



Southeast Delco School District

# *Knighly News*

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill  
Communities

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## *Poetic101 Members to Compete in Prestigious Poetry Slam*

After their powerful performances in the Philly Slam League Championship in May, four members of Academy Park's Poetic101 were invited to compete in the Brave New Voices (BNV) International Youth Poetry Slam Festival this summer in Las Vegas.

Out of 6 spots on the BNV team, Academy Park students own 4 of them. Pretty impressive! Sahmir Blackwell, Miatu Kormah, Deidra Senessie, and Princess Warley will join with 2 additional poets to represent Philly Slam at the festival.



The Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival is the only festival of its kind. Every year, over 500 young poets, their mentors, and the nation's leading artists and cultural workers convene for 4 days of arts education, artistic expression and civic engagement.

The poetry slam competition is televised on HBO, and poets who compete have the potential to be "discovered" and perhaps, become famous! Every high school student's dream.

The students and staff of Poetic101 send their thanks to the entire Southeast Delco community for all the love and support they have received all season long! These kids are doing remarkable things. #moversandshakers.

## *APHS Juniors Offer Advice to Incoming Freshmen*



At the conclusion of the school year, gifted students Kramoh Mansalay and Cheyenne Phillips joined forces to share their formula for high school success with incoming freshmen. They drew from their personal experiences and knowledge of the system to create tips and tricks that can be used to maximize the opportunities available at Academy Park High School.

The overarching theme stressed the importance of being a student first, but to also incorporate activities that will make them a well-rounded individual. Topics covered ranged from structuring academics to

connecting with their new school's community. Kramoh shared, "The best thing for any freshman to do is to get their head in the books, and get involved – in that order."

Just as important as academics and athletics, making connections with staff and students also plays a key role in developing a successful high school student. Forming these positive relationships as early as freshman year can lead to long-lasting and rewarding outcomes. Additionally, everything you do in high school prepares you for your next step in life. Cheyenne advised, "Try to figure out your niche early on, and don't be afraid to follow it where it takes you. Success will follow."

Activities such as clubs and sports provide transferable skills needed in all aspects of life, including problem solving, critical and creative thinking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

Mansalay and Phillips hope their knowledge and wisdom will serve the incoming freshmen class well and wish them all the best.

### *End of Year Gifted Picnic at Heinz Refuge*

Gifted students and their parents gathered at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge on June 4 for their end-of-year picnic, which has become a staple for students and parents alike.

After a ranger-led introduction, the group explored the refuge using binoculars, field guides and journals to identify and record bird species in a game of Bird Watching Bingo. The sighting of the rare great egret was a highlight.



Third-grader Francis Sanoe said he loved the field trip, but had one particular reason why. "My favorite part of coming to the refuge was to be able to have all of the other kids around to learn with," said Francis.

Following an outdoor picnic, the students participated in several games, including the much anticipated Rock-Paper-Scissors Tournament. Everyone enjoyed the time outside and the opportunity to have fun exercising critical and creative thinking skills before flying the coop for the summer!

### *A Beautiful Day at Longwood Gardens*

Southeast Delco enrichment students were excited to explore Longwood Gardens on May 29. The trip has become an annual event in the enrichment program that is enjoyed by students more and more with each visit.



Over the years, students have studied horticultural topics such as biomimicry to understand how the industry relates to the rest of the world. One high school student, Cheyenne Phillips, declared that, "Getting to experience the beauty of Longwood Gardens each year allows us to recognize the vast span of positive effects of horticulture." These lessons encourage students to hold a deeper appreciation for the landmark.



Sunny and warm, it was a perfect day to spend at Longwood Gardens. The students greatly enjoyed the adventure and hope to return in the future.

## ***Academy Park High School***

### ***Academy Park's Spring Concert***

The APHS Spring Concert was held on May 14 in the high school auditorium and the performances were nothing short of spectacular.



The evening started with the jazz ensemble playing the *Star-Spangled Banner* followed by the infamous *Sing, Sing, Sing*. Mrs. Cubbage directed the concert band in a variety of pieces from their repertoire,

starting with the soaring tempo of *Andromeda*, by David Shaffer. A highlight of the band was *Earth Wind and Fire Dance Mix* featuring senior Patrick Barquoi on the drum set, which had the crowd dancing in their seats! Ten seniors were recognized and given plaques for their participation and dedication to the band.

Ms. Muller continued the evening with two choirs, Schola Cantorum and the Concert Choir. With the help of Sharon Hill School's music teacher Mr. Angelucci on guitar, pianist David Christopher, and junior Glistar Threadgill on drums, the performances rocked the auditorium! Schola began the choral part of the evening with the popular *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen. The Concert Choir sang a variety of rock favorites, including *Africa* by Toto and *Stairway to Heaven* by Led Zeppelin.

Congratulations to all of the students in both band and choir on a memorable concert!

### *Poetic101 Wins Second Place*

Saturday night, May 25 at the Kimmel Center, Academy Park's Poetic101 captured second place in the Philly Slam League Championship! The staff and classmates are so proud of this talented group of students for the creativity, diligence and heart they poured into each round of the finals! To say these kids are a remarkable inspiration is a massive understatement!



### *Student Performance Videos*

Take a few minutes to enjoy the championship performances of our dynamically gifted students.

Round 1- [https://youtu.be/t34Y\\_O18DI4](https://youtu.be/t34Y_O18DI4)

Round 2- <https://youtu.be/1K3onVs8HR8>

Round 3- [https://youtu.be/eXsRk\\_ArdWE](https://youtu.be/eXsRk_ArdWE)

Round 4- <https://youtu.be/bTa4Bxc0AW0>



Congratulations to the team, coaches, and entire Southeast Delco community!



## Darby Township School

### Local Police Attend Pancake Breakfast



On May 24, detective Danny Fynes and officers Craig White and Heather Myers accepted an invitation to have breakfast with several Darby Township School students. As a reward for positive behavior during the PSSA testing, students were given tickets to enter a raffle for prizes. Ten students won tickets for *Pancakes with the Police*. DTS science teacher, Mr. Breithaupt, cooked up his famous pancakes and the students had a great time relaxing with the local law enforcement officers.

### Best Teacher Under the Sun

Ms. Brittany Kristman was selected as Sun East Charitable Foundation's 2018 / 2019 *Best Teacher Under the Sun*. Ms. Kristman teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade math at Darby Township School and was nominated for her outstanding achievements and exemplary efforts to inspire and motivate students. Ms. Kristman has demonstrated excellence in creating a positive learning environment for her students. Congratulations, Ms. Kristman!

### 2019 Outstanding Special Education Teacher

The National Association of Special Education Teachers selected Mr. Colin Matecki for the 2019 *Outstanding Special Education Teacher* award. Mr. Matecki teaches 4 - 6 grade emotional support at Darby Township School. This award is bestowed on special education teachers who have demonstrated truly exceptional achievement in the field of special education. Congratulation, Mr. Matecki!

### Star Student of the Year

Third grader Sydney Barley won J.P. Mascaro & Sons Respect Program's *Star Student of the Year* award! Sydney will be presented with \$250 at an awards ceremony dinner on June 12. An additional \$250 was donated in Sydney's name to the charity of her choice, the Providence Animal Shelter. The staff and Sydney's classmates are very proud of her achievement.



## *APHS Students Read to DTS Students*

On May 13, students from Academy Park High School's Creative Writing II class traveled to DTS to read books they created in class to first and second graders. Students were thrilled to hear the stories the high school students authored. Mrs. Sacrenty's students worked hard on their books and were excited to share the experience with the younger kids.

## *4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip*

DTS 4<sup>th</sup> graders took a field trip to the Delaware County Court House in Media on May 14. The students toured the building, including a visit to a civil courtroom where they spoke with Judge Barry Dozer. After leaving the courthouse, the children enjoyed a picnic at Drexel Park Lodge in Newtown Square and visiting the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial where they were welcomed by veterans who served their country during times of conflict. The free trip is sponsored by the Delaware County Historical Society.

## *Delcroft School*

### *ELA Board Game Extravaganza*

Students in Ms. Dupiriak's 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts class completed their end of year projects. Working in groups, students designed and created board games and on May 30, participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ELA Board Game Extravaganza.



Students presented their games, which highlighted specific language arts trivia that was learned throughout the school year. Students were able to play the games that their classmates created. A great time was had by all students, and the creativity and planning that went into this project was amazing.





Great job to Ms. Dupiriak and all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on their fabulous designs!

## *Delcroft Students Participate in Science Olympics*

Qualifying students from grade 5 – 8 recently attended the district’s Science Olympics at Academy Park High School. Various competitions were held at this year’s event, including penny boats, balloon gondola, egg toss, question relay, and bridge building.

Teams were required to complete each task within specific perimeters. Delcroft students winning first place honors include, Madison Perez, Josiah Bolger, Devon Mayodent, and Jonathan Page (Penny Boat); Aaliyyah Ayorinde, Kyra Jones, and Alicia Dale-Stewart (Balloon Gondola); and Makayla Phillips, Kiona Lac, Theresa Jappah, and Ryan Moukrem (Egg Toss). Delcroft students earning third place for the Building Bridges event were Ariana Robinson, Winetta Williams, and Nevaeh Hart.

Competitors from all district schools worked extremely hard and learned the importance of teamwork. Students who competed in the Science Olympics received recognition and the teams who placed in an event received medals to honor their accomplishment. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this year’s event.

## *Harris School*

### *PBIS Celebration*

As the end of the school year approaches, so does the end of Harris’ first full year as a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) school. As they did prior to winter break, Harris School hosted a pep rally to reinforce their PBIS expectations and to reward students who demonstrated those expectations throughout the year.



During the celebration students enjoyed games, bat races, relay races, music, rewards, and an epic Limbo competition. At Harris’ PBIS winter rally, the big event for students was to use their hard earned Bear Bucks to “pie” Mr. Ruane. The highlight for this rally was to “tape” Mr. McDougall to the wall.

While the appeal of taping the principal to the wall was lost on Mr. McDougall, it was a huge hit with the kids, and apparently some of the staff. Students who earned enough Bear Bucks could exchange them for strips of colorful duct tape to use to adhere their principal to the wall. While it was great fun for the

students, it was a long time to be attached to a wall. But since it was for a good cause, Mr. McDougall was a good sport and “stuck” with it!

## *2nd Annual Fun Day*

On May 10, Harris held its second annual Fun Day. Last year, a group of teachers and building administrators met to consider prizes and activities to reward students for their conduct and attitude during PSSA. The discussions led to the creation of Fun Day - a full day for students to celebrate their hard work on PSSAs and throughout the school year.



All staff and students in all grades were invited to attend. The activities consisted of carnival games, field activities, backyard games, a sno-cone machine, and selfy and tie-dye stations. The biggest attraction of the day was the giant inflatable slide. Special thanks to Collingdale Borough for the use of the fields in Collingdale Park. Overall, it was great day that was fun for all.



## *Harris Rain Garden*

After a lot of hard work on the part of students and staff, and with a great deal of support from the Pennsylvania Resource Council, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative, and especially Collingdale's Mayor, Joe Ciavarelli, and borough manager, John Hewlings, Harris' rain garden is tilled, mulched and planted.

Through contacts made by district enrichment teacher Colleen DiMaggio, and at no cost to the district, rain gardens have been constructed at 3 district schools.



Thank you again to all who contributed to this excellent learning experience that benefited both the students and the environment.



[Click here to view a presentation describing the process and benefits of creating a rain garden.](#)

## ***Sharon Hill School***

### ***Students Inducted Into NJHS***

On May 15, students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Founded in 1929, the NJHS is an international organization for middle school students. Students qualify for inclusion in this prestigious group based on outstanding academics and leadership.



**The Sharon Hill School 2019 NJHS Inductees**  
From left: Fatumata Kaba, Abm Hossain, Adesewa Peter-Koyi,  
Joy Ajayi, Moses Molley, Evan Chukwunonye

### ***National Junior Honor Society 5K Run***

National Junior Honor Society and Friends participated in the Delaware County Suicide Prevention Task Force's Annual 5K Run / Walk. Funds generated through fundraising were used to make a donation to the organization. The students learned about the importance of mental health and discussed contributing factors to the rise and prevention of suicide among youth.



**Mrs. Povey: 1st Place Finish – Women’s Category**  
**Daren Robles: 1st Place Finish - Boys Ages 5-12 Category**  
**Fatu Kaba: 1st Place Finish - Girls 13-18 Category**  
**Emelya Bukasa: 3rd Place Finish - Girls 13-18 Category**

### *Scholastic Book Fair*

Sharon Hill students had an opportunity to purchase books from their recent Scholastic Book Fair. The students thoroughly enjoyed examining the selection of books that were displayed according to topic and author. Many parents attended the fair with their students to review the books available for purchase, which were age appropriate to a variety of students with a wide-range of interesting and relevant topics.

### *Career Day at SHS*

Career Day is highly anticipated at Sharon Hill School and this year’s event in May did not disappoint. Throughout the morning, students received valuable career information from individuals who work in a variety of occupations. Students were excited to consider different career paths and begin to plan for their futures and the possibilities to come. Students were also allowed to dress up as a profession they found interesting.



### *SHS Spring Concert*

Middle school students from Sharon Hill School performed in both band and chorus at Academy Park High School. Students sang their hearts out and proudly played their instruments to the enjoyment of family and friends. Students were thrilled to share the joy of music and to demonstrate their progress throughout the school year.



## *Family Literacy Night*

Sharon Hill School hosted the district's Family Literacy Night on May 9. The theme of this year's program was Reading Takes You Places. Families enjoyed dinner, a performance by the cast of Seussical the Musical, and literacy-based sessions. At the conclusion of the evening, gift baskets were raffled off and every child went home with a book.

## *Kindergarten Center*

### *It's Never Too Soon to Think About the Future*

As required by the State, one of the career goals defined in Southeast Delco's Chapter 339 K-12 Counseling Plan is to help students discover their spark or passion. On May 17, the Kindergarten Center hosted their third mobile career fair! Firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians came from each of the four boroughs to interact with students and discuss their careers. A contractor, traveling nurse and Comcast representative were also in attendance.



The children were able to ask the presenters questions about their careers and explore their work vehicles up close. It was a beautiful sunny day and a great experience that each of the students enjoyed. A special thank you to all who volunteered to visit the Kindergarten Center and share their knowledge with our students.

## *Water Ice Fund Raiser*

On May 8, the Kindergarten Center had their first fundraiser at Rita's Water Ice in Collingdale. Students and their families visited Rita's and enjoyed a special treat of ice cream or water ice. Many staff members attended and were able to socialize with the families. The turnout was great and the proceeds will benefit the PBIS program.

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