

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year, New Beginning

A new year always gives me a moment to pause. It's a time to look back at how far we've come—and to look ahead with hope. Every January reminds me that growth doesn't come from being perfect, but from showing up each day, learning from mistakes, and continuing forward.

As we begin 2026, I feel deeply proud of our students—their effort, resilience, and willingness to challenge themselves. I am also grateful for our teachers and families, whose care and support make this community feel like more than a school.

This year, we are excited to introduce **Monthly Class Awards** in each class. Your teachers will recognize students for Excellence, Engagement, and Growth—not just for high grades, but for effort, participation, and progress. These awards are meant to celebrate learning, improvement, and the small victories that happen every day in the classroom.

Wishing you all a meaningful and hopeful start to the new year.

Yi Qian
Head of School

JANUARY THEME

NEW YEAR, STRONGER CONNECTIONS

As we begin the new year, our community comes together through learning, celebration, and shared experiences. From student achievements in robotics and entrepreneurship to meaningful cultural and community engagement, January highlights the connections that bring our students, faculty, and partners closer as we move forward together.

Kettering UNIVERSITY			
1	41618H Hermes	2.20	8.00
2	50168A Elite Prep	2.00	8.00
3	2616N Null	2.00	8.00
4	41618F V-Tech	2.00	5.00
5	2616H Hydra	1.80	10.00

Congratulations to our Robotics Team! At the recent VEX V5 Qualifier, our students **earned 2nd place in the qualification rounds and advanced to the Semifinals in the Elimination Round**. They brought focus, creativity, and great energy to every match, demonstrating the power of teamwork and perseverance. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and look forward to cheering them on in future competitions!



EntreX Lab

ENTREX IS A 3-CREDIT DUAL-ENROLLMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE DEVELOPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE AND OFFERED TO EPA STUDENTS.

We are excited to see students already enrolled in the EntreX entrepreneurship course, where they are building skills in creative thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application. Through **hands-on activities and collaborative projects**, students gain experience in **developing ideas, communicating effectively, and approaching challenges with an entrepreneurial mindset**.

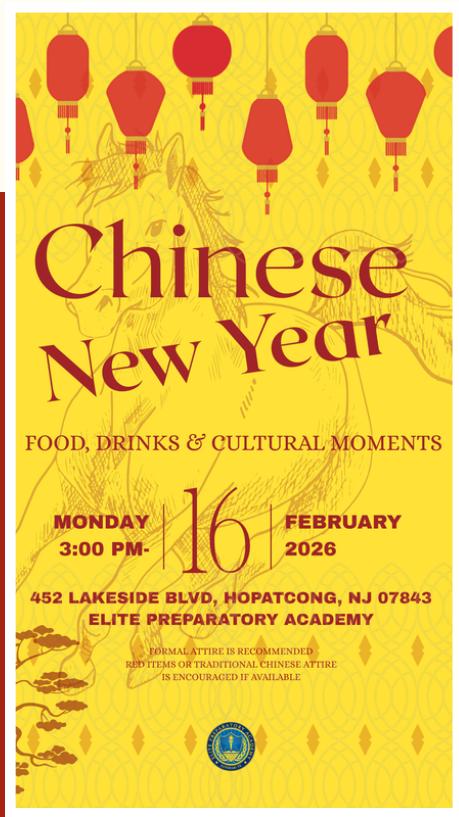
We encourage more students who are curious about **business, innovation, and practical learning** to consider joining this course. EntreX offers a unique opportunity to develop **transferable skills** that support both academic growth and future goals.

This month, we welcomed representatives from the **Lake Hopatcong Foundation** to campus for a meaningful conversation about community engagement, environmental education, and volunteer opportunities. The visit offered students a chance to learn how local organizations work to support the community and how they can become involved through service and outreach.

We thank **Dr. Joseph Preville** for coordinating this visit and student **Peter Payeras Pons** for collaborating with him on the accompanying article. We also appreciate the faculty, students, and student leaders who helped make this visit possible. Experiences like this strengthen our connection with the local community and encourage students to engage beyond the classroom.

Year of the Horse

“As we embrace the Year of the Horse, an atmosphere of vitality and advancement envelops us.”



Chinese New Year is one of the most vibrant times of the year on campus. It is filled with color, food, laughter, and shared traditions—a moment for students, faculty, and families to come together, pause from the everyday routine, and enjoy being part of one community.

This year, our celebration is themed around the Year of the Horse. Rather than simply marking a date on the calendar, it invites us to notice the energy and creativity around us, appreciate the different cultures within our school, and step into the new year with curiosity and an open mind.

CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR AT EPA

As part of our Chinese New Year celebration, the EPA community will gather on **Monday, February 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM on campus** for an afternoon of cultural connection. The event will take place at EPA, welcoming students, faculty, invited guests, and community partners.

The celebration will feature food, drinks, and cultural moments, creating a festive and welcoming space for cultural exchange. Students will take an active role in hosting and engaging with guests, offering an opportunity to share traditions, build confidence, and connect with members of the broader community in a meaningful and joyful setting.

Guests are encouraged to wear formal attire, with red items or traditional Chinese attire welcomed if available, in the spirit of the celebration.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Each year in the Chinese zodiac is represented by an animal, creating a 12-year cycle with different characteristics linked to each year.
- People born in a Horse year are often described as energetic, sociable, and adventurous, with a strong love of independence.
- Red is widely used during Chinese New Year because it is believed to bring good luck and happiness. In traditional stories, loud noises and bright red decorations were used to scare away bad spirits.
- Lunar New Year celebrations can last up to 15 days, ending with the Lantern Festival. Many families clean their homes before the new year to “sweep out” the old year and make room for good fortune.

Monthly Recognition

Recognizing Our Teacher and Student of the Month

MR. ERIC ANDERSON

We are pleased to recognize Mr. Eric Anderson as our **Teacher of the Month**. Students described Mr. Anderson as **encouraging, supportive, and approachable**, highlighting the positive and welcoming environment he creates in the classroom. His calm demeanor and genuine care help students feel comfortable, motivated, and confident in their learning.



ALICE BU *Grade 7*

Alice has shown **wonderful growth** this month as one of the youngest students at EPA. She consistently completes her homework with great attention to detail and demonstrated strong understanding on her recent assessments. Alice's **focus, effort, and steady improvement** reflect a positive approach to learning, and we are proud to recognize her progress.

We thank Mr. Anderson for his dedication to our students and for the meaningful impact he continues to make each day. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!