



# NEWS

from Lyndhurst grades K-2

December 2024

## A visit from first-responders

**T**HE Lyndhurst Fire Department and Police Department recently provided Columbus students with an up-close look at the vehicles and tools they use to help keep our community safe.

The event was part of a three-day recognition of 9/11. Enrichment teacher Stacy Tulloch used grant money she received to provide instructional materials and student activities including the creation of appreciation packages for the police, fire, and EMS staff.



# Over the moon for Milkyway

Dana Angelo-Kroncke's kindergartners at Columbus are udder-ly over the moon for the newest addition to the class. They recently adopted a Holstein cow named Milkyway through Discover Dairy's Adopt a Cow program. The free year-long program gives students a glimpse into the life of a dairy farmer and the care required to raise a cow from birth.

Milkyway lives on Kurtland Farms in Elverson, Pennsylvania. Every month, farmers send the class updates with photos and videos chronically the cow's height and weight. They also mix in tidbits about life on the farm, raising cows, and milk production. The program also provides activity worksheets and suggested lessons.



“Adopt a Cow teaches the students about a community helper that we don’t see in Lyndhurst, but is so important to what we find in our grocery store,” said Angelo-Kroncke. “You should have seen their faces when they realized how many of their favorite foods are made with milk. They look forward to hearing how much weight Milkyway has gained and how she’s grown in height. We use the information to help practice counting skills. The students love to say they have a cow as a class pet.”

On the day the class received the birth announcement with the name and stats of the heifer, students donned ranch attire including cowboy hats and red scarves.



## Showing character

During recess, Columbus students are caught modeling the school’s monthly character traits for both October and November: patience, kindness, and friendship.

# Learning all things 50 on the 50th

**M**EMORIAL and Washington students twisted and shouted their way through fun-filled learning activities to celebrate the 50th day of school.

Students and staff members came to school in their best '50s attire, from poodle skirts to rolled up jeans and leather jackets. The students started the day by learning about life in 1950s America and were introduced to popular hang-outs such as soda shops, drive-in movie theaters, and sock hops. They also compared and contrasted '50s clothing, cars, and toys to today's.

Instruction and skill reinforcement was at the heart of this thematic day, though. The kids worked on interdisciplinary age-appropriate activities focused around the number

50. They wrote out the numbers 1-50, for example, and spelled 50 words they knew.

“They were having so much fun, they didn’t even know how much they were learning,” said Principal Christina Bernardo. “When you inject fun and emotion into an activity, learning becomes so powerful. And what’s learned is retained. That’s the magic of days like this.”

Between activities, the time travelers also learned ‘50s-style dances such as the hand jive and ended the day with a sock hop.



# Franklin celebrates World Kindness Day

**F**RANKLIN Elementary School honored World Kindness Day by supporting local residents in need. Franklin families and staff donated food, soap, detergent, and other necessities to the Lyndhurst Food Bank, helping to ensure that food and essential household items were available during the holidays.

“The outpouring of support reflects the kindness and dedication of our school community to making a positive impact on the lives of others,” said Principal Jennifer Scardino. “We are incredibly proud of our students, families, and staff members for their collective effort to embody the spirit of World Kindness Day. Their actions not



only provide immediate relief to those in need but also set an inspiring example of empathy and generosity for our entire district.”

About two dozen bags and boxes of canned goods and household items were donated.



## Supporting our veterans

**T**HE lives of the men and women who served our nation are better because of the efforts of Franklin Elementary School. Families and staff members donated to the GI Go Fund, an organization that provides veterans with essential services including housing support, employment assistance, and healthcare access.

Students and staff further showed their support and created awareness of the GI Go Fund by wearing red, white, and blue for the group's November Dress Down Day.

We are deeply grateful to Franklin School's families and staff for their unwavering commitment to this cause.





# BITING INTO A GOOD BOOK

**S**ECOND-GRADERS at Memorial recently had an opportunity to whet their literary palates. Maria O'Donnell's class enjoyed a book tasting. The activity introduced students to a variety of different books and genres by providing some time for a quick bite of them.

The classroom was transformed into a literary cafe, with tablecloths and music. The students, in chef's

hats, went from table to table sampling carefully selected books in categories including fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, poetry, and biographies.

Each student spent a few minutes at each station, flipping through pages, reading summaries, and immersing themselves in illustrations to get a feel for the stories and topics. They discovered new titles and genres they hadn't

explored before, recording their thoughts on a special tasting sheet to keep track.

After all the books were ingested, the class came together to reflect on their experience. They shared their favorite finds and discussed why certain books sparked their interest. Each child then chose a book to check out for independent reading, ensuring the excitement would continue beyond the event.





Students from grades K-12 who have reached proficiency in English were recognized for their hard work, determination, and success. The event, held at the middle school, brought together families, educators, and community members in a shared celebration of our students' academic and linguistic accomplishments.



*Pictured with honorees are, **above,** K-2 ESL teachers Felix Diaz and Jamie Aiello and, **right,** middle school ESL teacher, Lindita Hadzaj*

# Happy Holidays

## DECEMBER/JANUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 Schools Open Single Session	24	25	26	27
Schools Closed – Holiday Recess				
30	31	1	2 Schools Re-open	3
Schools Closed – Holiday Recess				



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