

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

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Coming Events

November 14, 15, 16

PHS Fall Play

November 20, 21, 22

Early Dismissal/Parent
Conferences

November 27

Early Dismissal

November 28 and 29

Schools Closed

Thanksgiving

December 3

PHS Fall Sports Awards

December 6

PHS Coffee Shop

December 7

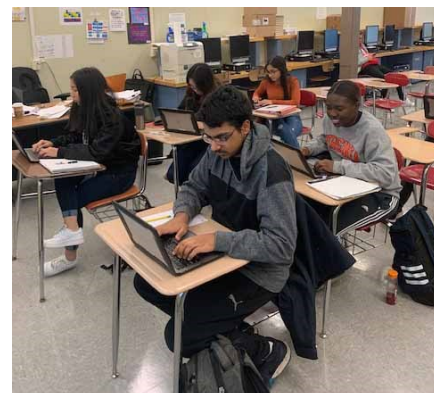
Piscataway STEAM Scene

December 11

PHS Winter Choir Concert

PHS PREPARES STUDENTS FOR 21ST CENTURY COMPUTER PATHS

Following last year's successful NJDOE Advanced Computer Science Grant, PHS launched the Java Certification, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning class (JCAIML) in this school year. With 27 students enrolled, JCAIML offers students access to high-quality advanced computer science education using top-of-the line equipment and technology. Grant funding allowed the purchase of MacBook Pro laptops for each student, loaned to them for the school year, ensuring learning opportunities extend beyond the school day. In taking this course, students can earn credentials valued in computer technology, including Java certification. One student, Rishi Patel, already passed his Java OCA Jr. level test with high marks. We believe PHS is the only comprehensive public high school in the country that offers Java certification as part of school curriculum. Congratulations to Supervisor of 7-12 Mathematics Jaclyn Pulio and to Computer Science Teacher Brinder Soin, for writing the grant and advancing the curriculum, and to our IT Department, for ensuring the MacBooks were loaded with all necessary software and in students' hands as quickly as possible.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ITS BEST

Held on Tuesday, November 5, the first student-centered professional development session for the 2019-2020 school year focusing on collaboration across the district while aligning with the District's strategic goals and vision. Facilitated by Curriculum and Instruction, each hands-on workshop integrated technology to highlight core teaching techniques. In preparing for the session, each department head reviewed data to identify student needs and teacher growth plans, and built workshops to address those needs and plans. This was relevant professional development at its best — all hands on deck working together to build best practices in teaching and learning.



KNOLLWOOD STUDENTS COLLABORATE ON COLORFUL ART DISPLAY

Students at Knollwood recently collaborated to create a beautiful, artistic display in the school's hallway. After learning about famous glass artist Dale Chihuly and his colorful wavy glass sculptures – called Macchia - in art class, each child created his or her own piece using coffee filters and washable markers. The project included lessons on radial symmetry, color blending and balance, and transforming shapes into rigid forms using watered down glue. To create the final display, the individual Macchia were combined to create two separate larger pieces, which were lit from within using LED lights.



BUDDY BALL TRICK-OR-TREAT AT RANDOLPHVILLE

The first Randolphville Buddy Ball Trick-or-Treat event was a sweet night for all! PE teacher and Buddy Ball organizer, Mr. Vinny Stio, arranged for Buddy Ball athletes to visit Randolphville classrooms, where they were given treats by Buddy Ball volunteers. These Buddy Ball events are favorite monthly moments for both volunteers and athletes!



QUIBBLETOWN ALUMNUS WINS ART AND WRITING AWARD

Congratulations to 2019 Quibbletown alumnus and current PHS Freshman Sabeen Murtaza, who is one of this year's recipients of the 2019 Mahatma Gandhi Art and Writing Contest for Middle school students. She was awarded second place, her second award from this organization, and also received a monetary prize.



PHS FBIA MASTERS OCTOBER EVENTS

The PHS Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) had a busy fall, hosting the annual FBLA North-Central/Central Regional Summit at Piscataway High School on October 18. Over 100



FBLA members and advisors attended for networking and workshop opportunities, and to hear from Michael Yaroshefsky, former FBLA National President, graduate of Princeton and Harvard Universities, and Founder & CEO of RocketVisor, on leadership, risk-taking, entrepreneurship, and resilience. On October 28, ten PHS FBLA officers attended the NJ FBLA State Fall Leadership Conference at Kean University. After an engaging keynote and Q&A session with Steve Fastook, Senior Vice President of CNBC, students attended workshops on Networking & Social Media, Junior Achievement Opportunities, Community Service, Officer Development, and more. And on October 25, the entire PHS FBLA chapter hosted its annual Haunted High School for the Piscataway community. Highlights of the Halloween-themed rooms included Candy Land by PHS FBLA, Escape Room by International Culture Club Association (ICCA), Monsters Inc. by the National Honor Society (NHS), and a truly scary haunted house by AFJROTC. Families had a great time and the event raised almost \$300 for the March of Dimes.

ARBOR STUDENTS WHITTLE A CHARACTER

Arbor's fourth grade students focused on characters during their first Literacy Unit. In *The Tiger Rising*, a book used as a read aloud for the students, the main character whittles symbols and characters throughout the story. As an ending celebration to the Interpretation Character Unit, each fourth grade student "channeled their inner Rob." Using a bar of soap, plastic knife, and paper clip, students whittled a character or symbol from one of the unit books they read.



ROTARY GIVES DICTIONARIES TO THIRD GRADERS

Continuing a long standing commitment to literacy, the Piscataway Rotary recently visited all Piscataway Elementary Schools, bringing dictionaries for all third grade students. This annual donation is deeply appreciated and our thanks go to the Rotary and to Fred Cassaday, Sandy Kennedy, Nancy Ostrowski, and Heidi Cramer for arranging for and delivering dictionaries to our students.



PHS BOOSTERS TEAM WITH MARISA TUFARO FOUNDATION

The PHS Booster Club teamed up with the Marisa Tufaro Foundation at the November 1 PHS football game to raise funds to help Middlesex County children in need and their families, collecting \$750

for the organization. Named for a 13-year-old girl whose life was tragically cut short due to cardiac complications and an aggressive form of cancer, the Marisa Tufaro Foundation has donated over \$100,000 to community initiatives.



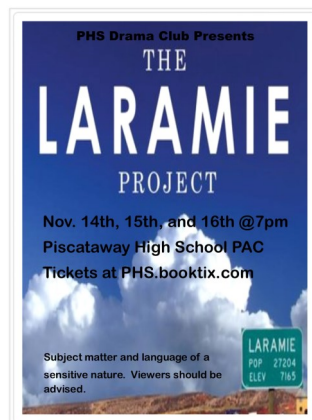
GRANDVIEW STUDENTS APPLY PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS TO CREATE INTERACTIVE PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

During Digital Literacy at Grandview, students learn to use different productivity tools, including digital art/rendering, Augmented Reality, and coding applications, to create more interactive projects and presentations. Across grade levels, students are engaged with technology infused projects: learning about the function of a computer screen and pixels with Lego artwork, creating documents with word processing programs, and integrating mathematics with Excel charts. Technology buzzes to life as students apply their classroom knowledge into twenty-first century learning with interactive robots. These tools at Grandview allow students to become logical thinkers, and use technology in a meaningful way.



PHS FALL PLAY EXAMINES TRAGEDY

The PHS Drama Club will present The Laramie Project on Thursday, November 14, Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16 at 7pm. The Laramie Project is a deeply moving theatrical experience based on the aftermath of the brutal beating and death of Matthew Shepard. Because the subject matter and language is of a sensitive nature, viewers should be advised. Tickets are available on phs.booktix.com and at the door.



KING ANNUAL COLORFEST: A MORNING OF FUN AND FITNESS

On Saturday, October 12, King School held its eighth annual Colorfest Run.

Families, both old and new, came out dressed in white and participated in a variety of activities, including corn hole and a photo booth, prior to the start of the race. MLK staff members had a great time dousing the students and families with color throughout the 1.5 mile race. Congratulations to the winners, Patrick Batulis, Chavi Milev, Tyler Hamilton, and Isabella Ealey and to all who participated! All money raised goes toward King School. It was a great day for MLK families!



PHS CHOIR RETREAT

The PHS Honors Ensembles (Chorale and Bella Voce) attended their annual choir retreat at Camp Bernie to build community, rehearse, and spend



quality time together in nature. The students had an amazing time and the camp staff complimented the group on their strong teamwork and kindness toward each other. Thank you to Megan Suozzo and all of the parent chaperones that made this trip such a beautiful experience for the students.

PHS SOCCER ATHLETES COMMIT TO COLLEGE

Three members of the PHS Girls' Soccer Team have already committed to play college varsity soccer. These student athletes put pen to contract on November 13: Kaitlyn Zeeb will attend Sacred Heart University; Michelle Williams will attend Fairleigh Dickinson University; and Jordyn Allen will attend the University of Rhode Island. Congratulations to these athletes, their coaches, and families!



CONACKAMACK'S MR. OVERTON HONORS VETERAN DAD

Mr. James Overton, Acting Dean of Students at Conackamack Middle School, wore his father's army jacket as a tribute to him on Veteran's Day. Mr. Overton's father served in the 3rd Armored Division (Spearhead) in Germany from 1960-1964.



LET'S BE FRANK SUPERINTENDENT'S PODCAST

Let's Be Frank, a Superintendent's Podcast about education, collaboration, and inspiration in Piscataway Schools, launched on November 1, with an episode about "Taking Care of People." Four additional episodes are planned for this school year.

