

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

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Coming Events

December 16

Quibbletown Winter
Concert

December 17

Schor Winter Concert

December 18

PHS Instrumental Concert

December 23—January 1

Winter Break

January 8

PHS Experience

January 14

Teacher In-Service

Early Dismissal for
Students

January 20

Schools Closed

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

PHS CHORALE HONORS STUDENTS PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL

When 36 PHS students successfully auditioned for Chorale Honors this year, they had no idea this would be their first step toward Carnegie Hall. But these students' dream came true on Thursday, December 5, when they stood on that venerable stage as part of a holiday concert featuring recording artists Tori Kelly, Colbie Caillat, and Tim Janis. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was coordinated by PHS Choir Director Megan Suozzo. Proceeds from the concert were donated to foundations for music therapy and autism support. Students enrolled in Chorale Honors must maintain a 90% or higher grade in choir classes. They go through a rigorous blind audition process where they sing memorized scales, solos, and quintet pieces. They are evaluated on intonation, tone quality, and musicianship, with top scoring voices invited to participate in Chorale Honors.



PISCATAWAY STEAM SCENE LIGHTS UP PHS

Piscataway STEAM Scene is a staff-led effort that offers students a glimpse into areas of STEM and the Arts beyond the classroom. More than 150 students and over 400 people in total attended the Saturday workshop, and were able to take part in several sessions. Session included Stop Animation; Vex Robots; Hexapods; High School Robotics; Math Apps; Elephant Toothpaste Creation; Coding; LEGO Building; Ozobots; Water Maker Challenge; Pattern Play for Music, Art, Dance and Theater; and Coloring Fun. Families attending particularly enjoyed touring the PHS TV Studio and learning about the school's production opportunities, and the Piscataway Public Library's Maker Table. Thanks to our Subject Area Supervisors Chris Irovando, Rebecca Dayton, Jaclyn Puleio, and Rebekah Sterlacci for putting this event together for our students.



CONACKAMACK TURKEY TROT SHOWS TRUE COLORS

Conackamack Middle School added new twists to its 28th annual Turkey Trot, conducted this year as a color run through an obstacle course on school grounds the day before Thanksgiving. The entry fee for each of the more than 100 students who participated was a minimum donation of four nonperishable food items, which were donated to the township's FISH Hospitality Program (FHP) in honor of Marisa Tufaro and the nonprofit bearing her name. Conackamack's Turkey Trot, held annually since 1992, has generated nearly 78,000 nonperishable food items for donation to local food banks since its inception, including the more than 1,800 items donated at this year's event. All participants in the 2019 Turkey Trot wore purple headbands, reflecting Marisa Tufaro's favorite color and the official color of The Marisa Tufaro Foundation. Classmates of competitors cheered on the participants as they navigated the one-mile course and were showered with colored powder upon reaching each obstacle. Race winners in each grade received medals.



NJDOE VISITS PHS

NJDOE Assistant Commissioner AbdulSaleem Hasan and Interim Executive County Superintendent Kyle Anderson visited PHS, touring the school with



Superintendent Ranelli, Assistant Superintendent Baskerville, and Principal Lester. In addition to getting to know more about our students and schools, they observed classes in Java Script, Electronics, and Astronomy.

RUTGERS FOOTBALL MENTORS ARBOR STUDENTS

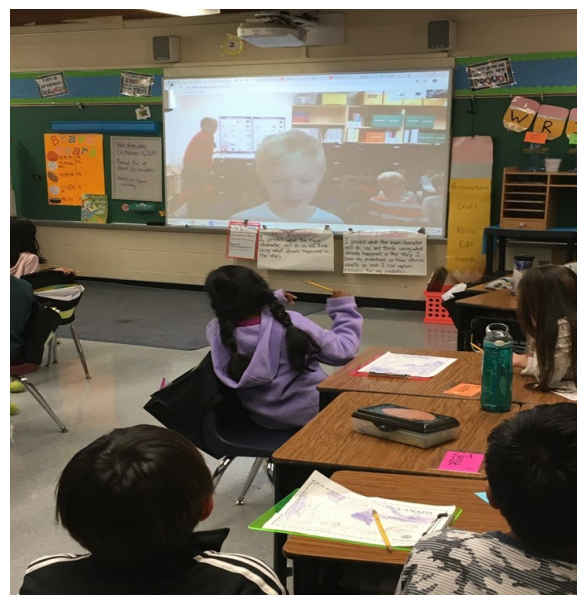
In November, Rutgers Football players continued their mentoring program at Arbor School, meeting with 60 fourth and fifth graders to discuss steps for success as both a college student and



athlete. The college students emphasize work ethic and working as a team to get the best results. Following the Q&A session, the Arbor students took on the Rutgers students in a friendly game of volleyball.

KNOLLWOOD STUDENTS USE TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNICATE WITH STUDENTS IN OTHER STATES

Knollwood students participated in Mystery Skype sessions, tying in Technology, Social Studies, Science, Math and ELA. Through a video chat platform Knollwood students made video calls to students in other states. Before the call, students studied the map of the United States and its major landforms, such as The Appalachian Mountains and The Mississippi River, time zones, and weather across the country. The video calls began with students asking yes or no questions to determine where the other class was located. Next, students asked questions about their school and where they live. Finally, the students discussed a book both classes had read. Students loved learning about different places, what we have in common, and what is different in our lives.



QUIBBLETOWN CELEBRATES FRIENDSGIVING

The Quibbletown PBIS Committee held the 2nd Annual Friendsgiving Feast on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. The 10 students who earned the highest amount of RESPECT points during the challenge period from each grade level were invited to the feast. Several students who received the Teacher's Choice nomination were also invited. Sodexo prepared a delicious traditional Thanksgiving meal including turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, apple pie, pumpkin pie, brownies and cookies. One student commented, "We're going to eat like kings today!" Students now participate in the December Kindness Challenge.



PHS DANCE COLLECTIVE

The PHS Dance program is offering a series of classes for PHS Dance Alumni. Thank you to Jessica Taylor and our alumni teaching artists for building this dance collective and community for our former students.



RANDOLPHVILLE RESPECT

Randolphville students kicked off the new focus character trait – RESPECT – during a whole school



assembly. Led by second grade teacher Ms. Kamdar, students began with mindful movement to help them remember to be present and aware of their actions and behaviors. Mrs. Reynolds, Digital Literacy teacher, created a respect video starring staff to demonstrate what it means to be respectful in school. Students earn respect tickets when staff notices them doing the right thing – showing respect.

GRANDVIEW FAMILIES PAINT WITH MR. LEE DURING PAINT WITH ME NIGHT

On December 4, 2019, Grandview School hosted the third annual Paint With Me Night, when students, parents and staff share a wonderful evening of expressing artistic talents and shopping at the Grandview Holiday Shoppe. Designed by our Grandview PTO, Art teacher Chris Lee, and numerous staff who volunteered to make this night a memorable one for our students and their parents, all enjoyed painting "A Fox in a Winter Scene." Mr. Lee channeled his inner "Bob Ross" and painted step by step with our 120 participants. This year, Grandview was fortunate to make use of new technological resources, the Elmo Hovercam and wireless microphone system. Even though all participants began with the same image, every finished painting had a unique look and style. It was an evening of Grandview Greatness.



LINDSAY BARNA PRESENTS IN NASHVILLE

Middle School Literacy Coach Lindsay Barna presented a Spark and Tell session at the Association for Middle Level Educators 46th Annual Conference held in Nashville, TN. Mrs. Barna, along with Alyssa McAloney, a science teacher from Franklin Lakes Middle School, presented on using common language to transfer argument writing skills across content areas. Congratulations to Mrs. Barna, for this recognition, and for sharing your valuable skills with teachers across the country.



SUSAN PASCULLO NAMED EDUCATOR OF DISTINCTION

PHS teacher Susan Pascullo has been selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Mrs. Pascullo, who teaches television broadcasting and digital filmmaking, was nominated by PHS student Ronni Garrett for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the profession. Congratulations, Mrs. Pascullo!



A SCHOR HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving was extra special this year thanks to the students at Schor School. Throughout the months of October and November, staff and students donated canned and boxed goods for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. The Schor community generously contributed more than 1,100 donations. Mrs. Smolk's WIN class created food baskets using these donations. Collaboration, kindness, and effort made the food drive a huge success!



EISENHOWER FAMILIES FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Eisenhower families and staff enjoyed their first annual Family Wellness night. Activities included yoga, Zumba, fitness challenges, blood pressure checks, and discussions on healthy eating, mental health and growth mindset.



CHILDREN'S CORNER CAREER DAY AND MORE

Children's Corner Preschool celebrated American Education Week with a week packed full of activities. Students created pictures that told "what I like best about my school," and the pictures were displayed around the hallways. For career day, students dressed up as their future career choice, including attorneys to zoologists. Parents also got in on the fun, participating in special activities with their children. The staff showed off their cooking skills by holding a Multicultural Luncheon. The celebration ended in a show of Children's Corner Preschool Pride by wearing green and purple.



KING STUDENTS LEARN FROM PHS FBLA

On Friday, December 6, PHS members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) spent the day at King School, sharing skills such as leadership, marketing knowledge, management, financial literacy, and a plethora of other important life skills. FBLA students spent the day in each fourth and fifth grade classroom, where they made it fun to learn about personal finance, entrepreneurship, and careers by leading hands on activities with students. It was a great day of service for Piscataway High School and King School students.

