

Superintendent's Report

Volume 4 Issue 1

September 13, 2018

NJDOE AWARDS PISCATAWAY \$1.8 MILLION FOR FULL DAY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Coming Events

September 17

Back-to-School Night

Middle Schools

September 19

Yom Kippur
Schools Closed

PHS Golf Outing

September 20

Back-to-School Night
Elementary Schools

September 27

Back-to-School Night
Intermediate Schools

September 29

PHS Band Festival

October 1—5

Week of Respect

October 8—12

Fire Prevention Week

October 15

Introductory Meeting for
Strategic Planning

October 15—19

Violence Awareness Week

October 16

Interim Reports in Genesis

October 18

No Homework Night
Grades K-8

October 18, 19 and 22

Parent Conferences
Early Dismissal

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) awarded Piscataway Schools a \$1.8 million grant for its preschool program for the 2018-2019 school year. The Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA) grant is offered through the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Division of Early Childhood and Family Engagement. Its goal is to increase access to high-quality full day preschool for three- and four-year-old children in the 2018-19 school year.



With the PEEA grant award, the Piscataway School District can extend its tuition-free full day preschool program to three-year-olds as well as four-year-olds, with preference given to families who meet income eligibility guidelines, and expand teaching and supervisory staff. The District's Preschool Program, housed at Children's Corner, will add a second fulltime supervisor. Other staff additions include a certified behaviorist, a master teacher, an ESL support teacher, and a family liaison. Salary supplements for teachers and aides directly involved with the program are also included in the grant.

The PEEA Grant is awarded annually, and the grant for the 2018-2019 school year begins on October 1, 2018. Specific information regarding applications and enrollment will be mailed to parents currently enrolled at Children's Corner, and the District will publicize this opportunity and reach out to other township parents interested in exploring preschool through Piscataway Schools.



DISTRICT WELCOMES INPUT FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

The District invites parents, neighbors, teachers, and administrators to work together to create a shared vision for Piscataway Schools. Together, we will develop goals and objectives for a comprehensive strategic plan to move the District forward to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. An introductory meeting will take place on Monday, October 15, 2018, at 7pm in Room F100 at Piscataway High School. This meeting will be facilitated by representatives of the New Jersey School Boards Association, who will explain the strategic planning process, and how stakeholders can best contribute their thoughts, plans, and hopes for the future. Strategic Planning answers three questions:

1. Where are we today?
2. Where do we want to be in the future?
3. What should we focus on today, to make it more likely we will meet our future goals?

An introductory meeting will take place on Monday, October 15, at 7 pm in Room F100 at PHS. Planning meetings will take place on Monday, October 29, Tuesday, November 27, and Monday, January 14, all at 7pm in the PHS Commons.

JERSEY CARES VOLUNTEERS AT CONACKAMACK

Jersey Cares continues to partner with Piscataway Schools, hosting corporate volunteer days designed to give back to local communities. In August, Conackamack school hosted Jersey Cares volunteers from Fragomen, who painted classrooms, built Adirondack chairs, painted flag murals, and beautified the faculty room. In September, Arbor will host Jersey Cares volunteers from Eli Lilly, who will paint murals, build flower beds, and landscape the school's entrance. We deeply appreciate their service to our schools.



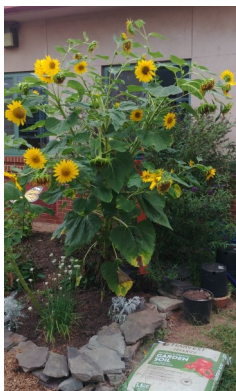
JUMP AHEAD SUMMER PROGRAM MEASURES SUCCESS

Jump Ahead is Piscataway's Summer Academic Program designed to develop and strengthen students' skills for the upcoming school year. Both branches of the program, Academic Assistance and Academic Enrichment, combine digital learning with small group instruction tailored to meet varied learning competences in a structured environment. The digital platforms for instruction, Lexia in Literacy and Dreambox in Mathematics, are adaptive to the students' grade level and academic growth. This summer, the data collected over the six-week period indicates 48% growth in lesson mastery overall. Generally, Dreambox and Lexia expect 10% growth over the same time period. All students and staff are proud of their progress and happy to be part of this successful program



KNOLLWOOD GARDEN BLOOMS

Young minds aren't the only thing in bloom at Knollwood during back-to-school season. The Knollwood Garden, featuring butterfly bushes and towering sunflowers, has been kept beautiful throughout the summer by Knollwood parent Mrs. Megan Verzi and her three children. Teachers and parents will continue to maintain the garden throughout the school year, and students will have many opportunities to engage in lessons and activities in this special setting.



RANDOLPHVILLE STUDENTS CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF RESPECT

Following up on last year's success, Randolphville will continue its "Respect" program, which recognizes students for responsible and respectful behavior throughout the school. Students who are "caught in the act" of exhibiting these positive behavior characteristics earn tickets from teachers and staff members. Over 10,000 tickets were awarded last year. Students' tickets are entered into drawings for even more recognition and small tokens of appreciation. Randolphville is excited to start this program again for the 2018-19 school year.



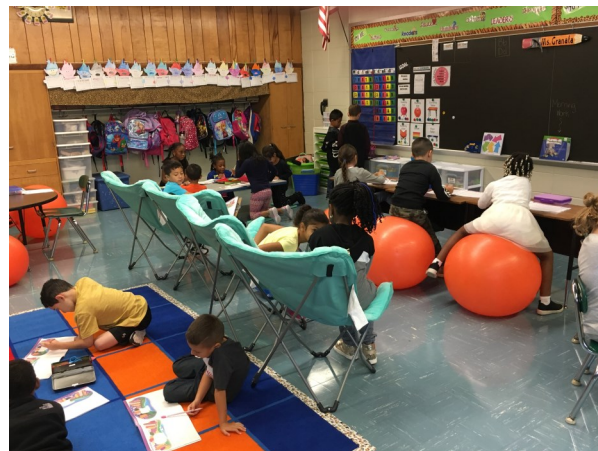
ASSEMBLYMAN DANIELSEN DONATES BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Assemblyman Joe Daniels and his team have once again generously donated backpacks filled with school supplies to Piscataway Schools. More than 100 backpacks were delivered to Arbor School and shared across the district. Thank you, Assemblyman Daniels and Director of Special Events, Laura J. Spector, for coordinating this generous donation.



21ST CENTURY CLASSROOMS

Gone are the days of young students sitting in rows of desks all day. Here are two examples of how Piscataway teachers are making classrooms open and inviting to learning. In Ms. Kristen Granata's class, Eisenhower students are invited to work where they are comfortable — on the rug, curled up in a chair, or "balancing" at a desk. Middle school students in Ms. Kelly Russ's math class enjoy a jungle-themed classroom, with calming green walls and lots of room to move around.



SUPERCHIEF BAND FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 29

The Superchief Marching Band held band camp from August 27-31. It was the hottest week of the summer, but the students showed resilience, determination, skill, and enthusiasm as they worked to develop their show this year, Mechanize. Chris Sumner, Ken Zampella, and the marching band staff worked tirelessly with the students all week to learn music, drill, and performance skills. The Superchiefs will perform at football games during half-time, and will also close the show when they host their annual Band Festival on Saturday, September 29.



PISCATAWAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS

The Piscataway Education Foundation announced recipients of this year's "Inspire Grants" at the District Convocation. While funding decisions are always difficult, the Foundation is happy to award grants to the following teachers for the 2018-2019 school year:

Randolphville Elementary School

Teacher: Jackie Erickson
Randolphville Reads

Grandview Elementary School

Teachers: Sarah Kovacs and Chris Lee
Whole Arts Learning – An Exploration and Connection of Visual, Performing and Language Arts

King and Arbor Intermediate Schools

Teacher: Karen Fleming
Lunch and Learn

Conackamack Middle School

Teacher: David Weiss
Cool Heads Indeed Love Learning (CHILL) Room

Quibbletown Middle School

Teacher: George Batalas
How to Hydro

PHS

Teacher: Megan Suozza
iPads in the Choir Rehearsal

PHS

Teacher: Paul Mazur
Electronic Game Design

PHS

Teacher: Adrian Lojko
Newseum Trip 2019