



"CHILDREN COME FIRST, LOS NIÑOS SON PRIMERO"

TRENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Newsletter



VOLUME I – WINTER 2016

Happy New Year!

By *Lucy Feria, Interim Superintendent*

Greetings! I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the first issue of the Trenton Public Schools Newsletter. It brings me great joy to share with you the many positive initiatives, activities and accomplishments that are part of the Trenton Public Schools. The new year has begun and we are celebrating and recognizing our students, staff and community!

Graduation Report

I'm excited to report that the Trenton Public Schools graduation rate continues to rise for a second consecutive school year. Despite increased standards and expectations, the District's post-appeal final graduation rates in New Jersey's education data system NJSMART, confirm that 2015 saw increases in the graduation rate for each of the two comprehensive high schools and the District's Alternative High School Program. Trenton Central High School's Main Campus' 2015 on-time graduation rate increased to 79.7%. This increase represents a 24.9% increase over a five year period. Trenton West's 2015 graduation rate increased to 83.7% which represents a 12.4% increase over a five year period. Finally, the Daylight /Twilight Alternative School 2015 graduation rate increased to 29.1%, a 16.2% increase over five years. The three high school principals (Ms. Grant, Mr. Hoppe and

Ms. Gray) presented their data at the December 14th Board Meeting.

I commend the principals and teachers for their leadership and support to our students. I congratulate the students and parents for their achievement.

District and Community Partners Events

On November 11th a collaborative project that included Teachers Education Association (TEA), Trenton Business & Technical Association (B&T), PTO/A, FACE Department, Social Studies and Music Departments, Police Local 105, Trenton NAACP sponsored a Veteran's Recognition Luncheon hosted at Kilmer Middle School. 58 Veterans were honored and our students performed a tribute to the Veterans.

On November 12th, an Abbott Leadership Summit was hosted at the Board. 30 students, 30 parents and community members participated in this event that was sponsored by NJEA, TEA and Rutgers University. I had the opportunity to participate and appreciate very much the partnership on behalf of our families and students. Many thanks to Ms. Naomi LaFleur for her leadership and bringing the project to Trenton.

The Teachers Education Association (TEA) and the Social Studies Department co-sponsored the United Nations Poster. The student winners were recognized and received their reward. Congratulations to

the students and wish them continued success.

Rivera Middle School

The Mercer Street Friends (MSF) was awarded a 2.3 million dollar grant from the Department of Education to make Rivera Middle School into a full-service community facility. MSF will offer after-school programs, health screenings, family counseling and parent classes.

Celebrate English Language Learners (ELLs)

Every year English Language Learners (ELLs) are assessed for English Proficiency on the WIDA ACCESS test. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) sets targets that all districts must meet. We are proud to announce that the Trenton Public Schools met all its 2015 targets. Our ELLs are thriving in our district. The first target for the Annual Measurable Achievement Objective (AMAO 1) for ELL students is making progress in acquiring English Language Proficiency and the target set was 60%. The district achieved 68%. The second target for AMAO 2 is percent of students attaining English Language proficiency. There are two targets. The first set target is 5% of students attaining proficiency in four years or less. The district achievement was 17% of the students met this target. The second AMAO 2 target is 50% of students attaining proficiency in five years or more. We are extremely pleased with the accomplishment of our students and

appreciate the efforts of our administrators, teachers and parents. KUDOS!




“Proud to be Bilingual” Event

The Bilingual Department showcased our students and teachers talents at two evening activities themed Proud to be Bilingual. Kudos to Ms. Sandra Iturbides for organizing the events and to the school principals, Mr. Mark Hoppe of Trenton Central High West and Ms. Talaya Wilson of Robeson Elementary, for hosting the events.

Student Nomination

Francis Rodriguez, a senior at Daylight Twilight High School has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Science Technology Leaders in Boston, MA on June 28th - June 30th.



Attendance Winner 
 On December 10th, at the Principals' Meeting, the Superintendent's Student Attendance Trophy was awarded to the Robeson Elementary School for achieving **96.8%** cumulative average daily attendance for the period of September 9th to December 8th. Congratulations to the students, parents and staff of the Robeson Elementary School!

Hedgepeth/Williams Middle School is leading the middle schools in the average student's attendance – **95.08%**!

Orchestra performs at NJSBA

The Trenton Central High School Orchestra performed at the New Jersey School Boards Association Conference on October 28th. They really did an amazing job! Thank you to Mr. Pucciatti for his leadership!



January is School Board Recognition Month!



School Success

Columbus 5th grade had the strongest literacy PARCC results. 1st End of Unit Benchmarks (KD/Math) had the highest scores. Over 90% meeting standards

Franklin 1st End of Unit Benchmarks (KD/Literacy) had the highest scores. Over 50% meeting standards.

Washington 1st End of Unit Benchmarks (1st grade/Literacy) had the highest scores. Over 50% meeting standards

Mott & Gregory 1st End of Unit Benchmarks (2nd grade/Literacy) had the highest scores. Over 50% meeting standards

Franklin, Mott, Jefferson, Robeson 1st End of Unit Benchmarks (1st grade/Math) had the highest scores. Over 90% meeting standards

Hedgepeth/Williams Strongest 8th grade literacy PARCC results.

Grant Kudos!! A dramatic decrease in chronic absenteeism from over 16% to 7.2%.

Dunn Middle Kudos!! Good algebra results!

Franklin, Jefferson, Mott, Robbins, Robeson, Washington, & Wilson Kudos!! Attendance is 96% or higher from September to November.

Martin Luther King 5th grade DRA scores are at approximately 45%. Student scores are very strong and the best for grade 5 in the district.

Wilson The SLT and District Leadership selected the next Principal. Congratulations to Janet Nicodemus. She will start as Principal of Wilson on January 4, 2016.

PJ Hill Kudos! 93.4% KD attendance!! Also, the school has a very active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Recognition of our Retirees

On Monday, December 14th the retirees were presented with a board resolution and a certificate of achievement from Mayor Eric Jackson. I want to thank the retirees who have served the children of Trenton for 25 years or more. I wish them good health and much happiness in their next stage in life.

Alexander Bethea

Lula Custis

Kathleen Dzubyk

Philip Harding

Elizabeth Jones

Susan Meyers

Marzene Pinkney-Bennett

Mary Webster