

Ms. Malig's Class



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Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

Eisenhower Eagles Show School Spirit In Style

Research shows that school spirit leads to greater inclusion for all students and encourages both higher academic performance and civic engagement. When Eisenhower Eagles celebrated friendship and originality with a Crazy Hair Spirit Day, both remote and hybrid learners had fun sharing their most creative looks!

PHS Students Earn College Credits Beyond AP

PHS students in semester one classes of Human Anatomy & Physiology I for Health Sciences, Human Anatomy & Physiology II for Health Sciences, and Dynamics in Healthcare in Society, completed their Rutgers University School of Health Professions exams in February with great results—a 96% pass rate for all students. The high majority of these students will receive college credits for their efforts. This is another important way for PHS students to take challenging courses and receive college credits beyond traditional AP courses. Congratulations to these semester one students and we look forward to additional stellar results from semester two students!



Kindness Rocks at Knollwood

As part of Knollwood's Character Education curriculum, during the months of March and April, students learned about the character pillar of Caring/Kindness. As a culminating event, all in-person and virtual learners participated in the Third Annual Kindness Rocks event, organized by counselor Dr. Sarah Aboudara, first grade teacher Kari Alligier, and art teacher Beth Tripod. Each student individually decorated a small rock using bright colors and included a positive message for others to read. The completed rocks, which display encouraging messages such as "Be Yourself," "Show Kindness," and "Dream Big," will be added to the Kindness Rocks collection in the Knollwood Garden.

Grandview and Arbor Raise Funds for Autism

During Autism Awareness Month, the staff of Grandview Elementary School raised \$300 to support families and individuals living with Autism. Staff participated in a dress down day on April 6, wearing Autism Awareness t-shirts, pins, and masks. Throughout the month, Grandview's Autism Awareness Committee offered read-alouds and activities that focused student learning on accepting and understanding Autism.



Arbor Students and staff worked together to raise both awareness and funds for autism. Celebrating our differences, the Arbor Do-A-Thon fundraiser exceeded its goal, resulting in a \$480 donation to Autism New Jersey, a statewide nonprofit that supports, advocates, and educates the autism community and the professionals who work with them. In addition,

all were encouraged to take the Autism Pledge: to create a more accepting and respectful community for individuals with autism and their families. Congratulations to all in the Arbor family, with special thanks to Ms. Stern for leading this effort.

Children's Corner Pen Pals!

Ms. Strauss's preschool class at Children's Corner by the River made some special deliveries this week. To culminate their Community Helpers theme, hybrid students wrote letters to a remote classmate that were delivered in their bi-weekly materials packets. The remote students responded, mailing their first letters to their pen pal classmates! Though most of the students have never met in person, they are still connected as a class.



Middle School Students Learn Highly Effective Habits

The Raritan Valley Chapter of the Links, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation whose membership includes over 14,000 women of color in 282 chapters in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, would not let a pandemic stop their commitment to serving our students. Having partnered with Piscataway Schools for over 20 years to provide the Health Links program to selected eighth grade students, The Links presented a virtual workshop based on the book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey, and led by Dr. Muriel Grimmitt-Ray, on Monday, April 26, 2021. Each of the students received the workbook *The Choice is Yours: The 7 Habits Activity Guide for Teens*. Eighth graders from all three middle schools attended and were interactive and attentive throughout the presentation.



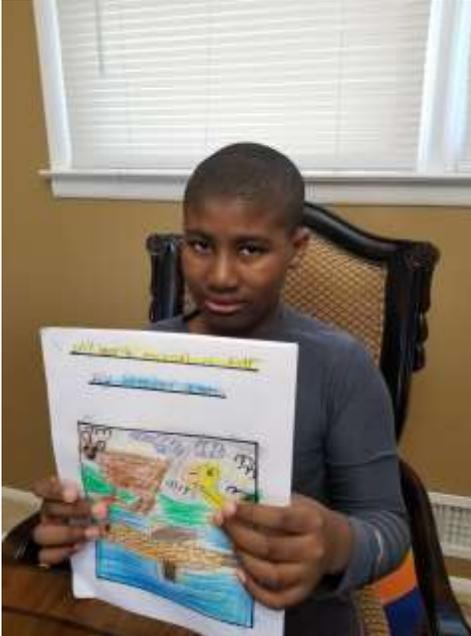
King Student Writes and Illustrates His Own Book

With encouragement from King teacher, Mrs. Spruill, and paraprofessional, Mrs. Russo, King fourth grader Bradley Idoh created beautiful, original illustrations with accompanying descriptions. Bradley's hard work and perseverance paid off, as his work is now bound into a book! Congratulations, Bradley!



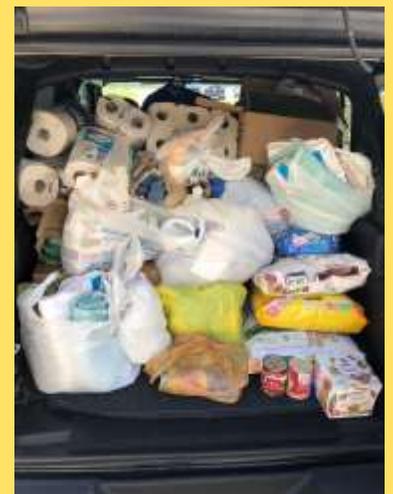
Schor Students Examine Social Justice

Schor students in Mrs. Evans's Language Arts classes examined social justice by reading the novel *Dear Martin*, and connecting real world events to the fictional character lost to unnecessary force and racial injustice. Using the SayEveryName website and resources, each student focused on someone who was a victim of violence and racism and created a biography poster that depicted how the person lived, rather than how they died. The posters are displayed in the south hallway of Schor School as a testament to both the individuals depicted and Schor School's mission for building more a more inclusive society.



PHS Students Give Back

A year of COVID lock downs have been difficult for everyone, but PHS students know the key to feeling good is to do good. Through the Student Government Association, they decided to support animals in need and host a supply drive for the Edison Animal Shelter, which serves Piscataway, Dunellen, Edison, and Metuchen. The shelter requested food, kitty litter, paper towels, blankets, and cleaning supplies to help them in their day-to-day operations. Every day, the collection box overflowed with donations from students and staff. This successful team effort is a result of all of the wonderful PHS SGA members. The officers, and the leaders of this project, are Natalia Galarza, Julius Adelantar Hizon, Vivian Van Valkenburg, Isis Ramirez Rea, and Vir Patel, working under advisor Sean Horan. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.



PHS Artists Recognized By Photographic Society of America

These PHS Artists had photos accepted into the Photographic Society of America Youth Showcase: Ashley Merizalde, Ishita Jain, and Morgan Daly. Students will receive an award and a souvenir booklet. Congrats to our inspiring students and thanks to Mrs. Lentini-Pombrio!



Traveling the World— Virtually

Travel restrictions do not stop Jenn Kaiser from traveling the world with her King students. For a few minutes before each class, Ms. Kaiser displays a mystery spot from anywhere in the world. She offers clues to help students make their best guesses. Students see natural wonders and iconic landmarks. During the week of Earth Day, pictures included famous trees from the oldest tree to the rarest tree. Students take a virtual trip to all ends of the Earth and learn fun facts during their journeys.



PHS Students Take Video Challenge

PHS students recently took part in the PDB Video



Challenge, sponsored by PDB-101, an online portal that promotes exploration of proteins and nucleic acids. This year's challenge focused on mental health. Students were asked to create a story that explains how neuronal signals are communicated within our bodies and how pharmacological drugs modulate that signal in a given pathway to treat symptoms of an illness. PHS students Victoria Garon, Ayush Joshi, Ekta Patel and Ava Atienza chose to focus their video, *Sally and the Super SSRIs* on depression. Congratulations on this fine work.

Randolphville Presents the Musical: Swamped!

Congratulations to Randolphville first, second, and third graders on their wonderful virtual performance of *Swamped!* Directed by Music Teacher



Matthew Worden, *Swamped* tells the story of a festive swamp party that gets derailed when the turtles run late, the tadpoles grow appendages as they sing, and the dragonfly larvae are afraid to fly. The students sang and danced five swampy songs like *The Swamp Stomp*, *You Can Fly*, and *Just A Little Tadpole*. Students auditioned for speaking parts and with help from homeroom teachers, made puppets and masks to fit the swamp theme.

Koleby Royston to Attend Carnegie Hall NYO Jazz Summer Program

Congratulations to PHS musician Koleby Royston! Koleby was selected for the Carnegie Hall NYO Jazz Summer Program. Each summer, NYO Jazz, a program for musicians ages 16–19, brings together a group of the country's most gifted young jazz musicians to learn from an all-star faculty, play under the direction of a celebrated bandleader and with major guest artists, and give concerts at some of the leading international festivals and venues. Students from all 50 states auditioned and Koleby was one of only two drummers accepted



PHS Students Accepted Into RUYES Program

Three PHS students, tenth graders Victoria Garon and Xavier Jones, and eleventh grader Jada Squires were accepted into the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Youth Enjoy Science two-year research program. RUYES encourages youth from groups underrepresented in biomedical sciences to pursue cancer research and healthcare careers. Congratulations Victoria, Xavier, and Jada!



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