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GRANT AWARDED FOR FULL DAY PRESCHOOL

Salma Mady-Abraham, senior at North Plainfield High School

The North Plainfield School District received a \$1.6 million grant from the state of New Jersey, through a competitive Preschool Expansion Aid application process, that will allow the district to offer a full day preschool program to all families in the community.

Prior to receiving the grant, the district had a half-day preschool program in place through a partnership with two community providers, Growing Tree Preschool and Holy Cross Preschool.

The community expressed the need for a full day preschool program to enhance students' first educational experiences as well as assist parents by providing a single school location for their children. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James McLaughlin, believes that the half-day program and partnership helped to strengthen the district's application.

"This partnership truly showed that our commitment is not just school-based but community-based - a very important part of preschool philosophy," said McLaughlin. "Our curriculum, our classroom model, our teachers understanding of preschool education, and the other many positive attributes of our program made our application extremely strong."

The funds have been used to hire teachers, provide breakfast and lunch to the students, to purchase furniture and class materials, to provide additional training, and to add a behavioral specialist to the preschool staff.

The program, which began on October 2, allows all four-year-old North Plainfield students to experience a full day of school at no family expense. The curriculum emphasizes cooperation with others, balance, gross motor/ fine motor skills and coordination, pencil grip, language comprehension, expressing thoughts and needs, conversation skills, curiosity, problem-solving, engagement, making connections in learning, symbolic thought, and sorting. Additionally, the major skill and content areas necessary for a solid foundation

in academic learning will be provided.

"It's so important to emphasize that all this learning occurs in a natural and developmentally appropriate way with lots of time for movement, play, and curiosity. It is also so important that our children see learning as a fun activity and school as a place they want to be," said McLaughlin.

"We are tremendously excited to have this program in our town and provide our youngest students with a real opportunity to start their school careers with a solid foundation for future learning," said McLaughlin. "Our motivation is always to meet the needs of our students and our whole school community embraces that responsibility. North Plainfield is a special place for students and we are extremely happy to be able to offer the gift of preschool education to the families we serve."



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SPANISH VERSION OF COVER STORY

A NORTH PLAINFIELD LE FUE OTORGADA UNA BECA PARA LA JORNADA COMPLETA DE PREESCOLAR

Salma Mady-Abraham, estudiante de último año

en la Escuela Secundaria de

El Distrito Escolar de North Plainfield recibió una beca de \$ 1.6 millones del estado de Nueva Jersey, a través de un proceso competitivo de solicitud de ayuda para la expansión preescolar, que permitirá al distrito ofrecer un programa preescolar de jornada completa a todas las familias de la comunidad.

Antes de recibir la beca, el distrito tenía un programa preescolar de medio día establecido a través de una asociación con dos proveedores de la comunidad, Escuela Preescolar Growing Tree, y Escuela Preescolar Holy Cross. La comunidad expresó la necesidad de un programa preescolar de jornada completa para mejorar las primeras experiencias educativas de los estudiantes, así como para ayudar a los padres proporcionando un lugar único para sus hijos. El superintendente de escuelas, el Dr. James McLaughlin, cree que el programa de medio día y la asociación ayudaron a fortalecer la aplicación del distrito.

"Esta asociación realmente demostró que nuestro compromiso no solo se basa en la escuela, sino en la comunidad, una parte muy importante de la filosofía de preescolar", dijo McLaughlin. "Nuestro plan de estudios, nuestro modelo de aula, la comprensión de nuestros maestros sobre la educación preescolar y los otros muchos atributos positivos de nuestro programa hicieron nuestra aplicación extremadamente sólida".

Los fondos se han utilizado para contratar maestros, proporcionar desayuno y almuerzo a los estudiantes, comprar muebles y materiales para los salones, proporcionar capacitación adicional y agregar un(a) especialista en comportamiento al personal de preescolar.

El programa, que comenzó el 2 de octubre, permite que todos los estudiantes de North Plainfield de cuatro años experimenten una jornada completa de clases sin gastos para sus familias. El currículo hace hincapié en la cooperación con los demás, equilibrio, habilidades motrices y motoras gruesas y coordinación, el agarre del lápiz, comprensión del lenguaje, expresión de pensamientos y necesidades, habilidades de conversación, curiosidad, resolución de problemas, participación, hacer conexiones de aprendizaje, pensamientos simbólicos, y clasificación. Además, se proporcionarán las áreas principales de habilidades y contenido necesarias para una base sólida para el aprendizaje académico.

"Es muy importante enfatizar que todo este aprendizaje ocurre de una manera natural y apropiada para el desarrollo, con mucho tiempo para movimiento, juego y curiosidad. También es muy importante que nuestros hijos vean el aprendizaje como una actividad divertida y la escuela como un lugar en el que quieren estar", dijo McLaughlin.

"Estamos tremendamente emocionados de tener este programa en nuestra ciudad y brindarles a nuestros estudiantes más jóvenes la oportunidad real de comenzar su carrera escolar con una base sólida para el aprendizaje futuro", dijo McLaughlin. "Nuestra motivación es siempre satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes y toda la comunidad escolar asume esa responsabilidad. North Plainfield es un lugar especial para los estudiantes y estamos muy contentos de poder ofrecer el regalo de la educación preescolar a las familias a las que servimos".



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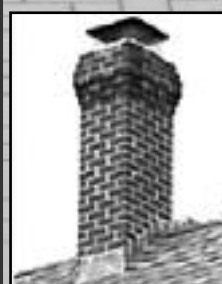
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FOUR SCHOOLS ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION

Four Schools in the North Plainfield School District have met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. These schools join a group of 91 schools that achieved the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in 2017. A total of 679 schools and 273 school districts are participating in the program overall.

The four schools that have achieved bronze certification are: East End Elementary School, Stony Brook Elementary School, West End Elementary School and the North Plainfield Middle School. In response to this achievement, James V. McLaughlin, Ed.D., superintendent of the North Plainfield School District, stated, "Achieving sustainability certification is consistent with the value that North Plainfield places on being environmentally conscience, good stewards of the world we inherit, and ensuring that we are energy efficient with our expenses in order to place the maximum resources toward our students' learning."

"As students and teachers head back to school this year, they will learn the good news that their hard work has paid off," said Randall Solomon, executive director of Sustainable Jersey. "Becoming certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a significant achievement for schools and their school district. The number of schools participating in the program is truly remarkable."

Sustainable Jersey for Schools, a program for kindergarten through twelfth-grade public schools in New Jersey, is voluntary, but achieving certification is not easy. Each school that is certified at the bronze level must submit documentation to show it has completed a

balanced portfolio of the program's sustainability actions, attaining a minimum of 150 points. Actions completed by the North Plainfield schools include Education for Sustainability Programs, Access to Healthy Water in Schools, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, School Gardens, and District Wide initiatives such as the 'Breakfast After the Bell' Program, Buying Renewable Energy and Green Cleaning and Purchasing Policies.

"We are proud of the leadership provided by the boards of education and their superintendents, as well as the contributions of principals, teachers, education support professionals and parents, that made this important milestone a reality," said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, New Jersey School Boards Association executive director. "We congratulate the schools on achieving Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification." On October 24, 2017, the certified schools and their districts will be celebrated at a reception held during NJSBA Workshop 2017 in Atlantic City. Workshop 2017 will feature Sustainable Jersey for Schools sessions along with NJSBA sustainability support programs for schools.

North Plainfield School District is a progressive, culturally diverse public school district located in eastern Somerset County. It serves 3,400 students, prekindergarten through grade 12, in a network of six schools. In addition to pursuing a first class education for every individual student enrolled in the district, the North Plainfield School District strives to maintain a holistic environment which focuses on sustainability and renewability.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS:

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It was launched by Sustainable Jersey, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, 274 school districts and 679 schools are participating in the program. The district participation has grown to include 46 percent of all New Jersey school districts.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is underwritten by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The 2017 Sustainable Jersey for Schools small grants program is funded by the PSEG Foundation, NJEA, the Gardiner Environmental Fund and the New Jersey Department of Health. Founding Sponsor contributors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group. Bayer Foundation and Investors Bank are Silver Sponsors.

Program partners include: NJSBA, NJEA, New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA), New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO), New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (NJPTA), New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA), New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association (NJSBGA) and The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ).

For more information, visit www.SustainableJerseySchools.com

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at where we work and how the station operates. Both the school and firehouse visits allow us to have a unique one-on-one interaction with the children that they always seem to appreciate. Some topics covered were "stop, drop and roll", identifying a smoke detector, how it works, what the alarm sound means, what to do when you hear the alarm and how to safely exit your home.

October also kicked-off our annual smoke detector battery replacement program. Traditionally this program has been for our senior

citizens, but it is open to all residents who live within our great community. During this month and through November, we schedule visits to these homes to assist in replacing the smoke detector batteries. If necessary, we will also install or replace the smoke detector itself.

This program has been offered for decades and any North Plainfield family or resident in need of this type of assistance can contact fire headquarters to arrange for a visit by calling us at 908-769-2935.



(above) The North Plainfield Fire Department at one of their recent fire prevention week school visits.

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HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

The North Plainfield Washington Park Historic Association will present a "Holiday House Tour and Wine & Chocolate Tasting" on Saturday, December 9, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.. Rain/snow date will be Sunday, December 10, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 if purchased before December 9 & \$30 the day of the tour. 7 homes will be open for you to enjoy.

The tour will start at 40 Mercer Avenue, The Church of the Holy Cross. The church has one of the finest examples of Gothic Carpenter Architecture in this region.

For more information and to view some of the homes on the tour, visit our web site www.washingtonparknj.org. You may also contact us by calling 908-757-6353 or by email at frankdsr@comcast.net.

Wine will be supplied by Super Buy Rite Liquor, located at 967 Rt.22 W. Chocolate will be supplied by Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, located at 965 Rt. 22 W.

HOLIDAY CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

On Saturday, November 18. The Church of the Holy Cross, located at 40 Mercer Ave. in North Plainfield, is having its annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

This is always a special event where you can find wonderful bargains. Check out jewelry, holiday goodies, toys, clothing, overlooked treasures, and crafts of all kinds.

Holy Cross is well known for its fellowship and food. The bake sale is phenomenal, and, as if that were not enough, you can get a home-cooked, cooked-to-order lunch.

This neighborhood landmark is celebrating its 141th anniversary; it is a classic, carpenter Gothic church of great beauty with wonderful stained glass well worth a visit.

Vendors can contact eventsathc@gmail.com for details about reserving a table.

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER



Chief William Parenti announced the North Plainfield Police Department would participate in, "No Shave November," in support of cancer awareness throughout the month of November. The rules of No Shave November are simple; put down your razor for 30 days and donate your monthly shaving expenses to a charity.

No Shave November is devoted to "growing" cancer awareness; while raising funds to support cancer research, prevention, as well as aiding those who are undergoing treatment.

Sadly, we all know a person, family member or friend with this life changing disease. Therefore, we made the decision to waive the department's grooming policy for November to show support for the initiative as well as evoke

conversations surrounding cancer awareness in our community, Chief Parenti said.

Each Officer you see with facial hair throughout the month will have made a \$50 donation, through the North Plainfield PBA Local 85, with a fundraising goal of \$1,000. I fully support this team building, conversation starting charitable endeavor, I too will participate and join my fellow officers in this fight against cancer, stated Chief Parenti.

Anyone interested in fundraising with the North Plainfield Police Officers, can write a check, payable to the North Plainfield PBA 85, memo section "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital." Donations can be dropped off at Police headquarters starting Wednesday, November 1st, in care of Officer Marcus Steinhauer. The department's donation will be made in full on December 15, and the total donation amount will be posted on our Facebook page shortly thereafter.



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NORTH PLAINFIELD NOVEMBER EVENTS

In Observance of Veterans Day, Borough hall offices
will be closed Friday, November 10th, 2017

Veterans Day

American Legion Ball-Kirsch Post 265 will conduct a
short Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Park on
Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11:00 AM.

The public is invited to attend.

Free Rabies Clinic

Sponsored by The North Plainfield Health Office
November 18, 2017

10am – 12pm

North Plainfield Firehouse
8 Lincoln Place,
North Plainfield

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sponsored by Beta Alpha Rho Zeta Chapter &
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
November 18th, 2017

1pm - 3pm

170 Watchung Ave, North Plainfield
This is a free event

Tree Lighting And Santa Comes To Town

November 26th, 2017

4pm

North Plainfield Community Center
Come celebrate two Annual North Plainfield traditions
together - Recreation's Holiday Tree

Lighting and the Borough's Santa Comes to Town.

Everyone is invited to join us at Vermeule for Santa's
arrival at 4 pm, holiday music, balloon caricatures, hot
chocolate, cookies and other refreshments, and
more! Mayor Giordano will celebrate the holiday season
by lighting the tree.
This is a free event.

GOODWILL OPENS FLAGSHIP STORE IN NORTH PLAINFIELD, NJ

Social Enterprise Store Features a Drive-Up Donation Window

On October 27th, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc. held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today with local elected officials, including North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giordano Jr., to celebrate the opening of its flagship store and donation center in Somerset County.

The 12,000 square-foot flagship North Plainfield store and donation center will bring as many as 40 new jobs to the community and will provide retail training and work for persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment. Customers will find high-quality gently-used clothing and household goods at affordable prices. Goodwill's North Plainfield flagship store—its second store in Somerset County and its first to be built from the ground up—features high ceilings, ample natural light, and a great-value shopping experience.

Katy Gaul-Stigge, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc., said, "We are delighted to open our flagship store in North Plainfield to bring jobs, donations and sustainability opportunities. Thank you to New Jersey and Somerset County—which have been so welcoming to Goodwill."

The North Plainfield store features a "DonationXpress" and convenient drive-up destination options. Residents may contribute to the mission of Goodwill by donating usable belongings between store hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday. Since 1915, Goodwill NYNJ has helped residents re-use and re-purpose their goods. In 2016, Goodwill NYNJ diverted more than 128 million pounds of usable goods from

local landfills, served more than 60,000 people, and placed 6,200 individuals in jobs. Because Goodwill is a not-for-profit organization, contributed items in good condition are tax-deductible, and receipts are provided upon request.

The Goodwill North Plainfield store and donation center is located at
955 Route 22 West,
North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

Phone is (908) 668-4503.

ABOUT GOODWILL NYNJ

Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc. is a social enterprise that provides workforce development services, and retail and business opportunities. Its mission is to empower individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment to gain independence through the power of work. The 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization operates 57 programs and is a member of the network of 162 agencies of Goodwill Industries International, each with a designated region.

Goodwill NYNJ's 41 retail stores support its mission through the sale of new and slightly used donated goods while providing training and employment for its core constituency. GoodTemps, Goodwill's temporary staffing division, places 700 individuals in jobs weekly in private companies and city and state agencies. The nonprofit's welfare to work programs offer resources and supports to break the cycle of poverty for those facing significant barriers.

Since its beginnings in Brooklyn 102 years ago, Goodwill has helped greater New York area residents become work-ready so they can build better lives for themselves and their families.

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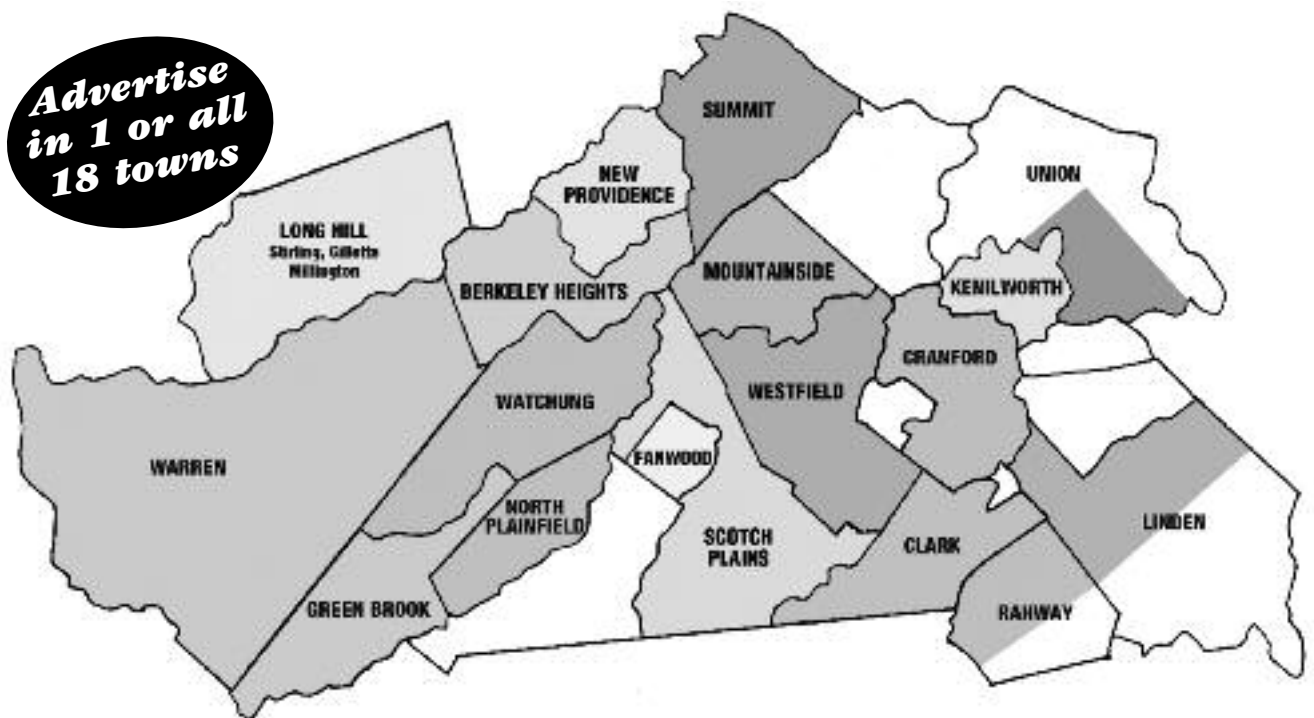


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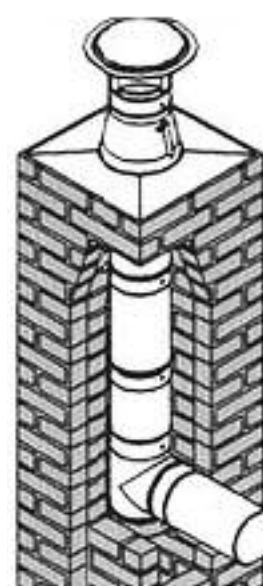
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