

MLK's annual spelling bee, a highly anticipated event, took place this month with fervor and enthusiasm. The event hosted by Mrs. Harrington and MC'd by Mr. Kelly, showcased the linguistic prowess of students from grades 4th through 8th, vying for the prestigious title of MLK's top speller.

 $S_1 P_3 E_1 L_1 L_1 I_1 N_1 G_2 B_3 E_1 E_1$ 

The panel of judges, comprising Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Ruth, and Ms. Sanderlin, had the arduous task of determining the winners from a pool of talented participants. While all contestants displayed remarkable skill, three students emerged as the top contenders.

In third place was Tahiyah Perry, a diligent 5th-grade student whose command over words impressed the audience. Second place was secured by Lianni Rivera, an accomplished



8th-grader known for her linguistic finesse. However, it was Aniyah Muhammad, a confident 7th-grade student, who clinched the championship title with her exceptional spelling abilities.

Aniyah Muhammad's victory propels her to the next level as she prepares to represent The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex at the Regional competition which is scheduled for March 9th at Camden High School in Camden New Jersey. The Regional bee will bring together champions from various schools, offering Aniyah the opportunity to showcase her talent on a broader stage. A win at the Regional level would earn her an invitation to the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC later this year.

The success of the event was not only measured by the triumphs of

the winners but also by the collective effort and spirit demonstrated by all participants. MLK School takes pride in the dedication and commitment shown by its students, acknowledging that each participant contributed to the event's overall success.

As the school celebrates the achievements of its spellers, we look forward to supporting Aniyah Muhammad in her journey to the Regional competition and beyond.

The annual spelling bee stands as a testament to our school's commitment to academic

excellence and nurturing the talents of its students. If you are interested in supporting Aniyah at the regional level please contact the school for more information.

# **DOUBLE DAY OF CELEBRATION** STUDENTS ENJOY THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL ON VALENTINES DAY

### LOADING 100%

It was a day of double celebrations at MLK as students in grades K-2 marked the one-hundredth day of school, coinciding with the love-filled occasion of Valentine's Day. This year's festivities took on an extra layer of excitement as the young learners embraced the unique theme of dressing like they were one hundred years old.

Decked out in their finest elderly attire, the school buzzed with laughter and joy as students arrived dressed in a variety of creative ensembles, complete with drawn-on wrinkles, oversized glasses, canes, and shawls. From knitted cardigans to tweed jackets, every detail was meticulously crafted to embody the essence of centenarians.

The halls echoed with the sound of little feet shuffling in oversized slippers and the occasional gentle tap of a makeshift cane, adding to the charm of the occasion. Teachers and staff joined in the fun, donning gray wigs, spectacles, and pearl necklaces, further enhancing the immersive experience.

As the day unfolded, classrooms were transformed into lively centers of activity, with students engaging in age-appropriate lessons and activities centered around the theme of 100. From counting exercises to storytelling sessions about life a century ago, the curriculum embraced the spirit of the occasion, blending learning with excitement and imagination.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was the serendipitous alignment of the celebration with Valentine's Day. Heart-shaped decorations adorned the walls, and students exchanged tokens of affection, spreading love and warmth throughout the school community.

Captured in the attached photos are snapshots of the day's festivities, immortalizing the joyous moments shared by students and staff alike. Each image serves as a testament to the spirit of creativity, camaraderie, and fun that permeates at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex.

As the day drew to a close, memories of this special celebration lingered, serving as a reminder of the magic that unfolds when learning is infused with creativity and joy.

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## MLK RESETICS TEAMS SHINE WITH INNEVATION AND RECENITION

As the curtains close on an exhilarating MLK Robotics season, the spirit of innovation and collaboration continues to soar to new heights. This week, South Jersey Robotics, one of New Jersey's premier robotics organizations, shone a spotlight on MLK's two remarkable robotics teams, the Sandy Squirrels and the Black Panthers, on their official website.

In a series of articles dedicated to each team, South Jersey Robotics reflected on their recent competition experiences and highlighted their outstanding student-led innovation projects showcased at last month's First Lego League Robotics Tournament.

The first team, the Sandy Squirrels, captivated audiences with their groundbreaking project aimed at assisting students with disabilities to participate in the game of basketball. Working in tandem, the Sandy Squirrels devised an innovative device designed to impart fundamental basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting to individuals with hemiplegia. This device, incorporating a battery-powered pneumatic-based component, not only serves as a guide but also facilitates neuromuscular control by ensuring proper hand placement. The Sandy Squirrels' dedication to inclusivity and creativity earned them well-deserved recognition and applause.



South Jersey Robotics goal is to inspire young people to be excited by science and technology through mentor-based programs in South Jersey that build life confidence, inspire innovation, develop leaders, and build STEAM skills. www.sjrobotics.com



The Sandy Squirrels (above) and their innovation project (Below)



Meanwhile, the Black Panthers showcased their ingenuity with a project inspired by the green screen suits utilized in the film industry for visual effects. Drawing on this inspiration, the team aimed to utilize multiple cameras to track sensors via Bluetooth. This innovative approach would enable the identification of irregularities in joint movement, flexibility, and motion, thereby aiding in the early detection of injuries. The Black Panthers' forward-thinking project demonstrated their commitment to leveraging technology for health and well-being.

Both teams made an indelible impression in their debut robotics competition, leaving audiences in awe of their creativity, dedication, and problem-solving prowess. It was evident to all in attendance that the MLK Robotics program was just scratching the surface of its potential. (Continues next page)

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As the MLK Robotics season draws to a close, the journey is far from over. The next chapter begins with an exciting expansion of the program, opening its doors to students beyond the 8th grade. This week marks the commencement of this expansion, as the MLK Robotics program welcomes interested students from grades 6th to 8th, inviting them to join the ranks of innovative thinkers and problem solvers.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the Sandy Squirrels, the Black Panthers, and the entire MLK Robotics community, let us



The Black Panthers holding their innovation project at the recent Robotics Competition in Camden

embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. With a commitment to inclusivity, creativity, and collaboration, MLK Robotics continues to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators, leaving an indelible mark on the world of robotics and beyond.

Discover and read about the remarkable achievements of the MLK Robotics teams by visiting **www.sjrobotics.com** for insightful articles spotlighting their innovative projects and competition experiences.

### INTERESTED STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 & THE MLK ROBOTICS CLUB IS EXPANDING...

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Are you creative, enthusiastic, and hardworking?

Do you have a passion for robotics, design, computers, coding, marketing and or engineering?

If yes, then you may be perfect for our team. If interested and in Grades 6 & 7 please contact one of the following people...

Mr. Holmstrom, Mr. DeCicco, Ms. Days or Mr. Mahler

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