

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

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Coming Events

February 17

Presidents' Day Schools
Closed for Students
Teacher In-Service Day

February 26

Conackamack Jazz Night

February 27, 28, 29

Quibbletown Play

February 28

Piscataway Education
Foundation
Designer Bag Bingo

March 2-6

Read Across America
Week

March 5, 6, 7

PHS Musical

March 10

Early Dismissal for
Students

Teacher In-Service

March 12

Permanent Art Collection

GRANDVIEW'S SPOTLIGHT ON WELLNESS

When the 2019-2020 school year began, a voluntary school-based Wellness Team formed at Grandview to support student and staff emotional well-being and overall health and fitness. Over fifteen staff members brainstormed initiatives and programs to help support the Grandview Family.



Every week, School Behaviorist Ms. Maria Balint leads students and staff in Mindful Mondays, where brief mindfulness activities are announced over the loud speaker and practiced in every classroom. On Wednesday and Thursday mornings before school, you may catch a glimpse of the staff Walking Club strolling the grounds. The Wellness Team hosted a potluck salad bar lunch during teacher in-service day. On February 5, Grandview participated in Global School Play Day, where all staff and students engaged in a fitness fun, led by an exercise video featuring Ms. Torok and Mr. Lee. Lastly, Grandview recently hosted its first ever Family Fitness Night, where approximately 200 Grandview students and family members participated in a variety of fitness classes and activities facilitated by community volunteers and staff.

QUIBBLETOWN STUDENTS STAY GOLD

STAY GOLD! At Quibbletown, students participated in lessons on core expectations of Gaining Empathy, Owning Responsibilities, Learning Respectfully, and Displaying Kindness (G.O.L.D.). Activities included Responsibility Quilt Squares, Kindness Locker Slams, Empathy Lessons, Door Decorating, and a Review Kahoot Game. The week concluded with the Knight's Council judging the Door Decorating Contest and awarding one homeroom per grade level with a Game Hour in the gym. Quibbletown students are the GOLDEN KNIGHTS!



PHS KEY CLUB CREATES AFTER CARE WINTER WONDERLAND

PHS Key Club students created a Winter Wonderland for after care students at Martin Luther King School. Activities included freeze tag in the gym, designing and making beaded bracelets, decorating winter themed shapes and designs, and decorating and eating cupcakes! In partnership with Kiwanis International and Key Club International, the PHS Key Club is part of the world's largest student led organization providing service and leadership opportunities for students throughout the world. The PHS Key Club students look forward to creating another after school program in the district soon.



RANDOLPHVILLE FAMILY FITNESS KNOLLWOOD READS ALOUD

Randolphville hosted its yearly Family Fitness Night on January 16. The PTO and Randolphville's Physical Education teacher, Mr. Stio, joined parent and teacher volunteers in engaging families in fun games and activities. The night placed an emphasis on physical fitness, community, and fun!



On February 5, people around the globe participated in World Read Aloud Day. Students at Knollwood celebrated the joys of reading and the impact that books have on our lives. Third graders listened to a read aloud about The National African Bookstore, a store where people celebrated the freedom and universal right to read. Students then chose some of their favorite picture books to read aloud to their friends. In other classrooms throughout the school, teachers, parents, and special guest readers shared the gift of a great story during a special read aloud time.



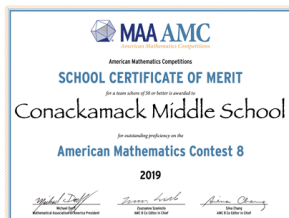
SCHOR RAISES MONEY AND TEACHERS GET PIED

Schor's Student Government, under the advisement of Mr. Brian Hornlein, led a student run and organized fundraiser, "Penny Wars." This fun event raised approximately \$250 for future student activities. The event raised money by allowing students to vote for a favorite teacher by either contributing pennies that would help them avoid getting pied, or contributing other coins or bills, which would lead to them getting pied. The teacher with the most points in each grade level received a shaving cream pie to the face from a student selected by the teacher being pied. The event was made possible by the contributions and involvement of Schor students and the competitive nature of the Schor staff. And everyone enjoyed watching the Mr. Okner, Mr. Whitlock, and Mrs. Connors get pied!



CONACKAMACK STUDENTS SCORE IN MATH AND LITERACY

While having 190 Conackamack students going the extra math mile by participating in the AMC 8 Mathematic Competition was its own reward, having the school earn a Certificate of Merit for a high team score, and the following students earn high placement honors was additionally gratifying. Congratulations Jihwan Park and Aarav Desai who earned Gold Certificates; Sohum Korgaonkar, Tyler Tran, Robert Bressler who earned Silver Certificates; Chris Wu, who earned a Bronze Certificate; and Sohum Korgaonkar, who earned the Certificate of Achievement for students in grade 6 and below. Congratulations to all participating students and teachers!



Conackamack literacy students also have something to celebrate! Sareena Nanganand won the first place \$250 prize, and Zoe Daly received an honorable mention in the "Tell us Your Story" essay contest, sponsored by Brown Kids Read, a nonprofit organization that encourages all children to read more diverse books, an initiative fully supported by the district. The students will be honored at an event at the Barnes & Noble in the Menlo Park Mall on Saturday, February 15. Congratulations to these students and their teachers!

CHILDREN'S CORNER STUDENTS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

Children's Corner students attended the Faces of Black History Tour Sponsored by the McDonald's Corporation. The hour long Broadway-style show acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of African Americans from the past to the present. The exuberant and inspiring show celebrated many well-known African American figures in the arts, sports, science, and literature through song, dance, and poetry in an educational format for all ages.



PHS SENIOR RECOGNIZED FOR SOCCER SKILLS

PHS Senior Jordyn Allen was recognized for her soccer talent at the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association annual National Girls and Women In Sports Day celebration that took place at Seton Hall University in South Orange. Jordyn will continue her soccer career at the University of Rhode Island next year.



THE NATIONAL ENGLISH HONORS SOCIETY (NEHS) WORKING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

The National English Honor Society (NEHS) recently attended the MLK School's annual Day of Service. They helped craft gratitude letters, learn more about the life and works of Dr. King with activity sheets, and promoted Pway Reads by distributing DIY bookmarks with information about the event.

In addition, NEHS is currently:

- *Mentoring in the high school writing lab after school
- *Mentoring PIECE, an advanced writing style, and poetry in PHS freshman classes
- *Developing and facilitating creative writing programs to take place at the Piscataway Public Library in May
- *Developing and facilitating programs for Pway Reads in April

Thank you Ms. Klastava and Mr. Storey for guiding our NEHS students, and special thanks to the students for their contributions to students throughout the district.



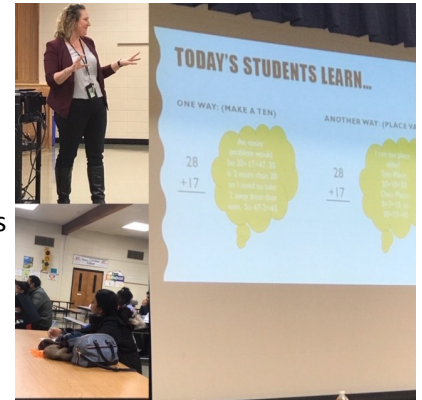
PHS STUDENT RECEIVES AFJROTC FLIGHT ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

PHS AFJROTC Cadet Manvir Chahal, received a Flight Academy Scholarship for private pilot license training in summer 2020. The scholarship is valued at \$22,500 and covers transportation, room and board, academics and flight hours required to potentially earn a private pilot license. Cadet Chahal is one of 200 AFJROTC cadets around the world to receive this scholarship, while more than 2,575 cadets applied. Congratulations, Cadet Chahal!



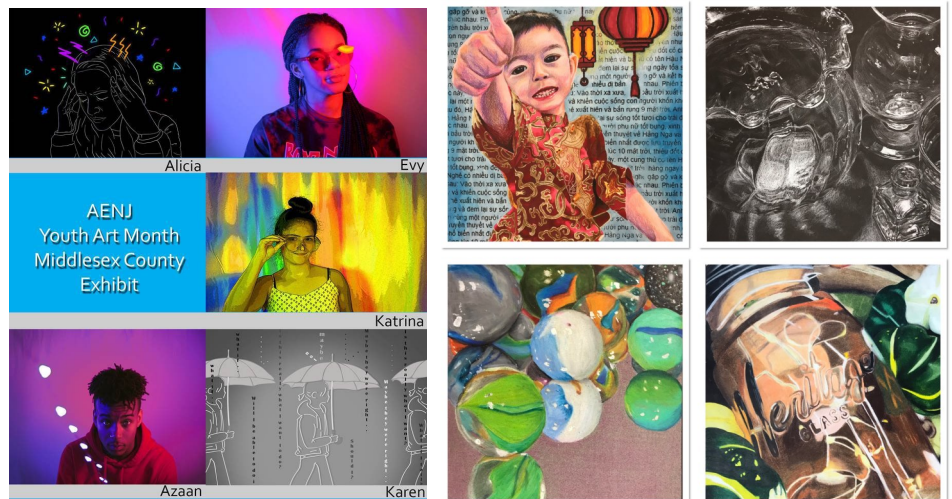
EISENHOWER OFFERS PARENT WORKSHOPS

During the second workshop of Eisenhower's parent workshop series, first grade teacher Mrs. Dedousis taught parents the same math strategies she teaches students. Parents also learned about online math resources and how to best use them to understand and support their children as they do their homework.



PHS ARTISTS SHOWCASE WORK DURING YOUTH ART MONTH

Congratulations to PHS Artists Daniel Chihuan, Alyssa Griguoli, Kevin Nguyen, and Jennifer Raymondi, as well as Karen Luo Ye, Alicia Jusinski, Evy Guzman, Azaan Johnson, and Katrina Lovich whose artwork was selected for Middlesex County Youth Art Month exhibit at the Woodbridge Artisan Guild during March. Thanks to Ms. Amme for this opportunity!



ARBOR FUNDS RAISES FOR PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Arbor Intermediate School, led by Ms. Rachel Sullivan, set out to support the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society by raising funds through the Pennies for Patients campaign. As a school, Arbor raised \$5,653.99. Arbor fifth grader Kayden Pires single-handedly raised \$2,765! When asked about it, he said, "I just like to help people." While the total raised is amazing, the Arbor staff felt the school could raise even more, and challenged the students to raise an additional \$800 by Valentine's Day. If students meet the goal, Mr. Baldassano has agreed to kiss a pig!



EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT

The Penguin Press, M.L.K.'s first ever school newspaper, had a special guest visit at a recent club meeting. Mr. Simmons, a journalist from TAP into Piscataway, presented to the club about how to write a catchy article, how to take a picture that says a thousand words, and how to get a meaningful quote. Led by Miss Pontoriero, the journalists at MLK are working diligently to publish their first issue!

