

# Superintendent's Report

Volume 4 Issue 7

March 14, 2019

## Coming Events

March 15

Knollwood Tricky Tray

March 22

PEF Designer Bag Bingo

March 25, 26, 27

Knollwood Musical

Randolphville Musical

March 28, 29, 30

Conackamack Musical

March 26

Quibbletown Choral

Cabaret

Schor One Act Drama

April 2, 3, 4

Grandview Musical

April 3

Harlem Wizards at PHS

April 10

PiscatawayREADS

April 15-19

Spring Break

April 27

PHS Jazz Festival

April 28

Pway 5K

## RUTGERS FOOTBALL PLAYERS INSPIRE ARBOR STUDENTS

Members of the Rutgers Football Team, including PHS alumnus Elijah Barnwell, recently paid two inspiring visits to Arbor School. During their first visit, they met with students to discuss their path to college, what the opportunity to gain a world-class education along with playing their favorite sport means to them, and the path they took to get where they are today. The athletes stressed the importance of hard work in both their academic life and in football, and discussed what it means to be part of a team and how to keep your priorities straight. The students had the opportunity to ask questions, ranging from "How long have you played?" to "How do you know what position to play?" to "How big is your locker room?" to "Can you get kicked off the team for making a mistake?" The players answered honestly, telling the Arbor students they alone are answerable for what they do, and that trusting your team and coaches is important for success. On their second visit, students enjoyed shooting hoops with the Rutgers athletes, as their discussion and mentoring took place in a more informal setting. We appreciate the time and caring our students receive from these young men, as well as the excellent relationship we enjoy with Rutgers University.



## SUPERINTENDENT RAFFERTY PRESENTS ON EQUITY IN EDUCATION

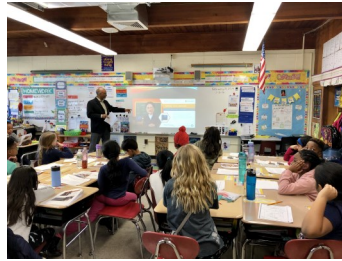
For the second time in this school year, on February 7, Superintendent Teresa Rafferty was a featured speaker for the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. Ms. Rafferty presented on equity in education. While equality is about giving each person the same opportunities, equity in education focuses on giving each student what he/she needs. Piscataway Schools has made equity a focus and goal for a number of years, highlighted by programs such as Math Potential and now ELA Potential, targeting middle school students who have potential to take higher level courses in high school, and giving them the tools they need to succeed.



Superintendent Rafferty meets with NJASA President Dr. G. Kennedy Greene, before her presentation.

## RANDOLPHVILLE STUDENTS ARE INSPIRED BY INVENTORS

Randolphville School celebrated Black History Month in several ways. Students in Mrs. Pish's and Mrs. DellaFave's class engaged in cooperative learning. With posters of famous African Americans lining the room, students selected five leaders to research and then



shared their findings. Dr. Robinson and colleagues from the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, led an inspiring discussion on inventors, patents, blueprints and the process of creating an invention, before students proposed and sketched their own ideas.

## WHAT LIFTS YOU?

March is Youth Art Month and Dorothy Amme and Lisa Lentini -Pombrio's AP Art Classes were inspired by street artist Kelsey Montague to create a set of life-size wings for each of our district buildings! Throughout the month, we are encouraging our community to use art as a way to think about "What Lifts You?" or "What inspires you?" Thank you to Ms. Amme and Ms. Lentini-Pombrio, and to their students, for their vision, effort, and inspiration for all of us!



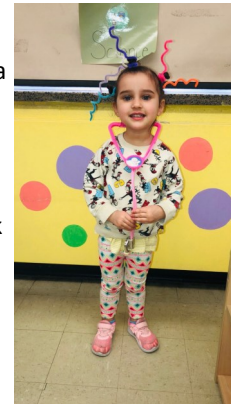
## PHS AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WELCOMES GUEST LECTURERS

Mr. L-Mani Viney's African American Experience class welcomed Dr. Sonya Douglass Horsford, an Associate Professor of Education Leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University, and founding director of the Black Education Research Collective (BERC), to PHS in February. Dr. Horsford presented on educational challenges for African Americans and met with the 50 Strong Peer Mentoring Group to discuss preparing for post-secondary education. She then worked with students from The Pulse, PHS's radio station to record a podcast.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Children's Corner was busy during Read Across America Week. Activities included making Dr. Seuss hats, parent readers, Wacky Sock Day, Crazy Hair Day, Inside Out Day, and Pajama Day.



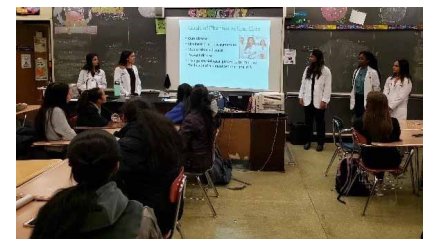
## SCHOR GETS INVENTIVE

Schor School honored Black History Month by focusing on African American inventors and scientists. In a door decorating contest, students made doors interactive and informative. Ms. Walsh's mailbox door honored Phillip A. Downing. Ms. Tortorelli's spotlight door honored Garrett Morgan. The winning door went to Ms. Smolk's homeroom—a moving roller coaster with lights focusing on Granville T. Woods. In an essay writing contest based on the short story, "A World without Black People," the winner was eighth grade student, Danielle Cole. In the front display case, the Black History Committee (Ms. Robinson, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Almanzar, and Ms. Walsh) showcased progress from inventions of African-American inventors of a century ago to modern day inventions.



## RUTGERS PHARMACY STUDENTS VISIT PHS

As a part of the Rutgers High School Outreach Program and the Student National Pharmacist Association



(SNPhA), in February, the PHS Science department welcomed students from Rutgers School of Pharmacy. The Rutgers students offered an interactive presentation and answered questions related to pharmacy careers and the pharmacy program at Rutgers. Students also learned of a joint program with Montclair State University that offers a dual degree. Thirty PHS students attended the after-school session.



## CELEBRATE READING ON APRIL 10 AT PISCATAWAYREADS

PiscatawayREADS promotes reading for pleasure and literacy development among the Piscataway Schools Community.

The 2019 theme is Journeys, and books reflect both journeys to far away places, and internal journeys that change a character forever. Throughout the semester, students discussed books about journeys with accompanying activities. This year, featured books will be distributed to readers on the night of the event, Wednesday, April 10, when students and parents will also view performances, listen to speakers, applaud contest results, and take part in activities that revolve around our Journeys theme.



## GRANDVIEW STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACADEMIC HONORS

Third grade students, parents, and staff came together to recognize and honor students for exceptional achievement during marking periods 2 and 3. After a continental breakfast and conversation, the students were individually called and received their certificates. Parents beamed with pride and celebrated the partnership that exists between the school and community.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH LEAGUE CONTEST

Sixth grade Mathematics Potential students from across all three middle schools participated in a contest provided by The Math League. Each participating student completed a rigorous 35 question assessment in a timed 30 minute testing session.

When the assessments were scored and the results tabulated, the overall high score was achieved by Mya Ware of Quibbletown Middle School. Congratulations to Mya and her teacher Mr. Guiamano for a job well done!



## CONACKAMACK STUDENTS TREATED TO JAZZ STUDIES AND CONCERT

Conackamack Middle School enjoyed an informative and entertaining Black History Month presentation on the history of jazz, offered by some of today's jazz luminaries, including Conackamack's own Shamie Royston. Led by noted saxophonist, Tia Fuller, a solo artist as well as in demand sideman for artists ranging from Beyonce to Esperanza Spalding to Patti Labelle, students learned the importance of jazz history and how it inspired the music we hear today. The guest musicians took students through the Harlem Renaissance and the Bebop eras, and how this music affected the country and world, and still influences us today. Thank you to musicians Chris Smith on the bass, Kolby Royston on drums, Tia Fuller on alto sax and the incredible Mrs. Royston on piano.



## LOOK UP AT KING!

King School held its first annual Tacos and Tiles fundraiser on February 22. At the event, students and families purchased a ceiling tile and Taco meal. They drafted a design prior to the event and then painted it that night. Some of the designs included a portrait of Martin Luther King, King School's mascot, and many included inspirational quotes. The ceiling tiles can now be seen throughout the building. The next time you visit King School, be sure to look up!



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PE TEACHER

Physical Education teachers from each middle school are rotating to other district middle schools to live a day in the life of their colleagues. The PE teacher rotation



received overwhelmingly positive feedback from both PE teachers and school administrators. Teachers share best practices and daily procedures and each PE teacher can see first-hand how the program operates in the other district middle schools.

## NAACP HONORS QUIBBLETOWN STUDENTS AND PRINCIPAL

On Friday February 22nd, the Plainfield Area NAACP hosted its annual Black History Month program, Honoring Middle School Students. Three Quibbletown



students were honorees and recipients of Certificates of Achievement Awards: 8th Grade Student Lauren Carter; 7th grade Student Khabir Matthews; 6th grade Student Sanaa Barron. We are also proud that Quibbletown Principal William Gonzalez received the 2019 Partnership award for Quibbletown Middle School "PREJUDICE AGAINST ONE IS PREJUDICE AGAINST ALL."

## SCHOR STUDENTS WIN BARNES ART OF MATH CHALLENGE

A team of students from Schor Middle School (Nathaniel Carman, Suhani Desai, Crystal D'Souza, Kaavya Pratikarthan, Diya Rana, Shiloah Roache, Kristen Seepaul, Arya Vishwakarma, and Kayla Williams) won the Barnes Art of Math Challenge for Creative Math Strategy and Design for their age group (6—8 grade). Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Barnes Foundation promotes the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture. In the competition, students were challenged to collaborate by using mathematic strategies to design and build a 3-D scale model of a painting and write a description of their mathematical process. You can see how closely their model (above) matches the painting (below) on the right. The students were awarded three 3D Pens for Schor Middle School. Congratulations to all and thank you to teacher Susan Mitrano for providing this opportunity!

