



Volume 7 Issue 8

April 8, 2021

# Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

## Grandview Families Share Build with Me Night

Led by Ms. Pietrocola, Grandview's virtual Build with Me Night welcomed many creative Grade 2 and Grade 3 students as they worked on technology skills along with their families. Celebrating NJ Maker's Day, an annual statewide celebration of engineering and design fields, students learned more about the design process by using stop motion to animate their own short film. Parents and other family members enjoyed learning alongside their child as they explored the process of animation and how to create movement in character through still photography.



## Piscataway Named Best Community for Music Education for Fourth Consecutive Year

The National Association of Music Merchants awards Best Communities for Music Education designation to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

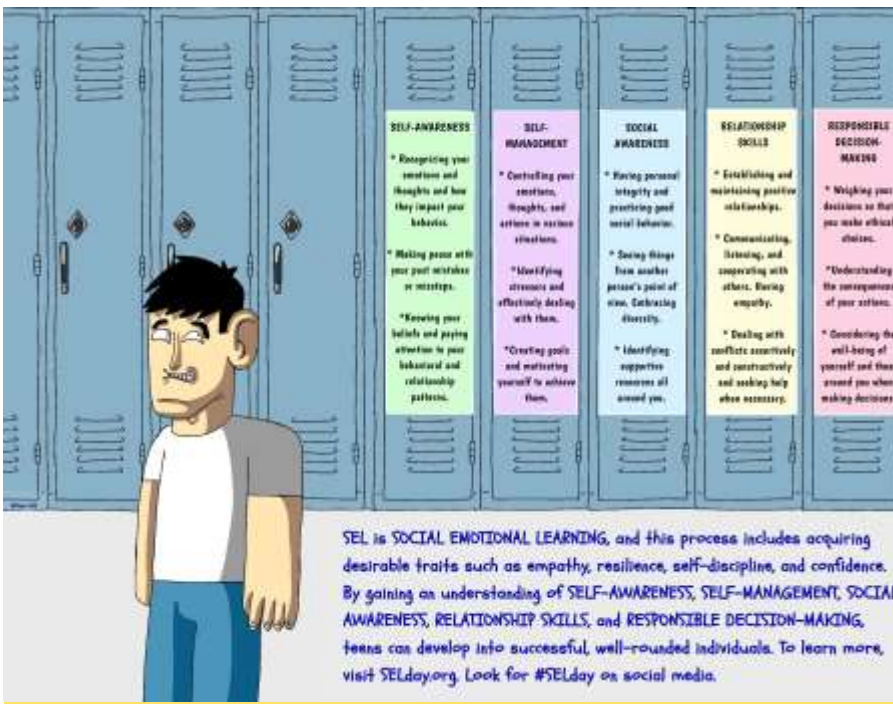


## Randolphville Students Inspired to Paint

Randolphville students completed a collaborative art project begun during Black History Month and inspired by the artist Alma Thomas. Students created a drawing/painting inspired by Thomas' painting technique and vibrant colors. Students then submitted their work through



Google Classroom, so all could visit their [virtual art gallery](#). The background color for each slide corresponds to the grade. (Grade 3: blue; Grade 2: pink; Grade 1: yellow; and Kindergarten: turquoise)



## PHS Artists Selected for NJ State Teen Arts Festival

Congratulations to PHS Artists Ryan Erdman, Ishita Jain, Charlotte Yulick, and Takovah Townsend for having their artwork selected to move on to the NJ State Teen Arts Festival! Thanks to Lisa Lentini-Pombrio!



Ryan Erdman

Charlotte Yulick



Ishita Jain

Takovah Townsend

## Quibbletown Continues Popular Comic Book Style SEL Campaign

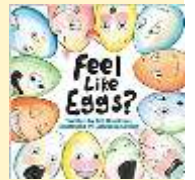
Quibbletown Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day focused on self-reflection. The Quib Health and Wellness club supported these efforts by first creating a flyer illustrated by Eighth Grader Marcus Pinto, highlighting key aspects of SEL: self-awareness; self-management; social awareness; relationship skills; and responsible decision-making. The students shared the flyer with all grade levels on Schoology, along with a two-question poll: 1) Which domain (or part) of SEL are you very good at? Choices: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making. 2) Which domain (or part) of SEL do you want to improve in? Choices: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making. The answers will drive the direction of the club and affect how it will support SEL initiatives. In collaboration with overall school initiatives: mentoring, counseling lessons, and self-regulation education, the club supports the process through which students acquire and apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve personal goals.

## Arbor Students Embrace SEL

Arbor students celebrated New Jersey's first Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Day on Friday, March 26, reflecting on and sharing their thoughts about the importance of discussing feelings, showing empathy, and developing positive relationships with classmates and teachers. Leading up to SEL Day, students participated in Zones of Regulation counseling lessons, framework that offers tools and strategies to help them recognize and regulate their feelings. By embracing social and emotional education, students build communication and problem-solving skills, and see academic and interpersonal benefits. Many students created and shared writing, artwork, songs, or video recognizing the significance of promoting conversations about mental health.

## Knollwood Students Feel Like Eggs

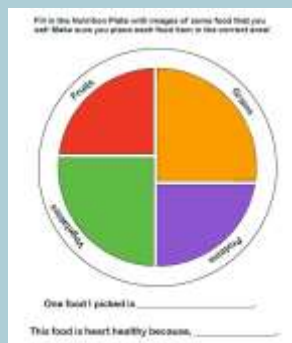
Author Jeff Goodman joined Knollwood Kindergarteners last month for a virtual visit to celebrate reading and share his book, *Feel Like Eggs?* The California-based author met with all Kindergarten students via Zoom where he read his book and led a discussion on the different feelings that we all experience. Students enjoyed the variety of characters and illustrations in the story, and Mr. Goodman set aside extra time for Q&A.





## Quibbletown Builds Heart Health and Healthy Connections

The Quibbletown Health and Wellness Club partnered with Mr. Enes to promote a schoolwide virtual American Heart Association Challenge. Students in the club planned a week of projects that support the activities of the American Heart Association (AHA) Challenge undertaken in PE class. Projects include word searches, crosswords, and scrambles, art challenges, and nutrition exercises. The students created visuals for each activity for all to access through Schoology.



## Children's Corner Hosts Successful Food Drive

Children's Corner Preschool students are learning about the power of collective giving through a very successful food drive held at both the River and Pond Campuses. Children's Corner Families donated 600 pounds of nutritious food and other necessities for needy families served by The Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (MCFOOF). With food insecurity heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, every donation was appreciated, and as donations grew, students could see how every contribution made a difference.

## Middle School Orchestra Teachers Make Sure Students Stay in Tune

Orchestra teachers from Quibbletown, Schor, and Conackamack traveled to the three middle schools to ensure every student's instrument stays in tune. Teachers also checked to make sure students knew how to clean and maintain their instruments, while giving mini-lessons on tuning and musicality. This drive-up service was greatly appreciated by students and families.



## Eisenhower Eagles Studied Courage in March

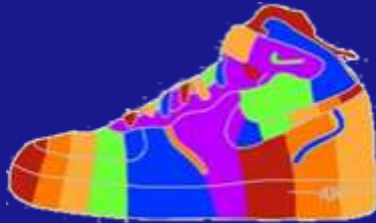
Eisenhower students build character by focusing on different positive traits each month. During March, Eisenhower Eagles focused on courage, and what it means to feel and show courage every day. Students had very individual responses, ranging from "not being afraid of roller skating" to "not being afraid of the dark" to "helping my family" and "checking on my grandma." As one student put it: "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

## It's Knollwood Spring Musical Time!

Knollwood students welcomed spring with their annual Spring Musical, led by music teacher Olivia Dowden. This year's event took the form of grade-wide singalongs where both virtual and in-person students "gathered" together to sing and dance to some favorite spring-themed songs, including *Here Comes the Sun*, *Let's Go Fly a Kite*, and *Singing in the Rain*. Several third grade students pre-recorded messages to introduce each song, and all students rehearsed the lyrics and choreography for the singalong during March music classes.

## Schor Celebrates Youth Art Month with New Art Zine

Schor students once again impress, showing their art talents in different art mediums in their monthly Art Zine. With March celebrated as Youth Art Month, this issue also focused on cross curricular projects, with artists creating new poetic imagery from written texts.



## PHS Readers Score Big in Learning Ally's Great Reading Games 2021


PHS students took second place in Learning Ally's Great Reading Games 2021. This nationwide contest logs the reading hours students spend in their digital audiobook library, accessed through Learning Ally, an educational reading app designed for students who learn best through listening. The digital library includes textbooks from kindergarten through post-graduate as well as classic literature and high interest, new titles. Audio books are particularly helpful for students with certain learning disabilities or visual impairments. Special Education Reading Teacher Michelle Jacobs entered PHS students as a motivating tool and the students responded by reading a total of 19,658 pages during the five-week contest period. The students were awarded a \$150 Visa gift card for PHS. Congratulations PHS readers!




## PBL Assay Science Offers Opportunities to PHS Biomedical Students

PBL Assay Science is a Piscataway company offering biomedical products and services. Since 2003, they have funded the annual PHS Biomedical Research Scholarship totaling \$4000 over four years, to PHS students. Scholarship winners are also offered paid summer internships, with several students continuing part time work throughout the school year. The 2020 scholarship winner, Yumna Enver, will return to PBL this summer while the 2018 winner, Kamil Skup, has continued part time at PBL throughout the school year and full time in the summer. PBL has supported 18 PHS students with scholarships and even more with learning opportunities. We deeply appreciate their contributions and look forward to announcing the 2021 Biomedical Research Scholarship winner this June.





**PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS**  
HIGH-QUALITY • FULL-DAY  
**FREE PRESCHOOL**  
Thanks to NJ Department of Education Preschool Expansion Aid, Piscataway Township Schools will offer free preschool to Piscataway families.



To qualify, your child must be three- or four-years-old by October 1, 2021.


For more information visit [egsah.com](http://egsah.com) or email [egsah@pway.org](mailto:egsah@pway.org)

Online Applications Available at Community Pass April 5, 2021

**Deadline to Apply is April 23, 2021**

**East Campus**  
1300 Cooper Street  
Piscataway

**Pond Campus**  
190 New Market Road  
Piscataway



## Children's Corner Preschool Taking Applications for 2021-2022

Applications are live for 329 free preschool seats at Children's Corner for the 2021-2022 school year. These seats are available due to the New Jersey Department of Education Preschool Expansion Aid. All Piscataway families were notified of this opportunity through postcards mailed to every Piscataway home in late March, and the information was also shared through social media. Applications are now open in Community Pass with an April 2, 2021 deadline to apply. Since seats are limited, parents are advised to apply early.



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