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Superintendent's Report

Volume 1 Issue 9 May 26, 2016

FAQ's

FAQs are on the district website under "Quick Links"

Who is eligible for free busing?

All Grade K-8 students who reside more than two miles from their assigned school and all Grade 9-12 students who reside more than two-and-ahalf miles from their assigned school can receive free busing.

Can I pay to bus my child?

Students who reside UNDER the stated mileage guidelines 5of two miles from their assigned school for Grade K-8 students, and two-and-a-half miles for Grade 9-12 students, are eligible to apply for feebased "Subscription Busing," which costs \$425.00 for the entire school year. Students eligible for free or reduced meals are eligible for subscription busing at a reduced fee and should contact the Transportation office at 732-572-2289 x 2365. Subscription busing applications are completed using the district's online registration system, Community Pass. There may, at times, be a waiting list for this service. More information and applications can be found on the district website.

PHS AWARDED \$50,000 GRANT FROM INVESTORS BANK FOR WEIGHT ROOM UPGRADES



PHS students are grateful to Investors Bank for its generous \$50,000 grant to complete upgrades to the weight room. Upgrades include new equipment for both strength training and cardio training. All students will benefit as the weight room is used for strength and conditioning for athletics after school, but used by all students in general physical education classes during the school day. The photo above includes Superintendent Rafferty, Principal Lester, PHS students, and from Investors Bank, Kevin Cummings, President and Chief Executive Officer, Joseph Sette, Senior Vice President and Director, Government Banking South, and Daniel Eatman Jr., Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager in Piscataway. Thank you, Investors Bank!

DR. ALEX GRAY AND DR. PATRICK CONNELLY PRESENT AT NYU ON DISPROPORTIONALITY

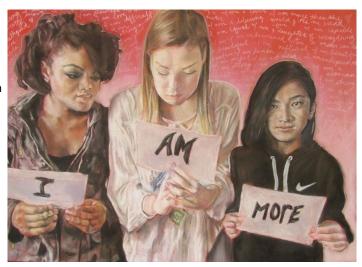
At NYU's Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools Spring Conference, Dr. Alex Gray, Principal of ML King Intermediate School, and Dr. Patrick Connelly, Director of The Haven, presented issues and challenges around disproportionality in academics and discipline. They further described interventions to address it, including youth mentoring, peer leadership, staff development, district team development and efforts to achieve racial balance in gifted and talented programs.

Dr. Alex Gray (above) and Dr. Patrick Connelly (right)

Conackamack Principal Donna DeAngelis White, and Arbor Principal Janelle Williams, also attended the conference.

PHS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN CONGRESSIONAL ART AWARDS

On Friday, May 6, at Rutgers University, Congressman Frank Pallone recognized five PHS students in an annual art competition sponsored by the US House of Representatives. The *Artistic Discovery Contest* encourages and recognizes the talents of students nationwide. Within New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District, PHS student Jamie Ramos took first place, and students Mary Dvorsky, Giorel Laxamana, Katie Maas, and Neha Patel received Honorable Mentions. Jamie Ramos's artwork, *I Am More*, will be displayed in the US Capitol Building in Washington DC for one year.



CONACKAMACK BIKE-A-THON

On Saturday, May 14, the
Conackamack PTO hosted its
first annual Bike-a-Thon.
Students, faculty, and parents
enjoyed a beautiful day and a
safe but challenging course.
Riders competed for the
chance to win prizes such as a
new bike, box seat tickets to
the Somerset Patriots, and an
Xbox One! Over 30 riders raised
approximately \$2200 toward the
many activities the PTO sponsors



for the school. Thank you to all who participated.

CONVERSATION AT KNOLLWOOD

Launched by Knollwood teacher, Donna Srouji, and funded by a Piscataway Education Foundation INSPIRE grant, Knollwood's Conversation Enrichment program matches ESL students with students who exhibit leadership skills, to help enhance their

vocabulary and conversation skills. Students meet twice a month for conversation-based learning that covers current events, sports, holidays and more.



SCHOR STUDENTS ARE MOST IMPROVED

On Wednesday, April 27, the Somerset Patriots honored the Most Improved Students in Middlesex County at a home game. Teachers from all over the county nominated students who have improved in social, academic, or behavioral areas. From T. Schor Middle School, Scott Digirolamo, Deven Martinez, and Kelly Nguyen won the honor. Scott and Deven, along with their families, were able to make the game. Mrs. Shauna Evans, Ms. Danielle Margulies, Mrs. Beth Borrus, Mrs. Michele Polischak, Mrs. Allyson Brown, and Mrs. Roberta Blaszczyk attended the game to support their students. Congratulations Scott, Deven and Kelly for your efforts throughout middle school!



Schor teachers and students celebrate achievement at Somerset Patriot's Stadium.

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ELEMENTARY TRACK MEET A SUCCESS



The annual K-5 Elementary School Track Meet took place on May 12, at the PHS stadium. Students from all K-5 buildings enjoyed some friendly competition in multiple track and field events. The track meet was well attended by students and their families. The K-5 Health & Physical Education staff was truly dedicated to making this day a huge success. Thanks go to Lisa Moore, Kayla Torok, Jake Switzer, James Boyd, Matt Applegate, Brian Rosania, Jeff Cerro, and Christina Doherty, to Kevin Donahue and Justin Strasser from Conackamack Middle School, and to Assistant Athletic Director Julia Schick.

EISENHOWER FIRST GRADERS MEET GOVERNOR CHRISTIE

It's not every day you see a giraffe — or meet a governor— but Eisenhower first graders did both on their field trip to the Turtle Back Zoo. The students were excited to see the new



African Adventure exhibit and its newest inhabitants, the giraffes, but they didn't expect to meet the Governor at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.

AT RANDOLPHVILLE, IT'S SAFTEY FIRST

First grade students at Randolphville recently completed the Safety Ambassador Program, sponsored through Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and presented by students from Piscataway



Vocational High School. Four sessions covered Pedestrian Safety, Fall Prevention, Safety In and Around Cars and Wheeled Sports.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SET THEIR SIGHTS ON COLLEGE

Middle schoolers at Schor and Quibbletown are setting their sights on college. Both schools recently held college fairs where students learned about different offerings at colleges across the county. The Schor College Fair was part of the WIN (What I Need) cycle, where students researched a specific college and acted as Admissions Officers, manning their tables and answering questions from other students. At "Quib Kids for College Day," staff wore their college shirts whiles students

o attend. Home room time featured olleges attended by Quibbletown staff.

were encouraged to wear shirts from colleges they would like to attend. Home room time featured college discussions and fact sheets were available for over 20 colleges attended by Quibbletown staff. College trivia with raffles and prizes took place during lunch.

QUIB STUDENTS PAY IT FORWARD

Eighth grade boys from Quibbletown paid it forward in a day of community service at Piscataway Regional Day School. The



Quib students facilitated a "Mini-Olympics," assisting students with multiple disabilities through a series of friendly challenges followed by social interactions. It was a great day for students from both schools.

GRANDVIEW STUDENTS REACH FOR THE STARS

Grandview Elementary students get the chance to feel like astronauts as they learn all about the stars and constellations through our Star Lab. The portable planetarium allows students to experience the universe from a unique perspective. Thank you Mrs. Abbate and Mr. Ahrens for this out of the world experience!



KNOLLWOOD'S GLOWFEST

Over 325 students, teachers and parents participated in the glow-in-the-dark fitness event designed to help combat childhood obesity. When the lights were shut off and the music began, participants pushed tires, ran sprints and did burpees to work up a sweat. The

crew from 92.3 AMP Radio added to the excitement: DJ Majestik, "Producer Kristin," and morning show personalities "ShoBoy" and "Nina," played music for an effective and enjoyable workout.



PISCATAWAY COMMMUNICATIONS RECOGNIZED BY NJSPRA

Piscataway Township Schools won two communications awards from the New Jersey School Public Relations
Association (NJSPRA). Presented on May 20 at the NJ
School Communications Award Luncheon, the district received a first place award in the Special Interest
Publication Category for the 2015-2016 District Calendar, and a second place award in the website category.
Congratulations to Public Information Officer Judy Palermo, who accepted the awards on behalf of the district.

WOMEN OF AT&T SPEAK STEM AT KING AND ARBOR

Knowing it's never too early to get girls interested in STEM, the Women of AT&T visited Arbor and King Intermediate Schools to talk directly to the girls, sharing information about their personal careers, and other available careers in STEM. The speakers covered topics and answered questions ranging from what they studied in school, to what led them to the careers they have today, to ways to develop leadership skills.

