



Volume 8 Issue 2

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# Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli

## Golden Gators Invade Arbor School

Arbor students are participating in the Golden Gators school-wide positive behavior supports program. Each week, students who are caught demonstrating “The Arbor Way” — respectful, responsible, and ready to learn — earn Golden Gators tickets for a chance to win a weekly raffle. A wide range of prizes, from small toys and homework passes to the chance to have a “picnic” outside during lunch, are available to the students. Each Friday during lunch periods, five Golden Gator award recipients are announced, and the winning students are celebrated and congratulated by their peers. At the end of each month, the fourth and fifth grade classes who earned the most Golden Gators, win an additional reward. At the program’s year-end finale, one student will be the Grand Prize winner! Students are off to a great start, representing The Arbor Way, and earning awards.



## Learning Our Local History

Piscataway’s Metlar-Bodine House Museum, a NJ State and National Registered Historic Place, contains more than 2000 artifacts in its permanent collection. The museum’s mission is to interpret the Raritan River Valley’s development from prehistoric time to the present, using transportation as the connecting theme. Elementary students in Piscataway Schools have often enriched their understanding of local history by taking Metlar-Bodine House field trips. Now, the District will partner with the Museum Staff and Board to create opportunities for PHS students with an interest in history, including internships and outreach to students enrolled in the Academies. Under Dr. Baskerville, we plan to develop a hands-on program that deepens understanding of and appreciation for the local history of our township and State.

## Piscataway Students Enjoy the Journey on National Walk to School Day

Piscataway Elementary Schools joined schools across the country in celebrating National Walk to School Day on the first Wednesday in October. Our schools welcomed students and parents as they arrived to school having enjoyed meeting friends and families along the way. Eisenhower students walked alongside some special guests, as Mayor Wahler and Officer Laughlin joined them on one of the routes to school. It was a great, healthy way to start the school day!



## PHS Key Club Serves School and Community

On Saturday October 9, thirty members of the PHS Key Club supported a food and essentials distribution event at Zion Hill Baptist Church sponsored by L'Oréal and Replenish. During this day-long event, the Key Clubbers helped unload hundreds of packages of food and household essentials for distribution to 400 needy families and local organizations. Piscataway High School's Key Club is a part of Key Club International, the world's largest student led service organization. Chartered at PHS in 1978, the Piscataway High School Key Club provides service to their schools and community throughout each year.

## Students Mark Hispanic Heritage Month during October

Students across the district celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in October, honoring the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans who have inspired others to achieve success. Marquees at every school display quotes that celebrate the accomplishments of Hispanic public figures and inspire students to commit to positive actions. Students in Ms. Lopez's Grandview class and Ms. Smith Hardin's Eisenhower and Knollwood classes are learning about Hispanic or Latin persons who have made significant contributions to our country or world, such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Throughout the month, Grandview students will continue to celebrate their Latin or Hispanic background, creating colored flags from their countries, and sharing their dreams for what they want to be when they grow up.



## King Families Bond Over Books and Ice Cream

Martin Luther King Intermediate School hosted its annual Ice Cream Social and Book Fair Night on a warm Friday evening in September. All families enjoyed ice cream – some outside on the playground and some supporting the Book Fair in the school library – as the culminating event for Book Fair Week. In enjoying a little ice cream with friends and family and finding a new book at the book fair, families were happy to return for an evening at King School.





## Bob's Random Act of Kindness Benefits Eisenhower School

In honor of the opening of its new distribution center in Piscataway, Bob's Discount Furniture recently selected Eisenhower Elementary School to be the recipient of a Random Act of Kindness donation. Dr. Ranelli and Eisenhower Principal Dr. Laura Heimlich gratefully accepted the \$2500 donation from Bob's Senior DC Operations manager Ryan Madden.



## Holmes Marshall Fire Company Teaches Fire Prevention at Knollwood

The Holmes Marshall Fire Company recently visited Knollwood Kindergartners during Fire Prevention Week. Students had the opportunity to meet members of the volunteer fire company and learn about the important role that firefighters play in our community. They also learned about fire safety and prevention and had the opportunity to sit in a real fire engine. At the end of the visit, each student received their own firefighter helmet as a souvenir.



## Children's Corner Celebrates Johnny Appleseed Day

Children's Corner celebrated John Chapman's birthday, better known as Johnny Appleseed Day, on September, 26. Born in Massachusetts in 1774 Chapman spent much of his life traveling across the country planting and tending to apple orchards. Children's Corner commemorates the day by sharing Johnny Appleseed's story as well as tasting, cooking, graphing, and even painting with apples. This yearly celebration welcomes the autumn and apple picking season.

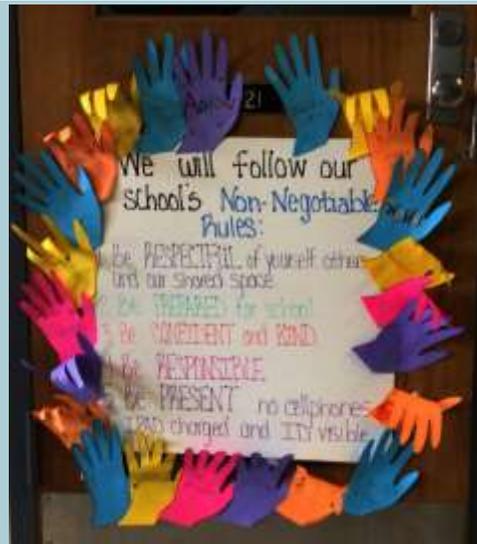
## Quibbletown Students Stay G.O.L.D.

Quibbletown students celebrated the start of the school year with a fun PBIS (Positive Behavior Inventions and Supports) kickoff event. As part of the PBIS event, students decorated their homeroom doors and lockers to convey the school motto "Stay G.O.L.D." (Gaining Empathy, Owning Responsibility, Learning Respectfully, and Displaying Kindness). Students also made comics to illustrate what responsibility looks like in different school settings, reflected on what empathy means to them, and how they could demonstrate empathy towards their peers.



## Schor Students Negotiate Five Non-Negotiables

Schor School considers student voice an integral part of school culture. Schor students began the school year with a discussion about “school rules” and what works best for optimal learning. Students at each grade level developed a list of the five “non-negotiables” expected of each student, incorporating a common language and clear set of behavioral guidelines. To document the shared efforts of this opening activity, each homeroom created a visual contract that illustrates their agreement with their five non-negotiables and then posted the agreement on each classroom door. This activity engaged the students, strengthened their buy-in for “school rules,” and unified them behind their five non-negotiables. At Schor, students feel empowered to rise to their potentials free of distracting or unwanted behaviors.



## Randolphville Spreads Kindness with Respect

On Friday, September 24, Randolphville kicked off its Randolphville Respect Program with a virtual assembly. The first marking period character trait is citizenship. Mrs. Messina reviewed the program, including how staff looks for students demonstrating citizenship and recognizes them at lunch every Friday. Dr. Cote shared a read aloud on citizenship and explained what citizenship means—both at Randolphville and at home. The assembly ended with Ms. Kamdar leading breath and movement exercises to help students remember how to spread kindness, empathy, and helpfulness in their school community.



## Conackamack Shows Respect

During the annual observation of the first week of October as the Week of Respect, Conackamack students developed a better understanding of what it means to display Respect in different school settings. Throughout the week, students demonstrated their understanding of these concepts by adding examples of how they showed respect in school to a “Respect-Bucket.” At the end of the week during lunch, counselors discussed respect with students and drew raffle winners from the Respect Bucket.

## Piscataway Schools Keep Calm

As part of an ongoing effort to focus on staff wellness, Piscataway Schools now offer a subscription to the Calm App, the number one app for mental fitness, as an employee benefit. Calm’s content library offers guided meditations and specialized music playlists to help with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, and much more. Thanks to the Pathway2Wellness Committee for their continued work toward this important effort.



## Piscataway Wins NJSPRA Award

For the third consecutive year, Piscataway Schools has won an award from the New Jersey School Public Relations Association for a Special Interest Publication. This year, Piscataway won a second place award for its Wellness and Mental Health Services brochure, noting programs available throughout the district. The need for this brochure was identified through the Board of Education’s Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee. Congratulations to Judy Palermo for effectively executing the committee’s vision and helping to move the District’s efforts towards health and wellness forward.



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