

THE TIGERS DEN

MLK NEWSLETTER

The Atlantic City School District



ISSUE #8

APRIL

π

PI DAY



+

@

MLK

MATH TAKES CENTER STAGE

ISSUE AT A GLANCE

ISSUE AT A GLANCE



TIGERS SHINE

AT ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVOCATION



AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

Throughout April, MLK School continued its commitment to celebrating Autism Awareness Month with a variety of meaningful activities. In addition to the popular Bubbles for Autism event, the MLK Parent Center—partnering with our community partner Patricia Tweedle of Connecting the Dots Inc.—hosted a special Autism Awareness Luncheon that brought together families, students, and staff to share support and raise awareness. The event welcomed parents, students, and educators whose lives have been touched by autism, creating a space for shared experiences and support.

As part of the luncheon, guest speaker Isabelle Mosca from the South Jersey chapter of Faces 4 Autism shared her personal story and provided valuable information about services available to families affected by autism.

Throughout the month, teachers led classroom discussions and activities designed to help students better understand autism and the importance of empathy, inclusion, and treating everyone with respect—regardless of differences.

At MLK School, Autism Awareness Month is more than a celebration—it's an opportunity to grow together as a community.



BUBBLES FOR AUTISM

In early April, MLK School proudly celebrated its annual Autism Awareness Week, highlighting the importance of understanding and supporting those affected by autism. One of the most beloved events of the week was Bubbles for Autism, where our youngest students gathered outside to blow bubbles in a joyful show of unity and support.

April is recognized nationwide as Autism Awareness Month, and our students and staff participated in the Blow Bubbles 4 Autism event to honor individuals and families impacted by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Bubbles, often associated with joy and laughter, hold special meaning in the autism community. They're not only fun, but also used in sensory activities that support social and communication skill development in children with autism.

Raising awareness is vital, especially as the CDC estimates that 1 in 68 American children are diagnosed with ASD. At MLK School, we continue to embrace compassion, inclusion, and understanding—not just in April, but all year round.



TIGERS SHINE

AT ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVOCATION

At the end of March, our school district came together for its annual Convocation Ceremony—a special event where Superintendent Dr. Small and district administrators recognize outstanding staff for their hard work and dedication. Once again, the Tigers made a strong impression!

Both MLK and Venice Park Schools were well represented, with several staff members receiving top honors:

Venice Park School Award Winners

- Teacher of the Year: Jillian Harritopulos
- Educational Service Professional of the Year: Ashley Paisley

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School Complex Award Winners

- Teacher of the Year: Alta Howell
- Educational Service Professional of the Year: Jennifer Hagel

In addition to school-level awards, several MLK staff members were recognized with district-wide honors:

- District Teacher of the Year: Alta Howell
- District Security Personnel of the Year: Laketa Timberlake
- District Vice Principal of the Year: Cherise Burroughs

The celebration also featured a fun and friendly District Staff Volleyball Game, giving staff a chance to unwind and connect across schools.

Congratulations to all of our award winners and participants. The Tigers continue to lead with excellence, pride, and teamwork!



A MONTH TO REMEMBER

A SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO VICE PRINCIPAL CHERISE BURROUGHS

LAST MONTH WAS TRULY A MONTH TO REMEMBER FOR OUR AMAZING VICE PRINCIPAL, CHERISE BURROUGHS! NOT ONLY DID SHE CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY, BUT SHE WAS ALSO HONORED AS THE DISTRICT VICE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR— AND ALL OF THIS DURING NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK!

SO, WE WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK MS. BURROUGHS FOR HER UNWAVERING DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT SHE MAKES EVERY SINGLE DAY. WE ARE SO PROUD OF HER AND COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER VICE PRINCIPAL AND FRIEND.

THANK YOU, CHERISE— FROM YOUR FAMILY AT THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOOL COMPLEX!



HAPPY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S WEEK



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR!!!!**

A MONTH TO REMEMBER TIME

ATLANTIC CITY
SCHOOL'S
VICE PRINCIPAL
OF THE YEAR



Cherise Burroughs

PI DAY AT MLK

CRUNCHING NUMBERS & CRUSTS: A PI DAY TO REMEMBER





Earlier this month, our school held its highly anticipated Pi Day Student Math Competition, an event that combines friendly competition, brainpower, and, of course, plenty of pie! The annual event takes place on March 14th (3/14), paying tribute to the famous mathematical constant, π (Pi) which begins with the numbers 3.14.

This year's competition featured five intense rounds of math challenges, including:

- **Math Fluency:** Teams raced against the clock to solve as many math problems as possible in five minutes.
- **Math Vocabulary:** Students had to identify the correct math terms based on given definitions.
- **Math Word Problems:** Teams put their problem-solving skills to the test in this challenging round.

For the first time ever, teams—which were traditionally made up of 5th and 6th graders—also included 3rd graders to assist with the fluency round. The younger students brought a fresh burst of enthusiasm, making this year's competition even more exciting! Adding to the lively atmosphere was Mr. Russell, who kept the energy high as both the event's DJ and MC, playing great music while announcing each round. But the highlight for many students was the final event—the legendary Pie Eating Contest!

Pie Eating Contest: A Sweet Showdown

Four brave students took on the ultimate challenge: to eat as much pie as possible in three minutes. But standing in their way was Mr. Kelly, who had clearly been training for this very moment.

At first, the students seemed to have the upper hand, quickly diving into their pies as Mr. Kelly sat back, smiling. But about 30 seconds in, he made his move. With astonishing speed and determination, he devoured an entire pie in just two minutes, leaving nothing but crumbs—and a lot of pie on his face. Once again, the teachers claimed the title, proving that experience (and a big appetite) matters!

Until Next Year...

Pi Day was an incredible celebration of math, teamwork, and school spirit. From solving problems to scarfing down pie, this event was a day to remember. Who will take the crown next year? Will a student finally dethrone Mr. Kelly? We can't wait to find out in Pi Day 2026!



IMAGES FROM THE EVENT
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

MLK ROBOTICS TEAM UPDATE

Update: Last week, the Coral Crusaders proudly received their newest robotics trophy! Students, along with their parents, met Coach Holmstrom at Salem Community College, where they were recognized by South Jersey Robotics for their outstanding performance—finishing 6th in the state of New Jersey during their final First Lego League competition of the year.

Congratulations and thank you, Coral Crusaders, for representing our school with excellence and innovation. We can't wait to see what's next!



**MLK WILL PROUDLY DISPLAY A NEW TROPHY,
THANKS TO THE CORAL CRUSADERS ROBOTICS TEAM.**



SEL WORKSHOP EMPOWERS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Last month, the MLK Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Team, led by Ms. Days, hosted a special Pre-K SEL Workshop and Breakfast focused on the theme of *Self-Management*. The event provided students and their families with tools to better understand how to regulate emotions, set goals, and manage stress in healthy, age-appropriate ways.

When children develop strong self-management skills, they're more likely to stay focused in class, make thoughtful decisions, and bounce back from everyday challenges.

During the workshop, parents gained valuable insights on how to support these skills at home—such as modeling calm responses, encouraging consistent routines, and helping children talk through big emotions.

Together, we're building a strong foundation for success both in and out of the classroom. Thank you to Ms. Days and the SEL team for another impactful event!

**SOCIAL
EMOTIONAL
LEARNING**



ADDITIONAL IMAGES FROM THE MONTH

