

LINK TO HOME

for the Week of December 6, 2021

This Week

Friday, December 10 Early Dismissal for Students, 12:45 pm

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, December 13	LCCS Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 pm (Click here for details.)
Friday, December 17	Early Dismissal for Students, 12:45 pm
Thursday, December 23	Early Dismissal for All, <u>12 noon. No Aftercare.</u>
December 24 – December 31	Winter Break
Monday, January 3	No School for Students; Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday, January 4	Students Return to School

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, KATHLEEN M. HESTER, ED. S

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a peaceful holiday season and a very Happy New Year. December is always a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the year we are closing out. 2021 seemed to be filled with highs and lows. We are hopefully turning the "Covid corner." We are so happy to be back in person in school and want to make sure that all of our students are safe and learning. But Covid is not over, and we need to stay vigilant and practice safe protocols to keep everyone safe. Please continue to monitor your child's health and communicate with our school nurses if you start to notice any Covid symptoms. Please keep your child home and get them tested if they are having symptoms.



Over the next few weeks, we are going to start having small groups of students have lunch together. Each day 2 teams will each lunch together in the cafeteria. We are excited for students to be able to socialize with each other while having lunch. We need your help! Please have conversations with students about the importance of following safety protocols, such as, wearing your masks correctly at all times, except when eating or drinking; staying physically distanced; and frequently washing hands with soap.

Finally, our focus this month will be on having students in complete uniform. In September and October, a number of students did not have access to new uniforms for many reasons. Now, uniforms have been shipped, so we need to work with our scholars on how to be in proper uniform. We wear school uniforms for many reasons, focusing on student learning and achievement. Research has shown that school uniforms keep students focused on their education, not their clothes, wearing uniforms enhances school pride, unity, and community spirit, and uniform policies save valuable class time because they are easier to enforce than a standard dress code, just to name a few. The biggest concerns we see in school in regard to uniforms centers on mix- matching dress and gym uniforms, not wearing solid black sneakers or dress shoes (NO BOOTS) and the wearing of jewelry (rings, necklaces, bracelets, and electronic/digital watches.) Please consult the Uniform Dress Code for guidance on what is allowed and what is not allowed. As a school we will be entering positive dean's list points for students who are in perfect uniform and celebrating them both individually and as a team. If you have specific uniform questions, please email Dean DeNully, Mrs. Kennedy, or me. Thank you for your support in helping our students strive to be the best dressed scholar!

Student Progress Reports will be mailed out before Winter Break. Please be sure to check in with your child's PowerSchool and Dean's List for weekly updates. If you have a specific question in a class, please be sure to email your child's teacher.

IMPORTANT UNIFORM DRESS CODE REMINDERS

Students must be dressed in appropriate regular and gym uniforms (on gym days only). [Click here to refresh yourself on the dress code requirements.](#) (You will need to scroll down the page to the Dress Code.)



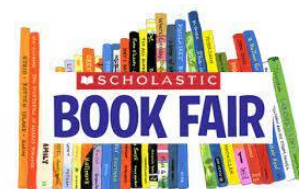
Some of the highlights:

- The only jewelry allowed are **small plain stud earrings and a plain watch (not digital or electronic.)** Hoops/dangling earrings/fancy earrings are not allowed. Necklaces and bracelets are not allowed.
- Student **MUST WEAR SOLID BLACK SNEAKERS (this includes laces!) OR SHOES.** No colors or decorations on the sneakers or shoes are allowed. Sneakers are to be lace up or Velcro. Not allowed: slides, Crocs, sling backs, sandals, slippers, and boots (including Uggs). Boots may be worn to school in bad weather but must be removed and replaced with shoes/sneakers while the student is in the building.
- Students **MUST WEAR SOLID BLACK SOCKS.**
- **Pants must be slacks (not skinny pants or jeans, no cargo pants or leggings/jeggings) and gray.**
- **Only clothing with Link logos can be worn (sweatshirts, sweaters, polo shirts, gym uniforms, etc.).** Hoodies may not be worn in the building.
- **Students MAY NOT mix and match the regular uniform and the gym uniform,** with the exception that the Link logoed sweatshirt may be worn with the regular uniform.

Help your child by making certain he or she leaves home everyday in the correct uniform and follows all of the dress code rules.

REMINDER: SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR THIS WEEK!

Link will hold its first Scholastic Book Fair of the year during the week of December 6TH. We do this each year so students can purchase reasonably priced books for their home libraries. Students will be invited to the fair during ELA classes to select books, so please consider sending your child with money that week with which to make their purchases (teachers will assist the kindergartners). You can also set up a Scholastic E-Wallet or purchase books online. Help foster the love of reading in your child!



SHOULD YOU SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH ILLNESS SYMPTOMS?

If your child has a fever (above 99 degrees Fahrenheit), your child should stay home! S/he should not return until completely fever free for a minimum of 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medicine. If your child is showing other symptoms of an illness, you might want to check out the National Association of School Nurse's online interactive program which help you determine if you should really send your child to school or not. You can access the site at <https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/covid19ref/featured-content/interactive-send-student-school>



FAMILY SURVEY: CHECKING IN AND ASSESSING HOME INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

As we continue to face challenges with COVID-19 across the country, individual student needs to isolate or quarantine, and the onset of Winter weather, Link wants to remain ready to support our scholars and to pivot to remote learning as needed.

- We recognize that the transition back to in-person learning and the experiences of the pandemic has weighed heavily on many of our scholars. We are seeing similar conditions across the state and the county as the number of young people coping with stress and anxiety is growing dramatically. Link has added a part-time counselor to support students and we have adjusted some elements of the day to provide more opportunities to socialize.
- We also know that remote learning, even in limited instances, will be used throughout the school year. Approximately 90% of Link scholars have been issued a school device for home usage (this is in addition to



the device provided at school). The remainder of the students will receive a device before the holiday break. Link will also provide mobile hotspots to any student who does not have stable internet service during any period of remote learning. We would like to assess our school community's connectivity

Please look out for an email with the link to complete the survey. Your participation helps Link serve you and your family.

KINDERGARTEN SPACES STILL AVAILABLE – MUST TURN 5 YEARS OF AGE BY DECEMBER 31ST

Link has several spaces still available in kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year. Applicants for Kindergarten must be age 5 as of December 31st of this year. If you know of families looking for kindergarten, please recommend Link to them. They can apply online at <https://linkschool.org/enrollment/application-process/>. Questions about kindergarten enrollment can be directed to Mr. Silver at gsilver@linkschool.org.



STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR 2022-23 HAS BEGUN

On October 15th, Link officially opened enrollment for Kindergarten and Grade 1 as well as Grades 5 through 8, for the 2022-2023 school year. Please share this out with your families, friends, neighbors, work colleagues with school aged children. We thank you for spreading the word about Link! Applications are being accepted on line at <https://linkschool.org/enrollment/application-process/>



THANKSGIVING FEAST

Here are some photos from the Thanksgiving Luncheon that students in all grades enjoyed before the holiday:





CREATING A THANKSGIVING FEAST

In the 5th through 8th grades, teams worked together to artistically create the food items they would bring to the Closing Circle Feast. Grade levels were responsible for the following category of items: 5th- Appetizers, 6th- Desserts, 7th- Sides, and 8th- Main Dish. Teams used construction paper, tape, markers, colored pencils, and glue to create a representation of the meal they would bring to the feast- a meal that represented a principle that is present when families come together to share a meal. Check out their creations:



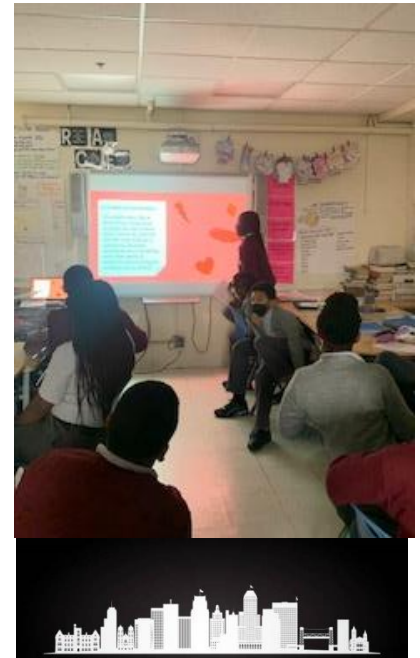
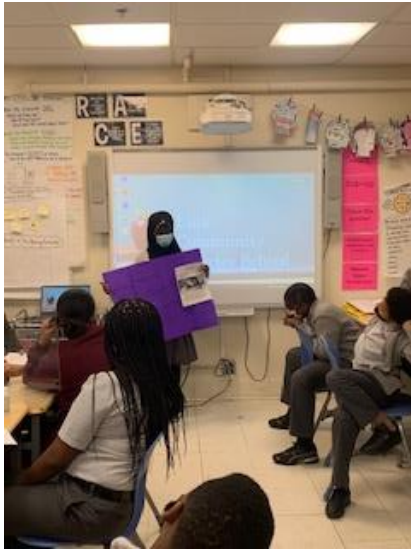
COMMUNITY SERVICE: LINKERS GIVE BACK!

Last week, 197 bagged lunches prepared by Link students were delivered to The Apostle House in Newark along with holiday cheer notes. Additionally, students wrote letters to be sent to veterans. Great job, Linkers!



TEAMS KING AND MALALA TALK BOOKS!

Students in Teams King and Malala, with Ms. Alston, each read a book of his/her choice in November and prepared a book talk to share in class. The book talk included a visual representation (a book poster or book trailer). Students worked on this project at home and were shared with peers last week. Book talks are a great way to spread the spirit of reading!



IN AND AROUND NEWARK

COVID TESTING AND VACCINATION SITES IN ESSEX COUNTY

Bookmark this site on your computer to stay apprised on Covid-19 Testing and vaccination sites throughout Essex County: <https://essexcountynj.org/covid-19-vaccine-locations/>

COVID VACCINATION AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN

Here are some locations in Newark where the COVID vaccination is being administered to children age 5 and up:

- City of Newark Department of Health, 394 University Ave., Newark
- University Hospital, 150 Bergen St., Newark
- Guardy's Pharmacy, 403-409 Bloomfield Ave., Newark
- Komishane's Pharmacy, 199 Stuyvesant Ave., Newark
- Newark Community Health Center- Ferry Street, 92 Ferry St., Newark
- Saint James Health Adult Clinic, 228 Lafayette St., Newark
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, 201 Lyons Ave., Newark
- City Life clinic, 44 Jones St., Newark
- Sheefa Pharmacy and Wellness Center, 405 Central Ave., East Orange

More vaccination sites can be found using the state's vaccine appointment finder [website](#).