



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

MERCER HUB Issue 2.2

Committment to the Community

Clinic Delivers Skills, Connections and More

The VOL./NJ4S basketball clinic was created with the goal of fostering a deeper love for basketball among children and preteens. For many kids, particularly in the underserved areas, sports offer an escape from the realities of daily life as well as provide the path to potential futures in any field. This clinic was as much a training camp as it was a glimpse into what can be, what these kids can become and produce if they just follow the blueprints to success and focus on their goals. The clinic evolved into a joint venture when NJ4S-Mercer partnered with VOL. Publications, a New Jersey-based organization known for hosting weekly basketball runs that attract some of the best players in the state. This partnership was formed by Taj Bewley of NJ4S and Chris Chandler of VOL. Publications.

VOL. Publications brought not only a deep understanding of basketball culture but also powerful connections. Through this partnership, brand-new Nike basketball sneakers were provided to every child and family. For many of the campers, this was the first

time receiving such high-quality shoes specifically for basketball. For the parents, it brought relief and reassurance in knowing that the community cared and how this partnership of community organizations wanted to provide children with essential tools that could potentially change their lives if they chose to pursue basketball further. Many connections were made, which may allow the clinics and lessons to be brought to schools and other programs in the future.

The excitement and joy from both parents and campers were palpable as they received sneakers, drawstring bags, socks, water bottles, meals, and world-class training from professional players. What started as a joint basketball clinic quickly became more than just a camp- it became a commitment to the families and the community. A commitment that says NJ4S-Mercer and VOL. will be here to support you and your families by working together as a community. This same level of commitment is being

given to upcoming clinics provided in conjunction with our partners at VOL. Publications.

In partnership with VOL. Publishing, the Mercer Hub hosted a Youth Basketball Clinic on March 15th at the Rider University Schimek Family Fitness Center in Lawrenceville, NJ.





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Upcoming Events

Free Family Skating Outing

Join NJ4S's first-ever ice-skating event, Strengthening Bonds on the Rink! Whether a novice or a Michelle Kwan on the ice, this is a fantastic opportunity to come out and have fun with others in the community.

Created by Prevention Consultant Falose Andre, in partnership with Ice Land Skating Rink, an afternoon filled with skating skills, thrills and minor spills awaits. Hot cocoa and churros will be provided to keep you warm as you enjoy the rink!

Although the event is completely free, space is limited. Registration is required to secure a spot. Do not miss out on this chance to bond with friends, family and the community, all while enjoying a fun-filled day on the ice!

When: Saturday, April 5th

Where: Ice Land Skating Rink, 6 Tennis Court, Trenton, NJ 08619

Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVQ7X62>



Fun with Mosaics

This spring, a return to the Boys and Girls Club will bring the next installment of the "Fun With," series. With a focus on Mosaics, NJ4S looks to bring a fun-filled day of art and creativity where future Picassos and Kahlo's can flex creative levels. The workshop will provide the means and tools to craft unique picture frames using colorful, vibrant, and expressive mosaic glass and grout.

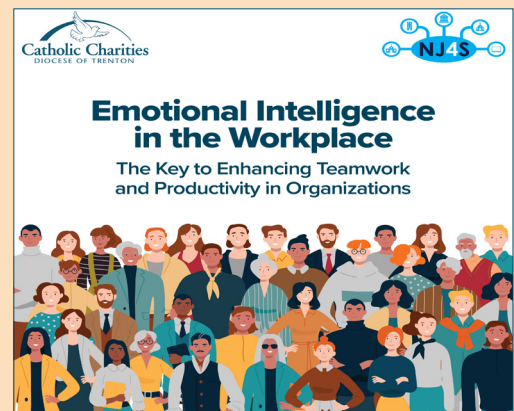
Curated by resident artist Helene Lodge, participants will understand and learn the basics of mosaic art while having fun with peers. Ms. Lodge will show kids how to carefully arrange chosen glass pieces into beautiful patterns, creating frames as unique as the creators. This hands-on workshop will allow imagination exploration and the chance to develop skills, including color coordination, design work, and craftsmanship.

The Fun with Mosaic event is all about expression and having fun. By the workshop's end, a one-of-a-kind, often imitated, never-to-be-duplicated keepsake and memory will be created to take home.

Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace Seminar

Are you ready to unlock your group's full potential? If so, allow us to give you the 'Key to Enhancing Teamwork and Productivity in Your Organization'! Allow NJ4S's expert Prevention Consultant, Seth Bature, to guide you through this transformative and enlightening journey. Seth offers dynamic professional development seminars that focus on the key aspects of emotional intelligence. Help your team thrive in the workplace and beyond! Contact NJ4S to request this complimentary workshop; each seminar is tailored to meet the unique needs of schools and organizations alike!

Call and schedule your seminar today: 609-394-5157 x3601 or x3602





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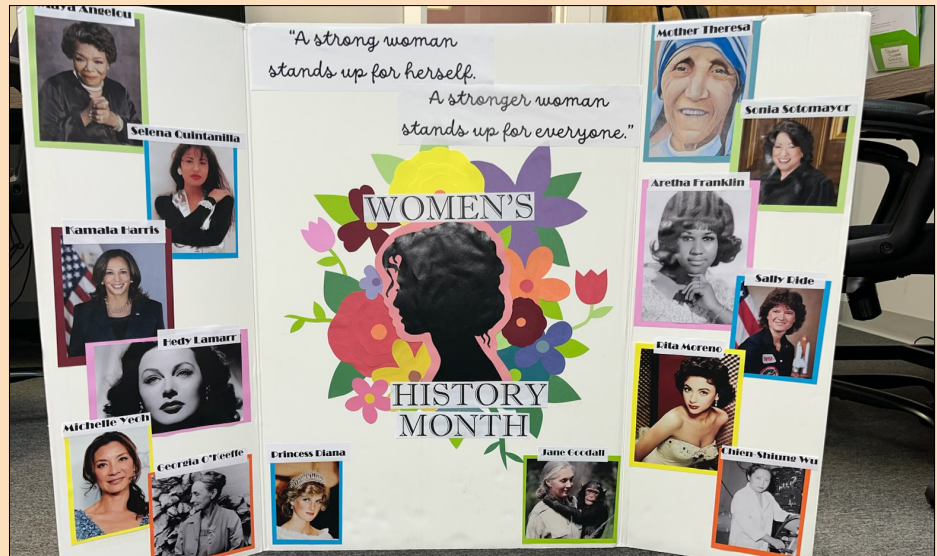
MERCER HUB

Tabling Events Around Mercer County

NJ4S-Mercer is excited to announce a series of Awareness Tabling events throughout Mercer County Schools over the next few months! These events are structured to engage students and staff in important discussions about key social issues and raise awareness about different causes. Here is what is coming up:

March: Women's History Month & Developmental Disabilities Awareness

In honor of Women's History Month, NJ4S is celebrating the outstanding achievements and contributions of women throughout history. During March, NJ4S also aims to shine a light on amplifying awareness of developmental disabilities, fostering and promoting understanding and support.



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY



April: Earth Day & Alcohol Awareness

April is not just about jokes and chocolate bunnies; it is also the perfect time to raise awareness about the planet! Earth Day events focused on environmental responsibility, impact, and sustainability await. During April's awareness events, NJ4S will also showcase the consequences of alcohol abuse while promoting strategies for healthy choices and healthy living.

May: Mental Health Awareness

As May arrives, NJ4S's focus turns to Mental Health Awareness. This month-long initiative will seek to provide resources, information, and open discussions about the struggles of mental well-being, helping to reduce stigma and encourage support for those battling mental health issues. fostering and promoting understanding and support.



All are encouraged to visit the tabling events to learn more, ask questions, and get involved. Stay tuned with school communications for more details as each event approaches!

Ongoing Programs



Parents Zen

NJ4S's Parents Zen program, led by Prevention Consultant Falose Andre, aims to provide a much-needed break and community support for parents. Drawing from personal experiences, the vision for Parent Zen offers guidance, relaxation and connection to help parents navigate the challenges of parenthood.

Tuesdays from 9 to 10 am

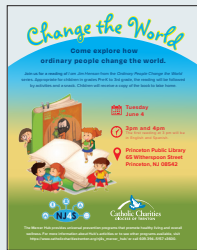
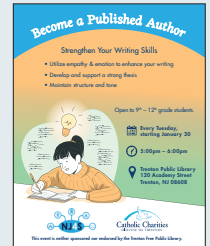
Cadwalader School, 501 Edgewood Ave., Trenton, NJ

Young Writers Program

The Young Writers Workshop, held Tuesdays at the Trenton Public Library, offers a creative space for aspiring writers to explore. Led by Taj Bewley, the program seeks to encourage students to explore various forms, allowing creativity to flourish.

Tuesdays from 5 to 6 pm

Trenton Public Library, 120 Academy Street, Trenton, NJ



Ordinary People

The "Ordinary People Change the World" workshop at the Trenton Public Library inspires young minds by exploring the stories of legendary figures like Billie Jean King and Jesse Owens. Through reading, children learn how ordinary people can make extraordinary impacts through resilience and determination.

First and third Wednesdays from 4 to 5 pm

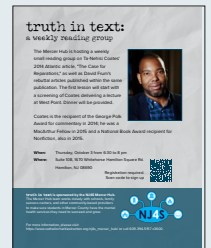
Trenton Public Library, 120 Academy Street, Trenton, NJ

Truth in Text

Join us for a deep dive into James Baldwin's "A Talk to Teachers" led by NJ4S HUB Director Michael Lovaglio. This discussion group explores the historical and ongoing effects of racial injustice in America and fosters critical conversations on social responsibility.

Next meeting Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 pm

Suite 10B, 1670 Whitehorse Hamilton Square Road, Hamilton, NJ



Events to Look Forward to

Community Screening- Lilo and Stitch

The time has come again for NJ4S' Community Screening event! Join the screening at AMC in Princeton Marketfair on June 7 to follow Lilo and Stitch on reimagined adventures together. Stay connected with school ClassDojo, Facebook community posts, and keep your eyes peeled for flyers with a QR code for registration. When registration opens, mark your calendars and become part of the action!



Summer Wellness Fair

You are cordially invited to NJ4S's **8 Dimensions of Wellness Fair** on July 18th, with a rain date of July 25th. This vibrant, inclusive and interactive event will offer something for everyone! Wellness can be explored through eight engaging stations designed to entertain and educate. Back by popular demand is the Book Nook, featuring hourly readings in English and Spanish, offering a cozy spot to enjoy stories. The best food, live music, fun games, and activities for all ages await, along with amazing prizes and giveaways. It's the perfect opportunity to spend time with family, learn about wellness, and enjoy the community. The event will take place at Saint Gregory the Great, located at 4680 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690, from 2 to 7 pm.

Student Support Services Mercer Hub

1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road, Suite 2 & Suite 4

Hamilton, NJ 08690

609-394-5157 x3600