



Southeast Delco School District

Knighly News

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill
Communities

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Excellence and Equity

Middle school students from Darby Township School, Delcroft School, Harris School and Sharon Hill School attended the Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence & Equity's 14th Annual Middle School Student Leadership Institute on November 22. The Southeast Delco School District students were 12 of 300 middle school students attending the event. 21st Century Grant Coordinator Pat Alford organized the students' participation in the event and accompanied them to the University of Pennsylvania.



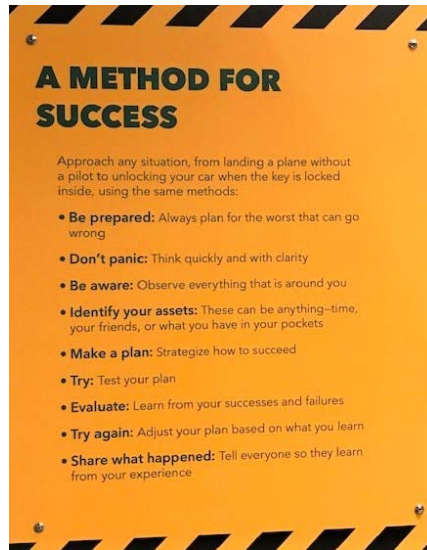
The goal of the one-day conference is to help support the development of the leadership and academic potential of diverse students in the Philadelphia area's middle schools. DVCEE's aim is to enlighten students in grades 6 – 8 about effectively addressing their challenges in school and life, as well as to empower them to make sound and success-producing decisions about their futures.

Worst-Case Scenario

Students in the gifted program tested their survival skills while visiting the Franklin Institute's *Worst-Case Scenario: A Survival Experience* on November 20. The exhibit discloses the skills and strategies needed for survival, as well as the elements of escape, and covers skills needed from evading an angry lion to an encounter with a swarm of killer bees.



Stories of life threatening situations faced by some everyday hero, first responders were presented in the "Worst-Case Scenario Hall of Fame". The skills needed to survive each situation were highlighted and the tools used were on display. The students learned and adopted the mantra: Be Prepared. Don't Panic. Have a Plan. Throughout this hands-on experience, students applied practical knowledge and common sense.



The students demonstrated impressive feats of strengths as they navigated through the 13 challenges in the “Survivor Gym”. These encounters - including a giant vat of plastic balls meant to simulate quicksand - taught the students how applying the basic principles of physics would lead to a successful escape.

After visiting the exhibit, the students are better equipped to be prepared, not panic, and have a plan should they encounter a potentially dangerous situation!

Feed, Water, Nurture - Then Watch Them Grow

Southeast Delco and Academy Park High School were featured in an article printed in the December 2019 edition of Orchids Magazine. Published by the American Orchid Society, district students were highlighted for their participation in the Philadelphia Horticultural Society’s Junior Flower Show.



Academy Park High School

Knight Academy Celebrates Thanksgiving

The staff and students of Knight Academy alternative school celebrated Thanksgiving on the Wednesday before the holiday. The staff prepared three turkeys, homemade mashed potatoes, stuffing, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, gravy, asparagus, and rolls. Desert was sweet potato pie and apple pie.

An enjoyable time was had by all, and both students and staff were thankful for the meal and pleasant company.



APHS Students Attend Youth Leadership Conference

Academy Park gifted students attended the ADL's 13th Annual Youth Leadership Conference: *Exploring Diversity, Challenging Hate*. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for students and teachers to discuss and plan ways to challenge bias in their schools.

The keynote presentation was given by Judy Shepard who lost her son Matthew to a violent hate crime. Mrs. Shepard hoped to raise awareness about hate, and to inspire high school students and educators to speak out and challenge bigotry and discrimination in their own school communities. The students were challenged to do what they can as individuals and communities to make this world a more accepting place for everyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation.



Academy Park's Ajanie Hires (grade 11) shared, "This conference is a great opportunity to increase one's awareness and open-mindedness."

Darby Township School

Sensory Area

DTS teachers Gabby Ciallella, Rosie Robb and Julie Vandegrift created a sensory area in the school's grades 1-3 hallway. Students are encouraged to visit the wall for breaks or to help them de-escalate. The sensory area activities include *ABCs of Yoga for Kids*, *Hopscotch*, *Stretch Your Body to Swat the Bees*, *Press Hard on the Handprints*, *Complete 20 Jumping Jacks*, and *Blow Out the Bubbles*. The area has been a huge success!

Special thanks to Ms. Ciallella, Ms. Robb, and Ms. Vandegrift for imagining this fun and supportive concept and then spending their own time, effort and money to create this innovative resource for our students!



Dino Dig

DTS first and third grade students participated in an assembly and a Dino Dig on November 19. The students enjoyed a presentation on rocks, minerals, fossils, and dinosaurs. The highlight of the show was an eight-foot triceratops skull that was discovered in 1996.

Students had an opportunity to ask paleontologists Roberta and Mike Strata questions about science and their professional experiences. Students then participated in a Dino Dig. It was a great learning experience for all students involved.

K-9 Assembly

Third grade students at DTS were treated to a fun and exciting assembly on November 6. K-9 Officers Andre and Lomax were joined on stage by their K-9 partners, Officer Lugar and Officer Tiger, where they demonstrated the training and skills of these talented dogs.

Officer Andre also talked to the students about reporting concerns, what to do if they hear or see something inappropriate or dangerous, and how to raise and train K-9 dogs. Students were amazed by the ability of the dogs and they asked great questions.

Minding Your Mind

Students in grades 7 and 8 attended an assembly entitled *Minding Your Mind* on November 13. Guest speaker Mr. Jordan Burnham is a professional public speaker on mental health and suicide prevention. He survived a suicide attempt during his senior year of high school. Students were impressed by his story about his mental health issues and recovery.

Delcroft School

The Spirit of Giving

It's the holiday season and the students and staff of Delcroft School are filled with the spirit of giving. Their thoughts were on community members who needed a little extra help acquiring the makings for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Over the years, Delcroft School has stepped up to help families in need. Led by teachers Ms. DiDomizio and Ms. McAteer, the Delcroft Safety Patrol sponsored a Canned Food Drive. The entire school participated and the top 3 classes that collected the most non-perishable items were recognized and awarded a prize.



In third place, Ms. DiDomizio's class collected 150 items. Ms. McDonough's class earned second place honors with 217 items. The first place winner, with 237 items was Mr. White's 1st grade class.

The act of giving and organizing a food drive is a great character lesson for students. Wanting to help those less fortunate is a sign of empathy and compassion, and are characteristics that should be nurtured and encouraged in students. Concern for others contributes to a safe and supportive learning environment and benefits everyone.

Through the generosity of the staff, students, family, and friends, Delcroft School provided Thanksgiving dinners to 13 Delcroft families. Each family received a turkey and reusable shopping bags filled with non-perishable items for their Thanksgiving celebration.

A special thank you to Mrs. McDonald and Ms. Bethea for delivering the Thanksgiving feasts to all of the families.

Harris School

Campout for Reading

Harris School hosted their annual Campout for Reading on November 14. Students and families were treated to a special read aloud of the book *Pig the Pug* by Aaron Blabey. Following story time, the students were sent on a special scavenger hunt to find items highlighted in the story, such as a collar, ball and ham bone. Students were excited to discover clues positioned throughout the building to help them in their search for the hidden items. Several lucky families won raffle baskets filled with books and games. The evening concluded with families making s'mores, reading books and playing games.



Many thanks to Harris' parent connection committee for their hard work planning and coordinating of this fun event.

Harris Students Support Veterans

In honor of Veteran's Day, Harris School's National Junior Honor Society collected over 500 items to be donated to an organization that assists homeless vets in Philadelphia and surrounding communities. Items collected included shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hats, gloves, and socks. Simple everyday items that most of us take for granted are deeply appreciated by these men and women, who after serving their country, have fallen on hard times.

Food Drive

Harris' student council held their annual canned food drive during the month of November, collecting 1,065 non-perishable food items for donation to the First African Baptist Church.

Each year, homerooms compete to collect the greatest number of items. This year, Mrs. Bohannan's 7th grade class came in first with 118 non-perishable food items collected. In second place, Mrs. Caracappa's 6th grade homeroom collected 95 items.

Mrs. Bohannan's and Mrs. Caracappa's classes will receive a special dress down day pass as a reward for their efforts. A big thank you goes out to all of the students and staff for collecting items to help families in our community.

Sharon Hill School

Lunch with the Principal

Fifteen lucky raffle winners were selected to have lunch with Mr. Baxter, principal of Sharon Hill School, based on demonstrating school-wide expectations and earning adequate Soar tickets. The winning students were allowed to bring two friends for a lunch filled with games, laughter and fun with the principal on November 25.



PBIS!

Sharon Hill continues to support positive behavior by rewarding students for exhibiting appropriate district, school and classroom expectations. Eligible students shopped in the newly organized and designed Sharon Hill School PBIS Store on November 26 and November 27. Students were allowed to purchase items such as lunch with the principal, school supplies, footballs, etc. Students also participated in different activities in the classroom to celebrate their success.



Community Service Project

This month, Sharon Hill School students participated in a community service project sponsored by the school's student council. Students collected canned and other non-perishable food items, which they donated to the Salvation Army in Darby, PA to help families in need during the Thanksgiving Holiday season. Homerooms competed against one another to see which homeroom could collect the most items, and the total number of cans collected was 496.

Kindergarten Center

Tea For Two

The Kindergarten Center hosted a VIP Tea on November 6 through 8 and on each of those mornings students invited a VIP (Very Important Person) to come to the school and spend time together.

The students and their VIPs completed an activity, enjoyed some treats, and took pictures under a special banner. The Kindergarten Center is grateful to the Parent Involvement Committee that organized and hosted this wonderful event



Community Outreach

One of the goals of the Kindergarten Center is to foster a variety of community outreach programs. That objective was furthered this school year by sponsoring a canned food drive during the month of November. Kindergarten students and teachers collected over 200 canned goods and non-perishable food items. The collection was then stored in a food pantry to assist Southeast Delco families. We greatly appreciated all the support to help those who are in need.

SOUTHEAST DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Service Center
1560 Delmar Drive - Folcroft, PA 19032
(610) 522-4300 ★ (610) 461-4874 Fax
www.sedelco.org