LHS students host master class in video production

Video-production students from Linden High School hosted peers from Franklin High School on March 29 to collaborate on video projects, allowing students from each school to learn different techniques and approaches from one another. Students were placed into six groups that included students from each school. They had to work to come up with a two- to three-minute video. The students chose a theme and a title, and they had two hours to produce and edit their video. Click here for story and more photos.

Film Festival provides lessons in tech, teamwork

The inaugural School No. 4 Film Festival gave talented fifth-graders the chance to be stars of the silver screen, as well as movie directors, while learning lessons about storytelling, technology and teamwork. The students worked for weeks on creating their projects under the guidance of technology teacher Mitch Gorbunoff, then came together for the film festival on April 4, where family, friends and special guests got to see the fruits of their labor. Click here for story, video, more photos, and student videos.

McManus STEAM Night tests science of fun, family

McManus Middle School students, staff and families came together Wednesday, April 3, for a night of learning and fun at their second annual STEAM Night. Students and teachers created a variety of displays, challenges, and exhibits to show the wide range of lessons the school features in science, technology, engineering, art and math. The program included a living wax museum where students dressed up as famous scientists. One of the engineering challenges was seeing how many marbles it would take to sink a boat built out of foil. Click here for story and more photos.

Linden High School seniors Courtney Theodule and Ariana Eastwood of Linden working on a video project they created with visiting students from Franklin High School.
Holocaust survivor tells students of fleeing Nazis

Holocaust survivor Albert Hepner visited Linden High School on Tuesday, March 26, to speak to students and answer questions about his experiences as a “hidden child.” From age 5 to 10, Hepner was moved from place to place to avoid capture as the Nazis searched Belgium for Jews. He often lived with strangers or hid in attics to avoid being found. Hepner is an adjunct professor at Kean University and author of “Avrumele: Recollections of a Hidden Child.” The visit was arranged by LHS language arts teacher Diana Kolibas. Click here to watch video.

Coming This Month

April 26: Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony at School No. 8, 1:15 p.m.
April 26: Soehl bake sale, 2:45 p.m.
April 26: Daddy Daughter Dance at School No. 9, 6 p.m.
April 27: LHS senior class car wash, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
May 4: Linden High School Food Truck Festival at School No. 1, 12 to 5 p.m.
May 6: Special dedication at School No. 4 in memory of kindergartner Sofia Thomas, 6 p.m.
May 10: Ladies and Little Gents Dance at School No. 10, 6 p.m.
May 10: McManus and Soehl spring dances, 6 p.m.
May 13: LHS NJROTC awards and change of command ceremony, 6:30 p.m.
May 16: Sixth-grade orientation at Soehl, 6:30 p.m.
May 16: School No. 1 science fair, 6 p.m.
May 21 & 22: Elementary school track and field meet, 9 a.m.
May 28: LHS spring sports awards, 7 p.m.

Next Board of Education meeting: May 30, 7 p.m., at Linden High School’s Susan L. Hudak Auditorium

Spring concerts

All City Music and Art Festival will again be held at the Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade.

5/1: McManus vocal
5/2: LHS Broadway Lights
5/7: School Nos. 2 & 8
5/9: School Nos. 6 & 10*
5/14: LHS dance
5/15: Soehl
5/16: LHS guitar & orchestra
5/20: McManus instrumental
5/21: LHS band & vocal
5/22: School Nos. 1 & 4
5/23: School Nos. 5 & 9*
5/29: All-City Music and Art Festival (Rain date: 5/30)
* 9 & 10 concerts held at McManus
School No. 5 hosted a group of local female leaders and trailblazers on March 27 in honor of Women’s History Month. The panelists, including members of the Linden Police Department and Linden Fire Department, told students about women who inspired them, what led them to the path they chose, and how they overcame obstacles. From left are Firefighter Brianna Bornstad, Officer Paulina Pereira, Linden Public Schools Director of Human Resources Michele Dorney, School No. 5 Principal Laura Scamardella, Officer Gabrielle Mesaros, Board of Education member Sheenaider Guillaume, and Firefighter Tyler Scoles. Click here to see more photos.

Instructional rounds encourage teacher collaboration

Teachers at Linden High School and McManus Middle School held professional development sessions on March 6 that were designed for greater collaboration in implementing innovative classroom strategies. The sessions are called Internal Instructional Rounds, which are modeled on medical rounds where medical students learn through watching patient care in action. In the educational version, one teacher models a lesson and others watch and offer feedback. The instructional rounds are part of ongoing professional development at all grade levels throughout the district. These sessions focus on collaboration among teachers to implement proven techniques and use data to boost student engagement and achievement. Click here for story and more photos.

Musicians chosen for honors orchestra

Nine musicians from McManus Middle School and Soehl Middle School were chosen to perform on April 13 at the Central Jersey Music Educators Association honors orchestra day at Lawrence High School. The program included 200 students in three orchestras from all over Central Jersey. The Linden middle school students performed with the seventh- and eighth-grade honors orchestra. Johnathan Birckhead, orchestra teacher at McManus and Soehl, conducted the fifth- and sixth-grade honors orchestra.
Coach takes on a new challenge

Jimmy Smith is setting goals high as he takes on another new challenge, stepping in as the new boys volleyball coach at Linden High School. Smith has been with the district for five years, and in that time he has worked in the technology department; coached five different positions as an assistant with the Linden High School football team; been a replacement physical education teacher at School No. 6; and now is the full-time physical education teacher at School No. 5. Click here for story and more photos.

Workshop teaches Soehl students to move to a West African beat

21st Century Community Learning Center students at Soehl Middle School participated in a West African Dance Workshop presented by the Young Audiences group on April 10. Students discovered West African dance as a means of communication and cultural expression that reflects an ancient and socially diverse society. By exploring dances from Gambia, the Ivory Coast, Mali and other West African countries, students understood the connection that dance has to everyday life. Click here to see video.

‘Hairspray’ hits the stage at Soehl

Students at Soehl Middle School thrilled audiences with their presentation of “Hairspray Jr.” on April 10 and 11, starring sixth-grader Maria Ramirez Aleman as Tracy Turn-blad. Click here to see more photos.

Behind the scenes of local government

Third-graders from School No. 8 got to tour Linden City Hall on April 11 for Local Government Day. They were greeted by members of the Linden Police Department and Linden Fire Department, as well as representative of several other city offices and departments. The day started in Municipal Court, then students got to tour City Hall and learn about how various city departments help our residents. The visit was capped off with an up-close look inside emergency vehicles. Click here to see more photos.