



Southeast Delco School District

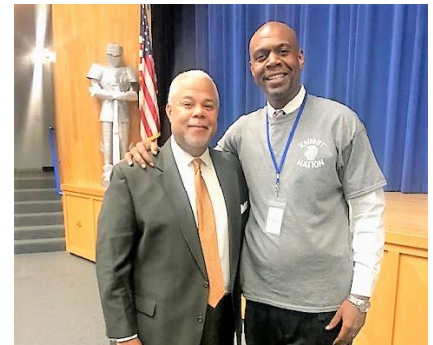
Knighly News

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill
Communities

Volume 8, Issue 4
January 2019

Senator Williams Visits APHS

District students had the honor of meeting with Pennsylvania State Senator Anthony Hardy-Williams during a visit to Academy Park High School on December 19th. The Senator shared stories about growing up in Philadelphia and his trajectory from CEO to state senator.



Senator Williams engaged students in an in-depth conversation about safer schools, gun control, community involvement, and voting laws. The Senator invited the student audience to tour the Capitol and have lunch with him in Harrisburg in the coming year.

Exploring Diversity

On December 4th, a group of 7 students representing Academy Park High School joined nearly 450 participants at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia for the Anti-Defamation League's 12th Annual Youth Leadership Conference: *Exploring Diversity, Challenging Hate*.



From left: Amel White, Cheyenne Phillips, Jordon McGowan, Kiara Kidd, Ajanie Hires, Princess Warley, Kramoh Mansalay



The goal of the conference was to bring together student leaders to explore the value of diversity, participate in anti-bias workshops and learn practical tips and techniques that they can bring back to their schools to initiate change in school culture. The keynote presentation was given by Charles Middleberg, a Holocaust survivor who gave a firsthand account about the importance of being an ally and standing up to hatred and intolerance.

Amel White (grade 10) stated, "Hearing Charles Middleberg's story was eye opening to the widespread tragedies of the Holocaust." Cheyenne Phillips (grade 11) shared that, "Connecting with strangers through personal experiences was an inspiring journey that showed that we all have more in common with one another than we think.

An Hour of Code

During Computer Science Education Week in December, students from across the district and around the world participated in an Hour of Code learning activity. The goal of the Hour of Code program is to demonstrate that anybody can learn the basics of coding and to expand participation in the field of computer science. Code.org mentor, Dan Marcellus, worked with students in both Darby Township School and Sharon Hill School.



Students used their newly acquired coding skills to create a virtual dance party. Using a paired programming approach, students created their own dance party, complete with hit music and a team of great dancers. Blocks of code were used to select dancers, change dance moves, make the dancers respond to the music, and make them interactive. The students were encouraged to share their knowledge of coding with at least 3 others in an effort to promote computer programming.



Although the Hour of Code is a one-week event, many students continue to use what they learned about coding and computer programming. Saba Qasem, a 5th grade student from Sharon Hill School said, “I learned so much stuff on code.org. My favorite part was when we got to pick an animal (dancer). It was so cool. I am grateful we learned this, because I would have never known about coding.”

Academy Park High School

APHS Winter Concert

The Academy Park Winter Concert was held on December 19th in the Agnes M. Patterson Auditorium at Academy Park High School. Conducted by APHS junior, Shais Khan, the concert opened with the district’s Jazz Ensemble playing the holiday favorite, *Santa Baby*.



The concert band, directed by Mrs. Kristina Cabbage, performed five selections that the students have been working on all semester. A crowd favorite was *African Bell Carol*, which is the classic *Ukrainian Bell Carol* intertwined with African percussion.

The second half of the concert started with the amazing *Schola Cantorum singing Adam Lay Ybounden*. The concert choir filled the auditorium with their beautiful voices. Both choirs were directed by Ms. Lori Muller and accompanied by pianist David Christopher. The audience loved Mariah Carey’s *All I Want for Christmas*, featuring various soloists and Glistler Threadgill on drums.



The students’ hard work this semester paid off in a wonderful evening of music!

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Academy Park’s Tech Bridge class participated in a CPR training seminar with Mr. Joe Russell from the CPAT Network. The students received hands-on instruction on the basics of CPR and learned valuable steps to take during breathing and cardiac emergencies.



The day was very successful and the students were fully engaged. Student Cameron Harrison stated, "It's cool to know that I have the training to save someone's life because I know CPR."



Darby Township School

Cookies and Books

Darby Township School hosted their annual Cookies and Books event in early December and over 300 people attended this winter themed happening. After making cookies with their families, children were invited to play games, complete activities, and select a free book to take home. Students could also have pictures taken with Santa!

Darby Township School was able to offer this event free to families through a \$200 sponsorship from the Independence CHIP program and a grant from Books in Homes.

Winter Concert at DTS

Darby Township School hosted their annual Winter Concert on December 11th. Music teachers, Mrs. Cabbage directed the band and Mrs. Manko-Morgan directed the chorus. Parents and community members enjoyed a variety of musical pieces and the students and staff appreciated everybody who was able to come out and support these musically inclined students.

DTS Students Compete in Annual Spelling Bee

Darby Township School held their school-level Spelling Bee on December 14th. Sixteen middle school students competed, with David Hagan winning first place. Logan Fritchey won second place and Isi Omo-Osagie came in third.

David and Logan will be representing Darby Township School at the County Spelling Bee in March. Congratulations and good luck!



Delcroft School

Delcroft Students Experience the Joy of Giving

Five students from Delcroft School participated in the Delaware County Shop with a Sheriff program on December 8th. This annual tradition invites children to shop with county law enforcement personnel to purchase special gifts for the students to give to their family members. Each child received a gift card to pay for their purchases.

This year's event was held at the Marple Shopping Center Walmart. Participants were greeted by members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Department. The local fire company arrived with lights flashing and sirens blaring to signal the start of the event. Delcroft students were also greeted by their teacher's, Ms. Reagan and Mrs. Toner, as well as Delcroft principal, Mrs. Ray.



When the students finished their shopping, they and their families were invited back to Delaware County Courthouse for a special lunch. While there, the students were able to wrap and label all of their purchases at a gift wrapping center set up by the sheriff's department staff. At the end of the event, every child also received a special gift to take home.

The students, their families and staff members were extremely grateful to be part of this event. The Delaware County Sheriff's Department's kindness and generosity provided Delcroft students with an opportunity to experience the joy of giving and memories that will last a lifetime.

Delcroft Winter Concert Wows

On December 11th, Delcroft held their annual Winter Concert. Students in grades 4-8 performed several selections in the Delcroft Band, along with performing in the 4th and 5th grade chorus. Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades performed selections in the middle school chorus. Many family, friends and community members attended the concert. They enjoyed the holiday selections and enthusiastically celebrated the hard work of the students and staff.

Thank You Saint Joseph's Prep

Delcroft students in grades 1-6 were recipients of a generous donation. Saint Joseph's Preparatory High School in Philadelphia donated 600 books for students to enjoy over the winter break. Every student in grades 1-6 received at least one free book of their choice to take home and enjoy.



We thank the students and staff of St. Joe's Prep for their generosity, along with the planning and distribution provided by Beth DeStephanis, Delcroft's lead interventionist.

Harris School

Winter Concert

Harris School hosted its Winter Concert on December 13th. Each year, the concert seems to get bigger and better and this year may have been Harris' best. The audience was treated to performances by the 4th grade, 5th grade and middle school choruses. The advanced band, featuring students in grades 5-8, also performed.



To the delight of the audience, the chorus and band performed some newer holiday tunes, such as Donny Hathaway's *This Christmas* along with traditional holiday classics like *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.



The band is under the direction of Ms. Rebecca King, who has been working with students throughout the district for many years. The choruses are led by Mr. Joe Scholl, who accompanied the chorus on the guitar.

All Aboard the Polar Express

While academics and the curriculum are the focus every day at Harris School, special time was set aside to reward the students for all of their hard work and celebrate the time of the year.

The day's activities centered on the Caldecott Medal Winning book, *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. The story is a timeless classic that can connect with children in many ways. Students and staff dressed in pajamas and spent the day reading the book, doing activities based on the book, and to top it off it off, watching the movie and drinking hot chocolate.



This is the second year Harris held a Polar Express Day. This year, under the guidance of art teacher, Mrs. Hall, and with the help of several creative teachers, the halls of Harris School were transformed into a winter wonderland.



The day was great and everyone from 1st grade to 8th grade got involved in one way or another. Some of the teachers expressed an interest in building a replica of the Polar Express train for next year's celebration.

Sharon Hill School

Leadership

Three Sharon Hill School students, Moses Molly, Jaida Smith and Nylanna Hilton, attended the Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity Middle School Leadership Institute on November 30th. The three students were selected by their teachers for excellence represented within our community and school. The students participated in multiple sessions that focused on leadership, resilience, success, motivation, and purpose.



Students also meet author Carlos Ojeda and received an autographed copy of his book, *The Power of Youth*. The students had an amazing time participating in this informative activity.

Spelling Bee

Sharon Hill School students competed in the annual school-wide Spelling Bee on December 7th. Students in grades 6 - 8 took a pre-test and qualified for the competition based on their score from the National Spelling Bee word list.

The competition lasted for 23 rounds, with the first place winner correctly spelling the word "gypsum". Congratulations to first place winner Chelsea Toppar and runner up Nylanna Hilton. Both students qualify to attend the Delaware County Spelling Bee on February 23, 2019. A job well done to all students!



Winter Concert

On the evening of December 18th, Sharon Hill School presented their annual Winter Concert at Academy Park High School. Parents, families, community members, and staff joined in to be a part of the evening's festivities.



The students were excited to perform the music they have practiced for the last few months for their families and friends. There were many new faces in both the band and chorus and we hope to see more each year. Congratulations to staff and students for a great performance.



Science Is Fun!

Mrs. Blithe's second grade class participated in a balloon car activity as part of their Technology and Our World science unit. The purpose of the activity was for students to conduct an investigation, identify the steps in a design process and to explain how engineers use a process to solve problems. Students enjoyed collaborating as a team, testing their design process and offering words of encouragement to other teams while they demonstrated their designs.



Community Service Projects

Families can support fundraising efforts at Sharon Hill School by joining Giant Food Store's A+ School Rewards Program. Shoppers can link Sharon Hill School to their bonus point cards and Giant will donate cash to the school based on the number of points earned by each shopper. Sharon Hill School code is 40987 and participants can register online or at their local Giant Food Market.

As part of their commitment to community service, students collected mittens, hats and scarves to donate to community members in need of warm clothing for the winter season.

Kindergarten Center

Book Bingo

On December 12th, the Kindergarten Center hosted a "Book Bingo" at Darby Township School. There were approximately twenty-five families that participated in this wonderful evening. Every student received a book of their choice at the end of the evening and five lucky students received subscriptions to children's magazines. The staff is looking forward to hosting another event in the Spring.



Winter Pajama Day

Kindergarten students celebrated a “Winter Pajama Day” on December 22nd. It is a tradition at the Kindergarten Center, that on the last day of school before the winter break, that students get to wear their pajamas and participate in a variety of winter-themed activities. It is a wonderful day that the children truly enjoy and a great way to lead into the winter break!



SOUTHEAST DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Service Center
1560 Delmar Drive - Folcroft, PA 19032
(610) 522-4300 ★ (610) 461-4874 Fax
www.sedelco.org