

THE TIGER'S DEN

MLK NEWSLETTER

The Atlantic City School District



A HALLOWEEN TO REMEMBER



ISSUE AT A GLANCE

RUBY BRIDGES WALK

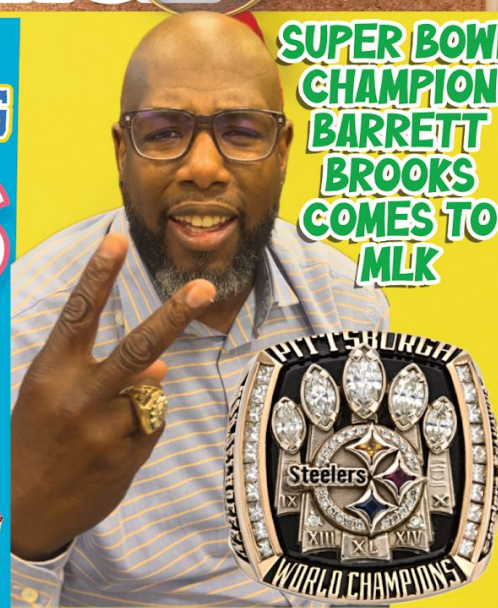


THE MLK PARENT CENTER PRESENTS

DONUTS WITH DADS



SUPER BOWL
CHAMPION
BARRETT
BROOKS
COMES TO
MLK



TURNING HALLOWEEN INSIDE OUT

Highlights from the Halloween Parade

This year's MLK Halloween Parade was a fantastic showcase of creativity and excitement! Elementary students dressed up in an incredible variety of costumes, including superheroes, princesses, clowns, athletes, scary characters, and much more. Parents lined the parade route to cheer on their little ones, making the event a memorable celebration of Halloween spirit.

Adding to the fun, some of our talented teachers joined the festivities, with the Pre-K team stealing the show by recreating the characters from Disney's Inside Out 2! Their creative costumes were a big hit with students and parents alike.

It was a day full of smiles, laughter, and lots of Halloween magic. Check out the pictures below to see some of the amazing costumes!



BARRETT BROOKS

Brings a story of Kindness, Perseverance and Paying it Forward to the students MLK

Earlier this month, students at our school were treated to a truly remarkable experience. Former NFL lineman and Super Bowl champion Barrett Brooks visited for a special assembly. His visit not only inspired the students but also delivered an important lesson about perseverance, kindness, and the power of paying it forward.

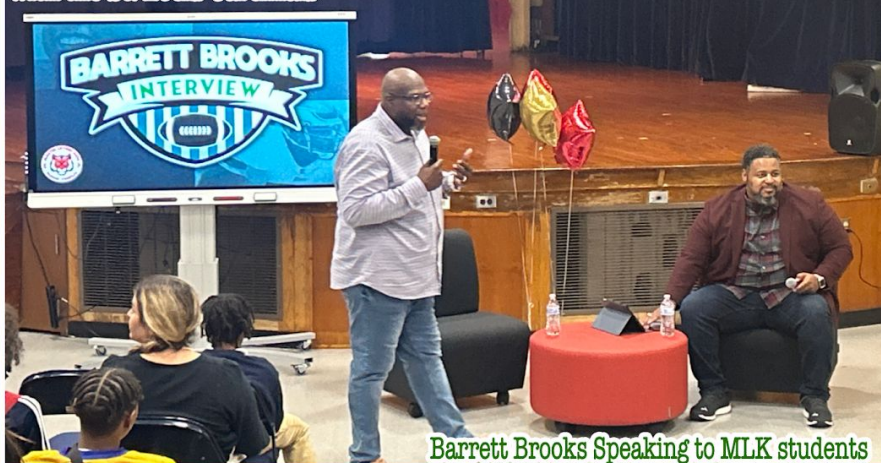
During the assembly, Mr. Brooks participated in an interview hosted by the Parent Center's Mr. Russell, where he shared his incredible journey from humble beginnings to NFL stardom. The event began with a powerful video that detailed Mr. Brooks' upbringing in a tough neighborhood in Saint Louis, MO. Students listened intently as he recounted his childhood, emphasizing his family's struggles and the sacrifices they made to provide for him.

One story stood out vividly and captivated the audience. In 1986, a young Barrett Brooks found himself outside a Saint Louis Cardinals football game, eager to catch a glimpse of his heroes. As he stood outside the players' parking lot fence in shoes far too small for his size 12 feet, one player noticed him—Vai Sikahema, a rookie kick returner for the Cardinals. Sikahema quickly realized the boy's predicament, noticing Barrett's toes sticking through his shoes. Touched by the sight, Vai invited Barrett into the team's locker room, where he gave him his first properly fitting pair of football shoes.

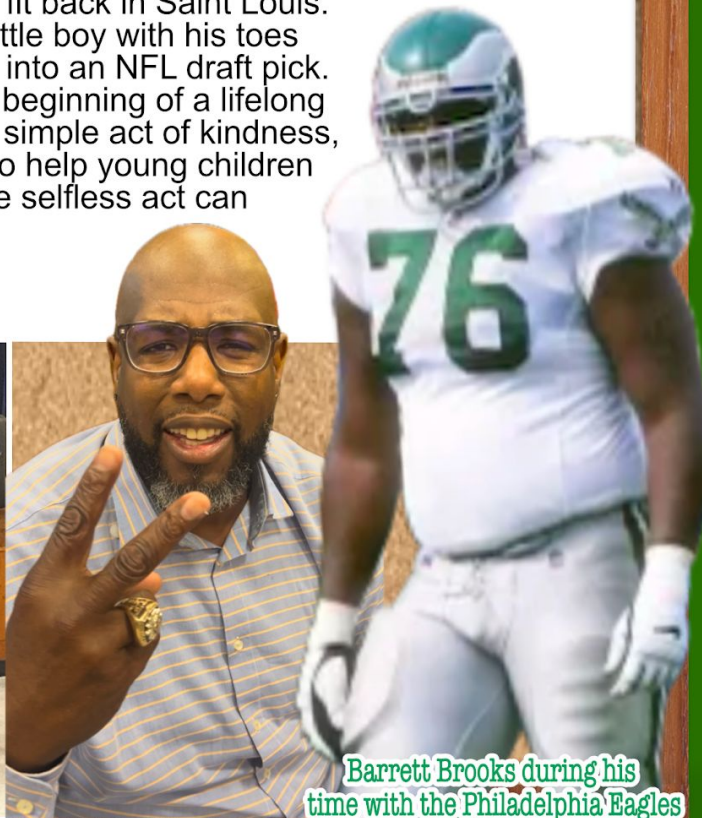
Fast forward two decades, and the Brooks-Sikahema story came full circle. Barrett Brooks, now an imposing 6-foot-5 NFL draft prospect, was selected in the second round by the Philadelphia Eagles. During his first moments with the Eagles staff, he spotted a familiar face in the crowd—Vai Sikahema. Barrett approached him and exclaimed, "Mr. Sikahema, do you remember me?"

"I'm Barrett Brooks from Saint Louis!" Vai responded, "Yeah, you're the Eagles' second-round pick; congratulations!" Barrett quickly clarified, "No, it's me—you gave me my first pair of shoes that fit back in Saint Louis." Sikahema couldn't believe it. That little boy with his toes sticking out of his shoes had grown into an NFL draft pick. The two men hugged, marking the beginning of a lifelong friendship. Inspired by Sikahema's simple act of kindness, Barrett and Vai later joined forces to help young children in need, demonstrating how a single selfless act can create ripples of positive change.

Vai Sikahema's rookie year
with the St. Louis Cardinals



Barrett Brooks Speaking to MLK students



Barrett Brooks during his
time with the Philadelphia Eagles

BARRETT BROOKS

Brings a story of Kindness, Perseverance and Paying it Forward to the students MLK

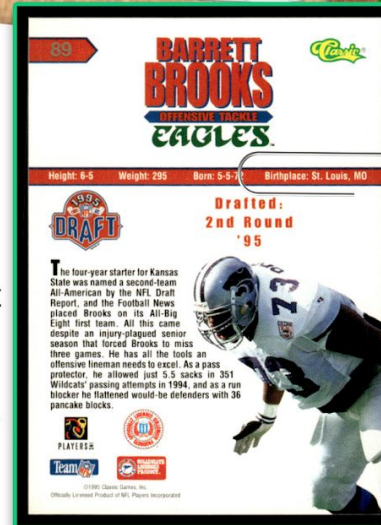
After his NFL career, Barrett transitioned into a successful career as a television personality and football commentator. He continues to work with the Philadelphia Eagles' television networks, contributing to Eagles pre- and post-game content. Despite his football accomplishments, Barrett spoke about how his wife, Sanji Brooks, has been the true foundation of his life. He shared with students the importance of finding a partner who will fight for you as hard as they fight for themselves and the need to reciprocate that same dedication in a relationship. Barrett credited Sanji with keeping him grounded and supporting their family through life's challenges, emphasizing that relationships built on mutual support and respect are just as meaningful as professional success.

Barrett Brooks' visit was an extraordinary day for our school, leaving students inspired and motivated. His story serves as a powerful reminder that no matter where you start in life, kindness, determination, and strong relationships can lead to greatness. It's a lesson our students will carry with them for years to come.

During his visit, Mr. Brooks used his stories to encourage students to consider the profound impact they can have on others. He emphasized the importance of small, meaningful actions and reminded everyone that kindness can be transformative. Barrett's 12-season NFL career, including a Super Bowl win with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2006, stands as a testament to his hard work and resilience. Still, he made it clear that his journey would not have been possible without the encouragement and generosity he received along the way.

The assembly concluded with a Q&A session, during which students eagerly asked questions about Mr. Brooks's life, career, and advice for achieving their dreams. Mr. Brooks answered each question thoughtfully, inspiring students to make a difference in their lives and communities.

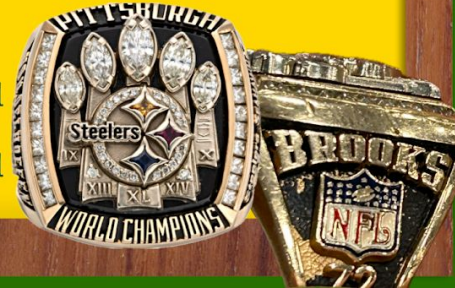
Barrett Brooks' visit was a truly extraordinary day for our school. His story is a powerful reminder that kindness, determination, and strong relationships can lead to greatness no matter where you start in life. It's a lesson our students will carry with them for years to come. Barrett Brooks' visit was a truly extraordinary day for our school. His story serves as a potent reminder that no matter where you start in life, kindness, determination, and a little help along the way can lead to greatness.



Above: The back of Barrett's Rookie Card

Left: Barrett Brooks, and Vai Sikahema present two young boys with a pair of shoes at NFL Legend Irving Fryer's Church

Below: Barrett's Super Bowl Ring from Super Bowl XL



MLK'S ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This month, our school hosted its annual Anti-Bullying Week, featuring a series of events aimed at raising awareness and fostering a culture of kindness and inclusion. From physical challenges to meaningful marches, students engaged in activities highlighting the importance of standing against bullying and supporting one another.

One of the week's highlights was the "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully Jump Rope-a-thon," an event for 3rd through 6th graders. MLK students set an ambitious goal: completing at least 10,000 jumps collectively to promote awareness of the anti-bullying cause. Beginning November 20th, students will be jumping during gym class, their lunch periods, and even after school to achieve their target. The event encourages physical activity and emphasized teamwork and camaraderie among participants.

Another standout moment was the school's annual Anti-Bullying Walk, which this year received a special renaming. Now known as the Ruby Bridges Anti-Bullying Walk, the event honors the legacy of Ruby Bridges, who, as a young child, became the first Black student to integrate an all-white school. Her courage, determination, and kindness in the face of adversity made her a fitting symbol for this important cause.

During the walk, students created colorful signs and chanted anti-bullying messages as they marched from the school to the Indiana Avenue Fire House, spreading awareness throughout the community. The event was a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience it takes to stand up against injustice and cruelty.

This year's Anti-Bullying Week was a tremendous success. It inspired students to embrace kindness, stand up for others, and carry forward the values embodied by Ruby Bridges. It was a week filled with learning, action, and unity, reminding us all of the power of collective efforts to create a more inclusive and supportive community.



HONORING HEROES

An MLK Veterans Day Celebration

This month, our school came together to celebrate Veterans Day, honoring the brave men and women who have served our country. The event was a heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices and contributions of these heroes, making our country the incredible place it is today.

Veterans joined us to share their stories, giving students a unique opportunity to learn about life in the armed forces. They spoke about their experiences, duties, and the values they carried throughout their service. Students were not only inspired but also had the chance to engage with the veterans, asking questions and gaining insights into their remarkable journeys.

To show our appreciation, the veterans were treated to a special meal, heartfelt gifts crafted by students, and a warm wave of gratitude from both staff and students. The atmosphere was filled with admiration and respect, creating a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

It was a wonderful day of connection, learning, and honoring those who have dedicated themselves to protecting our freedoms. Thank you to all the veterans who participated and to everyone who helped make this event so special!



THE MLK PARENT CENTER PRESENTS DONUTS WITH DADS

Earlier this month, our school's Parent Resource Center hosted its annual Donuts with Dads Breakfast, a cherished tradition celebrating the vital role fathers play in their children's lives. This year's event was nothing short of spectacular, with a record-breaking turnout of enthusiastic dads and their students.

The morning kicked off with a warm welcome from Principal Burroughs, setting the tone for an inspiring program. **Mr. Banks**, **Mr. Russell**, **Guidance Counselor Mrs. Hagel**, and the school's newest addition, **School Resource Officer Bryant Mitchell**, shared heartfelt words about the importance of fatherly involvement in education and personal development. Officer Mitchell's message resonated deeply as he emphasized the critical role parents play in building a strong foundation for their children's future.

Adding to the occasion, **Mrs. Shelly Williams**, the Atlantic City Director of Elementary Education, graced the event with her presence and shared kind, encouraging words with the audience. Her support further highlighted the importance of building strong connections between families and schools.

After the inspiring speeches, it was time to enjoy a delicious breakfast provided by the Parent Resource Center, with catering courtesy of Wawa. In addition to the classic donuts and coffee, attendees enjoyed fresh juices, fruits, and other treats. The lively conversations and shared smiles highlighted the strong community spirit at the heart of this event.

Each year, **Donuts with Dads** grows in attendance, a testament to the dedication and involvement of our fathers. It was heartwarming to see so many families come together to celebrate the power of parental support. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event such a sweet success!

Here's to even more dads joining us next year!





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!

