

Soaring High with Success

Ensuring that Piscataway students are prepared for college is a primary goal in the district's Strategic Plan. Evidence of successful groundwork can be found by acknowledging recent high school success stories and academic awards.

- Six more Piscataway High School seniors have been inducted into the "Perfect Score Club," having attained scores of 800 in at least one SAT subject area. Congratulations to Sue Hua Aw Young (Writing), John Paul Chan (Critical Reading), Alexander Loh (Math), Derek Maurer (Critical Reading), Pooja K. Patel (Math), and Timothy Wong (Physics).
- Commencement Ceremonies for the Piscataway High School Class of 2011 took place on Thursday, June 16th, at the Rutgers Athletic Center. On that evening, 530 PHS seniors were recognized. Class President Khalil Brown and Student Government Association President Krishna Patel delivered keynote speeches.
- Zhen Lin, junior at PHS, placed fifth out of 684 students participating in the New Jersey Trig-Star competition. Zhen scored a perfect 100 on a 16-part practical application trigonometry exam in only 43 minutes, 5 seconds. Karishma Desai, junior, also

attained a perfect score in 55 minutes, 42 seconds. The Trig-Star program is an annual high school mathematics competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Land Surveyors.

- In only their first year competing, PHS Academic Team 1 placed 2nd out of 20 teams competing in the 2011 High School Ethics Bowl, hosted by the Stevens Institute of Technology. The competition is "a collision of science and ethics," as students attempt ethical solutions to today's scientific problems in debate format. Team 1 is comprised of Fatima Ahmed, Roma N. Patel, Kristen Perrello and Sharon Spear and PHS English teacher Craig Hoek advises.
- Rachel O'Brien, Dhruma Patel and Kimberly Walker were the recipients of \$10,000 Cullen Family Endowed Scholarships at PHS Senior Awards Night. The gift was endowed by James G. Cullen, a 1960 graduate of Piscataway High School and former president and chief operating officer of Bell Atlantic, and is presented to PHS graduates who will further their education at Rutgers University. 🍀



Fifth grade students at King School showcase portraits created as part of "The Memory Project", a nationwide initiative to create artwork that is shared with children in orphanages around the world. The portraits were sent to children in Indonesia who responded by sending their own photos to the King students.

Project HealthLinks Wins School Leader Award

Project HealthLinks, the district initiative designed to introduce Piscataway minority middle schools students to careers in the field of medicine, has been selected as a winner of the 25th Annual School Leader Award, sponsored by the NJ School Boards Association. The award recognizes unique and innovative district programs, and the Piscataway entry was one of only two statewide winners.

HealthLinks participants explore health care policy issues, career challenges and rewards, all designed to foster an understanding of educational requirements for careers in health care professions.

Project HealthLinks enabled student "interns" to visit Liberty Science Center to watch a live stream of a neurosurgery

procedure. They were invited to meet and interview a heart transplant recipient, and were provided with opportunities to speak with biomedical engineers at NJIT who assist people with physical disabilities, organ transplants and strokes.

These field experiences were organized by the district in conjunction with a community group known as Raritan Valley Links. The volunteer organization, comprised primarily of retired minority health care professions, encourages increased representation of minorities in various health-related fields. Student participants who choose health care careers are provided with scholarship opportunities from Raritan Valley Links. 🍀

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 PISCATAWAY GOVERNOR TEACHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Danielle Ambrosio, Grade 3
Knollwood School

Rachel Bal, Grade 5
Arbor School

Marie Ferrante, Special Education
Conackamack Middle School

Vanessa Fowler, Special Education
Quibbletown Middle School

Irene Guarino, Counselor
Schor Middle School

Marina Kartalis, Grade 5
King School

Georgine Moy, Support Specialist
Eisenhower School

Daniel Ross, Math, Emeritus
Piscataway High School

Dana Tinney, Grade 2
Grandview School

Brian Voigt, Grade 2
Randolphville School

Staying Smart over the Summer

Summer vacation might be time for beach visits, baseball and trips to the zoo. You and your children can enjoy the summer months AND strengthen important learning skills acquired during the school year in your daily activities, and by using a variety of online and school-based resources.

Summer Projects

There's no need to panic when your middle schooler asks for help in redecorating your family room and your high school student wants to plan a road trip to Texas. Activities such as creating a reading "passport" and compiling themed "soundtracks" are examples of required summer assignments – you and your child can review suggestions and support materials in the *Curriculum and Instruction* section of the district website at www.piscatawayschools.org.

While elementary students do not have specific summer math projects, they can perform sorting and story problems with shells that you find on the beach, graph how many candies of each color are in a bag of M&Ms, and practice working with money by helping you pay for items at the

grocery store. The district's Curriculum and Instruction web page lists many books available at the library that center around math themes – expand math and reading skills at the same time!

Plans are in place to provide opportunities for middle school students to work on their summer Math and Literacy projects during several evening sessions in July and August at Kennedy and Westergard Libraries. Check the district website at www.piscatawayschools.org and click on *Curriculum and Instruction* for dates, times and registration information.

Students in grades 1 – 8 who are enrolled in the Piscataway Summer Camp and Enrichment Program can sign up for "Knock Off Your Summer Projects" to receive assistance in completing summer assignments.

Reinforce your child's educational progress – visit the district website at www.piscatawayschools.org and click on *Curriculum and Instruction*, select "Summer Curricular Projects," for suggestions on how to keep your kids learning over the summer. 🍌



Susan Saltzman, Job Developer for the district's SAIL program (Students Achieving Independent Life Skills), was recently named NJ Transition Educator of the Year. As coordinator of the SAIL program, Mrs. Saltzman prepares 18-21 year-old students with special needs for the world of work.

King Educator Named 2011 NJ History Teacher of the Year

Leslie Russell, fifth grade teacher at King School in Piscataway, has been named the 2011 NJ State History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The designation, recognizing outstanding teachers of American history across the country, comes with a \$1,000 award plus an archive of books and other resources that are presented to the winner's school. The award is co-sponsored by the History Channel and Preserve America.

Russell, who has taught in the Piscataway School District for eleven

years, was nominated by James Knox, Chair of the Social Studies Department at Piscataway High School, and Shirley Eyler, principal of King School, for her creative and successful approach to teaching American history, and her innovative ability to integrate the lessons on American history with other subject area classwork.

She will be recognized in a ceremony at the school when students return in the fall. She is a finalist for the National History Teacher of the Year Award. 🍌

Quibbletown Teacher Selected for Japan Teacher Exchange Program

Ed Cohen has been selected to participate in the 2011 Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), hosted by Fulbright Japan. The program aims to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and the United States, while enhancing curricula. Cohen will take part in a fully-funded two-week study tour in Japan later this month. The visit will provide opportunities to study in Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe, where he will visit sustainable schools and collaborate with other educators. 🍌



PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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Robert L. Copeland

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