

Compliments of

January 9, 2024

Independence 

LEARN NG KEY

THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE



**JOHN HANCOCK SCHOOL IS
READY TO BUILD FROM WITHIN**

Good News in the district

Middle-schoolers learn about building trades

Seventy-five students at General Louis Wagner Middle School traded in their Saturday morning free time last month for the opportunity to learn the foundational concepts of plumbing, electrical work and carpentry.

The event, which was held Dec. 16, was through a partnership with the Mayfair School and building trades instructor Evin Jarrett. The school is the only building trades program for middle school students in Philadelphia.

During the event, students received hands-on learning experience through an interactive exposure to the trades program. With a nationwide skilled trades labor shortage, students can be introduced to viable career paths. Students also received a trade guidebook from Councilmember Katherine Gilmore-Richardson.



Adults representing the building trades spoke to students at the General Louis Wagner Middle School last month about plumbing, electrical work and carpentry. — PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA



Evin Jarrett, right, is the Mayfair School and building trades instructor.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

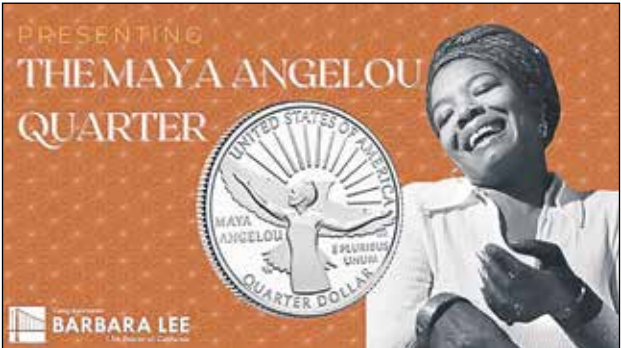
Jan. 9, 2001: Apple announced iTunes at the Macworld Expo in San Francisco, for organizing and playing digital music and videos.

Jan. 9, 2007: Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs announces the iPhone.

Jan. 10, 1986: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers scores his 34,000th career point during 124-102 win over Indiana Pacers; only NBA player to reach the milestone at that time; he remains the all-time leader (38,387).

Jan. 10, 2003: NBA announces Charlotte, N.C. is awarded an NBA expansion franchise to be known as the Charlotte Bobcats and start play in 2004-05; eventually changes to the Charlotte Hornets for the 2014-15 season.

Jan. 10, 2022: The U.S. Mint issues quarter coins commemorating poet Maya Angelou, first Black woman to be depicted.



The U.S. Mint issues quarter coins commemorating poet Maya Angelou, the first Black woman to be depicted, on Jan. 10, 2022. — FILE PHOTO

Jan. 12, 2017: President Barack Obama, in a surprise presentation, presents Vice President Joe Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Jan. 12, 2019: Missy Elliott is the first female rapper to be inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

CALENDAR

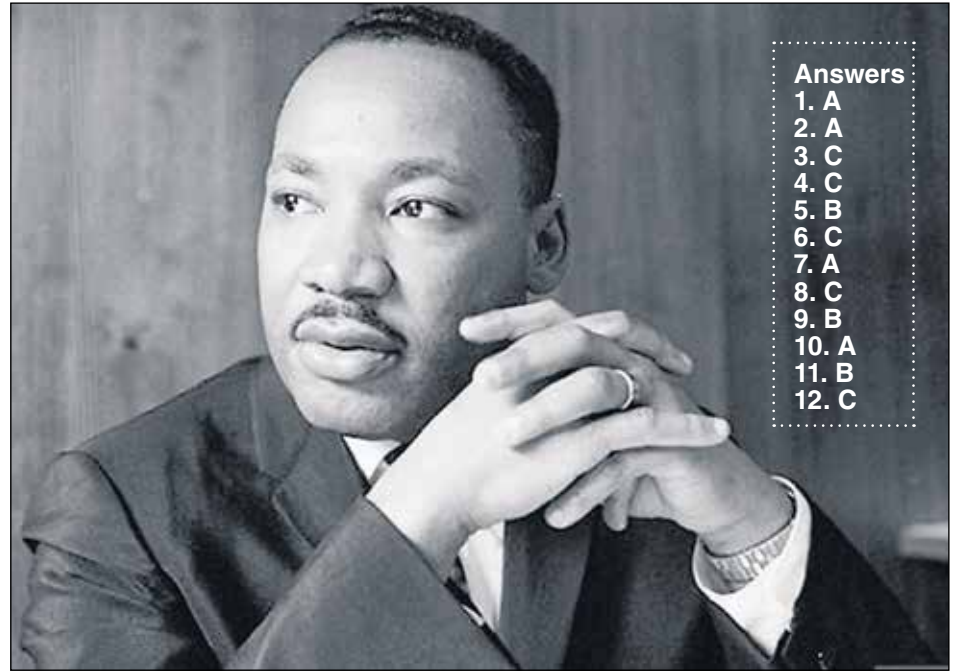
January

Jan. 9-17:
Keystone Testing Window

Jan. 15:
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, school closed for students and staff, administrative offices closed



A mural of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO



Answers

1. A
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. A
11. B
12. C

Can you answer the questions to this quiz about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? — AP PHOTO

Can you answer the questions to this quiz about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

One of the greatest leaders of 20th century America is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. During his years of service during the Civil Rights Movement, King led a nonviolent movement to combat racism and segregation.

The quiz below provides an opportunity for you to test your knowledge of Dr. King and the modern Civil Rights Movement as we observe the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16.

1. Dr. King believed in progress through the use of nonviolent means. Who was an important influence on King's philosophy?
 - A. Gandhi
 - B. Abraham Lincoln
 - C. John F. Kennedy
2. Which of these major events first distinguished Dr. King as an important civil rights leader?
 - A. The Montgomery Bus Boycott
 - B. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
 - C. Brown v. Board of Education
3. Dr. King received a Ph.D. from Boston University in what field?
 - A. Political science
 - B. History
 - C. Theology
4. In 1963, Dr. King was arrested and jailed during anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, Alabama. What famous work did he write during that time?
 - A. Why We Cant Wait
 - B. Where Do We Go From Here Chaos or Community
 - C. Letter From Birmingham City Jail
5. What world-famous prize was Dr. King honored with?
 - A. The Pulitzer Prize
 - B. The Nobel Peace Prize
 - C. The Nobel Prize in Literature
6. Which of these quotations is by Dr. King?
 - A. "I am America, I am the part you wont recognize; But get used to me, Black, confident, cocky; my name,
- not yours, my religion, not yours, my goals, my own, get used to me."
- B. "You're either part of the solution, or part of the problem."
- C. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."
7. Where did Dr. King give his famous 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech?
 - A. During the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
 - B. When he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize
 - C. During the Birmingham Bus Boycott
8. The city in which Dr. King was born has numerous memorials and historical landmarks associated with him — what city is it?
 - A. Memphis
 - B. Detroit
 - C. Atlanta
9. Where was Dr. King born?
 - A. Detroit, Michigan
 - B. Atlanta, Georgia
 - C. Chicago, Illinois
10. How old was Dr. King when he entered Morehouse College in Atlanta?
 - A. 15
 - B. 17
 - C. 19
11. How many streets are named after Dr. King in the United States?
 - A. Less than 200
 - B. More than 700
 - C. Almost 500
12. In 1963, Dr. King gave his most famous speech. What was it called?
 - A. Freedom
 - B. Walk with Me
 - C. I Have a Dream

— <https://www.factmonster.com/take-quiz/martinlutherkingkids>

SCHOOL OF THE WEEK



Assistant principal of the Middle School LaBrum Campus Kevin Kelly, front left, Principal Melissa Bragg, center, and assistant principal of the elementary school campus Chris Oswald, right, with the 2023-2024 Hancock staff. — PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN HANCOCK DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL

John Hancock School is ready to build from within

CHANEL HILL

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

When Melissa Bragg became the principal of the John Hancock Demonstration school last year, one of her goals was to align grades K-8. John Hancock is one school, but has two different locations.

The elementary school campus is located at 3700 Morrell Ave. and the middle school, LaBrum Campus, is located at 10800 Hawley Rd. The overall school has nearly 778 students.

"One of the things that make our experience so unique is that we are one school in two separate locations that is not

an annex," Bragg said. "We are two miles apart into different zip codes.

"It was very important for me as the new principal to align the school as a K-8. We used to have two mascots, now we have one," she said. "We used to have multiple logos and now we have one.

"Those things are important because I want our students to lean into the fact that we have this unique experience," she added. "We want them to know that when they leave fifth grade with us, you don't have to go to a new school, but just a new building up the road."

Balancing the use of technology

in academics is among the focus areas for the school this year.

"We've always been a high performing school, but because we are coming out of the pandemic we're really starting to see the things that our students need," Bragg said. "We want to make sure we are finding a balance of integrating technology, but also not abandoning the basics of things that we know that work well.

"We're making sure that kids are able to put paper to pencil and that they are holding books in their hands to be able to read," she said. "We don't want everything on the screen. We're really trying to find that balance and

offer them a unique learning experience. We're also really trying to provide professional development for our teachers that feels new and current. We're a demonstration school and we're only one of two in the city.

"Our teachers are the model, the exemplar, and it's up to us to make sure that we are on the cutting edge of educational practices," she added. "That's another focus for us this year is really taking advantage of any opportunities that we can to have people come in and give us feedback that can help us learn, especially with this new math curriculum."

John Hancock is one of two schools in Philadelphia that

works with children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The school's mission is to create productive global-minded citizens by providing an inclusive safe student-centered learning environment where learners are empowered and held accountable through inquiry-driven project based learning.

"We do have a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Program for K-8 and our students are exposed to the general education curriculum," Bragg said. "We also try to make sure that everything that we do is grounded in data. We're having conversations with them and trying to provide them with world exposure to be good citizens.



2022-2023 production of The Wizard of Oz.



Students of the Brew Crew checking inventory and preparing orders.



Students excited to share during fourth grade math.



Students preparing to participate in the Color Run.

"We want them to think of a world outside of just our Hancock community and Philadelphia," she said. "We have different activities every month that support their social-emotional learning. Our fourth and fifth graders get social-emotional learning."

"We do community meeting check-ins every day," she added. "For our middle school students, we have one of the highest responses of students

feeling that they have an adult or a peer that they can talk to in sixth, seventh and eighth grade. We also provide community service opportunities."

The school offers students a plethora of programs and activities for students to participate in including the drama club, athletics and student council.

"We have a drama club and we put on a full scale production every year," Bragg said. "Last

year, we did the 'Wizard of Oz' and this year we're doing the 'Sound of Music.'

"We try to have K-8 participate and our students start auditioning in January," she said. "A lot of our students end up going to [Benjamin] Rush because of their exposure to the drama program that we have here."

"We also have student council and sports," she added. "If the kids are interested in something,

we try to have it. I think it's important for them to know that we hear them and support them. We want them to be well-rounded."

Bragg said she wants students at the school to feel safe and seen.

"It's a very interesting time in being a child in school in this day and age," Bragg said. "I just want them to know that we see them and we love them for who they are. They can be confident

in themselves and then go out into the world and let the world see them."

"They don't have to hide anything or be embarrassed about anything, we're celebrating successes," she said. "If you fail, it's an opportunity for us to figure out how to be better. It's not a failure, it's a learning opportunity."

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Representatives from the School District of Philadelphia, school leaders and city officials celebrated the newly constructed Thomas M. Peirce School with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month. — PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

School district celebrates newly constructed Thomas M. Peirce School

CHANEL HILL
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

When students from the Thomas M. Peirce School returned from their winter break on Jan. 3, they were welcomed back in their new school building.

The \$43.9 million project provides students with a state-of-the-art facility and is the first public elementary school built in

North Philadelphia in over seven decades.

Representatives from the School District of Philadelphia, school leaders and city officials celebrated the new school with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month. Following the ribbon cutting and brief remarks, there were guided tours of the building.

"We believe that all children deserve a state-of-the-art learn-

ing environment," said School District of Philadelphia Tony Watlington Sr. in a statement. "We know that our students' perceptions of building conditions are related to their feelings of belonging, safety, and trust at their schools.

"This is one of the reasons that improving physical, social-emotional, and environmental safety and well-being is the first pri-

ority area in Accelerate Philly, the School District of Philadelphia's five-year strategic plan to achieve the Board of Education's Goals and Guardrails," he said. "This new building is one of the first steps toward achieving that goal."

The new 77,000-square-foot elementary school in North Philadelphia replaced a building built in 1909 and has the capacity to

serve 500 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

The building was designed for a LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, an esteemed green building rating. The school features 20 traditional classrooms, two classrooms for electives, a gym, cafeteria digital lab, makerspace and an integrated Medica Center.

Blackney Hayes Architects



Another classroom in the Thomas M. Peirce School.



One of the classrooms in the Thomas M. Peirce School.



The auditorium.

designed the highly-efficient building LEED. Among the primary contractors and union labor that built this 21st Century LEED-inspired Learning Center include BSI Construction, Devine Brothers Plumbing, EJ Electric, Allstate Mechanical, and various minority and women-owned businesses that supported this project.

"It is an honor to welcome you

to this historic moment in the North Philadelphia Community and to the new home of Thomas May Peirce Elementary School," said principal of T.M. Peirce Anthony Gordon in a statement.

"I would like to express my utmost appreciation to our students, families, and staff for their unwavering resilience throughout the years. The fruit of our labor

is the creation of a 21st Century Learning Environment right here in the 19132 zip code," he said.

T.M. Peirce is one of four construction projects currently in progress in the District. The others include the AMY at James Martin School, Lewis C. Cassidy Academics Plus School, and Thomas Holme Elementary School. This is also the fourth

newly constructed school since 2021, joining Powel/SLAMS, Northeast Propel Academy, and Solomon Solis-Cohen.

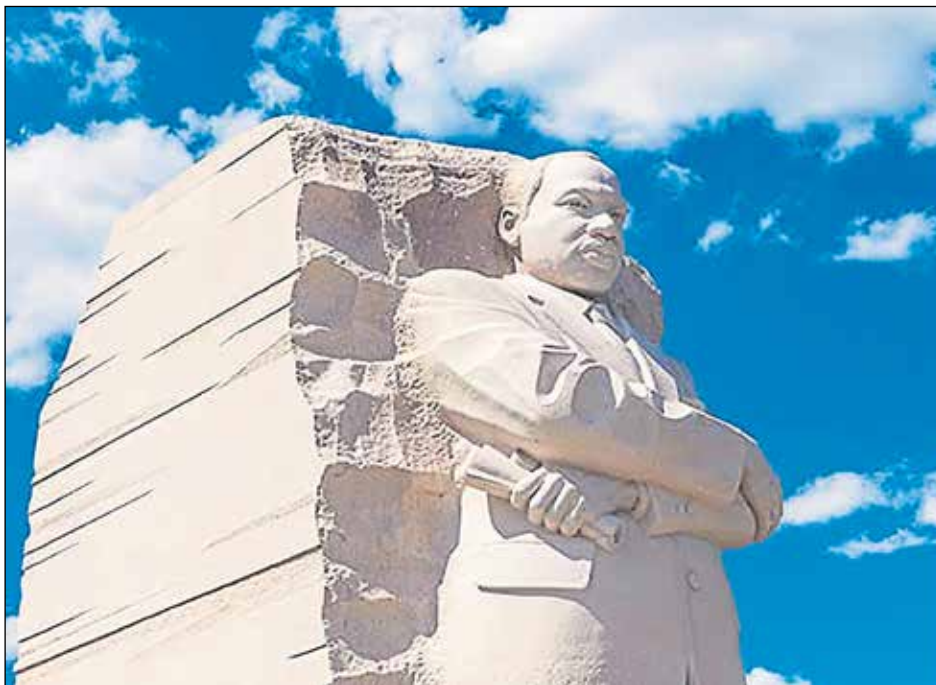
"The T.M. Peirce School is much more than a structure," said chief operating officer for the School District of Philadelphia Oz Hill in a statement.

"It's a gleaming beacon of hope and aspiration, a dynamic

hub that will strengthen community bonds and a place where students, teachers, parents and the community can collaborate to create an environment that not only nurtures the academic success of our young scholars," he said.

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DID YOU KNOW?



Surrounding the statue of Dr. King is a 450 foot-long Inscription Wall, which features 14 quotes from King's speeches, sermons and writings. — FILE PHOTO

Facts about the MLK Memorial

- The MLK Memorial falls directly in line with the Jefferson Memorial and Lincoln Memorial.
- The design of the memorial is the result of a very competitive bidding process. More than 900 applicants from 52 countries tried to win the design honor.
- The address for the memorial is 1964 Independence Ave., referencing the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
- Surrounding the statue of Dr. King is a 450 foot-long Inscription Wall, which features 14 quotes from King's speeches, sermons and writings.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial was originally supposed to open on Aug. 22, 2011. The date was moved to Oct. 16, 2011, due to damage from Hurricane Irene.
- The MLK Memorial came about thanks in large part to the efforts of the fraternity that Dr. King belonged to, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Nature is an important part of the memorial's design. The cherry trees are positioned to bloom in a particular spot, so as to cause the effect of Martin Luther King, Jr. gazing upon them.
- The designers chose quotes on the walls of the memorial from speeches other than 'I Have a Dream' to help visitors appreciate the different speeches that Dr. King delivered during his lifetime.
- The site includes a large stone sculpture of Dr. King, inscription walls, two water features, an entry plaza, and raised garden areas.
- The statue of Dr. King was sculpted by Lei Yixin, a Chinese artist, out of Chinese granite in China.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Inscriptions were chosen by a special "Council of Historians," which included Maya Angelou and Henry Louis Gates. The quotes were chosen with Dr. King's four main principles in mind: justice, democracy, hope and love.

— www.nps.gov.

Your school can be...

SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Each week a public school is featured as "School of the Week" in the Learning Key. Is there something special about your school, classroom, principal, teacher or schoolmates that you would like to share with our readers?

TELL US ABOUT THEM.

To be selected as the School of the Week, write (in 50 words or less) why your school should be nominated as our featured school. Please include *name, grade, school, school address, zipcode, and phone number*.

Students, teachers and school staff are encouraged to submit an entry.

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