



Southeast Delco School District

Knighly News

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill
Communities

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PennDot Statewide Innovations Challenge

Having been selected as the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDot) Regional Innovations Challenge winners for District 6, AHS students Cheyenne Phillips (grade 11) and Sahmir Blackwell (grade 12) will travel to Harrisburg on April 10th to compete in the state championship. The challenge tasked students to consider innovative methods, aside from laws and educational campaigns, that can be developed in the next 5 to 10 years to get drivers to slow down in work zones.



Cheyenne and Sahmir with students from competing schools.



Mentored by enrichment teacher Colleen DiMaggio, team members Cheyenne and Sahmir developed a proposal and impressed the judges with their concept and presentation. [Click here to read proposal.](#) The statewide winning team will be awarded \$1,500 from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).

Good luck Cheyenne and Sahmir.

It's Off to the Ballet

On March 7th, the district's gifted education students traveled to the Academy of Music to attend the final dress rehearsal of the ballet, Giselle. This ghost-filled ballet told the tragic yet romantic story of a beautiful young peasant girl named Giselle who falls for the flirtations of the deceitful and disguised nobleman, Albrecht. When the ruse is revealed, the fragile Giselle dies of heartbreak and Albrecht must face the otherworldly consequences of his careless actions.



Kramoh Mansalay (grade 11) and Curtis Stockley (grade 12)



Autumn Sitvarin (grade 1)

Academy Park 11th grader Kramoh Mansalay shared his feelings about the experience, stating, “I was astounded over how the performers made the story come alive on stage through the language of dance. As always, gifted education went above and beyond for the students and our takeaway is something we will always remember.”

9th Annual District Band Concert

Academy Park High School hosted the 9th Annual District Band Concert on March 6th in the Agnes Patterson Auditorium. The district band is comprised of over 50 students in grades 6 through 12 and is directed by instrumental music teachers, Mrs. Kristina Cabbage and Ms. Rebecca King.

Students who are invited to play in this group attend early practices before school on the first Friday of each month beginning in October. The music chosen is especially challenging for students in grades 6 through 8 and they spend many hours practicing at home. Each high school band member is assigned a younger member to mentor throughout the season.



This year's concert was excellent. The concert began with the National Anthem, which was conducted by Mrs. Cabbage. The pieces on the program included *Starburst Fanfare*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Star Wars* and *The Sound and the Fury*. Included among the pieces, a piano solo played by Keijah Curtis was performed.

The students' talent and hard work were evident in the cohesive sound created by the young performers. All who attended the program gave positive feedback and the students were excited to be playing such difficult music for their parents and friends.

Academy Park High School

APHS Underwater Robotics

On March 9th, Academy Park High School's robotics club participated in the 14th annual SeaPerch competition and the 2nd annual SeaGlide competition. The SeaPerch challenge required that students build an underwater, remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to complete an obstacle course that would test the maneuverability and speed capabilities of each team's robot. Using past experience, veteran members were able to plunge right into the design phase, while newer members had to learn the basics.

Teams were also required to complete a detailed engineering notebook and a presentation for a panel of judges. Academy Park's final design was very hydrodynamic, allowing for quick, efficient performance while underwater.



The SeaGlide challenge demanded an even greater degree of higher-order thinking skills from students as they were asked to develop and program an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV). The Academy Park team programmed the glider's back tail fin to make turns in the water to navigate the course. Students also utilized a 3D printer to design a nose cone and back rudder to improve on initial prototypes. Part of the SeaGlide challenge included creating a commercial to promote their AUV. [Click here to view commercial.](#)

One member, Cheyenne Phillips, concluded, "The most influential takeaway of participating in the robotics program has been developing the problem-solving skills that will help us in college and in the workforce."

Academy Park won 4th place in the presentation category and 5th place in the engineering notebook category. The team considers this year's outcome a success, and with hard work, they hope to achieve even more in future competitions.

The Class Room

Academy Park High School participated in the Fox29 TV game show "The ClassH-Room" on March 11th. Hosted by Souderton High School teacher Richard Curtis, The ClassH-Room is a trivia-based game show where teachers and students from local schools compete with one another in a battle of knowledge about topics covering history, pop culture, trivia, and math.



Academy Park's appearance on the show was arranged and coordinated by assistant principal, Jaime Smyth. Game show contestants secured their spot in front of the cameras by cashing in PBIS Park Pesos, which were earned by being caught doing something good in class or around the school. Students in the audience were selected by their teachers as a reward for great effort, behavior, attendance, and overall positive attitude.



Students

Kathleen Lac (Grade 10)
Kramoh Mansalay (Grade 11)
Sierra Coleman (Grade 10)



Teachers

Mr. Kevin Greto (Biology and Genetics)
Mrs. Victoria Devaney (9th Grade Math)
Mr. Tyrone Rorie (Business Education)

It was anybody's game throughout the competition but the students won the match on the last question; beating the teachers 310 points to 290 points. The victorious students are donating the \$500 prize to Academy Park's PBIS store.

If you missed the show when it aired, [click here](#) to catch all the action.

GIRL UP!

Academy Park High School welcomed Candice Lineham, assistant director of Delaware County's Women Against Rape (WAR). Ms. Lineham spoke with the girls about risky behavior - in relationships, online, and on social media - and how to make better choices in life. She was fierce and her words were powerful, insightful and resonated with our girls.



In addition to Ms. Lineham's presentation, three of Academy Park's Poetry 101 students, Miatu Kormah (grade 12), Taniar Combs (grade 12) and Deddeh Salee (grade 12) recited a moving poem written by Miatu Kormah entitled *Purity*, which was originally performed at last year's championship slam league competition. The ladies' spoken word was moving and inspiring - a wonderful display of talent!!



Darby Township School

Being Safe Online

On March 26th, Mr. Nat Evans from the Delaware County District Attorney's office visited the school to discuss internet safety with DTS students in grades 6 through 8. Mr. Evans works with the county's criminal investigation division K9 unit seeking devices responsible for criminal activity.



Students learned about “thinking before they post” to protect their internet reputations and to be mindful of the effect that postings to their social media profiles can have on future college and employment opportunities. Mr. Evans also shared examples of cyber bullying and the potential dangers that can arise. Most importantly, he told the students to REPORT any concerns they may have to an adult.

Darby Township School Receives \$10,000 Grant!

For the second year in a row, Darby Township School will be receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Maurice Romy Foundation. Last year, the grant was used to purchase 30 chromebooks, 3 chromebook carts, a projector, and colored ink cartridges. This year, the grant will provide 26 ipads, 26 ipad covers, an ipad cart, and colored ink cartridges. Students and staff are grateful for the opportunity to have more technology in their classrooms.

Extra Math Resource

DTS teachers, Ms. Rosie Robb (second grade) and Mrs. Melanie Stephens (third grade) received a grant through the Reflex Educator grant program. Reflex is an online game-based program that helps students build fast and effortless recall of math facts. Each teacher received 35 licenses to use with their classes. The teachers use Reflex a minimum of three times per week in math class and / or intervention. Since starting the program, the 35 second graders who use Reflex have increased their fact fluency by almost 40%.

Delcroft School

Delcroft Celebrates Read Across America

Delcroft students and staff celebrated Read Across America on March 1st. Students participated in a variety of activities that emphasized and celebrated reading. Special guests visited throughout the day to volunteer as classroom readers. Special thanks to district superintendent, Dr. Butz, Chief Bair, Folcroft police, Dr. Sharon Wilson, school board member, and all of the special guest readers who participated in this year's event.



The students also enjoyed participating in buddy reading activities and completed various Dr. Seuss craft projects. Many thanks to Mrs. DeStephanis, Delcroft School's lead interventionist, for coordinating and planning this exciting event.



Annual Career Day

On March 19th, Delcroft students in grades 5 through 8 participated in Delcroft's Annual Career Day. Representatives from a variety of professions presented information on their areas of expertise. Students could attend sessions about careers they found interesting and were able to ask questions to gain information about future career paths. Some of the careers represented included public relations, pet groomer, attorney, nurse, game designer, sports writer, event planner, robotic engineer, realtor, speech therapist, armed forces, banking, and criminal justice.

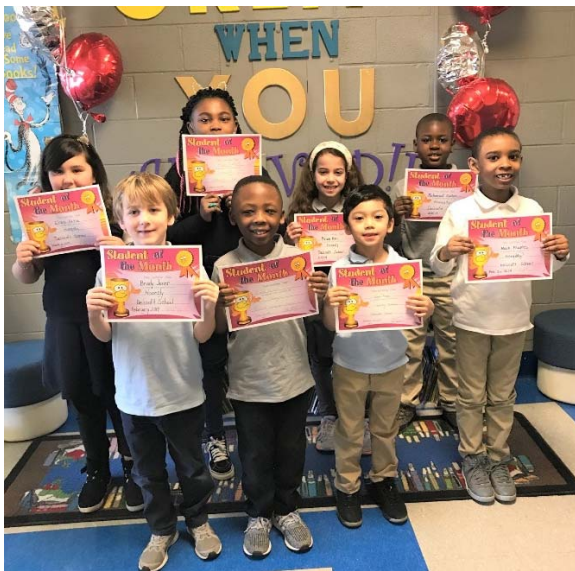
Many thanks to Mrs. McDonald, Delcroft School counselor for her hard work in planning and preparing for this event. The students and staff involved enjoyed the opportunity to learn about so many different types of careers.

Skill of the Month Awards Assembly

Delcroft students and staff in grades 1 through 4 attended the Skill of the Month Awards Assembly. Students were recognized for displaying the skill of the month for February and March. The skills of Caring and Honesty were highlighted during the ceremony.



Students received award certificates and following the assembly were treated to a special breakfast with their parent or guardian. Students and their families enjoyed their time together celebrating their success at displaying the skill of the month.



Harris School

Harris Students Present to the School Board

Harris School presented at the Southeast Delco School Board meeting on March 28th. The students provided the board with information on the *Skin in the Game* grant Harris received from the Global Writes Foundation.

The focus of the grant is to bring technology to students in the classroom and to integrate it into the curriculum. The grant requires considerable training for the teachers so that they will be able to successfully integrate the new technology into their classrooms. Initially, the program started with the 4th and 6th grades, but over the course of the 4-year grant, will expand to include students from 4th to 8th grades.



While technology is great to have, the students need to be able to use it in a way that will benefit them in the classroom. So far, fourth grade students have used the NearPod technology in the classroom to take a “virtual walk” through Sequoia National Park and to hold an interactive question and answer session with the class. In addition, using Maya Angelou’s *Why the Caged Bird Sings*, students employed the NearPod technology to experience what it’s like being a bird in a cage.



Some students used the technology from the HP-Reveal app to embed video clips into murals that are already on the walls at Harris School. The videos the students created give the viewer more detailed information about the features in the murals. When you wave your phone, Ipad or Ipod over the murals, the HP-reveal app will open the videos embedded in the mural.

Through the grant, students are getting real world relevant technology skills that will help prepare them for high school, college and the work force. While the technology they are using is new to them, the level of engagement and excitement in the classroom is growing.

Sharon Hill School

Read Across America Day

Sharon Hill School joined with thousands of schools, libraries and community centers from all across the country to celebrate Read Across America Day. Students and staff welcomed district and community members who visited the school and volunteered as guest readers to help celebrate with the students.



This yearly event was scheduled to coincide with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Students and staff dressed in red and were excited to celebrate with The Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2.



Middle School PBIS Incentive

Middle school students that qualified for the third term behavior incentive reward were treated to a day of fun and games at the Main Event in Delaware. Students had a really great time, conducted themselves well and did a great job representing the school and community. Sharon Hill School will continue to promote and reward positive behaviors.



Blue Rocks Reading Challenge

Sponsored by the Wilmington Blue Rocks, primary grade students at Sharon Hill School are participating in the Rocky's Reading Challenge. Students who read and log ten books will be rewarded with two free tickets to a Blue Rocks Game. Team mascot, Rocky Bluewinkle, visited the school to show the students that reading can be fun and encouraged them to participate in the challenge.



Kindergarten Center

Read Across America Day at the Kindergarten Center

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, the Kindergarten Center celebrated Read Across America Week during the first week of March. A committee of teachers planned activities each day that focused on literature. There were guest readers throughout the week and each of the classrooms decorated their door with a specific book theme. Also, on Friday of that week the students and teachers dressed as characters from their favorite stories!



Rock Your Socks

The Kindergarten Center commemorated World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st. Students, staff and teachers wore colorful, spunky socks in celebration of people with Down syndrome and the many ways they make our world brighter.



Why *Rock Your Socks* on 3/21? Down Syndrome, or (Trisomy 21), means that there are 3 copies (instead of 2) of the 21st chromosome, which is why we celebrate on 3/21. Usually people have 46 chromosomes, but kids with Down Syndrome have 1 extra, they have 47.

Down Syndrome can affect how a person looks, speaks and how he/she learns in school. Students with Down Syndrome may need extra time to do their work or have helpers, but they can learn the same skills as their classmates.



When you get to know people with Down Syndrome, you will find that they are more like you than they are different! They play on sports teams, are artistic, play instruments, and join clubs at school. They want to have fun and make new friends, just like all kids do.

On that day, we remembered that we are ALL different and that DIFFERENT is a GOOD thing to CELEBRATE!

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