

Coming Events

April 15-19

Spring Break

April 27

PHS Jazz Festival

April 28

Pway 5K

May 2

PEF Culinary Event

Holidays Around the
World

May 4

Volunteer Recognition
Breakfast

May 3 & 4

PHS Dance Concert

May 6-10

Teacher Appreciation
Week

May 9 & 10

PHS Director's Showcase

May 11

Quibbletown Tricky Tray

May 15

PHS Choir Concert

May 21

PHS Band Concert

PHS GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES ALLIANCE SPREADS MESSAGE OF LOVE AND INCLUSIVITY

The PHS Genders and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) held its first ever movie night to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility on Friday, March 29, 2019. Our GSA students spearheaded this event to spread the message of love and inclusivity in our community. Students enjoyed the collective experience of watching the movie, *Love, Simon*, and honoring LGBTQ+ representation within Piscataway Schools. *Love, Simon* was recently awarded Outstanding Film Wide Release by GLAAD, a non-governmental organization founded by LGBT individuals in media that seek to rewrite the script for LGBTQ+ acceptance. Piscataway Schools is proud to support LGBTQ+ students and parents in our community. Our thanks and appreciation go to our GSA students and faculty advisor Veronica Bar.



L-MANI VINEY NAMED TO STEERING COMMITTEE FOR MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Mr. L-Mani Viney teaches Social Studies classes at PHS, including the African American Experience class popular among all students, and is the Program Coordinator for the 50 Strong Peer to Peer Mentoring program. He was recently appointed to the National Steering Committee for My Brother's Keeper by the Obama Foundation during its inaugural MBK Rising! Conference in Oakland, California. The My Brother's Keeper initiative was first created in 2014 by President Obama to address the educational, social, and emotional challenges faced by boys and men of color. In his Steering Committee role, Mr. Viney joins some of the nation's top thought and organizational leaders working with boys and men of color. He will advise on the structure and programming for the conference, and continue to be a voice for how organizations and educational systems should work and view boys and men of color. We are extremely proud of Mr. Viney's accomplishments, both inside and outside our District.



NJDOE PILOTS SPORT AT PHS

The NJDOE hosted its first Student Preparation on Realistic Training (SPORT) at Piscataway High School on April 1. PHS served as a pilot for this program on how to best prepare student athletes for successful transitions to college. Students participating in varsity sports attended the workshop that offered an open dialogue between the athletes and former athletes, and health and education professionals on the panel, and students in the audience. Student athletes were encouraged to take advantage of all that their colleges offer to them, especially their education, and offered advice on how to transition from star athlete to freshman, how to balance athletics and academics, and how to prepare for life beyond athletics. The NJDOE plans to replicate this successful pilot throughout the state.



CHILDREN'S CORNER ASSISTS ESL FAMILIES

The ESL Parent Council, sponsored by Children's Corner Preschool, met at The Kennedy Library on the evening of March 25, 2019. Librarian led activities included a tour of the library and available resources for children and adults, including interactive games and children's story time. Attending parents also learned about community health service agencies and other organizations that offer assistance to assimilating families.

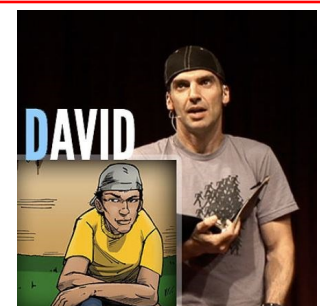


OVER 60 ARBOR AND KING PARENTS GET HELP WITH DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Arbor and King Intermediate Schools jointly hosted a presentation for parents titled "Difficult Conversations with your Children" on March 7. Facilitated by Dr. Deborah Dawson, Robyn Rosenthal, and Maria Balint from the Piscataway Counseling Department, the evening provided parents with resources and strategies to discuss difficult social and emotional topics with their children. The District offered the presentation to help parents answer questions their children raise, and prepare for their children's transition to Middle School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN THE REAL DIRT

Eighth graders at all three middle schools were recently treated to a performance of John Morello's *Dirt: A One-Man Show About Substance Abuse and Choices*, with parents invited to attend special showings in the evening. *Dirt* explores the challenges and decisions that students face every day, and gets to the heart of issues related to drugs, bullying, and self-esteem. Through the portrayal of relatable and memorable characters, Morello takes students on a journey that challenges them to think about choices they make, and how those choices impact their lives and the lives of those around them. As he changes characters, students see how one person's decisions can affect someone else, and what seems funny, in reality, may not be.



PRESCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN "I LIKE MYSELF"

Students at Children's Corner are enjoying story labs and discussing what makes them unique and special. After reading the story, "I Like Myself" written by Karen Beaumont, students learn to identify and appreciate things they love about themselves—inside and out.



CONACKAMACK STUDENTS LEARN ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A GIANT CHANGE

When Conackamack teacher Lisa Shields found information on the Scholastic website that pointed to books about the Iditarod, an annual long-distance sled dog race run in Alaska, she contacted them about content she found to be outdated and objectionable. After receiving no reply, she reached out again. This time, she got a response, letting Ms. Shields know Scholastic no longer published those books. After one more round of emails, Scholastic removed the outdated content from their website, and Ms. Shields and her students learned the power of polite insistence.

REBEKAH STERLACCI PRESENTS AT NJASA

Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts Rebekah Sterlacci presented at the NJASA (NJ Association of School Administrators) Women's Leadership Conference in Somerset, NJ. Her session focused on Authentic Leadership and the gifts that women bring to educational communities as leaders. Ms. Sterlacci used a hands-on approach with arts-based reflective activities for participants to connect their leadership style to the strengths they bring to their schools and communities. Participants included superintendents, principals, supervisors, and educational leaders from New Jersey.



WHAT LIFTS EISENHOWER STUDENTS?

The Eisenhower PTO sponsored an evening to make art and reflect on the Youth Art Month theme, What Lifts You? Families made beautiful and creative representations of what inspires and supports them every day, and took pictures in front of eagle wings created for Eisenhower by PHS art students.



GRANDVIEW GREATNESS ENCOURAGED IN ALL STUDENTS

Grandview School is in its ninth year of PBSIS implementation, nurturing a culture of kindness and encouraging students to show "Grandview Greatness," by being respectful, responsible, and successful in everyday actions. Students are coached in effective peer mediation to resolve conflicts by using "I" messages and communicating with each other when a conflict arises. Teachers incorporate mindfulness activities and Brain Breaks into lessons throughout the day, and many classrooms have a "Peace Place" or "Calm Center" for students to help them self-regulate their emotions. Teachers assign classroom jobs to help build ownership over the classroom with students, and have read alouds with a variety of books with social emotional themes. Several teachers have implemented a peer/buddy program into their weekly plans. Many teachers begin the day with a "Morning Meeting" where they check-in with students as well as dismiss them with individual handshakes and farewell greetings at the end of the day. Grandview's counselor and behaviorist facilitate "Lunch Bunch" groups, teach Character Education lessons, and hold monthly celebrations. Grandview hosts multiple themed "Family Fun Nights" throughout the year, encouraging a sense of community and belonging with our students, families, and staff.



PHS FBLA CONTINUES WINNING WAYS

From March 20-22, 46 of the 208 members of the Piscataway High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) joined over 2300 other students at the NJ FBLA State Leadership Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, to learn college and career skills, compete, network, and seek state office. The trip was an overwhelming success: **NEW STATE OFFICERS:** State Secretary - Sailesh Gudipati, North-Central Region VP - Aditya Reddy; **SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:** Gold Officer - Sailesh Gudipati, Gold Member - Mann Patel, Outstanding Local Chapter, Community Service Award, March of Dimes Fundraising Award, Website Award, Membership Award, Middle Level Chapter Recognition, and numerous other individual competitive awards. In addition, many students qualified for the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in late June. Thanks to Jason Metting and Gwen Sylvan for chaperoning at the event, and to Advisors Greg Michaels and Sarah Coppola.



KING BOOK FAIR FUN/FITNESS

At the King School Book Fair and Fun Fitness Night on Friday, March 15, Physical Education teachers Rob Stoddard and Jeff Cerro set up half of the gymnasium with jump ropes, ropes



battle, balance rocks, and skip it ropes, and the other side with an inflatable for racing activities. Families attending the book fair were eager to participate in the fitness activities, working both their brains and their bodies. The evening served as a reminder that students who are physically active perform better in the classroom.

KNOLLWOOD ROCKS KINDNESS

Knollwood School took a day to celebrate kindness with *Kindness Rocks Day* and *Autism Awareness*. Activities included

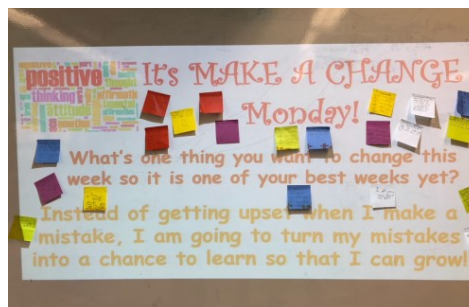


painting rocks with words of kindness for the Knollwood rock garden, decorating cards with

kind words, and creating Autism Awareness Ribbons. Students were treated to special guests reading stories about kindness, and all activities concluded with students adding their own kindness rocks to the new rock garden.

RANDOLPHVILLE SECOND GRADERS BEGIN EACH DAY WITH A MINDFUL MORNING ROUTINE

Social emotional learning, movement, and mindfulness is a huge focus in Ms. Kamdar's second grade class at Randolphville School, and it is how they start every day. Students begin with a "Mindful Morning Post-It Prompt" where they reflect on how to use their actions, thoughts, and words to spread empathy, compassion, and respect not only to others but also to themselves.



Students pour their hearts into their responses, sharing and working through feelings and experiences, in a safe, caring, judgment free zone. Students then move into five minutes of "Free Flow" yoga poses followed guided visualization and breathing exercises to focus minds and bodies. Morning routines end with the repetition of positive affirmations and high fives.

