

## HOUR OF CODE IN PISCATAWAY SCHOOLS

### FAQ's

*Each month we'll highlight a frequently asked question. A complete list of FAQs is on the district website under "Quick Links"*

**How will I know if schools are closed, or if there is a delayed opening or early dismissal?**

To find out if schools are closed:

♦ Check our website at [www.piscatawayschools.org](http://www.piscatawayschools.org), the official source for school closings!

♦ Blackboard Connect automated messages will be sent to all families.

♦ Visit the following news websites when inclement weather affects school openings:

- WCTC at [wctcam.com](http://wctcam.com)
- NJ101.5 at [nj1015.com](http://nj1015.com)
- News 12 New Jersey at [newjersey.news12.com](http://newjersey.news12.com)



For the second year in a row, Piscataway students in grades K-8 joined tens of millions of students in 180 countries in celebrating "Hour of Code." This global movement is one of the ways we prepare students in areas that are

seeing increased demand. Computer science and coding are experiencing job growth in multiple areas and offering many career opportunities. Within the Piscataway curriculum, all students in Grades K-8 work with coding

within their Digital Literacy/STEM classes. Parents who attended Hour of Code witnessed their students in action, demonstrating their computer skills and coding proficiency.

## JANELLE WILLIAMS NAMED OMEGA PSI PHI EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Arbor Principal Janelle Williams was named Educator of the Year at the Omega Psi Phi-Omicron Chi Chapter's annual *Uplift Awards*, recognizing the efforts of community leaders for their service through volunteerism or other humanitarian and educational efforts. Established in the 1954, the Omicron Chi Chapter serves Plainfield and surrounding communities, providing scholarships to college bound students, food and clothing to needy families, and donating to numerous charities. The chapter was recently honored with the 2015 White House Volunteer Service Award. Ms. Williams was cited for her current work at Arbor, her previous work as an Assistant Principal in the Plainfield School District, and her teaching career in Piscataway. Congratulations Principal Williams!



## PHS STUDENTS EXHIBIT ARTWORK AT NJPAC



Art by Chrissy Papanier

Works of art from Piscataway High School art students Chrissy Papanier and Neha Patel were selected for the Art Educators of New Jersey Early Winter Exhibit at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Their artwork is part of a 30-piece exhibit that is hung in the Victoria Theater Lobby displaying K-12 artwork from around the state. Over 6,000 visitors to NJPAC will see these works of art while on display.



Art by Neha Patel

## PHS STUDENTS MENTOR KING BUDDING MUSICIANS

Twice a week, PHS music students travel to ML King Intermediate School, offering small group instruction to budding musicians in grades 4 and 5 to supplement their music education. The PHS students work with different groups on Tuesdays and Thursdays, helping students with technique, sight reading, and musicality. King students love the opportunity to learn from the big kids. Thank you PHS music students Niayla Silvera, Emily Stone, David Cruz and Dalton Mooring



## PISCATAWAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS TEACHER GRANTS

The Piscataway Education Foundation (PEF) will fund 19 teacher grants totaling close to \$20,000 for the 2015-2016 school year. Among the funded programs are ones that will bring cultural awareness to PHS students through an interactive Flamenco dance and music program, expose Quibblatown students to material beyond the classroom with guided research and a field trip to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, and allow Knollwood students to try "Active Seating," workspace options, including stability balls, hokki stools and standing desks. This is the first year for the Inspire Grant Program, which offers teachers funding opportunities for programs, new technologies, and hands-on experiences that may not be covered under the annual school operating budget. Grants were awarded to teachers spanning preschool through high school. Curriculum areas included Literacy, STEM, Fine Arts, Special Education, History, Foreign Language, ESL and Physical Education. Several grants were for cross-curricular projects or included life skills and socialization opportunities.





## AFJROTC CONTINUES TO GROW AND GIVE BACK

The PHS AFJROTC had a busy month, learning and growing through programs that brought them to the Vietnam War Memorial and Museum in Holmdel and taking part in a program that helps veterans express thoughts and feeling through music. They also competed in first rounds of the Junior Leadership and Academic Bowl and the Cyberpatriot Competition, and took part in the Jackson Drill Competition, taking first place in both Academics and Armed Dual Exhibition. For the community, the cadets conducted a Thanksgiving food drive, volunteered at the Senior Center, and began their weekly mentoring sessions with students at Knollwood School.



## GARDEN CLUB ADDED AT KNOLLWOOD

Knollwood Garden had its very first Garden Club this fall. Coordinated as an enrichment class through the Piscataway Community Education Department, Knollwood students learned garden basics while tending to their school garden. They learned how to harvest lettuce, kale, mint, various herbs, and tomatoes. They also spent time seed saving: learning how to collect and identify seeds from different plants. They finished the project by making their own packets for storing seeds until next spring. Perhaps their favorite part of the class was preparing raised garden beds for winter. Students added compost to the soil and even planted bulbs of daffodils, alliums, and more.



## CONACKAMACK TURKEY TROT AND FOOD DRIVE

On Wednesday, November 25, Conackamack Middle School students ran the yearly tradition, one-mile "Turkey Trot" and food drive. Under the slogan "two hands; two cans," the food drive has, since 1992, collected more than 50,000 cans of food for local food banks. This great tradition involves band students, Student Council, and physical education classes, leading the entire school community in this effort. Each of the six Turkey Trot winners, a boy and girl from each grade, generously donated their free turkey gift certificates to the food bank.



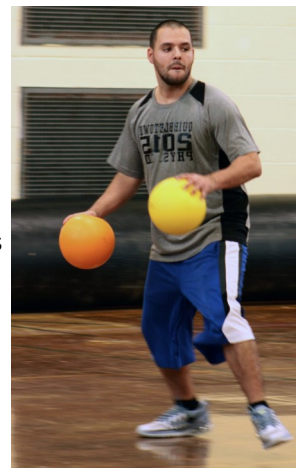
## EISENHOWER THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION & DONATION



On November 25, Eisenhower first grade students held a food drive, accumulating eight boxes of non-perishable food items to be donated to F.I.S.H., an organization that collects food and clothing for families in need. Through this project, the Eisenhower Eagles demonstrate they are willing to help when they can, and inspire others to give back to the community.

## QUIBBLETOWN FACULTY DODGEBALL

On November 17, Quibbletown hosted its first Faculty Dodgeball Game. Over 20 Quibbletown staff members competed on four teams in a round robin tournament, while over 200 students cheered on the action. Student volunteers served as referees, scorekeepers, time-keepers, and announcers, as the eighth grade staff reigned supreme. Afterwards, the Quibbletown PTG hosted a pizza party for students, staff, and parents, distributing information about upcoming meetings and fundraisers for the year. They also raised funds and collected canned goods for F.I.S.H., Inc., a local service organization.



## AFTERCARE STUDENTS GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Students in our aftercare programs at our elementary schools, middle schools and preschools are helping to make the holidays brighter for our local community and beyond: Grandview and Eisenhower made cards for our troops overseas; CCP Pond made ornaments for the New Market Fire Department; Arbor made holiday crafts for Board members and cards for the Arbor Fire Department; CCP River made reindeer crafts for the Piscataway Police; Randolphville sang for seniors at the Sterling Village Complex; Middle Schools made cookies, crafts, and cards for seniors at Sterling Village; King decorated holiday boxes for Meals on Wheels.

## ARBOR STUDENTS REACH OUT TO LESS FORTUNATE



Arbor students learned that during the holidays, it's important to reach out to those who are less fortunate and donate new clothes, toys and games. Students collected a total of 141 wrapped gifts to be delivered to 67 homeless children. Working through F.I.S.H., special thanks go to Arbor nurse, Corrine Fender, who coordinated the Arbor effort.

## NJSBA CITES YOU...I...WE INSPIRE AS AN A+ IDEA

The NJSBA (New Jersey School Board Association) included the district's You...I...We Inspire campaign in its A+ Ideas, Programs and Practices, which recognizes and shares innovative programs and best practices in New Jersey school districts. A link to the program description is found on the NJSBA website, as a resource for districts throughout New Jersey, who wish to improve culture and climate within their schools.

