

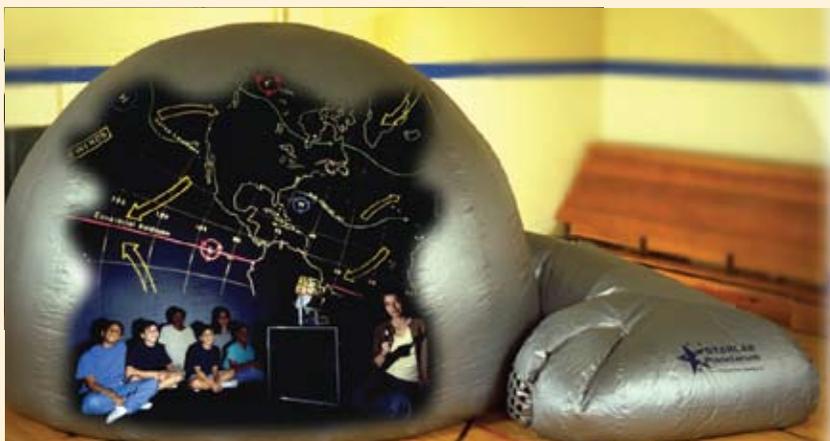
Exploratorium to be launched at Piscataway High School

How much pressure can you put on a bubble before it bursts? Can you tinker with the tools to design a Tech City? Dare to enter the “scream chamber” to explore the world of sound...

These are just a few of the proposed hands-on interactive centers of the new “Exploratorium” Dow Chemical Discovery Center being created through a \$20,000 grant from the Dow Chemical Company. Access to the Exploratorium, currently in the initial planning phase, will be open to students as well as the community when it opens next year.

The project is being designed and created by district educators and high school students, collaborating with professional scientists from Liberty Science Center and Rutgers University mentors.

The goal is to provide a space that offers activities for “inquiring minds”, complement-



ing the district’s science programs while fostering an interest in careers in science. 🍌

The district’s StarLab inflatable planetarium, financed in 2008 through a previous Dow Chemical grant, will also become a part of the new Dow Exploratorium. Photo courtesy of StarLab.

District Updates Anti-Bullying Initiatives

Recent legislation known as the “Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights” has imposed additional responsibilities on administration and staff, serving to enhance current anti-bullying initiatives throughout the district.

While the Piscataway School District has had strict policies and procedures in place to prevent bullying and respond to reported incidents, the new law that went into effect on September 1, 2011, led the Board of Education and administration to strengthen these measures, adopt new policy, and establish school-based anti-bullying teams to address this issue.

Previous legislation, enacted in 2002, encouraged school districts to set up programs to combat bullying, while the new law mandates training, at district expense, for staff and administrators on how to spot bullying, act on complaints, and maintain a positive school environment.

While each school will have an anti-bullying specialist and safety team, students who feel that they may be the victims of bullying or harassment, or those who want to report bullying of their peers, can also speak with a teacher, school counselor or administrator. 🍌

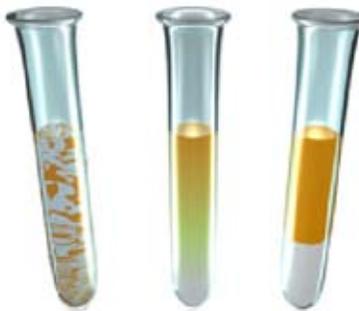
Colgate-Palmolive Educational Outreach: Soap, Oil and Water... How they learned to get along

A new partnership with the Piscataway-based Colgate-Palmolive Technology Center has been announced as part of the company’s educational outreach program. The initiative will bring Colgate-Palmolive scientists into Piscataway elementary and intermediate classrooms with interactive demonstrations and lessons on consumer science.

The ultimate goal is to inspire young people to become more interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs.

According to Jessica Monk, scientist in the Oral Care Product Development Department at Colgate-Palmolive, the team seeks to “bridge the gap” in student perception by using “cool, interactive demonstrations” that explain the practical aspects of science, such as how soap actually cleans.

A team of Colgate-Palmolive scientists has been meeting with district instructors to develop collaborative, hands-on lessons which complement the district’s science curriculum



in the fourth and fifth grades. The program will be launched in late October and later expanded to students in the elementary Gifted and Talented program.

Arrangements for the cooperative venture were spearheaded by Board of Education member Dr. Thomas Connors, who is employed at Colgate-Palmolive, and was developed in conjunction with Colgate-Palmolive’s celebration of the United Nations designation marking 2011 the “International Year of Chemistry”. 🍌

New Fall Community Education Programs

The Office of Community Education is offering a variety of new classes in addition to many “favorites” this fall, including:

- Cake Decorating 101
- Cool Cupcakes
- Bollywood Bhangra Bootcamp
- Bollywood Bhangra/Hip Hop
- Pilates
- Adventures in Stocks and Markets
- Make Your First Video Game
- Lego Films
- Zumba
- Gymnastics
- English for the Foreign Born
- and many more!

Back by popular demand are day trips to local cultural and unique destinations.

- World Trade Center Memorial and Tribute Center – NYC
Saturday, October 22
- Longwood Gardens Christmas Display and Music – Kennett Square, PA –
Friday, November 25

Watch your mailbox for the fall Community Education brochure and register early. Trips have limited availability and classes fill fast!

CHILDREN’S CORNER PRESCHOOL ACCEPTING JANUARY ENROLLMENT

Registration is being accepted for January enrollment in Children’s Corner Toddler and Pre-School classes. For information, call 732-572-4588.

Meeting Student Needs: PS3 Program at PHS

At Piscataway High School, emphasis is placed on a commitment to a rigorous academic program in a safe and secure climate that encourages success. *Piscataway Students Seeking Success* (PS3) is a new program that brings together a comprehensive educational program, standards for student behavior, and counseling services to support the social, academic and emotional development of students in a non-traditional learning environment.

PS3 provides students with a range of course offerings that meet core curriculum

content standards required by the state, as well as electives required for graduation.

In past years, it was necessary for some students to attend out-of-district facilities on a tuition basis. PS3 maintains these students in their home school, with teachers and staff who are familiar with the needs of each student, at a cost savings of approximately \$300,000 per year.

A two-week Summer Session of PS3 was held at the high school in August for incoming freshmen and sophomores. 🍷

Gifted and Talented Program to Expand in Elementary Grades

An enhanced Gifted and Talented Program, focusing on math, language arts, science and fine arts, will be phased in to Piscataway's elementary grades in the coming months.

Weekly sessions, providing enrichment activities in mathematics, will be offered to students in grades two and three during phase one of the program.

A second wave of activities, entitled *Local Enrichment Academic/Arts Program*, or *LEAP*, will offer challenges for all students in the areas of language arts, engineering, scientific inquiry, fine and creative arts, and creative thinking during five-week workshop programs.

The district's Gifted and Talented program was cut several years ago due to reduction in state aid. The successful passage of the school budget last April led Piscataway officials to re-establish and reorganize the elementary program, with a greater emphasis on science and technology.

Criteria for the initial program will include student test scores, classwork assessments and teacher recommendation. At the onset of the *LEAP* program, students may choose to complete a "challenge" and, based on their submission, may be invited to participate in selected residencies.

Additional information about the program will be provided to parents during a presentation in October. Watch for notices in Virtual Backpacks and on the district website at www.piscatawayschools.org. 🍷

Grandparents Association to Meet October 19

Are you a grandparent raising your grandchildren? Join the district's grandparents support group! Meetings are held periodically throughout the school year, with topics addressing issues that grandparents face in raising their grandchildren.

The first meeting of this year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19 in the Board of Education Administration Building beginning at 6 pm. To receive additional information and to be added to the e-mail list, call 732-572-2289, ext. 2522. 🍷

Multi-Cultural Film Series to Debut at PHS Performing Art Center

A new multi-cultural film series will premier this fall, featuring important masterpieces that have appeared at major film festivals around the world. The film series will provide expanded cultural arts opportunities to the Piscataway community at the high school Performing Arts Center, which opened last year following extensive renovations.

Anticipated showings include:

- **Tuesday, October 18**
"Lage Raho Munna Bhai" - the Hindi musical comedy
- **Tuesday, November 29**
"Black Snow" (Ben ming nian) - a rare screening of Xie Fei's drama
- **Thursday, February 2**
"Antwone Fisher" - the real-life classic featuring Denzel Washington

All films begin at 7:30 pm.

Tickets will be available at the door or by calling the Community Education Office at 732-572-4688.

SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

During its August meeting, the Board of Education approved a proposal to move forward with a special school district election on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 and ask voters to approve capital project initiatives that would repair or replace school roofs and install solar panels at all district properties with no tax impact for Piscataway homeowners.

Additional information will be forthcoming on the district Web site and in schools. In the meantime, make sure that you are registered to vote by downloading a voter registration form at www.piscatawayschools.org.

Project CHILD FIND

Project CHILD FIND is a free referral service and public awareness campaign to assist in the identification of unserved/underserved youth with a delay or disability from birth through twenty-one years of age. Project CHILD FIND develops and distributes information to the public about early intervention services and special education programs throughout New Jersey. Additional information is available on the district website at www.piscatawayschools.org under *District Information*, then *Special Services* or by calling 732-572-2289, Ext. 2554. 🍷

Publication of this newsletter is supported through a grant from the Office of Community Education; no taxpayer funds were used.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

*****ECRWSS*****

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Paula A'Y. Maas, President
Thomas Mosier, Vice President
Tom Connors
Catherine Sucher Greeley
Margaret King
Alexandra Lopez
Mark R. Okamoto
Russell E. Stoddard
Jerry Szymonowicz
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Robert L. Copeland

