

Superintendent's Report

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NJDOE TOURS PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

On Monday, May 7, Piscataway High School welcomed the NJDOE Acting NJ Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lamont Repollet, along with other NJDOE officials. The Commissioner was interested in learning more about Piscataway's focus on educational equity, and how the district addresses this issue through innovative programs such as Math Potential and Peer Mentoring. The Commissioner is visiting one district in every county and selected Piscataway to represent Middlesex County based on our record of student achievement and the diversity of our student population. After a brief tour of PHS with stops in arts and engineering classrooms, the NJDOE contingency moved to the library, where they engaged in conversations with students and faculty. They were most interested in views on testing and assessment, as they move toward determining the future of PARCC.



PWAY STUDENTS SHINE AT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DINNER

Piscataway's partnership with Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) is rewarding for students at both our intermediate and high schools. On April 10, 56 PHS High School Heroes shared their business skills with Arbor students, teaching standards-based financial literacy lessons, as they did at King School earlier this year. Then, on Thursday, April 19, several Piscataway students were honored to serve as Ambassadors at the 16th Annual New Jersey Business Hall of Fame Induction. Among them, three King School students, Dylan Palmieri, Salomon Ealey, and Mackenzie Grace Daly were the first-ever intermediate school students chosen to introduce inductees. Our students rehearsed their intro speeches and meticulously presented them. This year's honorees were NJBIA President and CEO Michele N. Siekerka, Esq., Investors Bank CEO and President Kevin Cummings, and Merck & Co. Chairman and CEO Kenneth C. Frazier, who was inducted by PHS senior Adam Liang. We are proud of our students and thank Junior Achievement for the opportunities they bring to our students and schools.



BOARD MEMBERS AWARDED CERTIFIED BOARD DESIGNATIONS

Piscataway Board of Education Vice President Ira Stern and Board Member Dr. Tom Connors were recently awarded individual honors by the New Jersey School Board Association. Mr. Stern received Master Board Member Certification and Dr. Connors received Certified Board Leader Designation. To earn these distinctions, board members must complete hours of education credits and attend county meetings, annual workshops, full-day professional development programs, and pass an examination. The awards were given by National School Board President, Kevin Ciak. Congratulations to Mr. Stern and Dr. Connors. We are grateful for your continued dedication to the Piscataway Township School District.



PHS STUDENT WINS CONGRESSIONAL ART AWARD

Piscataway High School students swept the top awards in the Sixth Congressional District Spring Art Awards. Imani Sylvain won first place, Savannah Cook won second place, and Kathleen Hammerdahl won third place, while Nayab Azfina, Avia Hurley, Sara Venturi received honorable mentions. Imani's work will hang in the Capital Building in the coming year. Congratulations to these students and their teachers, Dorothy Amme and Lisa Lentini-Pombrio!



ARBOR EGG DROP

Arbor fourth grade math gifted and talented students worked with their teacher, Ms. Sandra Garcia, on multiple skills involving math, science, and engineering. Their culminating activity was the *Egg Drop Challenge*, where students created packaging to protect an egg in an egg toss from the roof of the school. Students watched videos of successful egg drops and then got to work. They converted units of measure from inches to meters and ounces to grams; they used different measurement tools to determine velocity. Teams created PowerPoint presentations to present their data. And on the day of the egg drop, each egg dropped to the ground unscathed.



RUTGERS TENNIS VISITS QUIBBLETOWN

On Friday, April 27, through Fuel Up To Play 60, four members of the Rutgers tennis team joined Quibbletown seventh graders in the auxiliary gym. They taught different ladder drills, jump rope skills, and leg exercises. At the end of class, the tennis team took questions and discussed the importance of nutrition for athletic performance and overall health. Quibbletown looks forward to seeing these Rutgers athletes again next year!



KING LIGHTS UP BLUE



King School lit up blue -- promoting Autism Awareness in April. Puzzle pieces decorated classroom doors to show each student is unique. Penguin Peers worked with special needs students to paint puzzle pins and other art activities. Finally, fifth grade leaders gave presentations to all fourth grade classrooms to increase acceptance of autistic students and continue positivity at King School.

SCHOR HONORS ALGEBRA STUDENTS GO BEYOND THE

Ms. Emily Slavik's Honors Algebra students were given a project in which they graph a variety of function types learned in the first three marking periods. Each student is asked to create a picture of his/her choice by graphing the functions with restricted domains. Some students went above and beyond expectations by including more than was required as well as researching functions that are not covered in this curriculum.



CONACKAMACK "CONVERSATIONS WITH A COP"

Conackamack held its first "Conversations with a Cop" program afterschool on March 15, 2018. Initiated, organized and funded with snacks and beverages (and table linens!) by ELA teacher Ms. Lisa Shields, Conackamack students had a rich discussion with Detective Tishun Myers and Detective Calvin Laughlin about the purpose of SROs (School Resource Officers) and what police officers lives are like. The students asked many wonderful questions and the detectives shared insightful (and funny) stories. CMS hopes to have many more opportunities for students to get to know their local PD.



PWAY SPECIAL OLYMPIANS HEAD TO SEATTLE

From July 1-6, 2018 more than 4,000 athletes and coaches from all 50 states will descend upon Seattle for the Special Olympics USA Games. Two Piscataway students, Nicholas Buchek and Louis Fowlkes currently enrolled in the SAIL Program, are on Team New Jersey, and will participate in track and field events. In addition to showcasing the awe-inspiring abilities of thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities, the 2018 USA Games in Seattle will model the ideals of inclusion and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Special Olympics.



JUMP AHEAD THIS SUMMER

The Office of Community Education will again offer Jump Ahead Academic Assistance and Academic Enrichment this summer at Schor Middle School and Grandview Elementary School. Academic Enrichment gives students an opportunity to sample course material for the following school year. Classes use a personalized, web-based program guided by teacher-directed instruction. Academic Assistance, offered to invited students in grades K-8, is a free, engaging, and fun program that is tailored to a child's individual needs. This personalized, web-based program combines digital learning with direct instruction in Math and Language Arts. Registration for both programs is available in Community Pass.

PHS CERAMIC ARTISTS LEARN NEW TECHNIQUE

On Friday, April 27, PHS Ceramics students worked with Brett Thomas at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA in a Raku Pottery Workshop. The word Raku signifies enjoyment of freedom; the Raku unique firing process was developed in Japan in the early 1500's as the Ceremonial Tea Ware of the Zen Buddhist Masters. Pottery is removed from the kiln at bright red heat and subjected to post-firing reduction (or smoking), which blackens raw clay and creates cracks in the glaze. The students participated in all aspects of the process and their reaction to the finished product was audible! Thank you to Mary Wartenburg for providing this amazing real-world art experience for students.



FIVE MUSIC STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL STATE ENSEMBLES

Five Piscataway music students have been named to All State music ensembles this year. Juniors Darin Mak (Tenor 2), Cyril Gutierrez (Tenor 1), and Julia Walker (Alto 2) were named to All State Choir; Sophomore Annie Wang was named to All State Band on clarinet; and Conackamack Seventh Grader Huyen Nguyen was named to All State Intermediate Orchestra on violin. They will meet with other top student musicians from around the state to rehearse their program over one weekend and perform at venues across the state. All State Band performed earlier this year at NJPAC; All State Intermediate Orchestra will perform at Rahway High School in May; All State Choir will perform at the Convention Center in Atlantic City.



GLOW FOR A CURE RAISES OVER \$10,000

The 2018 Glow for a Cure Walk/Run on Saturday, May 5 exceeded its fundraising goal of \$10000! People of all ages and athletic abilities walked or ran the 2.5 mile illuminated course with glow sticks, bright colors and great music on hand. Proceeds are donated to Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in support of pancreatic cancer research. Thanks to the entire Glow committee: Indira Wojcik, Harold Abraham, Lisa Moore, Jonathan Simmonds, Nicollette Serido, Staci Berger, Sandy Ogilvie, Dawn Smith, Vinny Stio, James Boyd, Chris Irovando, Olivia Ruszczyk, and Stephanie Kenyon.



RANDOLPHVILLE SEES PINK

Randolphville recently held its annual Change for Autism coin drive in order to raise awareness and support for children with autism and their families. Teachers and staff were impressed by the kindness and generosity on display during the week-long drive. Students were challenged to raise more than last year's total and came through in a big way! As a result of reaching their goal, students voted to see school counselor Dr. Mehok and Acting Assistant Principal Brian Voigt dye their hair pink for a day.



EISENHOWER CAREER DAY

A bio-mechanical engineer, a staff member of the Dunellen Public Library, a music producer, Piscataway Police and many other community members generously volunteered their time to teach Eisenhower students about their roles in the community.



GRANDVIEW STUDENTS STUDY WOMEN IN HISTORY

Students in Miss Kovacs's second grade class completed a *Women in History* project -- creating a cereal box filled with facts about *Women in History* and then presenting their box in one of three formats: a "Shark tank" pitch; acting out a *Women in History* scene; or reading aloud quotes about *Women in History*. Students then voted on which presentations to include in a video project filmed before a green screen and viewed for the first time on April 19, 2018.



PWAY ALUMNI NEW FACE OF RUTGERS FUTURE SCHOLARS

Piscataway Alumnus Eric Singh is everywhere around the Rutgers University Campus. The Rutgers student is attending the university as a member of the Rutgers Future Scholar Program, and can be seen on signage promoting the program. This is just one of the many ways Piscataway partners with the world class university in our own backyard. Eric is an example of both personal success as well as the success of the program overall.

