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Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli



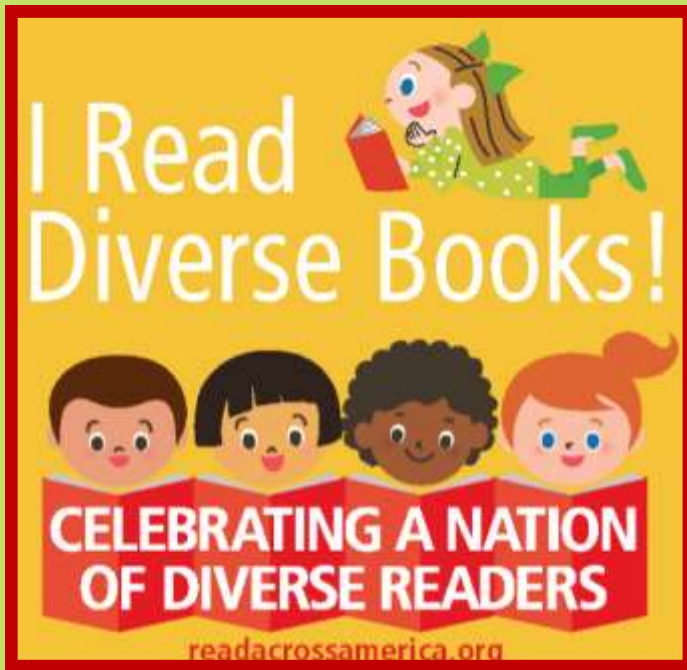
King Students Travel the Globe

Students at Martin Luther King Intermediate School are creating friendships around the United States through "The USPS Pen Pal Project." Mrs. Torres and her Spanish LEAP students were matched with students from two other schools, one in Oregon and the other in Illinois. Students are learning how to write a friendly letter, address an envelope, and understand how we use written communication to build relationships. The students will also learn how the mail system operates. King students have sent their first letters, and are anxiously awaiting responses from their pen pals!

PHS Film/Television Students Benefit from Rider Partnership

PHS continues to build its relationship with Rider University's Department of Film and Television. In February, the University's Dr. Shawn Kildea, who teaches studio and documentary production and has produced award-winning films with his students, visited PHS. He showcased student work and outlined Rider's educational opportunities found on campus and, through the University's extensive internship program, at film studios in Los Angeles and its environs. PHS students taking PHS advanced television/film courses currently may earn college credit through the Rider partnership.





Read Across America Week

Read Across America Week is a favorite time of year for students from preschool through Grade 5, as these students spend Monday - Friday during the first week in March celebrating reading and writing. Teachers and school administrators enjoy creating the many fun and enriching activities students participate in all week long. And this year brought the return of guest readers in the classroom, as well as reading buddies, favorite moments that were put on hold during the height of the pandemic. From daily dress-up days to door decorating to Snack and Chat book discussions, students spent the week immersed in their favorite books.

Visitors attended schools in-person and on Zoom. In addition to welcoming parents back to the classrooms, other favorite visitors included librarians from the Piscataway Library, and Middle School and High School students. Our youngest learners at Children's Corner sampled "Green Eggs and Ham" and after reading "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," graphed colored gold fish crackers.

In our Elementary and Intermediate Schools, students made connections to daily dress-up themes with themes in books. For instance, on Silly Clothes Day, students dug into humorous books and on Animal Day, students dressed in animal prints and read to a favorite stuffed animal, or dressed as superheroes on "Reading Gives Us Superpowers Day." On other days, students dressed like a favorite character, and read each others' t-shirt and hats covered with favorite sayings and phrases.

Every Read Across America Week is always made even better with support from our PTOs. Book fairs, author visits, and family evening events are sponsored by our PTOs, with so many parents volunteering their time to bring their school communities together and raise funds to further the positive educational experiences within their schools. A big thank you goes out to all our PTOs!



Knollwood Students Show Their Character

As part of Knollwood's Character Education Program, throughout the school year, students learn about the 6 Pillars of Character.

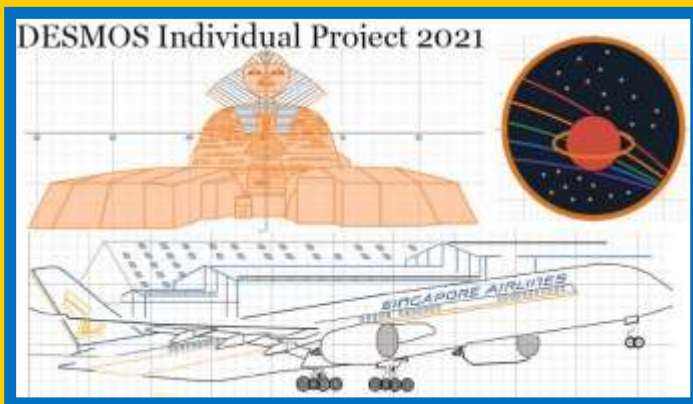


During February, Knollwood

highlighted the Pillar of Respect through lessons, class discussions, and daily announcements. Students participated in a school wide poster contest, creating original artwork depicting what Respect at Knollwood means to them. Students from every grade level produced creative and inspiring pieces for the contest, with 15 submissions selected to be enlarged to poster size and displayed proudly throughout the school.

Quibbletown Students Graph Art

Eighth grade math students at Quibbletown used their cumulative knowledge of functions to create art using the graphing app



Desmos. Using only graphed mathematical expressions, this project was an excellent way for students to present their knowledge of functional relationships. Every line and color required the students to create multiple equations and inequalities. Thanks to Mr. Gurkovich for creating this fun, cross-curricular project.

Piscataway Summer Camp 2022 Brings Back Friday Trips

Piscataway Summer Camp opens its door on June 27 and runs through August 19. Families have the option to register for eight week or four weeks of this five-day-a-week camp that offers swimming every morning, plenty of outdoor activities and in-house field trips, and this year, the return of the very popular Friday Travel Trips! Staff is certified and there is a nurse on site. Call the Office of Community Education for more information at 732-572-4688.



Schor National Junior Honor Society Members Assist in the Classroom

The T. Schor National Junior Honor Society Members worked with sixth and the seventh grade



Literacy Teachers to plan and prepare a lesson during "Read Across America Week." Honor Society students assisted the teachers in their classes, working with students in writing to authors for their Social Issues Unit, and create Blackout Poetry, Story Starters, and riddles/puzzles that help students answer questions for each story section. The younger students appreciated the time and attention from the Honor Society students, and will gladly welcome them back into their classrooms.

Piscataway Schools Preschool Applications Open on March 21!

Piscataway residents— can apply for free, high-quality preschool for 3 or 4 year olds, thanks to NJDOE Preschool Expansion Aid. Seats are limited and students must turn 3 or 4 years old before October 1, 2022.

PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
HIGH-QUALITY • FULL-DAY

FREE PRESCHOOL

Thanks to NJ Department of Education Preschool Expansion Aid, Piscataway Township Schools can offer free preschool to Piscataway families.

To qualify, your child must be three or four years old by October 1, 2022.




Apply Online at Community Pass Starting March 21, 2022

Deadline to Apply is April 4, 2022

SEATS ARE LIMITED!




For more information visit www.ccprek.com email ccprek@piscataway.org

Arbor's Budding Film Directors

Arbor students are learning iMovie basics on the road to filmmaking! Director of Instructional Technology/ K-8 Social Studies Chris Irovando visited Ms. Aleda Gerum's fourth grade literacy classes to teach the ins and outs of making iMovie Trailers. Students particularly enjoyed learning about animation, slow motion, and how to create the Ken Burns effect. Students will apply this knowledge to create trailers for their historical fiction unit.



PHS Safety Ambassadors Bring a Special Guest to Eisenhower

Eisenhower first graders look forward to visits from PHS Safety Ambassadors, who volunteer to teach community safety lessons to these students. In February, PHS Principal Chris Baldassano supported the efforts of the Safety Ambassadors, and joined them on their trip to Eisenhower. Thanks to Guidance Counselor Mary Stephanie Rodgers for coordinating this program.



PHS Art Student Makes Global Connection

PHS art students are invited to participate in The Memory Project, a non-profit organization that uses art to connect young people, touching lives around the world challenged by significant hardships such as neglect, abuse, and poverty. Students create portraits of other children and teens to be delivered in the coming months. These portraits are opportunities to practice kindness and global awareness, touching the lives of youth around the world. PHS Visual Art Workshop student Julia Alvarado created a portrait for a Nigerian child. Thanks to Lisa Lentini-Pombrio for providing this amazing opportunity.



PHS Students Selected for Region Choir

Congratulations to PHS Choir Members Danica Snyder and Sophia Westberg for their acceptance to Region Choir. Danica and Sophia auditioned with singers from all over Central NJ for this prestigious ensemble and performed in a beautiful concert at Monroe High School. Congratulations also go to Choir teacher, Megan Suozzo.



Middle School Eighth Graders Learn About Award-Winning Writing

Eighth graders at all three middle schools are grateful to the Friends of the Piscataway Library for sponsoring their virtual visit with Adib Khorram, author of a number of young adult novels, including Darius the Great Is Not Okay, which earned the William C. Morris Debut Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature, and other honors. Khorram spoke to the students about his own experiences in school, his books, and his writing process. Thanks to Ms. Fleming and the Piscataway Library for making this possible.



1515 Stelton Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone: 732-572-2289
www.piscatawayschools.org
Twitter: @pwayschools
Facebook: @pwayschools