



Southeast Delco School District

# *Knighly News*

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill  
Communities

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## *Exploring Viking Culture*

To expand their study on Vikings, students in the district's gifted program visited the Franklin Institute's current exhibition - *Vikings: Beyond the Legend*. To learn more about the history of the Vikings, the students used interactive activities and elements like augmented reality to experience building a Viking ship, or testing their strength and endurance while rowing like a Viking, and taking part in a burial dig. They applied skill and strategy in an electronic version of Hnefatafl, a game similar to chess that Vikings played in their free time.



Over 600 artifacts were on display, including swords, jewelry and other amazing examples of craftsmanship, like a 122-foot re-creation of a Viking ship constructed with some of the original planks. The exhibit showcased Vikings as explorers who made a significant impact on our modern world as a result of their technological ingenuity and innovation.



## Southern Delco Middle School Band



From left to right; Mathias Salins on Trombone, Logan Rowen on Trumpet, Arwen Rowen on flute, Alaysia Kinlaw on trumpet, Zoie Gatewood on flute, Mayowa Lawal and Isabelle Krautheim, both on clarinet.

Seven Southeast Delco band members were selected to participate in the annual Southern Delaware County Middle School Band. The band was comprised of approximately 90 students from six nearby school districts, including Chichester, Garnet Valley, Interboro, Penn Delco, Ridley, and Southeast Delco. Students rehearsed three Saturday mornings in January and concluded with a concert held at Ridley Middle School on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Each of the district directors took a turn conducting the band, including Southeast Delco music teachers, Rebecca King and Kristina Cubbage.

The students proudly represented Darby Township School, Delcroft School and Harris School. Their hard work and dedication was truly something to make Southeast Delco proud!

## Orchids are Blooming at Academy Park

Twenty-five Academy Park students are growing Phalaneopsis Orchids as part of a pilot program sponsored by the American Orchid Society (AOS) and the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS). The orchids, with only tiny spikes, were left in the care of the students. Instructions on watering, fertilizing and lighting were provided by Barb Schmidt, orchid expert from AOS.

The students learned that orchids develop blooms faster when kept in a south facing window. The contrast of warm sunny days to cool dark nights really encourages growth. AP junior Cheyenne Phillips shared, "Taking care of an orchid was an interesting learning experience that gave everyone involved the opportunity to really appreciate the beauty of orchids."



From left: Brianna Ha, Shara Lighter, Kramoh Mansalay, Deborah Abiola, Cheyenne Phillips, Adriana Drones



Tysheim Maddox  
and Rasheed Jomandy



Jermere McLeish

To learn more about the pilot program and the Junior Flower Show, visit <http://www.basorchidcare.com/>.



# Academy Park High School

## High School Leadership Institute

A mixed age group from the Rising Scholars program at APHS attended the Delaware Valley Student Achievement Consortium's High School Leadership Institute on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, the conference rotated students through breakout sessions that focused on empowering students to use their voices to help shape their schools and communities. Some of the 8 sessions attended were: *Who R U?: Self-Awareness as a Source of Power*, *10 People Ways to Love and Lead w/ Passion, You are a Change Agent*, and *Level UP! No Time for the Fake Ones*.



In attendance from left to right): Mr. Greto (Science Teacher), Brianna Ha (9), Aiyana Jenkins (11), Kathleen Lac (10), Ally Ostrander (11), Sierra Coleman (10), Katty Pena (9), Alena Witherspoon (11), Mr. Robinson (APHS Principal), Amira Davis (9), Jona

The conference also included a Poetry Slam competition that provided students with an opportunity to perform in front of the entire leadership conference. Two Academy Park students, Sierra Coleman (10) and Janae Chism (12), stepped up to the challenge and performed, with Sierra taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of all of the contestants!

All attendees received a free copy of *The Power of Youth: It All Begins With You!* by Carlos Ojeda, Jr. The books were provided courtesy of the Cool Speak Company, which facilitated the program. The book is now available in the APHS Library.

The Academy Park students that attended the conference facilitated their own breakout sessions the following Saturday at their bi-weekly Rising Scholars session, bringing the information to 80+ more members of the school community.

If interested in learning how to use your voice or become a change agent, click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-xcS1ojW6Q> to see Carlos Ojeda Jr's motivational speech.

## APHS Junior Receives School Leadership Award From Widener University



Academy Park junior Anna Conrad has been selected to receive the Widener University High School Leadership Award. As a recipient, Anna will receive a \$20,000 scholarship to Widener University over 4 years and named an Apogee Scholar, should she enroll at Widener.

This award program is designed to recognize high school students in the region who have stood up for what is right, found a way to address a wrong, or have made a difference in a significant way. Anna certainly has demonstrated these qualities, reflecting Widener University's long-standing commitment to inspiring and developing leaders to affect positive change.

Anna will be recognized at a breakfast on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the National Convention Center. She will also spend a day in the fall at Widener University and will participate in a leadership workshop.

Congratulations, Anna!

## APHS Students Perform at Annual Band Extravaganza

Four APHS band members participated in the annual Band Extravaganza at the University of Pennsylvania. This unique opportunity was designed to recognize, reward, enrich, and inspire high school musicians by providing memorable and fun musical experiences. The ensemble was comprised of almost 90 students from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. The event was held on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and consisted of an all-day rehearsal and clinics led by staff and students at PENN.

In the evening, the students performed a wonderful concert, which was held at The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. The theme of the concert was "Quintology", meaning the selections were based on the number "five". Students performed a variety of genres ranging from *America* from the musical *West Side Story* to *Sing* by Pentatonix.



Students from left to right: Deborah Abiola, Randi White, Owen Nelson, Calvin Keays

## District 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Visit APHS

Eighth graders from all four Southeast Delco primary schools visited Academy Park High School on January 20<sup>th</sup>. After entering the gym through a cheerleader welcome tunnel and a performance by members of the Academy Park band, the future Knights were greeted by Ms. Smyth, Academy Park's 9<sup>th</sup> grade principal.

Academy Park upper classmen escorted the students on a tour of the building. They were provided information on AP athletics & academic eligibility from the athletic director, heard from the school counselors and learned how to get involved in various activities to make their upcoming high school experience a successful and memorable one.

The day was sponsored by Academy Park's Renaissance program. Thanks go out to everyone who helped make the day a great success, especially Ms. D'Annibale, who coordinated tours and created the timeline of events for the visit.



## Boys' Basketball - Winning

Academy Park Boys' Basketball team is having a strong year with a record of 14-6. A key victory over rival Chichester on 1/31, improved the Knights standing to 5-3 in the division. With only two games remaining, a strong finish can mean a home game in the playoffs, which hasn't happened in four years. Upcoming for the Knights are division opponents: Glen Mills (2/5 – Home) and Chester (2/7 – Away).



On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Academy Park will be honoring five seniors for senior night. Seniors Naseim Harley (15 points per game) and Shermik Lofton (14 points per game) are leading the Knights. Please come out and support the Boys' Basketball team as the season comes to an end and the playoffs approach.

## Coming Soon - "What's Your Passion?" Festival

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual *What's Your Passion?* Festival will take place on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Academy Park High School. Students are invited to come and hear from APHS alumni about their careers and how they got to where they are today. Breakfast and lunch will be provided and all attendees will have a chance to win raffle prizes!



This year's theme is *Write Your Own Story*. Your life is your story. Are you going to let other people or circumstances you have no control over write your story for you, or are you going to take control of your life and write it for yourself?

Come find out how people who grew up in your neighborhood and went to your schools achieved success, and how you can too!

## ***Darby Township School***

### ***Student Leadership Team***



Student participation in the implementation of Darby Township School's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative is essential to its success. An active, effective PBIS leadership team plays an important role at the school.

Students on the leadership team assist with tasks and influence decisions regarding student rewards and ways to enhance school climate. The leadership team encourages students to engage within the school and community, to develop their own leadership skills, and to give back and share what they have learned.

### ***Respect Assembly***

The third grade at Darby Township School participated in a J. P. Mascaro & Sons educational program called RESPECT. The assembly educates students on the importance of respect and why we need it in our lives. The Respect program incorporates valuable and significant information with a fun, interactive presentation (Family Feud game show style).

With the help of the environment loving mascot, Dumpo, our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students were taught the significance of respecting others, themselves and the environment.



### ***Girls Lead Presents to the Board***

Participants in Darby Township's Girls Lead program presented to the school board at the December monthly meeting. Girls Leads is a leadership program for middle school girls. The Women's Resource Center provides the program free to select, local schools. After participating in Girls Lead, members have increased their self-esteem, improved their communication skills and strengthened their leadership skills. The girls will be representing Darby Township School at a conference at West Chester University in March.

### ***Staying Smoke Free!***

Darby Township School had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Marley from Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems to speak to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine. She shared information about vapes and other smoking products that target children as potential consumers, every day!



The students were fully engaged as Ms. Marley went over the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drugs; providing examples of how they are all hazardous to healthy bodies. Thank you, Ms. Marley, for educating the students at Darby Township School!

## ***Delcroft School***

### ***Delcroft Spelling Bee***



Delcroft held their annual Spelling Bee in January. To participate in the Bee, students in grades 6-8 were administered a qualifying exam from which the students with the highest scores qualified to compete. At this year's competition, 27 students qualified to participate.

After 8 competitive rounds, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Iyabode Ojulari correctly spelled the word *emaciated* and was announced the winner. This year's runner up is 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Ti-Lyn DeVore, and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Kiona Lac will serve as an alternate. Iyabode Ojulari will attend the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Spelling Bee on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Morton, PA.

All of the participants worked extremely hard to prepare for this yearly event and we wish Iyabode luck as she represents Delcroft School at the County Spelling Bee. Many thanks to 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers Mrs. Lees and Ms. Dupiriak for coordinating this year's event.

### ***Where In The World?***

Students in grades 6-8 participated in Delcroft School's Annual Geography Bee. Much like the Spelling Bee, students interested in participating must complete a qualifying written exam prior to the competition.

Twenty-one students participated in the Geo Bee, competing through 7 general rounds, followed by 5 elimination rounds.

This year's Geography Bee first place winner is 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Abbaas Morrison. James Jones received the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award and Kylie Griffin received 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



Delcroft champion, Abbaas Morrison, has completed the National Geographic Geo Bee online qualifying test. This test will be scored and ranked with the scores of other Pennsylvania students. Results announcing who qualified to compete in the Geo Bee will be announced in March by the National Geography Bee Team. Special thanks go to Mrs. Miller who organized this year's Geography Bee.

### *Reading For Fun*

Delcroft students are continuing to receive free books during grade level book giveaways. Through additional donations from St. Joseph's Prep, students in grades 1–3 were able to select at least one more book to take home and keep as their very own. Having books in the home emphasizes the importance of reading for pleasure and becoming a life-long learner.



### *Harris School*

#### *Positive Behavior Pep Rally*

To highlight PBIS expectations and recognize students who have met those standards, Harris School held a PBIS pep rally on January 4<sup>th</sup>. During the rally, students socialized, played games and listened to music. However, the big event at the rally was an opportunity to put a pie in the face of assistant principal, Mr. Ruane. Twenty students were selected at random for the privilege of “pieing” the assistant principal, who was such a good sport and deserves a big thank you.



The PBIS pep rally was an awesome event and both staff and students had a great time. Planning has already started for the next PBIS event and rumor has it that a big reward involving Mr. McDougall may be in the works.

### *It's Raining Bear Bucks*

Bear Bucks are the currency for Harris' token reward system and are awarded to students for demonstrating Harris PBIS expectations. The students can use their Bear Bucks to purchase items such as pencils, snacks, gifts, and slime (seems to be a favorite) each month. The students can also purchase dress down passes, free time, gym time, dance time, and craft time.



To help ensure that students would engage and be motivated to display the positive behavior encouraged by the program, students were surveyed to see what things they would be interested in as rewards. The students were able to attend the rally by demonstrating PBIS expectations and earning Bear Bucks for their positive behavior.



[Click here](#) to view Harris School expectations for student behavior.

## ***Sharon Hill School***

### ***STEM Activity***

Students in Mrs. Toth's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class participated in their weekly STEM activity. The students are learning about weight and were tasked with building a structure out of plastic straws, pipe cleaners and a styrofoam cup that was sturdy enough to hold the weight of six quarters.



### ***Geography Bee***

All students in grades 4-8 participated in this year's Geography Bee. Students answered questions based on the guidelines set by National Geographic. Students were excited to participate and show their knowledge of the world. Winners will be announced soon!

## *Pasta Night at SHS*

Students and their families were invited to join staff for a Pasta Night fund raiser at Sharon Hill School on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go towards future home and school events. Families and community members are encouraged to attend the different events that are scheduled throughout the school year.



## *High School Transition*

Sharon Hill 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended the annual Academy Park High School transition day on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Students toured the school and participated in various “let’s get to know each other” activities. APHS teachers and students presented on the many educational and social opportunities Academy Park has to offer students to ensure their future success.

The students were very excited by what they learned and the adventures that await them as high school students. The anticipation of finally being an Academy Park Knight was seriously heightened during this transition event.

## *Kindergarten Center*

### *Healthy Choices*

Students at the Kindergarten Center enjoyed an assembly by Sterlen Perry Barr called *Rapping about Prevention* on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The 45-minute presentation focused on drug prevention, healthy choices and exercise. The students enjoyed singing and dancing with the five performers and learning important facts about their health. It was an extremely engaging assembly and we look forward to having them back next year.





## *Students Rewarded for Participation*

Thirty-five students attended a special party on January 24<sup>th</sup> as a reward for their participation in the Cherrydale fundraiser. The celebration was held at the Briarcliffe field house and the students played games, danced and won prizes. Thanks go out to Cherrydale Farms for their generosity in providing such a fun reward to the students.

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