new year! As we have completed the first session of internal assessment through LinkIt Form A, we are currently reviewing student results and establishing baseline data to assist schools to create student learning growth goals. These goals will continue to be updated and revised as we review student performance data throughout the school year.

The office of Teaching & Learning has also been preparing for the launch of our Gifted and Talented program in January 2024. We will begin the work by bringing emphasis on teacher and administrator training on the New Jersey Gifted and Talented laws and mandates. The district will assess all 3rd and 6th grade students via Gifted and Talented program assessment to determine their eligibility in the spring months.

# FOOD SERVICES

## FOOD ALLERGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

If your child(ren) has a medically-certified disability which requires a change or substitution to the menu, please fill out the Request for Special Dietary Accommodations form. The school nurse and Director of Nutrition Services will review the form to make accommodations. A copy of this form will be kept with the school nurse, school kitchen, and at the Nutrition Service Department Office. Please reach out to your school nurse for the form.

## CEP SURVEY

[Click here to take the CEP Survey](#) or scan the QR code →



## FOOD MENUS

Each month the Food Services Department will be posting breakfast and lunch menus for all schools on the [Food Services Website](#).

## COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

TPS is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2023-24 school year

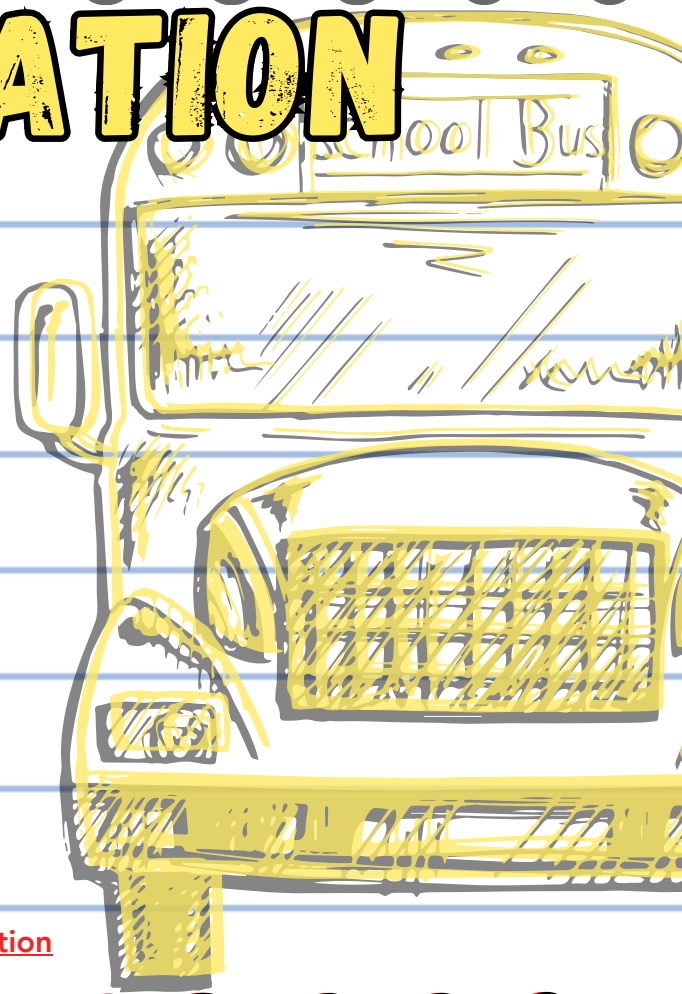
CEP is a federal program in which all enrolled TPS students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. This is not the same as being qualified for free meals; rather the student is not charged for their meals. Under CEP, meals are free to enrolled students, but a la carte items remain at full price.

click here →

# TRANSPORTATION

Reminders: Please help us ensure your child's safety by following these simple but important procedures:

1. Arrive five minutes early
2. When the bus approaches, stand six feet away
3. Wait for the to bus stop, door open, and the driver give the OK to board
4. Stay 10 feet ahead of the bus if crossing the street. Be sure the driver can see you, and you can see them.
5. Use the handrails to avoid falls and be careful that drawstrings and straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
6. Never walk behind the bus.
7. Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
8. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver.



Tips Courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

# Office of School Health

## Immunization & Physicals:

Henry J Austin Health Center (HJAHC) is offering health care services to the Trenton Public School District.

These services include:

- Routine Health Physicals
- Sports Physicals
- Immunizations
- Behavioral Health
- Oral Services

Appointments are mandatory. To make an appointment, please call 609-278-5900 or go online

<https://henryjAustin.org/services/>



## Health Promotion:

New Jersey Children's Oral Health Program visited Robeson Elementary School to talk about the importance of oral health. Students enjoyed an interactive presentation and all received oral hygiene kits.

## Vision Screening:

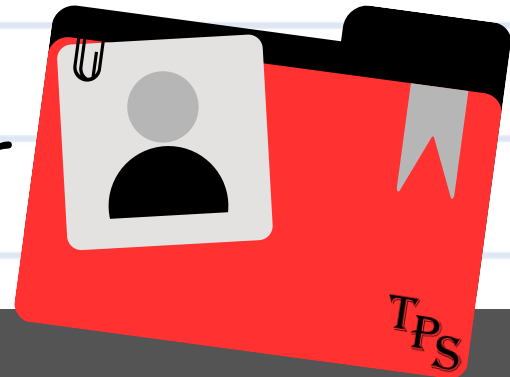
Vision to Learn continues to provide vision screenings and glasses to our students. Thank you, students, at PJ Hill Elementary School for participating.





# HUMAN RESOURCES

Congratulations to the October and November Mentors of the Month!



**October Mentor of the Month:** Pauline Saravia, ESL Teacher at Monument Intermediate School (nominated by novice teacher Andrea Santiago, ESL Teacher at Monument)

“She has gone above and beyond for me - making sure I learn the ropes. She reaches out after contact hours and on weekends. She is truly amazing.” - Andrea Santiago

**November Mentor of the Month:** Amy Kinczel, ESL Teacher at Harrison Elementary School (nominated by novice teacher Brandon Fullard, ESL Teacher at Harrison)

“She has always been a kind and welcoming presence in the school - she is not afraid to share resources and ideas. When I have asked questions on how to work better with students, she has always provided suggestions and made it feel acceptable to ask questions.” - Brandon Fullard

