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Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli



PHS Students Put Safety First at Eisenhower

Through a partnership with RWJBarnabas Health, PHS students donate their time to present safety lessons to Eisenhower first graders. Operated through the Injury Prevention Program at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center, these PHS Safety Ambassadors present a six-week program that includes weekly safety tips and instructions for wearing bike helmets, pedestrian safety, wheeled sports safety, fire prevention, and more. Thanks go to PHS Guidance Counselor Mary Stephanie Rogers, who coordinates this program.



Schor Art Teacher Exhibits in Windows of Understanding

In addition to inspiring young students to develop patience and discipline while expressing themselves through art, fine and performing art teachers across the District continue to showcase their own work in professional settings. This February, Schor art teacher Samantha Knierim is one of 24 fine artists displaying their work in Windows of Understanding. This public art project, created by a consortium of community arts councils in partnership with Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, shows actions local organizations take towards social justice issues. Ms. Knierim's work highlights the contributions of Elijah's Promise, a non-profit organization that operates a community soup kitchen, culinary arts school, and catering business, and connects low-income individuals and families with social and health services. It is displayed in the windows of Harvest Moon Café, in New Brunswick. Congratulations, Ms. Knierim.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Piscataway Students Learn From History

Across the District during Black History Month, students in every school and at every grade level study the contributions, sacrifices, and achievements of Black and African Americans. Teachers and administrators work together to create meaningful lessons and discussions. Following is a brief recap of what our students learn at every school level. More comprehensive information, broken down by school, can be found [here](#).

Piscataway High School:

Students at Piscataway High School have multiple opportunities to learn and share knowledge during Black History Month, with activities and lessons planned across the curriculum. PHS students at all grade levels will examine the struggles and achievements of Black and African Americans. Here are some examples of what our high school students will study:

- The federal government's role in the Civil Right movement
- The Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black flying unit in the US Army Air Force
- The history of discrimination in Housing and Banking, and its impact on wealth building
- Notable Black Engineers throughout history
- Black artists, composers and performers
- Coretta Scott King Award books
- Stock footage to create biography reels and voiceovers



Middle Schools:

Using technology and the arts across the curriculum, Middle Schools focus on the contributions, accomplishments, voices, and diversity of notable African Americans. Examples of middle school work include the following:

- Read biographies and study information about notable Black Americans
- Explore historical origins of stereotypes
- Speeches and actions of MLK, Ghandi, Rosa Parks, Emmitt Till and other important contributors to the Civil Rights Movement
- The literature, music, art, and fashion of the Harlem Renaissance
- The history of the people of Africa and the African Diaspora
- Focus on "Stepping Up," using Black History EdPuzzle
- Create PicCollages of Civil Rights leaders and in Spanish, GimKit games
- Use Desmos software to research important Black mathematicians
- Book clubs, focusing on novels that celebrate diversity and inclusion
- Using Padlet, organize research into presentations
- Research African American scientists
- Compare how we use our voices today with Griots, musicians and story tellers who preserved history in medieval Africa
- Spanish texts about influential figures and activists in Black history
- Make paper quilts based on the work of artist Faith Ringgold

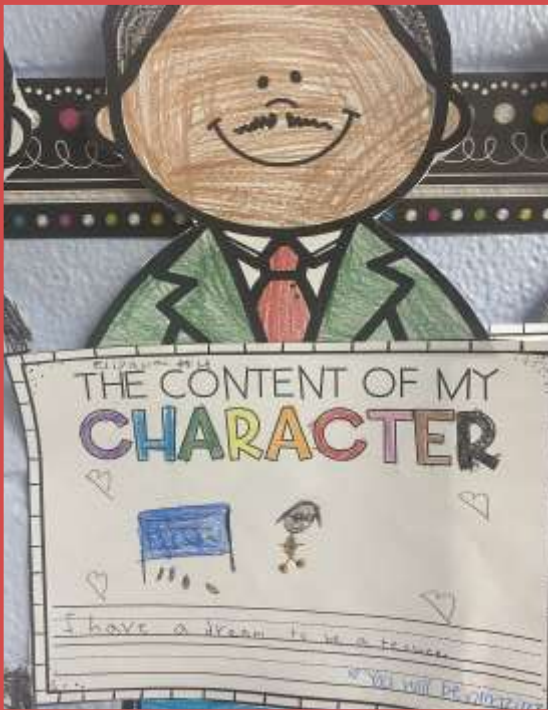




Intermediate Schools:

Intermediate School students research notable African Americans and Black historical figures and the lasting impacts they made. Here are examples of work at Arbor and King:

- Research notable African American Achievers, present findings in a poster or PowerPoint, broadcast famous quotes each Friday
- Complete a school-wide scavenger hunt, using biographies of notable African Americans posted around the school
- Cross-curricular lessons on the contributions of African Americans to history, literature, music, math, science, technology, and art
- Close readings of historical fiction; read and explore books and videos about the Civil Rights Movement and the Civil War; make connections to today, addressing discrimination and inequalities
- Share information about Black History through Bingo Boards
- Create posters based on the impact of diversity during the Civil Rights Movement and the Harlem Renaissance
- Study the artwork of influential African American artists
- Connect today's culture to influential African American musicians, athletes, scientists, and other pioneers



Elementary Schools

Elementary Schools focus on notable Black and African Americans, weekly themes, and discussions. Each school and grade will offer individual activities:

- Read about civil rights leaders, artists, inventors, and children who instilled change; explore their contributions through nonfiction texts and documents, Nearpod activities, and biographical presentations
- Study the Civil Rights movement, Education, Arts, and Science and connect learning through writing activities, non-fiction literature, and digital and art projects
- Explore concepts of diversity and inclusion through digital and print sources, including Scholastic News supplements and Brainpop videos
- Study accomplishments of Black Innovators in STEM
- Review the life and legacy of Jackie Robinson
- Discover the lasting impact that African Americans have had in history and culture, from literature and the arts to government and civil rights



Children's Corner Preschool

Children's Corner Preschool students will learn about differences, equality, perseverance and believing in yourself. Here are examples of preschool activities:

- Enjoy a virtual assembly by the McDonald's production of "Faces of Black History," through song, dance, and poetry
- Listen to teachers read inspiring stories such as "Black is a Rainbow," "Hair Love," and "King of Kindergarten"
- Through age-appropriate materials, each preschool class will learn about an influential leader in the Black community and contribute pictures to a virtual Black History Museum



Arbor Students Go for the Record!

As part of their Record Makers and Breakers Unit, fifth grade students in the Honors Math class at Arbor Intermediate School complete activities and then compare their results to world records. In January, they constructed a paper chain made of 437 paper loops over 90 feet long in just 10 minutes. Students used this data to predict what they would have accomplished in 24 hours, and compared their data to the world record.

King Students Use Number Sense, Logic, and Problem-Solving Strategies

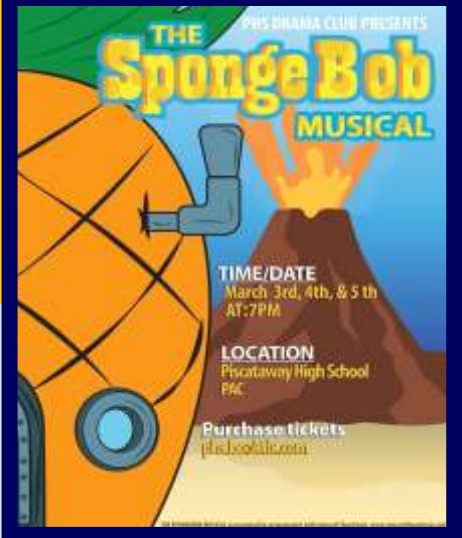
King students in Honors Math approach the study of algebra—variables, expressions, and equations—using number sense, logical reasoning, and problem-solving strategies. Acting as mathematicians, students work collaboratively to investigate situations, such as world records and puzzles, to develop algebraic reasoning. Using algebraic symbols to understand the



notion of equality and equivalent expressions, they analyze mathematical situations, learn how variables represent change in quantities and specific unknowns in an equation, and explore the fundamental algebraic concept that a variable represents the same quantity in given equation or sets of equations.

King Student Wins Writing Contest

Scholastic Storyworks recognized the hard work and writing talent of King Fourth Grader Janvi Patel, naming her a winner in their writing competition for fourth and fifth graders. Her submission, "How to Make a New Friend," was one of only five winners selected from a nationwide pool of entries. Congratulations Janvi, and her teacher, Mrs. Paust, who continues to encourage her students to engage in writing.



Grandview Students Learn Through Play

Grandview students had a ton of fun on February 2, celebrating Global School Play Day. Students focused on learning skills through the art of play. Students experienced first-hand the benefits of play, playing freely and collaboratively with others. Play allows students to learn without restrictions, and helps them better understand the positive impact of activity.



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