APHS One of Seven Schools Invited to Participate in New Underwater Robotics Competition: SeaGlide

The United States Navy is piloting a new program in its existing underwater robotics competition for high school students. SeaGlide, which will join with the SeaPerch Challenge, is designed to expand high school students' engagement in the STEM disciplines of Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics.

Academy Park's team of gifted students that competed on last school year's award winning robotics team in the SeaPerch competition were one of only seven schools selected to participate in the SeaGlide program. SeaGlide is a small scale underwater glider that operates on the same basic principles as the Scarlet Knight (Rutgers University's Scarlet Knight - RU 27). An underwater glider is a non-tethered, autonomous robot that has no propeller and uses very little energy. It moves by changing its buoyancy; taking in or expelling water. This change in buoyancy causes the glider to rise and sink in the water. As the glider travels up and down, its wings generate lift, which propels the glider forward.

Malcolm Bevans (left) and Abdulai Gassama assemble underwater glider. Mr. Bevans stated, "The experience was insightful for me. It was an opportunity to exercise my interest in robotics and coding."
The objective of the Greater Philadelphia SeaGlide pilot program is to introduce the concept of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to high school students using the SeaGlide program model.

Teams are given a kit with the components to construct a small-scale underwater glider that they use to program and test in preparation for the competition. The competition will be divided into four sections: research white paper, product presentation, performance demonstration, and optional panel discussion. Unlike the SeaPerch Challenge where a student pilot and navigator guide their tethered remotely operated vehicle (ROV) through an underwater course performing a timed series of tasks, the SeaGlide demonstration will test both the design and programming of the AUVs in a straight race across the pool.

Two Academy Park students, Malcolm Bevans and Abdulai Gassama, participated in two-days of training hosted by the SeaGlide creators at Temple University. The competition will take place at Temple University on Saturday, March 20th.

**Academy Park High School**

**Have Talent Will Travel**

Two Academy Park students participated in the Penn Band Extravaganza on Saturday, January 28th. Taylor Zane, 10th grade, and Sheila Irby, 12th grade, spent their Saturday rehearsing music under the direction of conductor Dr. Kushol Gupta, along with almost 100 students from high schools throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The day concluded with an evening concert at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

The band played various pieces of music including Africa (as performed by Toto), and music from the Broadway sensation, Hamilton.

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**Congratulations Riley!**

Junior field hockey player Riley Street was named to the National Field Hockey Coaches' Association High School National Academic Squad. The National Academic Squad program recognizes those high school seniors and juniors who have achieved a minimum cumulative, unweighted GPA of 3.5 out of 4.0, or the equivalent, through the first quarter of the 2016 / 2017 school year.
Honors English Students Showcase Talent at Poetry Slam

Echoing the question posed by the great American poet Walt Whitman in his poem, “O me! O life!” Ms. Sacrency asked her Honors English students, “What will your verse be?” and they accepted the challenge. Her students transformed her classroom and the school library into the ultimate poetry slam. Each student performed an original poem for their peers, and was scored on categories defined by student-run committees. They laughed, cried, and were indelibly moved by the raw talent and vulnerability of their peers.

In first block, the ambiance committee transformed room 241 into a Winter Wonderland (complete with snow, hot chocolate, and lots of twinkling lights). Guest judge, Mrs. Pugar, assisted in scoring the performances. The winning poem, “Doll,” by Kayla McCann, received thunderous applause. She worked hard to memorize her poem prior, and completely rocked the mic. Winning second place was TaBria Bagley, third place Keziah Ennuson, and funniest poem was awarded to Jermal Martin.

In second block, guest judge, Mrs. Scanlon, helped the ambiance committee transform the library into a beautiful fall-themed atmosphere (complete with table cloths, lights, and a spread of fall-themed foods). The winning poem, "Because You Asked Me To," by Treye Whitfield, stunned the room with reverent silence. The most inspirational poem was awarded to Joseph Armstrong, and the funniest poem was awarded to the duo Jayquan Fears and Joshua JeanPierre.

Click here to read Kayla’s and Treye’s award winning poems.

Sign Right Here, Please

On February 1st, National Signing Day arrived in the United States. More importantly, it came to Academy Park High School. This is the first day that high school students can officially commit to a college / university.

Three Academy Park stand-outs took the next big step towards a meaningful future. Teddy Wright, Togba Porte, and Dazhon Miller each signed their own letter of intent, and officially accepted scholarship offers to pursue their academic and athletic endeavors at the next level.

Both Teddy Wright and Dazhon Miller will be attending Marist College, an FCS (Football Championship Subdivision school) located in Poughkeepsie, New York and Togba Porte will be attending Kutztown University in Allentown, PA. We wish all good things for these earnest young men. Go Knights!

Service to the Community

Academy Park’s Omega Knights volunteer throughout the school year to support the community through service projects. In December and January, several of the group’s dedicated and passionate members volunteered to feed the homeless. Twenty-seven Omega Knights helped feed approximately 300 students in Center City. Feeding the homeless has become a biannual service project for the group and one which they plan to continue in future years.
Darby Township School

SuperKids
Cass the Cook visited three classrooms at Darby Township School on January 19th. Cass is a character from Superkids, a reading program that is being piloted at Darby Township School for students in grades 1 & 2. The students and teachers were super excited and a great time was had by everyone.

DTS Geography Bee
Under the direction of teacher, Ms. Deck, the DTS Geography Bee was held on January 11th. Middle school students were eligible to compete and after several rounds of rigorous competition, Steven Occhiolini walked away with first place. Second place went to Jayson Howarth and the third place winner was David Hagan.

Mr. Occhiolini will now need to prepare for the state-wide Bee, which will be held on Friday, March 31st at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA. Good luck Steven!

Delcroft School
Generous and Caring
Delcroft School Student Council wrapped up their annual hats, mittens, gloves, and scarf campaign. Students and staff generously contributed a significant number of winter apparel items for donation to those who may need them to keep warm during these cold weather months. It's a safe bet that those items are being put to good use this week.

Keeping the spirit of giving alive, Delcroft’s also kicked off the annual Pennies for Patients campaign the last week of January. Student council will be collecting pennies, and other coins to help support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The homeroom with the highest amount collected will be treated to a classroom party provided by The Olive Garden.

Having met last year’s goal, the amount Delcroft students and staff are hoping to collect is set at $2,500. With encouragement and hard work, Delcroft’s student council believes this goal will be met, and possibly even surpassed. Special thanks and recognition go to student council staff advisors, Ms. Toni Gaudioso and Ms. Mandi Dupiriak, for their hard work throughout the school year.
**Box Tops**

Delcroft also concluded the second making period's Box Top for Education collection contest. The second marking period homeroom winners collected a total of 1,132 box tops. With 165 box tops being collected, 3rd place went to Mrs. Condon's class, 2nd place honors went to Mrs. Gordon's class with 448 box tops, and coming in as number 1 was Mrs. McDonough's class with 519 box tops.

Delcroft School continues to collect box tops throughout the school year. Anyone can donate box tops by sending them into school with their child, or by dropping them off at Delcroft's main office.

**Reward Day Fun**

Quarterly reward day activities were conducted at Delcroft School on January 27th. Students in grades 1-8 participated in various activities throughout the school. This quarter, students in 1st grade participated in a sand art activity. Students created various sand art projects, including sand art necklaces, footballs, basketballs, baseballs, and soccer balls. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the sand art activity.

**Chuck E Cheese**

Delcroft's Home and School will hold a fundraising event on February 3rd at Chuck E Cheese. Proceeds from this event will help support the Delcroft Home and School Association.

**Harris School**

**Spelling Bee**

In January, Harris School students in grades 6 through 8 participated in the annual Scripps Spelling Bee. Friends and family were invited to cheer on the participants and after 13 hard fought rounds of competition, the 1st place finisher was Laila Lewis and 2nd place went to Ajanie Hires. The championship word was "implacable."

Students and staff are very proud that Laila and Ajanie will represent Harris School at the county Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 18th. This is the second win in a row for Laila Lewis, so she will enter this year's county-wide Bee as a seasoned competitor. Both Laila and Ajanie will be fantastic representatives of Harris School and Southeast Delco and we wish them luck.
The Bee was organized and directed by assistant principal, Mr. Ruane, with assistance from teachers, Stephanie Ash, Amy Headley, Rebecca King, Cindy Silverthorn, and Lauren Trachy. Special thanks to ELA teachers Ms. Rickards, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Sapienza for administering the initial spelling assessments to qualify participants.

**Geography Bee**
The National Geography Bee was also held in January at Harris School. The Geography Bee is an annual competition and is sponsored by the National Geographic Society, held every year since 1989, is open to students in grades 4 through 8.

Students are asked questions based on the following categories:

- Cultural Geography
- Economic Geography
- Across-the-Country, Around-the-World
- Science
- Geographic Comparisons
- Physical Geography
- Odd-Item-Out - One contestant is given three choices, plus a description. The contestant must determine which of the three choices does not fit.

After multiple hard fought rounds, 8th grader Haleigh Kehner emerged as the Geography Bee champion. Spelling Bee Champion, 7th grader Laila Lewis tied for second place with 8th grader Andrew Lue.

Harris students who participated did an amazing job, and many in the audience agreed that it was possibly the closest contest to date; and Harris School has had some great competitors.

The Spelling and Geography Bees are wonderful examples of the hard work and sportsmanship exhibited by Harris students.

**Sharon Hill School**

**Giving Back to the Community**
Many Sharon Hill students made New Year’s Resolutions this year. Discussions about personal growth and community involvement during responsive classroom, helped students consider ways to improve themselves and their community in 2017.

Sharon Hill School dedicated the month of January to giving back to the community. Students are helping create awareness where ever they go. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday, the school collected toiletry items to be donated to a local nursing home. Items donated included tissues, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer, combs, brushes, tooth brushes, and other personal care items, which they joyfully delivered at the end of the month.
Students are also collecting to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and have set a goal of raising $1700. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding research, finding cures, and ensuring access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

**Transitioning to High School**

All Sharon Hill 8th grade students participated in the annual Academy Park High School transition day on January 18th. Students were able to tour the school, participate in different activities, and hear multiple presentations on what Academy Park has to offer. Students are very excited about the adventures that await them next school year. Go Class of 2021!!!

**Kindergarten Center**

**Zoo on Wheels**

The Kindergarten Center was visited by a representative from the Philadelphia Zoo in January and to the delight of students and staff, he brought a few friends with him. Along with the many interesting and sometimes surprising facts about animals presented at the Zoo on Wheels assembly, students were also able to come face to face with a snake, a duck, an owl, and a lizard. Oh my! The assembly made for an educational and exciting morning that was enjoyed by both students and staff.