



Southeast Delco School District

# *Knightly News*

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill  
Communities

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## *Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo*

Thirty-five fabulous women from across Southeast Delco, aka: The Fairy Godmothers, and Bijou Bridal in Ardmore collaborated to create a FREE formal dress giveaway on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Academy Park High School. Lady Knights in grades 8 through 12 were invited to attend the event.

The Fairy Godmothers gave away 40 makeup gift bags, 172 dresses, 53 pairs of shoes, 34 purses, 109 jewelry items, 6 prom tickets, and gift cards from DSW and Ulta. ALL absolutely free!

The smiles, hugs, pure happiness, and sincere appreciation from our girls and their families made every second of planning and preparation worth it!



Many thanks go out to our amazing Fairy Godmothers and Bijou Bridal for their generosity and kindness to our Lady Knights.

## *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

A group of district students attended the final dress rehearsal of Shakespeare's comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Set to composer Benjamin Britten's mystical music, the opera was performed at the Academy of Music on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Elementary, middle and high school students that are enrolled in the district's gifted program followed the misadventures of fairies, nobles, and craftsmen over the course of one magical evening in the forest of Athens, where they experience love triangles, mistaken identities, and alarming transformations.



The students were a little star-struck when they recognized the actor playing the role of the mischievous sprite Puck as Miltos Yerolemou, best known for his role as Syrio Forel, Arya Starks’s “dance” instructor on Game of Thrones. Another high point came when student Kramoh Mansalay (grade 11) was invited backstage to present the leading ladies with flowers. AP senior, Curtis Stockley shared, “I felt like it captured me and brought me into their world, making me feel like I was truly a part of it.”

### *Cultivating Green Thumbs*

Spring bloomed early for Southeast Delco’s 2019 Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS) Junior Flower Show on February 15<sup>th</sup> at Darby Township School. The [PHS Junior Flower Show](#) is a horticultural exhibition for school-age children in the greater Philadelphia region. Participating in this year’s show were students from across the district in grades 1 through 12.



Under the guidance of Delcroft teacher, Jennifer Livingston, the students captured photos of nature for the Instagram Photography competition and Gianna Burns (grade 3) from Delcroft School was awarded Best of Show for her entry. Elena Korboukh, ESL teacher at DTS, worked with her students to craft wearable art using natural materials and Arisdeily Beato-Castro (grade 6) created a beautiful necklace and was awarded Best of Show for her work.





Art students in Christine Hall's class at Harris School created explosions of color using nature rubbings, and Brandon Stevenson-Patterson (grade 4) took home Best of Show in that category. All of their work will be on display at the Philadelphia Flower Show, which runs from March 3 – 10.

District high school students also participated in a pilot program sponsored by the American Orchid Society (AOS) and the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS). The students were given orchids to nurture and care for in their classrooms over the course of five months. The orchids were entered into the district Junior Flower Show and their diligent care paid off as the orchids were awarded first and second place ribbons by the AOS judges. The orchids were also placed on exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Under the direction of the district's enrichment teacher, Colleen DiMaggio, this is Southeast Delco's second year participating in the PHS Junior Flower Show. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to express themselves creatively and connect with horticulture.

## Academy Park High School

### *What's Your Passion?*

Academy Park hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> annual *What's Your Passion?* festival on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of the event is to get students thinking about life after high school and how to get to where they want to be. Students heard from 35 Academy Park alumni in various career fields who returned to spend the day with the students, some traveling from as far away as California and Boston to be here.



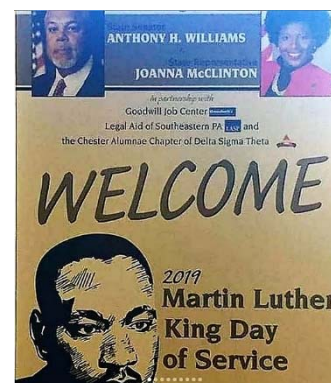
Following the theme that we all *Write Your Own Story*, the alumni shared their personal journeys of overcoming obstacles and working hard to get where they are today and encouraging the students to do the same.



The students and alumni enjoyed interacting with one another, making connections, asking questions, and sharing their stories.

### *Rising Scholars Honor Dr. Martin Luther King*

In celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Chester Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority partnered with the office of Senator Anthony Hardy Williams to host a job readiness seminar for Academy Park's Rising Scholars. Students began the day with a job interview fashion show on the do's and don'ts of dressing for success. From there, the upper and underclassmen split into small groups for sessions on what interviewers look for and how to best represent the qualities they need to support their business goals and culture.



Senator Williams dropped by to pop quiz the students on their knowledge of Dr. King and was pleasantly surprised with how much they knew. After the informational sessions, the students had lunch and navigated through a mini job-fair, where local businesses were recruiting and in some instances, hiring on the spot.



All in all, the students acquired valuable takeaways from the event and have helped set the tone for an excellent year for the Rising Scholars. A big thank you to all involved for helping to make this important event so successful.

### *Poetic 101: 1 Voice, One Heart, 1 Mind*

Poetic 101's sophomore season has officially begun. Lead by APHS teachers, Mrs. Sacrenty and Mrs. Jetter-McFee, and coach / mentor Rob McFee, the slam team has doubled in size this year (after winning the championship in their rookie season). The team travels to The Parkway Library on 19<sup>th</sup> and Vine streets every Friday to participate in the competitive league. The Philly Slam League is comprised of 20 high school teams from the Philadelphia region. The league is divided into two divisions, East and West. Poetic 101 will compete bi-weekly against the other ten teams in their division. The upcoming season will not be easy, but the team is determined to leave it all on the stage. As the team molds into a family, they remember their name: *Poetic 101, 1 Voice, One Heart, 1 Mind*.





APHS kicked off Black History Month with swag by hosting a poetry slam titled *An Ode to Dr. King*, emphasizing the impact his Dream has had on history. Members of Poetic 101, APHS principal Nate Robinson and spoken word artist Rob McFee took the stage to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Students and faculty were moved by the empowering and provoking words shared by their peers.

A huge shout out to Ms. Burns for rocking the sound booth, and the dynamic poetry duo of Mrs. Sacrenty and Mrs. Jetter-McFee for making the event such a success!

### *Strike Up the Band*

Several APHS band members performed alongside the University of Pennsylvania band at a Penn vs. Cornell basketball game at the Palestra on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The students participated in an all-day rehearsal led by PENN staff and students. Sophomore Kathleen Lac remarked, "It was an outstanding day with an insight to the college experience."



The students had a blast performing at the game and watching the Quakers defeat the Bears.

### *Are you Future Ready?*

Academy Park High School teamed with district school counselors to host the district's first *Are You Future Ready?* seminar on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The event focused on providing students with an opportunity to interact with professionals in the fields of financial aid, college applications, career and technical opportunities, resume writing, and interview preparation.



Representatives from Delaware County Community College held sessions on completing college applications, including how to write a high quality college application essay. Delaware County Technical School staff reviewed the many technical programs offered through Delaware County Intermediate Unit and the application process for enrollment.

Academy Park's very own Mrs. Karen Manners ran a session on how to prepare for an interview and conducted live mock interviews with students during their breakout session. Representatives from different branches of the military attended and discussed career opportunities available to enlistees. Academy Park High School alumni and student athlete, Jeffrey Devaughn discussed life as a student athlete, how to prepare in high school to be an athletic scholar in college, the importance of your GPA and social media etiquette.

Congratulations to Mrs. Parenti who planned this valuable seminar with the support of fellow school counselors, Ms. Dougherty, Mrs. Kessler and Mrs. MacDonald.

### *9<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Basketball Game*

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Academy Park Alumni Basketball game was held on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Academy Park High School. Alumni from graduating classes in the years 1983 to 2018 took to the court. The teams are split according to the year of graduation – even years vs. odd years. The even years' alumni team has been on a 6-year winning streak; until this year, when the odd years' alumni pulled out a win.





Commemorative t-shirts were presented to the players, cheerleaders, alumni, and the refs, who were also alumni and each year, a MVP is selected and presented with a trophy. This year's MVP went to Taylor Boulware from the class of 2011.



Game MVP Taylor Boulware, class of 2011, receiving his trophy and in action on the court.

Everyone agreed that it was great to see so many people come out to reconnect and just have fun. Next year will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AP Alumni Basketball game and the hope is that even more people will come out to participate. The alumni game is sponsored by Academy Park Cheerleaders with the help of Latanya Manson '94, Ron Realer '96, and Ebony Bright '96.

## ***Darby Township School***

### ***Read Across America***

Darby Township School celebrated Read Across America with a full week of activities honoring Dr. Seuss. Students dressed down each day, wearing clothing that characterized a theme from a selection of Dr. Seuss books. Monday was *Green Eggs and Ham* day and students dressed in green shirts. Tuesday was *Fox in Socks* day and students wore wild and crazy socks! On Wacky Wednesday, students wore their shirts backwards or inside out, and on *Oh, the Places You'll Go* Thursday, college shirts were the uniform of the day. Friday was *Cat in the Hat* day and students wore red and white shirts



There was also a door decorating contest and on Friday, district and community members volunteered as guest readers and shared a book of their choice with students in grades 1 through 5.

### ***Awards Assembly***

Darby Township students were honored at an awards assembly on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Students received certificates for gratitude, kindness and service, as well as for having the highest grade average in their classes. Darby Township School has also been encouraging and recognizing students for the number of blue ribbons they earned on Study Island. Students who earned more than 100 blue ribbons for the 2018 /

2019 school year were recognized for their hard work. Twelve students already had more than 100 blue ribbons! We are very proud of their hard work and achievement.

### *Perfect Attendance Counts*

Students with perfect attendance for the first and second marking periods earned reward time in the DTS multi-purpose room on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Students were treated to donuts, created masterpieces with sand art and played games. Students receive ten DTS dollars for every month of perfect attendance, gym time and snacks for every marking period of perfect attendance and reward time for students who maintain perfect attendance for the entire semester. Teachers are also rewarded each marking period for their record of perfect attendance.

### *Black History Month Poster Contest*

Students at Darby Township School participated in a Black History Month poster contest. Students created posters honoring an influential African American of their choice. Along with a photo, the posters included a brief description of the honoree's achievements and contributions. Two students from each grade were rewarded with a pizza party! The posters are on display throughout Darby Township School.

### *Spelling Bee*

Logan Fritchey and David Hagan represented Darby Township School at the Delaware County Scripps Spelling Bee on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Logan was eliminated in the first round with the word magazine, but David made it all the way to the 4<sup>th</sup> round. Unfortunately, David was knocked out of the competition with the word belladonna. We are very proud of both boys! Delaware County Scripps Spelling Bee on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Logan was eliminated in the first round with the word magazine, but David made it all the way to the 4<sup>th</sup> round. Unfortunately, David was knocked out of the competition with the word belladonna. We are very proud of both boys!

## **Delcroft School**

### *Delcroft Students Bloom at Junior Flower Show*

Delcroft's Gifted and Autistic Support students, Ms. Caljean's second grade class, and several students from other grades participated in Southeast Delco's second annual Junior Philadelphia Flower Show on February 15<sup>th</sup> at Darby Township School. The theme of the 2019 show was Petal Power.





The students in Mrs. Jennifer Livingston's class worked on 5 projects in all, including creating flower mosaics using beans, grains and seeds for the Grain Art category and painting illustrations of their favorite flower for the Blooming Botanicals competition. Students Abby Smeltzer, Elizabeth VanAuken, Mohamed Gassama, Naazim Lee, Meghan Burns, Imani Carter, Amelia Olsen, and Ogendeh Kaloko were all awarded ribbons for their Grain Art and Blooming Botanicals projects.



Gianna Burns (grade 3) won "Best in Show" for her Instagram photo, which will be on display at the Philadelphia Flower Show.



Many of Ms. Caljean's students participated in the Seed and Grow category; planting seeds and caring for them as they grew into beautiful plants. Abby Smeltzer, Elizabeth VanAuken, Mohamed Gassama, Devine Fairley, Meghan Burns, Amelia Olsen, and Ogendeh Kaloko, Garrett Mullen, Aiden Nester, Ahmai Johnson, Jah'amen Forbes-Prall, Imani Carter, Brea Brown-Curry, Adrian Dumond, Riley Brooks, Naazim Lee, Colin Moore, Thomas Durieux, Liam Dougherty, and James Wyatt were awarded ribbons for their Seed and Grow projects. Meghan Burns also fashioned a necklace out of seashells and a belt buckle out of a large shell. Meghan was awarded two first place ribbons for both of her Wearable Art projects.

Finally, Amelia Olsen, Megan Burns and Gianna Burns walked around the school and took photos on school grounds for the Instagram Photography category. Amelia was awarded two second place ribbons in this category and Megan Burns was awarded two first place ribbons. Gianna Burns (grade 3) was awarded "Best of Show" for her Instagram photo. Gianna's photo will be featured in the Philadelphia Flower Show.



Mrs. Cassidy's Autistic Support class worked on two projects for the Flower Show. First, the students read *A Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle and watched a video about how to plant seeds to prepare for their participation in the Seed and Grow category. Next, they used seedpods, pine cones, twigs, and other natural material to construct pollinators for the Crafty Creatures category. Mrs. Cassidy's students all won first place ribbons for their Crafty Creatures.

The Junior Philadelphia Flower show is a wonderful way to join the whole school district in a community event. Enrichment teacher, Ms. Colleen DiMaggio was instrumental in bringing the Junior Flower Show to the Southeast Delco School District by taking the flower show teacher training last fall. Mr. William Lighter from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Southeast Delco parent was very helpful in judging the projects at the show.



A special thank you goes out to Cheryl Southard and Wes Gaylor for the hard work and dedication they put into helping our students with their projects. Cheryl and Wes did an amazing job setting up all of the student displays for the show. The Junior Flower Show is an amazing event that the students look forward to and enjoy - a great time was had by all at Southeast Delco's Junior Flower Show!

### *2019 Scripps Spelling Bee*

Delcroft students Kiona Lac (grade 7) and Iyabode Ojulari (grade 8) participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Scripps Spelling Bee. Hosted by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, Iyabode competed to the 9<sup>th</sup> round and came in 7<sup>th</sup> place overall for the county. We are very proud of both Kiona and Iyabode for their hard work and determination in preparation for this county event.

### *Harris School*

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know." — Dr. Seuss*

The week of February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup> marked Read Across America week at Harris School. Created as a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and his life's work of writing books, Read Across America promotes the importance of reading for our kids.





Under the direction of Harris reading interventionist Cindy Silverthorn, students participated in a variety of fun and purposeful activities that supported the lessons being taught in the classroom. Students in first and second grades had a chance to read with students in grades 6 through 8. Special guests served as “celebrity readers” and were scheduled throughout the day to read a book of their choice to students in grades 1 through 4.



A new activity was added to this year’s celebration; parents of students in the first and second grades were invited to a special parent / student breakfast. Attendees were treated to waffles, bagels, donuts, and other baked goods and after their meal, read a book, participated in a craft project and joined a group read aloud. The breakfast was a huge hit with everyone involved and plans are being made to have another parent / student breakfast in the spring. Overall, Read Across America week is a positive event that everyone at Harris School looks forward to every year.

## ***Sharon Hill School***

### ***100 Days of School***

February 6<sup>th</sup> marked the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the 2018 / 2019 school year. Students at Sharon Hill School participated in a variety of activities to celebrate the day.



### ***Giving Back***

Students are still collecting to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, formerly the School & Youth Pennies for Patients and Pasta for Pennies programs. So far students have collected \$1042.11. Our students are moving closer to their school goal to raise \$1200.

### ***Black History Month***

During the month of February, Sharon Hill School held a variety of special events in honor of Black History Month. The daily trivia contest gave students clues during morning announcements of prominent figures both past and present.

Students also participated in a mural competition where each grade level was assigned a different topic. Students learned about the history and contributions of people within their topics and created visual displays in the school hallways. Topics included Tuskegee Airmen; NASA's "Human Computers" Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; Hollywood's Shining Stars, Harlem Globetrotters and Amazing Athlete Spotlights for Simone Biles, Muhammad Ali, Jesse Owens, and Serena Williams.



### *Future Freshman Course Selection*

Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade met with Academy Park counselors and administrators to discuss 9th grade courses that are offered at Academy Park High School. Students were excited to learn about the different required and elective courses they'll be taking next year as freshman. Students expressed that they were thrilled with the selection of courses. Only 4 months until the class of 2023 begins at Academy Park High School.

### *Passion Projects*

Mrs. Garro's 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom spent a few weeks finding their passion! Each student selected a topic they wanted to explore, and after weeks of research, completed a google slides project sharing their research and passion with their classmates.

Once the class presentations were completed, students kicked into revision overdrive! After the revision round, students were set loose inside the building where they visited almost every homeroom in the school. The students were so proud and excited to share what they had learned through their research.



### *Kindergarten Center*

#### *100 Days of School*

Students at the Kindergarten Center celebrated the long awaited 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The students worked on special "100 items" projects and displayed their work throughout the school. The teachers planned a variety of fun activities for the students, including reading a book entitled *The 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School*.





## **SOUTHEAST DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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