



## Meadowlands Area YMCA 21stCCLC After School Program

# Welcome!!!

September 2023



**W**elcome Back!!! The Moonachie's After School Program is back and in full swing. This Back-to-School issue will feature an update on our Community Garden, the Robert L. Craig Elementary School Guitar Club, and Chorus, and other upcoming activities,

Our core mission is to have our students continue to learn from our science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) curriculum. In addition to the traditional science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program, Moonachie After School program incorporates arts into our after-school program. In this issue, you will see a number of students thriving in the **Robert L. Craig Music, Community Garden and other afternoon school activities.**

Stay tuned for more updates and news throughout the year. Please feel to reach out to us, if you have any questions about the Moonachie After School Program.

Phil Facendola  
Program Director

# Fruits of our Fall Harvest

The [Montclair Community Farms](#) continues to teach and work with our students in the Robert L. Craig School Community Garden during the after-school program.

According to Satoni Zaccaro, Farm Manager at Montclair Community Farms, the students discussed composting, what it is, and the importance of it in the garden. The students took a look at some compost that has broken down and went through it to see if they could find- bugs, remnants of eggshells, broken down fruit, leaves, etc. They even spotted things that don't belong in compost, like plastic.

Afterwards, the students cleared beds, added the new compost into the beds in order to "replenish" the soil so the new plants will have food to grow nice and strong. The students planted some lettuce, and then they harvested some tomatoes, peppers, collard greens and picked some flowers. Joining Zaccaro and the students this fall was After School Program Counselor Randy Petruzzella.

According to Phil Facendola, Program Director of the YMCA's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community Center, Montclair Community Farms continues to provide our students with a creative, fun and educational program that gives our students an appreciation for gardening."

"We are grateful for the support from the South Bergen Rotary Club, The Meadowlands YMCA, Lowe's, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community Centers and the Borough of Moonachie that allows our students to continue learning about the basics of gardening," added Facendola. The program will be ending in mid-October, and then restarting in the spring of 2024.





# It's Just Music to Our Ears






**T**he Guitar Club is off to a great start. Under the direction of Robert L. Craig Elementary School's Music Teacher Kim Schmidt, 20 students held their first session of the Guitar Club. According to Ms. Schmidt the students range from beginners to advanced guitarists. The club also offers students to try their hand at the ukulele. In addition to being the music teacher, Ms. Schmidt is also the director of the Robert L. Craig Chorus. The chorus recently performed at the Moonachie 9-11 Ceremony.

Phil Facendola, Program Director of the YMCA's 21st Century Learning Community Center said. "Music is just another outlet that gives our students the opportunity to develop their musical and choral skills, as well as helping them to expand their creativity in the arts."



# HOOP IT UP!!! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



**2023-2024**

## BOROUGH OF MOONACHIE IN-HOUSE BASKETBALL

**WEDNESDAY  
STARTING SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

**BOYS & GIRLS  
5TH - 6TH GRADE 6PM - 7PM  
7TH - 8TH GRADE 7PM - 8PM**

**\$50 PER CHILD  
CHECK PAYABLE  
TO  
BOROUGH OF  
MOONACHIE**

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CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRT SIZE: (PLEASE CIRCLE) YL AS AM AL AXL

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY - PLEASE NOTIFY:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATION TO CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_



I HEREBY GIVE MY CHILD PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOONACHIE RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S IN HOUSE BASKETBALL PROGRAM.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

IF INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING: (PLEASE CIRCLE) COACH TEAM PARENT

**RETURN FORM WITH PAYMENT TO MR. FACENDOLA AT RLC**

**2023-2024**


## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

**Program Begins on Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

**MONDAY  
... FRIDAY**


**3PM - 6PM**

**HOMEWORK  
HELP, STEAM  
PROGRAMS,  
FITNESS &  
NUTRITION**



**GRADES 3 - 9**

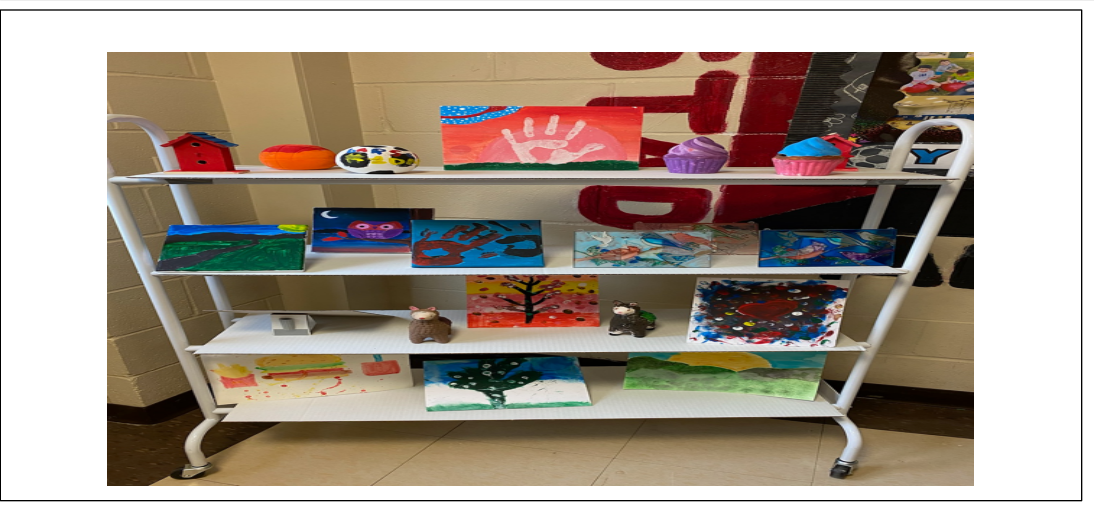
Registration for the Fall After-School Program is now open for students in grades 3 - 9. Please follow the QR code below or go to the YMCA page on the RLC website to register.



CONTACT:  
**Phil Facendola, Project Director**  
201-206-8774

\*This program was funded in part through a grant with Federal Funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act. Thank you to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers at the YMCA through a grant agreement with the Borough of Moonachie Department of Education.

## Student Art Projects on Display



**2023-2024**




## PROGRAMA DE "DESPUES DE LA ESCUELA"

**comienza miercoles 6 de septiembre 2023**

**LUNES  
... VIERNES**

**3PM - 6PM**

**AYUDA CON LAS  
TAREAS,  
PROGRAMAS DE  
STEAM, ACTIVIDAD  
FISICA Y  
NUTRICION**



**GRADES 3 - 9**

La registracion para el programa de "Despues de la Escuela" ya esta abierto para los estudiantes de los grados de 3 - 9. Por favor siga el codigo QR aqui debajo o dirigase a la pagina del YMCA en el sitio web de RLC para registrarse.



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