

FORT LEE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Esther Han Silver, President
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. Lauran Tuck

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Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Sharon Amato
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Ms. Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Director of Human Resources

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Board Members Kristen Richter, Esther Han Silver & Holly Morell raised their right hands and took the Oath of Office for 3-year terms ending December 31, 2021.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS: REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Reorganization Meeting of the Fort Lee Board of Education was held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fort Lee High School Media Center. Newly-elected Board member Kristen Richter, along with incumbents Esther Han Silver and Holly Morell, who were re-elected to the Board in the November election, were sworn in to take the Oath of Office for their 3-year terms ending December 31, 2021. Congratulations! The Board elected Esther Han Silver as Board President and Candace Romba as Board Vice President for 2019. A Schedule of Meetings for the 2019 calendar year has been posted on the district website along with the locations as some of the meetings will be held at different school buildings for convenience to residents.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

The new year is off to a quick start. February marks the halfway point of the school year. January is over and now we face the unpredictability of February. During the cold and dark of this month it is important to try to enjoy the "light" when you can. Whether that means exposure to actual sunlight or activities that lighten your spirit, make the effort to actively engage your family in something fun for everyone. Skiing, snow tubing, bowling or just a family game night (Jenga is my personal favorite) are great ways to be together and get the most out of the cold winter days and nights. The feelings you generate from each other will keep you warm.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: 12/17/18

Outgoing board member and former Board President, Dave Sarnoff, was recognized for his service. President Romba and the Superintendent presented a plaque to Mr. Sarnoff, thanked him for his service, and wished him well.



Mrs. Romba read the qualifications to become a semi-finalist for the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Rota presented a Certificate of Recognition to Fort Lee High School senior, Thomas Hum.



Mr. Rota introduced the Middle School Robotics Team. The Middle School Robotics team demonstrated their work as a team. Mr. Rota also thanked Ms. Marquez who has been working diligently with the team.



The Middle School's Robotics Team competed for the first time at the First Lego League's annual robotics competition. The students designed and programmed their robots to meet specific tasks pre-determined by First Lego League. The students were highly successful in their first competition and received the Core Values Award.

Ms. Taylor summarized the audit, recommendations, and surplus at the year ending on June 30, 2018. Ms. Taylor introduced Mr. David Gannon, lead auditor, to share PKF O'Connor Davies' opinion of the audit and financial operations of fiscal year 2018.

Mr. DiMeglio announced that the Finance Committee met before the meeting and reiterated that the budgeting and auditing process was discussed during their committee meeting.

Mrs. Tuck shared that the Communications Coffee and Conversation meeting that was rescheduled went very well. The next one will be scheduled after the New Year and it will be in the evening since they're alternating between mornings and evenings.

Student Representative, Julia Hung, shared updates in regards to the student teams at Fort Lee High School. The Varsity Debate Team won 3rd place. The Junior Varsity Debate Team currently has a 2-0 record. This week Chorus/Orchestra/Band are having their Holiday Concert. The Honors Concert is scheduled for February 2019, in which they will be performing a selection of various music. The Science League is currently preparing for their test in May for Chemistry, Biology and Physics. The Senior Class had a Talent Show on January 10, 2019. The Prom is scheduled for June 14 and will be held at The Rockleigh Country Club. The Basketball Team lost the game last Friday, but we support the team. The track team is having their 1st meet at the New York Armory today. The Computer Club is going to a digital event, and the theater is preparing for their spring music production. They will be starting rehearsal in January 2019. Lastly, a lot of the seniors have received their acceptances to colleges. Some of the colleges acceptances are: Columbia, Harvard, Fordham, Rutgers, Montclair and Thomas Hum who was accepted to Vanderbilt.

WORLD LANGUAGE/ESL:

All students in the Fort Lee School District are given the opportunity to learn another language. Beginning in Kindergarten, students have exposure to the Spanish language from both the classroom teacher and the elementary World Language teacher, Ms. Teitelbaum. As students move through the grade levels they are given time to develop their interpersonal, intrapersonal, and presentational communication skills in Spanish with their peers. At Lewis F. Cole Middle School, students deepen their understanding of the Spanish language. Each student takes Spanish class as part of their daily schedule. They are also provided with exposure to authentic materials in Spanish and they read books written in Spanish. Embedded in the curricula are opportunities to learn about the various customs and celebrations in Spanish speaking countries. Learning about culture helps to shape a student's overall understanding and develop an appreciation for the language.



The Fort Lee School District offers several different languages for students to choose from at the secondary level. At Fort Lee High School, a student may choose to continue with Spanish. If a student continues with Spanish as they enter high school, this trajectory will most likely allow the student to take the AP Spanish course by senior year. Additional world languages offered include Italian, Korean, and Chinese. Next school year, we will be expanding our Korean and Chinese programs into Level 4.

WORLD LANGUAGE/ESL: (CONTINUED)

According to a study by a national survey by the Center for Applied Linguistics, Spanish continues to be the favorite in elementary and secondary schools, taught at 88% and 92% of schools, respectively, that offer languages. Chinese is offered at more elementary and secondary schools than a decade ago. In Fort Lee, our World Language Department focuses on using Comprehensible Input (CI) as well as Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) as instructional models. Both of these instructional techniques are input-based approaches that allow students to engage in a new language through the systematic instruction of vocabulary in a highly comprehensible, personalized, and contextualized manner. Our World Language Department uses the rubrics from American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to gauge student proficiency. Our curricula is designed in accordance with ACTFL levels of proficiency.

The vision of the World Language Department is to foster students who:

Communicate in more than one language with the usable levels of language proficiency required to function in a variety of occupations and careers in the contemporary workplace;

Exhibit attitudes, values and skills that indicate a positive disposition and understanding of cultural differences that enhance cross cultural communication; and

Value language learning as a global literacy and for its long-term worth in fostering personal, work-related and/or financial success in a world without borders.

Guided by the vision, the following outcomes were created:

To provide appropriate language courses of study that will be of most value to our students in their present and future academic and life endeavors.

To provide World Language instruction based on the goals of the NJ World Language Standards and ACTFL performance guidelines for K-12 learners.

Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century. (1995). Yonkers, NY: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.



SPELLING BEE:

Future Teachers of America students hosted the spelling bee in each elementary school. Every student who participated tried their best. This year was perhaps the most competitive we have seen.

Spelling Bee Champions:

School No. 1- Jeremy Min, 6th grade

School No. 2- Alan Tai, 6th grade

School No. 3- Socrates Luciano, 6th grade

School No. 4- Genhao Cui, 6th grade



School No. 1- Jeremy Min, 6th grade.



School No. 3- Socrates Luciano, 6th grade.

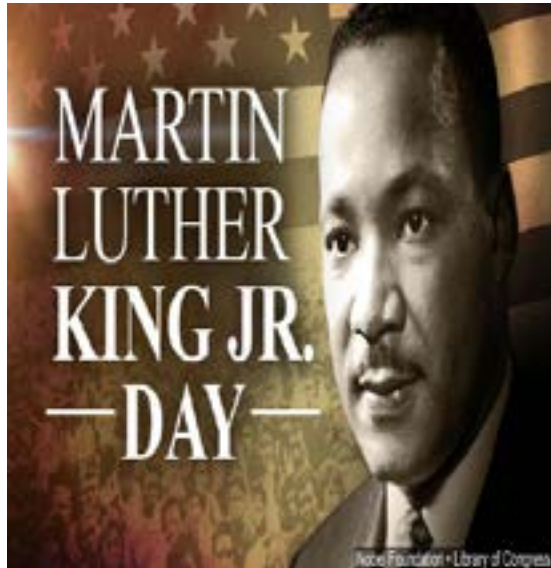


School No. 2- Alan Tai, 6th grade.



School No. 4- Genhao Cui, 6th grade.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - "Day of Service"



The School No. 4 PTA, along with Principal Ambrosio, and the 35 children in attendance decorated and stuffed 73 gift bags to be sent to active duty soldiers, made 35 blankets to be delivered to seniors at Newbridge Medical Center (and some to Project Linus), made 75 placemats to be distributed with Meals on Wheels in Fort Lee, and donated 300 books to Project Cicero.

Next year, we believe we can expand this event to include all 4 elementary schools (K-4), and we will likely hold the event at the high school (School 4 was the perfect location/size for this year -- HUGE thanks to Principal Ambrosio for storing everything and hosting us!!).

A special thanks to Bergen County Freeholder - Tracy Silna Zur; Representative, "We The People," Lauran Tuck, PTA Member and MLK Day of Service Organizer.



Holiday Celebrations - S1 & S2

School No. 1's 6th Grade Peer Mediators, SADD Officers and Representatives ranging from grades 3 through 6 paid a visit to the Fort Lee Senior Citizens at the Richard and Catherine Nest Adult Activity Center. Holiday carols were sung by the students with the senior citizens joining in the singing. Afterward, the children distributed handmade holiday greeting cards and delicious chocolates while engaging in conversation with the staff and senior participants. What a special way to add to the festive and giving atmosphere of this Holiday Season!



Fort Lee PBA spread some holiday cheer at School No. 2..



Ms. Lembo's class pause for a picture with our Holiday visitors at School No. 2..

Holiday Celebrations - S3 & S4

School No. 3 Select Choir and Concert Orchestra (both pictured here) performed several holiday pieces to the delight of our parents and students. They were led by our talented vocal teacher, Mrs. Hae Yook and our great strings teacher, Mr. Oleg Rutkovsky.



School No. 4 was visited by their favorite Disney and cartoon characters courtesy of the Fort Lee Police Department. Families enjoyed the annual Holiday Concert where students showed off their talents.



Holiday Celebrations - LFCMS

The Student Ambassadors from Lewis F. Cole Middle School participated in the New Jersey Apartment Association's 21st Annual Charitable Holiday Party at the Meadowlands Convention Center in Secaucus, N.J. on December 11. This event provides the students at Lewis F. Cole Middle School the opportunity to become mentors and role models for underprivileged children from some of New Jersey's most underserved communities. Our Student Ambassadors spent the day playing games, doing crafts, sharing meals and spreading joy to over 1,000 children. We are proud of our Student Ambassadors and thank them for their service to our surrounding communities, which is a major component of our character education programs. Pictured is the plaque we received in recognition of our students' service and a picture of our Student Ambassadors and their advisors at the event.



Four music ensembles from Lewis F. Cole Middle School performed their annual holiday concert on December 12 in Fort Lee High School's auditorium. As always, our student musicians displayed their talents and made all of the member of our audience proud. We thank our music teachers Mr. Gioia (Instrumental Band), Mrs. Vargas (Concert Choir and Bells Choir) and Mrs. Stephenson (String Orchestra) for all of their efforts to prepare our students for this outstanding performance. Pictured are three of the ensembles in action.



What's Happening...

School No. 1:

The School No. 1 Environmental Club has worked over the past few months to learn more about the cleanliness of our waterways and oceans. Recently we looked more deeply into the plastics floating in our oceans. Club members worked in teams to create informational posters about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a patch of plastics and garbage found floating in the Pacific Ocean two times the size of Texas. They learned much about the dangers of plastics on both marine and human life and wanted to share their discoveries in the hopes of enlightening others and making a commitment to reduce their use of plastics.



Congratulations to all of School No. 1's Spelling Bee participants and to Jeremy Min (Grade 6 Murray), the overall winner. Each of the students exhibited exceptional spelling skills, outstanding sportsmanship and white knuckling determination while participating in this exciting event. Mr. Dominguez and his four students, participants of the Future Teacher's of America, led the students through over 12 rounds of spelling words ranging in difficulty. Everyone did a magnificent job.



What's Happening...

School No. 2:



Ms. Tomarchio's Kindergarteners complete their Only One You project.



Ms. Fiorita's first graders learn phonics.

School No. 4:

On January 28, 2019, School No. 4 was visited by Mr. Tom Meyers from the Fort Lee Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs. In celebration of Thomas Paine's birthday, and celebrating his significance in history and his connection with Fort Lee, the students were treated to a history lesson by none other than Thomas Paine himself! During the assembly, the students sang along to patriotic music by Thaddeus MacGregor! Mayor Mark Sokolich, a School No. 4 Alumni, spoke to the student body about the significant role that the Borough of Fort Lee has played in American History.



What's Happening...

School No. 4:

The PTA Book Fair took place on January 28th and 29th - one of the great events the students enjoy each year!



School No.4:

No Name Calling week took place from January 21-25. Throughout the week students were encouraged to use positive words and spread kindness to others. As Monday, January 18th was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, diversity and celebration of our unique differences was touched upon this week. Students were reminded that thanks to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. promoting peace and equality, we are able to attend a diverse school where our differences are celebrated and uniqueness radiates!

During announcements, students were challenged to use kind words and share positive names they have been called in the past. They were also encouraged to compliment each other (National Compliment Day took place on January 24th) to realize how kind and caring words can help make someone else's day as well as showing how good it feels to be kind. Each classroom read over and signed a no-name calling pledge (noted below), encouraging them to be positive, to not bully, and to celebrate kindness!



celebrate **KINDNESS**

I _____

believe that bullying and calling other students hurtful names is wrong. I pledge to do my best to:

- ✓ Not bully other students or call them hurtful names.
- ✓ Intervene, if I safely can, in situations where students are being called names.
- ✓ Support efforts to end bullying and name-calling.

If you are being called names or bullied, remember the four ways to stay **SAFE**:

SAY WHAT YOU FEEL: Tell the person who is bullying you or calling you names the way their actions make you feel.

ASK FOR HELP: Sometimes you can't handle the situation yourself, and it's ok to ask for help. Find a teacher or other school staff member to talk to.

FIND A FRIEND: Hanging out with people who make you feel good about yourself is important, and the person calling you names might think twice before picking on you when you're with your friends.

EXIT THE AREA: While it may feel like you aren't doing anything at all, sometimes walking away from someone who is picking on you is the best way to end things.

nonamecallingweek.org

GLSEN | NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

What's Happening...

Lewis F. Cole Middle School:

Lewis F. Cole Middle School revised its music education program this year with the creation of a technology music lab. The students are now able to use Pro Tools software to create and edit their own music. This was the final piece of the Unified Arts curriculum revisions, which also included our fine arts program adding graphic design through Adobe Photoshop software and our computers program adding computer coding through Tynker software. We are excited about these changes that bring our Unified Arts classes into a 21st Century learning structure. Pictured below is Mr. Resetovs teaching 7th grade students in the new music technology lab.

**Fort Lee High School: UPCOMING EVENTS BY GRADE LEVEL****Seniors**

For the rest of the year, seniors will be engaging in additional one-to-one counselor meetings to discuss college selection, wait-listed applications, financial aid packages and any other concerns that arise. In February, an online scholarship application will be posted on the guidance website for all seniors to complete to apply for the Academic Awards Dinner Scholarships.

Juniors

In the months of January and February, all juniors will have one-to-one scheduling meetings with their counselors to plan their schedules for the 2019-2020 school year. Student course requests can be viewed by their parents via the Genesis Parent Portal after this meeting. In the months of April & May, all juniors and parents will have one-to-one college planning meetings to discuss the college search process and to complete the pre-college survey which assists counselors in writing college letters of recommendations. Fort Lee High School and Kaplan Test Prep have joined forces to give students in grade 10 and 11 the opportunity to take and score a practice test for both the ACT and SAT in order to help them decide which test best suits their needs. This is an online opportunity and students sign up by registering at <https://www.kaptest.com/sat/free/events>. The next "Free Combo Practice Test" is offered on February 6th. Kaplan also offers free SAT and ACT Bootcamps via the same website.

Sophomores

In the months of January and February, all sophomores will have one-to-one scheduling meetings with their counselors to plan their schedules for the 2019-2020 school year. Student course requests can be viewed by parents via the Genesis Parent Portal after this meeting. Sophomores will also participate in counselor facilitated classroom lessons on the SAT, ACT & SAT Subject tests, as well as in group activities that assist students with interpreting their Naviance Career Interest Surveys from last year. Fort Lee High School and Kaplan Test Prep have joined forces to give students in grade 10 and 11 the opportunity to take and score a practice test for both the ACT and SAT in order to help them decide which test best suits their needs. This is an online opportunity and students sign up by registering at <https://www.kaptest.com/sat/free/events>. The next "Free Combo Practice Test" is offered on February 6th. Kaplan also offers free SAT and ACT Bootcamps via the same website.

Freshmen

In the months of January and February, all freshmen will meet with Mrs. Serulle-Green to plan their course schedule for the 2019-2020 school year. Student course requests can be viewed by parents via the Genesis Parent Portal after this meeting. In addition to scheduling, Mrs. Green will begin classroom lessons for all ninth grade students to assist them in creating a portfolio for Raise.Me. Raise.Me is a platform that helps students prepare for college by earning scholarship money for their achievements in high school. Students can start to earn money as early as freshman year by simply following colleges that they are interested in attending and adding their achievements, such as high grades and sports.

**MINDFULNESS PRACTICE OF THE MONTH:****Take a listening walk.**

Go someplace—even your backyard—and walk together in silence, listening for sounds you typically overlook: leaves rustling, a pine cone falling from a tree, your own steady breath. To enhance the quietest sounds (and make it more fun), you can turn plastic or paper cups into amplifiers by cutting a hole in the sides of two cups and hooking them over your ears, drinking side facing forward. Although walking in nature is especially relaxing, a listening walk can occur anywhere—even a noisy shopping mall or restaurant.

Mindfulness Activities to do as a Family: <https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/5-mindfulness-activities-you-can-do-as-a-family/>

Happy
Valentine's
Day

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Monday, February 18, 2019	PRESIDENTS' DAY - DISTRICT CLOSED	
Tuesday, February 19, 2019	WINTER RECESS - SCHOOLS CLOSED	
Wednesday, February 20, 2019	Board Meeting (at School No. 3)	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 Thursday, February 21, 2019 Friday, February 22, 2019	Kindergarten Registration (at all Elementary Schools)	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Monday, March 4, 2019	Board Meeting (at School No. 4)	7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 18, 2019	Board Meeting (at Lewis F. Cole Middle School)	7:30 p.m.