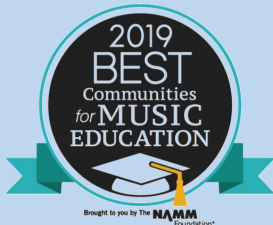


Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

Volume 5 Issue 2

October 10, 2019



Coming Events

October 12

King Colorfest Run/Walk

October 18

Schor Cabaret Night

October 24

PHS Marching Band
Appreciation Night

October 25

PHS FBLA Haunted
High School

October 26

PHS PTSO Dream for Kids
Basketball Game

November 5

Election Day

Schools Closed for
Students

Teacher In-Service

November 7-8

NJEA Convention
Schools Closed

PISCATAWAY INTRODUCES MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Long a powerhouse in high school football, Piscataway is now in the middle school game. More than 25 middle school students worked hard to develop offensive and defensive skills beginning in the summer and continuing through the fall football season, winning their first game for a current record of 1-2. The students show a strong commitment and work ethic while learning the fundamentals of the game. Coach Boyd, Coach Simmons, and Coach Enes are proud of their students and look forward to building the program for years to come.



DISTRICT COMMITMENT TO IPAD PLATFORM OFFERS EXPANDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The district's commitment to responsible technology using the iPad platform continues to grow, with students enrolled in grades 4 – 10 now using district iPads. This commitment is much greater than simply supplying a device – it includes training to accelerate instruction and learning with a focus on using creative tools and building a positive technology culture.

Investing in professional development is at the core of the district's technology plan. Supervisor of Instructional

Technology Chris Irovando was recently accepted into the highly competitive Apple Learning Academy in Cupertino, California, and spent a week there learning about best practices for Apple products and software for students and schools. Mr. Irovando brought back a wealth of knowledge in macOS and iOS devices and Apple apps to ensure effective coaching for staff across all learning levels. He is now authorized as an Apple Learning Specialist and will receive additional support and access to Learning Specialist content for two years. In addition to scheduled professional development days, staff can take part in "Tech Wednesdays," when Mr. Irovando visits different schools to share his knowledge of tech platforms and develop instructional skills. Next steps in building a positive technology culture include incorporating Apple TVs in grades four and five classrooms.



KING STUDENTS WELCOME SENIORS FOR TEA AND TALK

Students enrolled in the Honors ELA program at King school hosted senior citizens from the community during their Tea and Talk event. In preparation for their Oral History Project, students had an opportunity to practice interviewing techniques in a relaxing and informal environment. Prior to the event, students learned how to actively listen to their interviewee and ask open-ended questions. Led and facilitated by the Honors ELA teacher, Karen Fleming, the event was arranged so that students could do more than simply read about history, but hear actual stories from the people who lived through them.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES BUILD STEM, ART, AND SPORTS SKILLS

Students from preschool through grade five have an opportunity to explore new areas in STEM, the arts, and sports when they enroll in After School or Saturday Enrichment Classes offered through the Office of Community Education. Now almost halfway through fall eight-week courses, a big favorite is after school tennis. But students enjoy the breadth of choices the program offers, from Mad Science and Code Explorers, to Bricks and Sticks Animation and KidzArt Animals, to Cake and Cookie Decorating, to Zumba, Ballet, Bollywood Dance, and more. Special Saturday Planetarium shows are offered twice during this period, with the next showing coming up on November 2.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS HONORED BY NJSPRA

Piscataway Schools was recently honored with two awards from the New Jersey School Public Relations Association (NJSPRA) for communications efforts during 2018-2019. The District took first place for newsletters for the Superintendent's Report and second place for Special Interest Publications for the School Community Resources booklet. Congratulations to Public Information Officer Judy Palermo for these awards.



STUDENTS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF GRANDVIEW GREATNESS

On September 27, students and staff celebrated the tenth year of “Grandview Greatness” at a Positive Behavior Support In Schools (PBSIS) Kickoff assembly. PBSIS is a multi-tiered system of support for behavior, conduct, and social-emotional wellness that promotes equity for all students. “Grandview Greatness” is a slogan used daily and acts as a reminder for all to be respectful, responsible, and successful. Grandview students are encouraged to treat each other with kindness, to use words to resolve conflicts, and to be thoughtful in their daily actions. Students are recognized throughout the day by Grandview faculty and staff, and presented with Gecko Tickets for displaying “Grandview Greatness.”



CONACKAMACK STUDENT SCIENTISTS TEST VARIABLES AND RECORD DATA

Conackamack students learned about testing variables by working with Sowbugs. Students selected factors to manipulate in a Sowbug's choice chambers environment, and then recorded what environment they preferred. Students experimented with dark vs. light; fruit vs. vegetables; fresh vs. rotten food; and food color. Students will next graph their data and present their results a CER (Claims, Evidence, Reasoning) format.



PHS ACADEMIES EXPAND TO INCLUDE PRELAW AND JUSTICE

Following the successful launch of academy learning at PHS, the 2019-2020 school year admitted 20 students to the launch year of the Pre-law and Justice Academy. In addition to this new area of focus, PHS Academies will build programs overall this year with the inclusion of a Guest Speaker Series, welcoming college recruiters and field experts to share their knowledge and offer additional interest paths to academy students. Middle school students receive information about PHS Academies in their first marking period of eighth grade, giving them time to consider if a focused area of study is right for them, and if so, plenty of time to prepare for the application process.

AFJROTC TEAMS UP WITH KNOLLWOOD BUDDIES

PHS Cadets from the AFJROTC are again generously donating their time to serve as mentors for Knollwood students. This yearly tradition brings the cadets and Knollwood students together once



a week after school, to create projects, help with homework, and just talk. The cadets serve as fine examples to our young students, exhibiting respect and commitment.

PHS DIVERSITY COUNCIL TEAM TRAINS WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Student members of the PHS Diversity Council Team began the year with a training session led by Ms. Linda Ortiz, a Conciliation Specialist with the US Department of Justice. The training is in response to racially insensitive social media messages posted last year. These student leaders will now conduct workshops for the entire PHS community to promote better understanding among all diverse groups. The United States Department of Justice: Community Relations Service (CRS) division is the only federal agency dedicated to working with community groups to resolve community conflicts and prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes arising from differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. Ms. Ortiz also visited the Race and Gender in Literature course to share her expertise on conflict resolution, having difficult conversations, and building strong communities through communication.



RANDOLPHVILLE STUDENTS LEARN "MANNERS"

Randolphville School held a kick off assembly for the Randolphville Respect



Program on October 1. The marking period one focus is "Manners." Randolphville staff created a video depicting people choosing to use their manners to showcase what manners look and sound like every day. Ms. Kamdar then led the entire school in some morning movement to remind students to stay mindful and take care of themselves and each other!

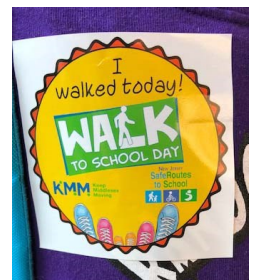
PHS STUDENTS EXCEL AT VOCABULARY BOWL



PHS students began the 2019-2020 season of Vocabulary Bowl with a commanding lead. Not only are PHS students tops in the state of NJ — they are also a top ten school nationally! This competition does more than boost academic egos — it allows educators to assist each student by tracking student progress and pinpointing trouble words. By participating, students can enrich both their vocabularies and their SAT scores.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN WALK TO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY

Piscataway Elementary Schools took part in Walk to School Wednesday with the help of the Piscataway Police Department. Piscataway detectives held a safe routes to school assembly for students, reminding them how to walk and bike safely in their neighborhoods. Then, on Wednesday, October 2, officers met staff, students, and parents at a designated meet-up spot for a sunny and warm walk to school. Thank you, Detectives Rose, Myers and Laughlin!



DIWALI, THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, AT PHS ON OCTOBER 19

The Piscataway Education Foundation invites the school community to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, on Saturday, October 19 from 6pm – 10 pm at Piscataway High School.

Celebrate the diversity of our district at this fun-filled night that includes DJ, dancing, henna, wonderful food, and ends with a sparkler celebration. Discounted advance tickets are online at [Community Pass](#) for \$10 Adults and \$5 for Students and Seniors. Tickets will also be available at the door -- until they sell out -- for \$12 Adults and \$5 Students.

Piscataway Education Foundation Presents

pway diwali
THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Join us for the third annual celebration of Diwali! Expect a family fun night of dandiya, dance, food, and shopping!

**SATURDAY
19 OCTOBER 2019**
from 6 pm - 10 pm

**PISCATAWAY
HIGH SCHOOL**
100 Behmer Rd.

Tickets:
Adults: \$10 (\$12 at door)
Children 4-18: \$5
Tickets Available on
Community Pass

<https://tinyurl.com/pwaydiwali>

All proceeds go to teacher grants, student scholarships, and Piscataway Reads.

follow us:
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For sponsorship & vendor opportunities, call (609) 250 2465