

# THE TIGERS DEN

MLK NEWSLETTER

The Atlantic City School District



## The CORAL CRUSADERS



MLK'S STEM  
ROBOTICS  
TEAM REACHES  
REGIONALS FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL  
HISTORY AT THE 2025  
FIRST LEGO LEAGUE  
SUBMERGED CHALLENGE

## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



THE 2025 MLK HOLIDAY SHOW

# HISTORIC WIN

## MLK'S LEGO ROBOTICS TEAM MAKES HISTORY BY BECOMING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST TEAM TO EVER REACH THE REGIONAL FINALS

Earlier this month, the MLK Tigers STEM Team, known as the Coral Crusaders, competed in the First Lego League: Submerged Lego Robotic Challenge at Salem Community College. The Team was comprised of five talented and determined members—A ziyah Heyward-Faulkner (8th Grade), Harmoni Edmondson (6th Grade), Madison Gibbs (7th Grade), Christian Arana (6th Grade), and Kendriel Noel-Guzman (6th Grade)—the team took on a series of rigorous challenges that tested their creativity, problem-solving skills, teamwork, and innovation.

The competition required the Coral Crusaders to achieve five key objectives:

1. Address a real-world environmental problem and propose a solution.
2. Develop an invention to help improve the chosen issue.
3. Create and deliver a 10-minute presentation to judges, fielding questions about their innovation.
4. Design and build a functional Lego robot capable of completing missions to earn points.
5. Demonstrate core values, sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork throughout the competition.


Facing off against 16 other teams, the Coral Crusaders hoped to finish in the top six to advance to the Regional Finals. Their dedication and hard work paid off in a monumental way, as the team not only secured a spot in the next round but also made history by becoming the first team from MLK to reach the Regional Finals in any STEM competition. With an impressive 3rd place overall finish, the Coral Crusaders proved they are a force to be reckoned with on the state stage.

The team's coaches, Mr. Holmstrom and Mr. DeCicco, expressed their pride in the students' achievements and praised their ability to rise to the challenge. "They showcased innovation, determination, and a passion for learning, which are exactly what this competition is all about," said Mr. Holmstrom.

**What's Next:** The Coral Crusaders are now preparing for the Regional Finals, which will be held at Rowan University on March 8th. As they gear up for the next phase of their journey, the entire MLK community is rallying behind them, confident that their talent and teamwork will continue to shine.


Story Continues on the Next Page....





# The CORAL CRUSADERS

TEAM # 6361



Pictured from left to right A ziyah Heyward-Faulkner, Harmoni Edmondson, Kendriel Noel-Guzman, Madison Gibbs, and Christian Arana

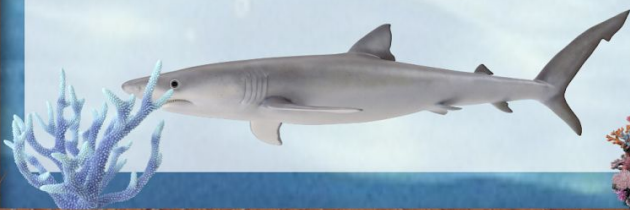
## Pictured Below: The Coral Crusaders' Groundbreaking Invention

The Coral Crusaders didn't just make waves with their performance at the First Lego League: Submerged Lego Robotic Challenge—they also impressed with their real-life invention, the **CCG: Coral Crusader Gun**. This innovative device, thought of and designed by the team, offers a solution for marine biologists tackling the devastating effects of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD).

The CCG is a handheld device that allows scuba divers to efficiently apply Amoxicillin directly to corals infected by SCTLD. The disease, which has caused significant damage to coral reefs worldwide, requires rapid intervention to prevent its spread. One expert in marine biology has praised the Coral Crusaders' invention, noting that the CCG could increase the speed of treatment by an astounding **300%**, offering hope for the future of coral reef conservation.


This practical and impactful creation highlights the team's commitment to addressing real-world environmental issues while showcasing their ingenuity and understanding of scientific principles. The Coral Crusaders' innovative spirit continues to inspire, and their invention is a testament to the power of young minds to make a difference.

Keep an eye on this remarkable team as they take their talents to the Regional Finals at Rowan University on March 8th!



# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON


## STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT AT THE 2024 MLK HOLIDAY CONCERT



At the end of December, MLK hosted its beloved annual Holiday Concert, and, as always, it was a spectacular event! Under the guidance of Mr. Morris, the school's talented music teacher, each grade level performed spirited holiday songs that had the audience singing along and tapping their feet.

The theater was packed with excited parents who filled both sides of the room, eager to watch their children shine on stage. The performances began with the fifth graders, who opened the show with a beautiful rendition of "To All a Merry Season", featuring an outstanding solo by Kharma Kidd.

The show continued with:

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- Mrs. McFadden's students delivering a lively version of "Jingle Bells."
  - The fourth graders impressing the audience with the fun and upbeat song titled "Get Your Winter On."
  - The third graders spreading holiday cheer with "Jingle as We Go."
  - The second graders performed a heartfelt spanish song, "When the Candle Shines Brightly."
  - Mrs. Howell's class performing "Jingle Bells" with a delightful twist using bells.
  - The first graders bringing smiles with their performance of "Dancing Snow Dogs."
  - The Kindergarten wrapping up the event with an energetic rendition of "Hurry Santa."

The students' enthusiasm and hard work made the concert a heartwarming success, and their performances filled the room with holiday spirit. A huge thank you to Mr. Morris, the teachers, and the students for putting together such a joyful and memorable event!

The following page shows images from this wonderful event....



# The 2024 MLK Holiday Concert



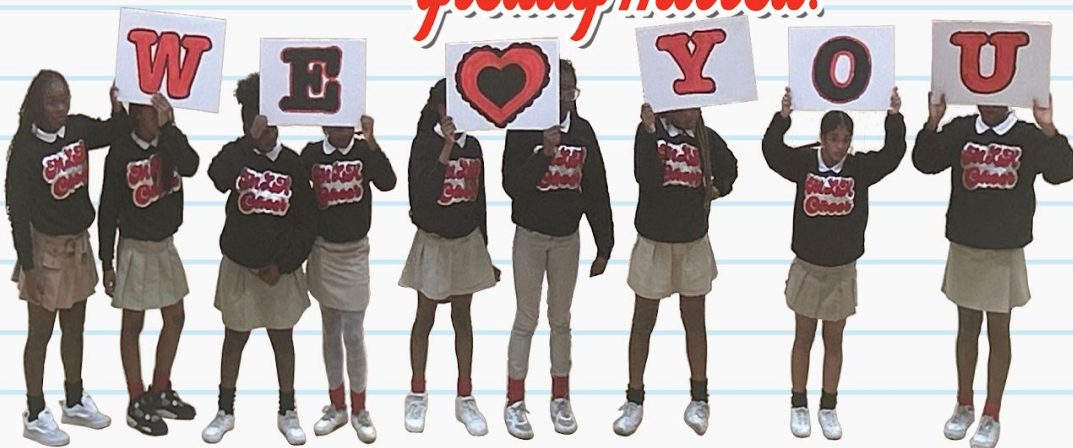
# THE MLK FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO SAY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST RETIREE

THANK  
YOU



## MICHELLE GREEN

*We truly appreciate all that you have done for the school and want you to know that you will be greatly missed.*



ALWAYS REMEMBER

*Once a Tiger. Always a Tiger*

# Grinch Hunt

## Brings Joy to the Halls of MLK

Last month, Mrs. Days, MLK's Social Emotional Learning Coach, introduced a festive new game to the school that quickly became a favorite among teachers.

The "Grinch Hunt" added excitement and laughter to the holiday season, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendly competition.

Here's how the game works: At the start of the school day, Mrs. Days places six "Grinch Tickets" into the mailboxes of randomly selected teachers. Throughout the day, all teachers join the hunt by asking their colleagues, "Do you have a Grinch?" If someone does, they must hand over the ticket to the person who asked. The goal? To end the day with the most Grinch Tickets in hand. The teacher with the most tickets wins a special prize!

The game sparked laughter in the hallways and encouraged more interaction among staff, all while spreading holiday cheer. Teachers are already looking forward to the next round of this creative and engaging activity. A big thank you to Mrs. Days for bringing such a fun and festive idea to MLK!



Annual

# HOLIDAY TREE

Contest

Last month, our school held its annual Holiday Tree Decorating Contest, and the entries were nothing short of spectacular! Each grade level team showcased their creativity and holiday spirit, making it a tough competition. However, the Pre-K Team stole the show with their unique "Inside Out" emotion-themed tree, earning the title of overall winner. Congratulations to all participants for spreading festive cheer with their amazing designs!

