

## Arbor Literacy Celebration — Thank You, Hidden Gems!

Arbor Intermediate School held a Literacy Celebration in Partnership with Hidden Gems Literary Emporium, a non-profit bookstore located in New Brunswick, NJ. The event, designed to share a love for reading, included motivational speaker Brad Butler, music and dancing, a collective art project, trivia and other word games, and of course, lots and lots of books! Hidden Gems donated hundreds of books for Arbor readers, and in turn, Arbor students brought in books to donate to the Sephyl Learning Center in Ghana. The students enjoyed this outdoor event on a picture perfect day, and took home three books each to read and enjoy. Thank you so much, Hidden Gems!



Volume 8 Issue 8

April 14, 2022

# Superintendent's Report

Dr. Frank Ranelli



## Schor Students Donate Blankets for Ukraine

Touched by stories of family separation, Schor students wanted to send warmth and comfort to families fleeing violence and war in Ukraine. Through Schor's Happiness Committee, a student-led group aimed at making the Schor school community happier and more joyful, students collected blankets for Ukraine families. Students also examined other wars and areas of conflict and engaged in critical dialogue focused on war, conflict and peace.

## WVPH – The Pulse of Piscataway

Piscataway students interested in careers in broadcasting can get their start at PHS by taking classes in radio broadcast and audio production, and by putting what they learn into practice by working with WVPH 90.3 FM, The Pulse of Piscataway. Student broadcasters are on the air every weekday morning from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m., and every weekday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shows vary in musical style and content, following each host's interests. Some shows also feature student commentary. WVPH can be heard by listeners in Middlesex, Somerset, Union and Mercer Counties. Rutgers University students broadcast over WVPH when PHS students are not on the air.



## Piscataway Music Department Honored for Fifth Consecutive Year

The NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation has named Piscataway a "Best Community for Music Education" for the fifth consecutive year. Congratulations to our music educators for their fine work and dedication to our students that lead to this award every year.



## Eisenhower's Budding Directors



Eisenhower third graders made their directorial debuts creating stop motion animation videos with the Stop Motion App. They created the illusion of movement by making small movements with objects. Then, they edited in sound effects, drawings, green screen images and some creative storytelling to make their movies!

## Thank you, Piscataway DVCIT

The Piscataway Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team (DVCIT) partnered with PHS during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, raising awareness for help available for victims of sexual assault. We thank Sharon Coney, Coordinator and Barbara Andrews-Jenkins, Co-Secretary for hosting an information table in the Commons during lunches.



## Knollwood Family Art & Tech Night

Knollwood recently hosted its Family Art & Tech Night, where students and families gathered to interact with technology, share and create art, and mingle with friends and teachers. Organized by Digital Literacy teacher Lelia Brennan and Art teacher Beth Tripod, the event offered attendees opportunities to engage with a variety of hands-on activities including stop-motion animation, green screen photography, Dash and Dot codable robots, STEM challenges, and much more. A wide variety of student artwork was also on display at the event for families to enjoy throughout the evening



## Grandview Reads

In March, Grandview School hosted Grandview Reads, an evening celebrating the magic of books, during the PTO's Spring Book Fair. Students and staff dressed in their pajamas to listen to bed time stories read by favorite Grandview teachers. The students were entertained by "Click, Clack, Moo, Cows that Type" by Doreen Cronin, "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Glover" by Lucille Colandro and "The Pigeon Wants a Puppy" by Mo Willems, just to name a few. Students also made book marks to take home. While the students listened to stories, parents shopped at the book fair. Everyone who attended enjoyed the event. Thank you Grandview PTO and staff for coordinating this program!

## Randolphville Presents "How Does Your Garden Grow?"



Randolphville's annual spring musical, "How Does Your Garden Grow?" took the audience on a country-style garden hoedown through Herb's garden, where the seeds have sprouted, the rain has come, and the petals bloom brightly in the sun – until the weeds try to take over! Students sang five songs in different styles with speaking parts that told Herb the Gardener's story.



## Guest Readers at King Include the Mayor



During Read Across America Week, King School hosted a number of guest readers from around the District to introduce new books and revisit old favorites. One favorite book, *The Days the Crayons Quit*, was read by the Mayor of Piscataway, Brian C. Wahler. Teachers throughout the building planned activities infused with the love of reading and students enthusiastically responded.

## PHS Students Advance to MIST Nationals

Piscataway High School students excelled in the Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST) 2022 Regional Competition held at Rutgers University. MIST offers a fun, interactive competition that brings together Muslim and non-Muslim high school students to develop leadership, communication, and other creative skills, while gaining a deeper understanding of Muslims and Islam. The tournament is open to all, and students from across New Jersey competed in a variety of categories including the arts and sports as well as writing, oratory, and knowledge of the Quran.

The Piscataway High School team placed fourth overall in the tournament, with the following PHS students qualifying to compete in the MIST National Tournament this summer: Zaynab Khan, Dania Ali, Aminah Memon, Raahim Hashmi, Zenna Ahmed, Shayaan Ahmed, Mudassir Ahmed, Rahmatullah Hasan, Raiyaan Motiwala, Mohammad Chughtai, Saami Rahman, Zoha Khan, Rania Hashmi, Ibrahim Syed, Azra Bano, Fazlur Rahman Syed, Bakr Alomari, Subhan Siddiqui, Safiya Tamnat, and Sarah Tamnat. Congratulations to these students and best of luck at Nationals!

## Quibbletown's Jane Rodrigues Is a Wrestling Champion!

Quibbletown Eighth Grader Jane Rodrigues is Piscataway's first middle school female wrestler to win a Greater Middlesex County Wrestling Championship title! Jane finished the wrestling season with 12 wins and 1 loss. She has an overall middle school career record of 24 wins and only 3 losses. Congratulations, Jane!



## Winter Olympics at Conackamack

Conackamack students celebrated the Winter Olympics by recreating events in their own gym. Teams participate in recreated bobsled relay, speed skating relay, human curling, and a torch relay. Phys Ed Teacher Johanna Reid combined the activities under a Black History Month umbrella, studying and discussing Black athletes entered in Winter Olympic



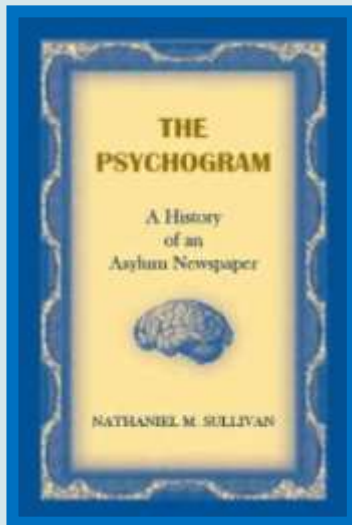
## Schor Students Enjoy Cupcakes and Comments



Sixth grade students in Ms. Ruth Partyka's classes learn about social issues such as war, forced migration, bullying, and family pressures, through literature, including *The Breadwinner*, by Deborah Ellis, *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz, and *Save Me a Seat*, by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan. After reading one of these books, students wrote letters to the authors, commenting and questioning themes, characters and the choices they make, and more. They shared the letters during gallery walks, while enjoying cupcake treats. Ms. Partyka will mail the letters to the authors, and hopes to receive responses to the students' many insightful comments and questions.

## ESL Teacher Nathaniel Sullivan Publishes Book

Nathaniel Sullivan, who teaches ESL at Conackmack and Quibbletown, turned his University of Massachusetts master's thesis into his first published book. His long time interest in the history of science and historic hospitals led to his discovery of The Psychogram, a newsletter written by patients and staff of the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains, from 1916-1977. Containing poetry, book reviews, and letters written by patients, The Psychogram offered insight into Greystone during a time of dramatic changes and public scrutiny. Mr. Sullivan worked on the manuscript for about two years before it was published by Heritage Books. He offers this writing advice to students: "Write about what interests you... don't forget to read footnotes and explore the primary sources. This can help make new discoveries that completely change the focus of your writing." Congratulations, Mr. Sullivan.



## King Students Discover Their Passion



Fifth grade ELA Honors students at Martin Luther King School celebrated a successful close to their Passion Project



Unit. Modelled after Google's *20% Time*, where employees work on projects of their choosing, students explored a topic of personal interest, questioning, researching, creating, and sharing. The results were wonderful and included a 3D model skyscraper, a model Webb telescope, a mock investment portfolio, original works of literature, iMovie scrapbook, and coded webpage. Students worked diligently to develop their research and citation skills, enhance their ability to quote, paraphrase, or summarize a text, and hone their oral presentation skills. A job well done, King students!

## PHS Art Student Elliot Dong Receives National Recognition

Congratulations to PHS Student Elliot Dong, who received a National Silver Medal in the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing competition for their mixed media artwork, "Packaged." More than 100,000 teens from across the country and Canada entered more than 260,000 works of art and writing to the 2022 competition, with fewer than 2,000 works receiving National Medals this year. Continued thanks to Ms. Dorothy Amme and the entire PHS Art Department for always encouraging their students to submit their artwork in competition.



## Children's Corner Week of the Young Child

The *Week of the Young Child* is an annual celebration that focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families. It also recognizes the outstanding efforts and work provided by our Children's Corner staff to deliver a high quality preschool program. This year's event featured fun-filled activities celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. Each day focused on a different theme: Musical Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday. Activities included a musical parade, team building relay races, bread making and tasting, family and class murals and crafts, tasty treats, breakfast with your mini, and much more. It was a pleasurable week enjoyed by all.



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