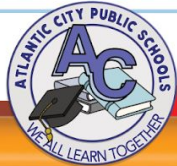


The TIGER'S DEN MLK Newsletter



MLK TEAMS SHINE at First Lego League Event



ISSUE AT A GLANCE



Students Honor Dr. King by Completing Service Projects Throughout the School and We Look Back at a Very Special MLK Experience



Students of All Ages Perform in the Annual MLK Holiday Show

MLK LEGO ROBOTICS TEAM UPDATE



Inspiring Young Minds: MLK School Complex Students Excel at First Lego League Challenge

On a chilly Saturday morning, January 13th, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex witnessed a remarkable milestone. Two spirited teams of students participated in the First Lego League Challenge in Pennsauken, New Jersey. The First Lego League events are a cornerstone for cultivating real-world problem-solving skills through a guided, global robotics program, designed specifically for students aged 9-16.

A Dual Focus: Innovation and Robotics

The competition's structure is twofold. Firstly, teams engage in a joint innovation/research project, culminating in a presentation which includes the prototyping of a real world device which is aimed to improve the world around them. This segment underscores the importance of improving the world and enhancing community life. Secondly, it's about robotics – students code an autonomous robot to perform varied tasks, amassing points for their team. However, the challenge extends beyond these technical skills. Participants are also evaluated on teamwork, cooperation, and their ability to interact constructively with others.

The Teams: Sandy Squirrels and Black Panthers

The event saw the participation of two teams from MLK School – the Sandy Squirrels and the Black Panthers. The Sandy Squirrels, consisting of Ryan Martinez, Selvin Villatoro Suazo, Mekhi Gibbs, Zoey Carreon, Dyanara Mendoza Luna, Lyriq Council Daniels, and Lianni Rivera, showcased exemplary teamwork. Similarly, the Black Panthers, with team members John Figueroa, Jamir Harris, Jamil Harvey, Darius Hedihor, Luke Walker, Kory Jackson, and Jaden Watson, displayed commendable skill and determination.



MLK LEGO ROBOTICS TEAM

UPDATE



Outstanding Performance and Future Prospects

Both teams surpassed all expectations, breaking their own personal bests in the robot coding segment and presented flawlessly to the judges. Their debut performance was nothing short of impressive. Coaches, judges, and spectators were unanimous in their praise for the students' research, presentation, and coding prowess. While they didn't clinch any awards, their rankings ending up towards the upper half of all competitors hinted at a bright future for MLK Robotics.

Looking Ahead: Expanding Horizons

As these teams transition to high school, they'll encounter more advanced challenges in the Lego First League. Coaches Mr. Holmstrom and Mr. DeCicco, lauded for their mentorship, plan to lower the age requirement to grades 6 through 8 for next year, encouraging more young minds to delve into STEM and coding at MLK.

Call for Participation and Appreciation

As a new academic year approaches, the teams eagerly anticipate new members sharing their passion for STEM. Interested students should watch for the upcoming interest form. The event concluded with heartfelt thanks to the community for its overwhelming support, which significantly boosted the students' morale.

In summary, the participation of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex students in the First Lego League Challenge marks a significant step in nurturing future innovators and problem-solvers. Their journey is a testament to the power of dedication, teamwork, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.



HONORING A LEGACY

Martin Luther King III Visits MLK School Complex

As we approach January 15th, a day dedicated to commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it's fitting to revisit a momentous occasion that took place at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex. On January 28th, 2020, our school had the distinct honor of hosting Martin Luther King III, the son of the civil rights legend.

During his visit, Martin Luther King III addressed our students, imparting a powerful message about the significance of his father's dream. He emphasized the necessity of keeping this dream alive, a dream that has resonated through generations, advocating for equality, justice, and peace. His words served as a reminder of the enduring relevance of Dr. King's vision in today's world.

Moreover, he stressed the importance of gratitude, recognizing those who have supported and guided us. His discourse on gratitude underlined the value of acknowledging the efforts of everyone who contributes to our growth and success.

This year, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have turned 95. His ideals and aspirations remain as vital and inspiring as ever. As we honor his memory, it's crucial to keep his vision at the forefront of our efforts to foster a more equitable and compassionate world.

Martin Luther King III's visit was not just a ceremonial occurrence; it was a call to action. It reminded us that the pursuit of Dr. King's dream is an ongoing journey, one that requires our collective commitment and effort. As members of a school named after this great leader, we bear the responsibility and privilege of embodying his principles in our daily lives.

In keeping with this spirit, our students have enthusiastically engaged in service projects, embracing Dr. King's belief that "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need hearts filled with grace and souls generated by love." Following these words students are actively participating in initiatives like a canned food drive for the local community food bank and collecting essential items such as socks, gloves, and snacks for the Atlantic City rescue mission. These efforts are not just acts of charity; they are a living testament to Dr. King's enduring legacy, a reflection of his message of service and love.

In conclusion, as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, let's reflect on the message delivered by his son. Let's carry forward the torch of gratitude, unity, and relentless pursuit of justice, keeping Dr. King's dream alive for generations to come, through acts of service and compassion.



2023 MLK HOLIDAY SHOW



As the winter break approached, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex was filled with festive cheer, thanks to Mr. Morris and the school's annual Holiday Concert. The evening commenced with Mr. Andrew and the school band setting a joyful tone. Their renditions of classic holiday tunes like "Jingle Bells" and "Jolly Old Saint Nick" immediately immersed the audience in the holiday spirit, creating an ambiance of warmth and excitement that resonated throughout the school auditorium.

The vocal performances began with the fifth graders, who charmingly presented "It's Great to be a Kid at Christmas", capturing the essence of the season's joy and wonder. This was followed by a series of delightful performances from each grade, showcasing their unique talents and enthusiasm. The fourth graders performed a humorous song titled "White Elephant", while the third graders illuminated the stage with "Holiday Lights". The second graders' rendition of "Snow Fort" was a hit, followed by the first graders marching in with the cheerful "Reindeer Parade". Each performance was a testament to the students' hard work and the dedication of their teachers.

The concert reached a high note with the MLK VPA club's preview of their spring musical, "Moana Junior", hinting at another spectacular show in the future. The finale, a heartwarming performance by the kindergarteners of "Juntos Poe Navidad" (Christmas Together), perfectly encapsulated the concert's theme of togetherness and joy. The success of the show was evident in the cheers from proud parents and the beaming smiles of the students. This annual event not only showcased the diverse talents of the students but also brought the school community together in a festive celebration, marking a beautiful start to the holiday season.



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Respect the Survivors



Together

FAMILY

