



LINK TO HOME

for the Week of December 19, 2022

This Week

Tuesday, December 20 ProjectLit Meeting, 4:15 – 5 pm
 Thursday, December 22 Early Dismissal for ALL at 12 noon. No After Care Program.
 Friday, December 23 Winter Break begins

Important Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, January 3 Staff Returns for Professional Development Day
 Wednesday, January 4 Students return from Winter Break
 Friday, January 6 Regular Dismissal

DRESSING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL IN THE COLD WEATHER

As we move closer to the start of winter of course temperatures will continue to drop. While Link maintains the building at a comfortable temperature level, we strongly urge you to make certain your child wears or brings the Link sweatshirt or Link sweater to school each day. (The Link sweater is only worn with the regular uniform, not the gym uniform.) Students are not allowed to wear non-Link long-sleeved shirts, including thermal underwear, under their short-sleeved Link garments.

Also, if your child wears boots to school, send along a pair of BLACK shoes/sneakers for them to change into when they arrive at the school. Students may not wear boots in the school building.

ATTIRE FOR DRESS DOWN DAYS DURING SPIRIT WEEK – December 19-22

Students are invited to dress according the chart below during Link’s Spirit Week as long as they are in compliance with the school’s dress code for dress down days. [Click here to see the dress code \(page 3\).](#)

If your child chooses not to wear what is listed, he/she is to wear the school uniform.

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Kindergarten	Wear your favorite holiday color- any color goes!	Crazy Sock Day	Link Spirit Purple and Gold Day	Pajama Day
Grade 1	Wear your favorite holiday color- any color goes!	Crazy Sock Day	Link Spirit Purple and Gold Day	Pajama Day
Grade 5	Ugly Sweater Day	Crazy Sock Day	Link Spirit Purple and Gold Day	Pajama Day
Grade 6	Ugly Sweater Day	Crazy Sock Day	Link Spirit Purple and Gold Day	Pajama Day
Grade 7	Ugly Sweater Day	Grinch V. Santa (Dress in green or red.)	Link Spirit Purple and Gold Day	Pajama Day
Grade 8	Dress Up!	Link Spirit Purple and Gold Day	Crazy Sock Day/ Ugly Sweater	Pajama Day

PREPARING FOR A HEALTHY RETURN FROM THE WINTER BREAK: COVID TESTING

COVID test kits (with 2 actual tests in each kit) will be sent home with every scholar on Monday, December 19th. Please use these tests to check for COVID positive results on January 3rd before your child returns to school.



WE'D APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT!

Link will be sending out a survey over the Winter Break for your feedback about the year so far and to get information about illnesses during the break so we stay current on our school community's data. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for the link to the survey.



ENCOURAGING READING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

We urge parents to set an expectation for reading over the Winter Break so students continue to build their literacy skills. Some suggestion to avoid learning loss:

- Challenge your child to read at least twenty minutes a day with a small reward at the end of break.
- Set aside a family reading time each day when you read together. You could read your own books side-by-side (which models independent reading for your child) or you could read aloud together from the same book (which provides fluency practice for your child.)
- Go to the public library together and check out some books.
- If you are traveling, have your child take a book for reading along the way.



KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE DURING THE BREAK

As society continues to utilize technology in new and exciting ways and our children grow up in a digital world, adults must actively ensure a safer environment. Please consider the following during the holiday break:

1. Monitor what your children are doing online. Sit with them when they are using technology, whether it's a Chromebook, a cell phone, or an iPad. Watch what they are viewing and doing with their device.
2. Limit their time online and help them navigate to other activities, including reading, playing games, engaging in physical activity.
3. Talk about social media and using the Core Values as they post and communicate. We know they will use social media, but let's help them use it in a positive way.
4. Check your child's social media activity. We have seen numerous incidents of inappropriate postings among Link scholars during the evenings and weekends.



CONSIDER REMOVING YOUR CHILDREN'S CELL PHONES, AND OTHER MOBILE DEVICES, FROM THEIR ROOMS AT A CERTAIN TIME EACH NIGHT. Use of these devices during the night has a negative impact on sleep habits and overall health.

Check out this Edutopia resource to help your children navigate technology safely:

<https://www.edutopia.org/digital-literacy-technology-parent-resources>

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT

The application window to apply to the Newark Charter High Schools listed below opened on December 1st. Applications must be filed no later than February 24th, but we urge you to get it in as soon as possible.

To access the new "Newark Common App," go to www.newarkcommonapp.org. Residents



of Newark will likely be prioritized for these schools' enrollment/admissions processes, but ALL Link 8th grade families are welcome to apply. The schools are:

- Great Oaks Legacy Charter High School
- KIPP-Newark (Newark Collegiate Academy & Newark Lab School)
- Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary & Performing Arts
- North Star Academy (Lincoln Park & Washington Park campuses) Note: Non-Newark residents should NOT prioritize North Star Academy, as they tend to fill up with Newark families before offering spots to non-Newark residents.
- People's Prep Charter High School

Please send the list of schools you select to Mr. Silver, so he can add it to your child's high school applications list.

DAILY AFFIRMATIONS

Monday: I am blessed. / Estoy bendecido.
Tuesday: I am loved. / Soy amado.
Wednesday: My future is bright. / Mi futuro es brillante
Thursday Today, I will shine. / Hoy brillaré.
Friday: No school.



IN THE CLASSROOMS

VISITING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes were excited to visit the Newark Public Library recently. Each child received a library card and checked out 3 books.



LITERACY LIFTING YOUNG LEARNERS

To practice their reading fluency skills, a group of Link's 7th and 8th-grade scholars had an opportunity to bring their reading skills and strategies from the upper house at Link to young readers in the lower grades. 7th graders who recently completed their study of *The Lightning Thief*, shared interesting Greek mythologies with the younger students. 8th graders, studying *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, engaged students in conversations about where food comes from and how we can make healthy food choices. As new readers, Kindergarten and first-grade scholars benefit from discussing what makes a text fiction vs. nonfiction (informational). 7th and 8th-grade scholars enjoyed the practice and are already asking about when they can return to meet with their younger reading buddies!

Did You Know? Peer tutoring is a high-impact, research-based way of helping all kids involved, but not always present in schools. Check out this article from Edutopia! <https://www.edutopia.org/article/reading-buddies/>





to the recipients of awards for the week ending December 9:

Award	Student	Team	Grade
Scholar of the Week	Dominic Fouch	Lewis	5
Core Value of the Week	Jocelyn Cooper	Chisholm	5
Scholar of the Week	Trinity St. Pierre	Malala	6
Core Values of the Week	Samuel Quarshie	Link	6



IN AND AROUND NEWARK



"The pandemic and rising costs have created food insecurity among residents with limited income or no income at all. We are pleased to present this Emergency Winter Holiday Food Distribution Event to help those through these uncertain times."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive
The Board of County Commissioners
And The Division of Housing & Community Development**

Will Present a

Holiday Emergency Food Distribution Event



***1,000 Turkeys and Holiday Dinner Boxes
will be distributed***

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

9:00 AM (Until Supplies Last)

**Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex
Codey Arena, 560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ**

It will be held RAIN or SHINE.

- Use the western entrance across from the BP gas station.
- Cars should line up along Cherry Lane before turning right onto Northfield Avenue.
- No Left Turns allowed into the parking lot from Northfield Avenue.
- Drivers must open their trunk.
- Walk ups welcome; Buses cannot be served.
- **1,000 turkeys and boxes will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive
And The Board of County Commissioners

Wayne L. Richardson, President; Carlos M. Pomares, Vice President; Tyshammie L. Cooper,
Brendan W. Gill, Romaine Graham, Rufus I. Johnson, Len M. Luciano, Robert Mercado, Patricia Sebold