



LINK TO HOME

Week of November 6, 2023

This Week

Wednesday, November 8
 Thursday, November 9
 Thursday, November 9
 Friday, November 10

REGULAR DISMISSAL

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS; Professional Development for Staff, 8 am-3:30 pm
 A Taste of Newark, hosted by Link Education Partners to benefit Link Community Charter School
NO SCHOOL FOR ALL; COOP Exam for all 8th graders (see below)

Important Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, November 14	Grade 5 & 6 Report Card Night, 5-7 pm, Penn, gym
Tuesday, November 14	Lifetouch Student Picture RE-takes, both buildings
Tuesday, November 14	Grade 5 NJLEEP Presentation, 2 pm for students and 4 pm for parents, Penn
Tuesday, November 14	Link Parent Association Meeting, 6:30 pm, Penn, Room 101
Wednesday, November 15	K-2 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1-3 pm and 5-7 pm (by appointment)
Wednesday, November 15	EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STUDENTS; Instructional Planning and Professional Development for Staff, 1:15 pm
Wednesday, November 15	7th Grade Girls' Mentoring Group, selected students, 12:45 pm-2:15 pm, Halsey
Wednesday, November 15	7 th and 8 th grade Report Card Night, 5-7 pm, Halsey
Thursday, November 16	Grade 7 NJSEEDS Presentation to 7 th Grade, 11 am, 230 Halsey Street, parents invited
Monday, November 20	LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 pm, Penn, Room 101 (in person only)
Wednesday, November 22	Link Community Service Day
Wednesday, November 22	EARLY DISMISSAL FOR ALL (12 noon at Halsey and 12:15 pm at Penn)
Thursday, November 24	No School: Thanksgiving
Friday, November 24	No School: Thanksgiving Break

REMINDERS:

- Link is unable to heat up lunches that are brought from home. Please do not send food that needs to be heated. Perhaps purchase an insulated bag/thermos that might keep the food warm.
- The PowerSchool portal is closed from November 1 through November 16 as staff prepare report cards.
- Please check your email inbox frequently for communications from Link. This is our primary means of getting information to all of our families.

CALL TO ACTION: ADVOCATE FOR CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDING

Next week, we will ask parents to sign postcards to urge Governor Murphy to take action to ensure that every public school student in New Jersey, including those who attend charter and renaissance schools, receives equitable state facilities funding so they can learn in a building that is safe, healthy and secure. This is important for it would mean that Link could apply for much-needed funding. A Link staff member will approach your car on Tuesday or Wednesday and ask for your signature. Please be an advocate for charter schools...and Link by signing a postcard! (If your child takes the bus or walks, we'd be



happy to send a postcard home, but we'd need it back by Thursday. Email link@linkschool.org if we should send a card home with your child.)

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

A representative from NJLEEP, a non-profit academic enrichment and support organization, will meet with Link's 5th graders on Tuesday, November 14 at 2 pm and then with 5th grade parents at 4 pm to explain their amazing free NJLEEP College Bound Program. We strongly encourage parents to come out for the presentation as this is a great opportunity for our scholars. Link has partnered for over 15 years with NJLEEP, seeing many of our students and alumni finding great support and successful results through the program.



The NJLEEP College Bound Program is a college access and success program serving students and families in the greater Newark area who are first-generation (those whose parents did not complete a four-year college program in the U.S.) and/or whose parents have a combined income of \$80,000 per year or below. They provide seven years of programming (grades 6-12) to support students in developing the academic and social-emotional skills necessary to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. Current 5th graders may apply for a 5-week academic enrichment summer program starting in July 2024. Then, between October and May, middle school students will attend 15 Saturday sessions. Here is a link to the program: <https://njleep.org/middle-school->

NJSEEDS TO PRESENT TO 7TH GRADE

The Director of Admissions from New Jersey SEEDS speak to all 7th grade students about the NJSEED Scholars Program at 11 am on November 16. This tuition-free program prepares motivated, high-achieving 8th-grade students for 9th-grade placement at an academically rigorous, private day or boarding high school. (Recruitment for next year starts now.) Over 14 months, students take classes on Saturdays and participate in two summer residential programs. The Scholars Program nurtures students' critical thinking skills, love of learning, and self-confidence. In addition, the Scholars Program seeks to ensure that each child is admitted to a selective school. For more information about the program and organization, click here: https://seedsaccess.org/scholars_program_overview/. For eligibility information, click here: <https://seedsaccess.org/admissions/why-apply/#1571678832760-842952fd-7f8e>. Parents are welcome to attend as well.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

Link seeks parent volunteers for our annual Community Service Day on Wednesday, November 22, from 8:30 am – 12 noon. The day's focus is "giving back to the community," and parents will work alongside students, assisting them and the teaching staff on various projects and activities that will benefit the greater community. We are looking for 20-30 parents who can commit to the entire time. Depending on volunteer needs, parents may or may not be partnered with their own children. Here is the link to sign up for Community Service Day:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSRMeO0mfmo0WQRdqwxatietakU5hFFu817uM4mmSAJqsyVw/viewform?usp=sf_link



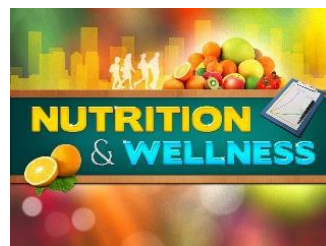
WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Last week we sent an email to parents with a survey asking for your opinion on the Link Community Charter School School-Parent-Student Compact. As a Title I school, we are required to have this compact and ask families for their thoughts and ideas about it. We would really appreciate it if you would complete the survey. If you missed the email, [click here for the link to the survey](#). Those who complete the form will be entered into a drawing for a gift card.



WELLNESS IS IMPORTANT!

Link is concerned about the health and wellness of its students and provides a nutritious lunch and breakfast program that complies with government guidelines. We urge parents to review the school's wellness and nutrition policy and provide any feedback you may have. [Click here for the policy](#) and then scroll down to School Nutrition Policies. You can email your feedback or questions to link@linkschool.org.



LINK CANNED /NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE BEGINS NOVEMBER 1

As part of Link's community service efforts, we ask families to kindly bring non-perishable food items to the school beginning November 1 through November 22. The items will be donated to those in need in the community. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for the food items that are the most needed.



ALUMNAE GIVE BACK TO LINK!

Three Link alumnae - Destinee Branch '20, Sophia Gabriel '20, and Edjnie Dorsika '20 - volunteer at Link on Tuesday mornings. They are seniors at St. Vincent Academy in Newark participating in the SVA Students-in-Community program, where students volunteer at local schools, hospitals, daycare centers, nursing homes, advocacy groups, and multi-purpose community agencies. The three alumni have been busy with various tasks, including working with Lower House scholars and assisting in the school office. They are also busy finishing their senior year and applying to colleges. Link is happy that our alums wanted to perform their service requirement at Link! We are fortunate to have their services.



HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

COOP EXAM COMING SOON!

Mr. Silver has registered and paid for ALL Link 8th graders for the HSPT/COOP Exam on Friday, November 10 @ 8 am. Admissions "Tickets" will be given to students and emailed to families as soon as Mr. Silver receives them from the testing office. Boys will take the exam at St. Benedict's Prep, and girls at St. Vincent Academy. Students eligible for extra exam time will be notified of a different test site. **BECAUSE LINK DOES NOT HAVE SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM THE EXAM.**



Students can include up to THREE (3) parochial schools to have their HSPT/COOP Exam scores sent to. Please spend time with your child deciding which schools you will include on the Score Recipients list on the HSPT/COOP Exam on November 10.

Health and Wellness

As we approach the winter months, we are faced with the challenges of cold and flu season. It is essential that we work together to maintain a healthy and safe environment for all our students and staff at Link Community Charter School. To that end, we kindly request your cooperation in ensuring that sick students stay home until they are well and free from contagious illnesses.

In line with this, we have established some guidelines to follow:

1. **Vomiting:** If your child has thrown up within the last 24 hours, we kindly request that you keep them at home. This helps prevent the spread of illnesses and ensures their own well-being.

2. **Fever:** If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, they must stay home and be fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school. This precaution is necessary to prevent the potential spread of illness within the school community.

3. **Contagious Illness:** If your child has been diagnosed with any contagious illness, such as Strep throat, please contact our school nurse immediately. Timely communication will allow us to take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of these illnesses.

4. **Medication:** Please be aware that our school nurses are not permitted to administer over-the-counter medication. Furthermore, students are prohibited from carrying any medication, both over-the-counter and prescription, on their person unless the proper paperwork is on file. If your child requires prescribed medication, you must bring it to the nurse's office with the doctor's orders.

5. **Nurse Visits:** We kindly request that you talk to your children about when it is appropriate to visit the nurse during school hours. Lately, we have observed an increase in the number of students seeking nurse visits for minor issues such as headaches, past injuries that occurred outside of school, and other minor concerns that the nurse cannot address. We want to ensure that students make the most of their classroom time.

Your support and adherence to these guidelines are crucial in creating a healthy and productive learning environment for all students. By keeping unwell students at home and using the nurse's office for genuine health concerns, we can help prevent the spread of illnesses and ensure that all students can focus on their studies.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school nurse at nurse@linkschool.org or Mrs. Kennedy at principal@linkschool.org.



to this week's award recipients:

GRADE 8

Award	Student	Team
Scholar of the Week	Naia Stuart	Haki
Scholar of the Week	Christopher Arenas	Kuumba
Scholar of the Week	Brianna George	Staha
Scholar of the Week	Kaylah Pierce	Imani
Core Values	Zayd Poole	Haki
Core Values	Ava Salazar	Kuumba
Core Values	Andrea Demas	Stahah
Core Values	Najah Johnson	Imani

Grade 7

Award	Student	Team
Scholar of the Week	Vanessa Aduayom	Ujima
Scholar of the Week	Aminat Kamara	Nia
Core Values	Nigel Waldron	Ujima
Core Values	Mary Alenxandre	Nia



IN THE CLASSROOMS

RED RIBBON WEEK OBSERVED AT LINK

Link joined in the National Red Ribbon Week, the most extensive drug abuse awareness and prevention campaign in the U.S. The week of October 23-27 was dedicated to encouraging our students to make healthy choices and live drug-free lives. On October 23rd, Upper House students were introduced to the theme in a virtual Morning Circle. Daily announcements inspired students to make positive choices. Lower House students tied red ribbons on trees around the 23 Pennsylvania Avenue building. DEA Agent Timothy McMahon visited Link and spoke to scholars in grades 5-8 about the dangers of drugs and how to spot and avoid them. On the 27th, students and staff wore red to support the week's theme – "Be Kind to Your Mind. Be Drug Free." [Click here to see photos.](#)



NOVARTIS PROGRAM INSPIRES LINK SCHOLARS

Twenty-eight Link 8th grade students visited Novartis in East Hanover, NJ, on October 26th for the annual Novartis Multicultural Teen Corporate Mentoring Program. Besides introducing students to the pharmaceutical industry, this one-day program provides students with "real-world, practical guidance on planning a path to academic and professional success." Students, ours and those from many schools in the area, heard from inspirational speakers - successful role models in various corporate careers. They were impressed by a "Fireside Chat and Q&A" with Mr. Joel Bervell, known on social media as the "Medical Mythbuster." Students moved into breakout sessions conducted by Novartis personnel for



transferable skill-building exercises, including interviewing, networking, and how to do an “elevator pitch.” Our students rated this as a very positive and enlightening event. They enjoyed meeting students from other schools and successful professionals. View more photos at: <https://linkschool.org/novartis-program-inspires-link-scholars/>

TRUNK OR TREAT!

The Link Parent Association’s Trunk or Treat event on October 27th was a great success! Children and their families came– in great costumes - had a wonderful time going from car trunk to car trunk to select candy and other treats. There was so much excitement in the air! Click here for photos of the event:

<https://linkschool.org/lpa-trunk-or-treat/>



7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

Students in 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts (ELA) classes have been participating in a writing contest through Young Writers USA. Ms. Branch (Gr. 7), Ms. Gray (Gr. 8), and Mr. Holley (Gr. 8) engaged their students in creating 100-word mini-sagas using thrilling story starters. Students reflected on the writing prompt: "Are you the hunter or the hunted?" Scholars created some amazing thrillers to submit to the contest.

To see a video of the project, [click here](#).

To learn more about Young Writers USA, [click here](#).

[Click here for three students' writings.](#)



DRESSING AS WORDS!

The Vocabulary Parade (grades K-6) and the Vocabulary Fashion show (grades 7 & 8) this week reflected student creativity as many came to school in costumes that represented a vocabulary word of their choice. The parade, outside in front of 23 Pennsylvania Avenue, was exciting, with students cheering their peers for their costumes! 7th and 8th graders showed off their word “fashions” in a “runway walk” in the cafeteria at the Halsey Street facility. Costumes/fashions were judged for Most Creative, Most Challenging Word, Best Part of Speech, Funniest Costume, Best Shortest Word, Longest Vocabulary Word, and Happiest Vocabulary Word. For more photos, visit: <https://linkschool.org/dressing-as-vocabulary-words/> Here are the winter K-2 and 5-6, and our terrific 5th grade staff!





FOOD DRIVE NOVEMBER 1-22, 2023

Please help us collect non-perishable foods to be distributed to those in need in our community.

Here are the most needed items:

- CANNED SOUP, STEWS, AND CHILI
- CANNED MEAT, FISH, AND CHICKEN
- CANNED VEGETABLES AND BEANS
- CANNED "READY TO EAT" FOOD (RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS)
- BOXED PASTA, RICE, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, MAC & CHEESE
- CANNED FRUIT AND BOXED FRUIT JUICE
- SHELF-STABLE, CANNED, OR POWDERED MILK
- BOXED CEREALS AND CRACKERS



No glass bottles or jars, no cellophane wrappers, no items needing refrigeration, no expired dates.