

The TIGER'S DEN

MILK N Newsletter



AN MLK HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION



ISSUE AT A GLANCE

NOAH WILKINS
IS THE 5th/6th GRADE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

MVP

**2025
DISTRICT
SOCCER
TOURNAMENT**

**ROCK PAPER SCISSORS
TOURNAMENT**



AN MLK HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Last month, MLK embraced the Halloween spirit with our annual Halloween Parade — a cherished tradition for our youngest students. Children in grades Pre-K through 2nd proudly showcased their creative and colorful costumes as they paraded around the perimeter of the school, greeted by cheers and applause from parents and community members.

The costumes were truly spectacular, ranging from football players and cheerleaders to ghosts, witches, princesses, and superheroes such as Spider-Man and the Hulk. Classic characters from *The Wizard of Oz*, SpongeBob, Bluey, Transformers, firefighters, Minecraft figures, and many others added to the festive scene, transforming the school grounds into a lively display of imagination and excitement. We even had a few spirited 6-7's among the group!

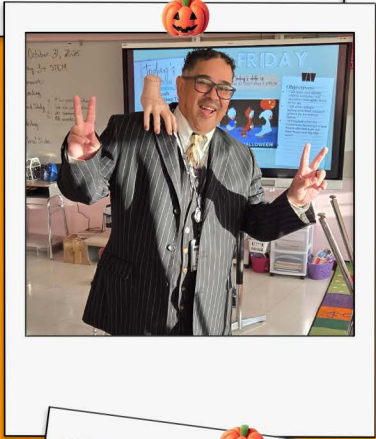
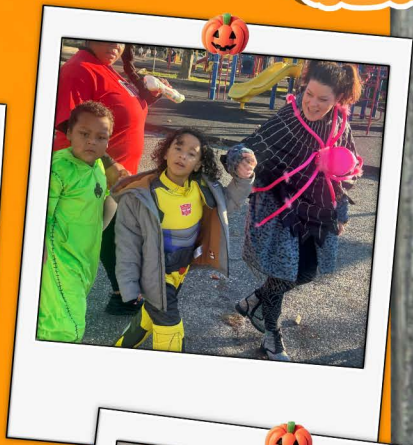
While the parade highlighted our youngest learners, the Halloween spirit extended throughout the entire building. Older students and many staff members joined in the fun by dressing up and participating in themed classroom activities. The day was filled with laughter, creativity, and celebration, featuring Halloween-themed games, movies, and classroom festivities.

It was a wonderful day that captured the essence of community and school spirit — a perfect reminder of how special it is when students, staff, and families come together to celebrate at MLK.





AN MLK HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION





FIRE SAFETY WEEK

STUDENTS LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE SAFETY

Earlier this month, our elementary students participated in an exciting and educational Fire Safety and Prevention Week. Hosted by some of Atlantic City's finest firefighters, the event was an incredible opportunity for students to learn about fire safety while getting an up-close look at the daily tools and equipment these brave individuals use.

The firefighters shared important fire prevention tips and demonstrated their gear, emphasizing the importance of staying safe and prepared in case of emergencies. Students were thrilled to explore a real firetruck, try on their very own firefighter helmets, and ask questions about the equipment and the firefighters' experiences.

The event was informative and engaging, leaving a lasting impression on the students. We are grateful to the Atlantic City Fire Department for creating such a memorable experience and for their dedication to keeping our community safe!



ATLANTICARE PARTNERS WITH MLK PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

The Dr. Martin L. King Jr. School Complex was honored to welcome Christian Ragland, Assistant Vice President of AtlantiCare, as a guest speaker at our October Parent Advisory Committee Meeting. Mr. Ragland shared a wealth of information about the many resources and services AtlantiCare offers to support families within the Atlantic City community.

Parents learned about a wide range of health and wellness programs, including primary and pediatric care, behavioral health support, and community wellness initiatives. Mr. Ragland also highlighted AtlantiCare's family engagement services, such as nutrition and fitness programs, maternal and child health support, and access to financial and housing assistance connections for families in need. He offered to return throughout the school year to continue to support our parents in building health equity within our community.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Ragland and the AtlantiCare team for their continued commitment to strengthening families and building healthier communities. Through partnerships these, our Parent Advisory Committee continues to connect parents with the tools and resources that help them and their children...THRIVE.



AtlantiCare



THE 2025 DISTRICT SOCCER TOURNAMENT

At the start of the month, the Atlantic City School District hosted its Annual Middle School Soccer Tournament, bringing together all 9 district schools for a fun and competitive day of soccer. The fields were full of excitement, teamwork, and Tiger pride as our students from MLK Middle School represented our school with energy and enthusiasm.

Although the Tigers didn't bring home any trophies this year, they gave it their all in every match—playing in some truly amazing games and delivering unforgettable moments that had the crowd cheering!

Our Teams and Coaches

This year, the MLK Boys Team was coached by Mr. Bryan Griffiths, and the Girls Teams were led by Mrs. Tyseemah Bishop and Mrs. Gerri McCoy. The Girls Team was also proudly managed by 8th grader Mia De Castro De Aza, whose leadership and organization helped keep the team running smoothly throughout the tournament.

Girls Team Roster

Katherine Valencia-Linares • Brionna Dorn • Victoria Barley-Winters • Envi Price • Azahirah Gillard • Isabella Andujar • Wyllow Timberlake • Genesis Sandoval Herrera • Alayah Brewington • Joyce Brewington • Omyah Holloway

5th & 6th Grade Boys Team

Yahsin Robinson • Skylar Moore • Javien Gibbs • Sirod Sutton • Oliver Lopez Pelaez • Isaiah Blackwell • Kai'Seir Williams • Na'Shawn Robinson • Antonio Harvey • Nasir Lewis • Noah Wilkins • Dens Tisse • Za'hir Henry • Esdrey Lara-Mejia

7th & 8th Grade Boys Team

Damir Chambers Jones • Cortez Adams • Barack Dorsainvil • Josue Suazo Hernandez • Fares Villatoro Suazo • Za'Quan Wilkins • Douglas Mencia Ramos • Elijah Watkins • Dylan Suazo Hernandez • An-Nas Abdullah Wilson • Wahid Albright

A Season to Be Proud Of

Our student-athletes showed tremendous teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit throughout the tournament. Every player gave their best effort on the field, representing MLK Middle School with pride and determination.

We're proud of all our players, coaches, and supporters who made this year's soccer season a success. The Tigers may not have taken home a trophy this time—but they definitely won in effort, heart, and pride.

Go Tigers!





MLK ALL DAY



Warming up between games



MLK ALL DAY



No One Scores When Willow's in Goal



Esdray's Ready To Score Again



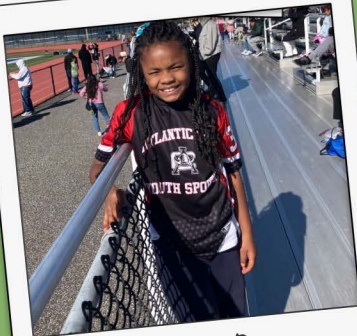
Javien Gibbs



Javien & Oliver Resting Between Games



The Girl's Team is Ready to Win



Brianna Dorn



The Brewington Girls



Alayah, Joyce, Omyah



Damir and Mrs. Bishop are Ready for the game



MLK



CROSS COUNTRY



MLK Cross Country Team Wraps Up an Outstanding Season

The MLK Cross Country season recently came to an exciting close after the final event of the year, the District Boardwalk Race. Our student-athletes put in tremendous dedication, effort and heart throughout the entire season, and we could not be more proud of their accomplishments. Their hard work, sportsmanship and steady improvement were evident at every meet.

A special thank-you goes out to our amazing coaches, Mrs. Hornbaker and Mr. Griffiths, for their guidance and support.

5th & 6th Grade Team

- Kamalah Howard
- Mizanii Jones
- Nylaa McClean
- Kylie Foreman
- Wyllow Timberlake
- Noah Wilkins
- Jayvien Lowery

7th & 8th Grade Team

- Wahid Albright
- An-Nas Abdullah Wilson
- Mia Victoria DeCastro
- Dylan Suazo Hernandez
- Nasere McLean
- Nariah Jenkins
- Zakiyyah Mitchell
- Mia De Castro Aza
- Aasia Woodall
- Tah’Janna Baines
- Damir Chambers-Jones
- Josue Suazo Hernandez
- Za’Quan Wilkins

Congratulations to all of our runners on a fantastic season! We look forward to seeing what you accomplish next year.



5/6 GRADE BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY**MVP****NOAH WILKINS****DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOOL COMPLEX****2025****2026**

Last month, the district held its annual Middle School Cross Country Tournament, where each school brought teams of 5th and 6th grade boys and girls, as well as 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. All of our MLK athletes gave outstanding performances and represented our school with pride.

One runner in particular stood out — 6th grader Noah Wilkins, who was recognized as the District's 5th and 6th Grade Boys MVP for his exceptional performance and effort. Congratulations to Noah and to all of our runners for an impressive showing!

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: FALL SPORTS



ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

TOURNAMENT

Last month, our school proudly participated in **Red Ribbon Week**, the nation's annual campaign to promote alcohol, tobacco, drug, and violence prevention. Each year in October, schools across the country take part in activities that encourage students to make healthy choices and live drug-free lives.

Throughout the week, our students showed their support by wearing red ribbons, joining rallies, and participating in dress-down days—but this year featured an all-new event that truly captured the attention (and competitive spirit!) of our middle schoolers.

The First-Ever Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament!

The excitement began early as each student started the day wearing a red beaded necklace. Throughout the day, students could challenge one another to a best-of-three Rock, Paper, Scissors showdown, with the winner collecting the loser's beads. Friendly battles broke out across the third floor as students strategized, cheered, and collected beads in hopes of being crowned the ultimate champion.

By the afternoon, the competition reached its peak in the Little Theater, where the top contenders from 7th and 8th grade faced off in front of their classmates. The final match came down to 8th grader Nuri Pitts and 7th grader Kevin Sheffield—a tense showdown that had everyone on the edge of their seats. When the final call was made, Kevin Sheffield emerged victorious, earning the title of Ultimate Student Champion!

Teachers Join the Fun

But the fun didn't stop there. Teachers soon joined in for their own round of friendly competition. After several entertaining matches, Mrs. Hornbaker claimed the title of Top Teacher Champion.

Then came the ultimate face-off—Kevin vs. Mrs. Hornbaker. After an intense back-and-forth match, Kevin's well-timed "Rock" crushed Mrs. Hornbaker's "Scissors," making him the overall champion of the day—or so he thought!

Bring on "The Burroughs"

Just as Kevin was celebrating his victory, the chants began to echo through the crowd: "Burroughs! Burroughs! Burroughs!"

To everyone's delight, Principal Jodi Burroughs stepped in to challenge the student champion. In an epic battle of wits and reflexes, Principal Burroughs managed to defeat Kevin—though graciously allowing him to keep his hard-earned beads.

The excitement didn't stop there—soon, Vice Principal Cherise Burroughs joined the fray to test whether the "Burroughs magic" was real. In three quick matches, she too bested the reigning student champion, proving that no one could beat the Burroughs!

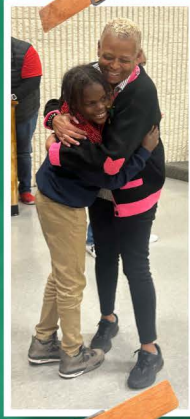
A Week to Remember

The tournament was a huge success, filling the hallways with laughter, energy, and school spirit. Students and staff alike are already looking forward to bringing it back later in the year due to its incredible popularity.

More importantly, the event reminded everyone of the importance of making positive choices and supporting a safe, healthy, and drug-free lifestyle—the true meaning behind Red Ribbon Week.



ROCK PAPER SCISSORS TOURNAMENT



WAFFLES

with **THE NURSE**

A Morning of Health, Learning, and Community

Last month, our school—working in collaboration with the Early Childhood Department and MLK Nurse, Nadira Morgan—hosted a very special event for parents: **Waffles with the Nurse**. This warm and welcoming gathering gave families the chance to enjoy a delicious breakfast together while also learning important health information for both children and adults.

Nurse Morgan shared a variety of helpful tips and insights on student and family wellness, making the morning both educational and engaging. Following the informative session, it was time to eat! Members of the Atlantic City Early Childhood Department graciously came out to cook and serve waffles as parents and children sat together, enjoyed their meal, and continued conversations about healthy habits.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this wonderful community event!





ACHS SPOTLIGHT

Wishing The Vikings Football Team the Best Tonight as they take on Kingsway for the South Jersey Group 5 Championship!

We want to take a moment to recognize the incredible season that the Atlantic City High School Football Team has had this year. The Vikings have been on an outstanding run, showcasing hard work, determination and true team spirit every time they take the field.

Tonight, they will face Kingsway in the South Jersey Group 5 Championship, and our entire school community is cheering them on. We wish the players and coaches the very best of luck as they compete for the title.

Let's Go Vikings!





ACHS SPOTLIGHT

Atlantic City Public Schools Launches Nation's First District-Wide Esports Program

Towards the end of last month, Atlantic City Public Schools celebrated a groundbreaking achievement with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the district's newest initiative—a bold endeavor that blends technology, career readiness and student engagement. On Friday, Oct. 17, 2025, the district formally launched the first district-wide esports program in the nation during a special event held inside the new esports lab at Atlantic City High School.

Esports—organized, competitive gaming—has grown from a niche hobby into a global powerhouse featuring professional leagues, international audiences and significant scholarship and career opportunities. Recognizing its potential, the district has embraced esports as a pathway to prepare students for emerging industries.

“This initiative is about more than just playing video games,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. La’Quetta S. Small. “The esports program presents an opportunity for students to develop communication, leadership and technical skills—and to explore real-world career pathways in a growing global industry.”

The launch was made possible through a strong collaborative partnership with Esports Integration by Horizon AVL, EDGE Consulting, and Bluum, all of whom supported the district in transforming this vision into reality. The ceremony brought together students, staff, college esports representatives and community leaders to celebrate the debut of the custom-designed esports facilities now established in 10 schools across the district.

Each school’s esports room was intentionally crafted as a career development hub, giving students access to industry-standard tools and curriculum connected to fields such as game design, broadcasting, marketing, event production and cybersecurity. The program is integrated into after-school and STEM sessions through Platform1, a learning management system developed by Esports Integration and EDGE that supports project-based learning and academic enrichment.

Serving as emcee for the ceremony, Director of Assessment and Special Projects Michael Bird highlighted how the program positions students for future success. The ribbon cutting not only marked the opening of state-of-the-art facilities, but also the beginning of new opportunities for Atlantic City students to explore, compete, create and thrive in a rapidly expanding global field.

Thank you to everyone who made this amazing vision a reality for our students.





SPOTLIGHT

