Academy Park High School

What's Your Passion?

On Saturday, February 25th, Academy Park High School hosted its 3rd annual What's Your Passion? career exploration festival. Originally created by 2015 graduate Victor Arriyo after attending the Bezos Family Foundation Scholar program with advanced placement calculus teacher Ms. Reutter, this year's festival was the continuation of an Academy Park tradition and was organized by senior Togba Porte, under the guidance of Ms. Reutter.

Over 30 APHS alumni in a wide variety of fields came to meet with students to share what they do and how they got there. Students rotated through classrooms where they heard from professionals in the areas of law, law enforcement, education, medicine, nursing, trades, art, theater, and psychology. A wealth of experience and knowledge was provided to current APHS students, inspiring them to choose a path and create a plan to achieve their career goals. After the information sessions, the students and presenters had lunch and continued their conversations, building positive alumni connections.

Even Wins Again

The APHS cheerleading squad, led by Coach Latayna Manson, hosted its 7th annual alumni basketball game on February 25th. Players were divided into teams based on the year they graduated; even years vs odd years.

For the 7th consecutive year, the even team won the game with a final score of 76 - 65.
**Art Institute Donation**

Academy Park High School was recently chosen to receive a $600 donation for school supplies from the Art Institute of Philadelphia. The Art Institute partners with a program called *Adopt A Classroom* that donates funds to schools that are making a difference in children's lives. A representative of the Art Institute, Ms. Tiana Howell, met with students at a recent college fair and came away with such a positive impression of the school and the students that she recommended APHS receive the donation.

The students and staff of Academy Park High School extend a sincere thank you to the Art Institute for their generosity and support.

**Darby Township School**

**Read Across America**

To celebrate Read Across America Week in March, students and staff at DTS have planned several activities centered on literacy. Each day of the week will have a theme that correlates with a Dr. Seuss book - for Fox in Socks, students and staff will wear crazy socks.

**Perfect Attendance and Student Achievement Rewarded**

Students who maintained perfect attendance for the 2nd marking period - no absences, no late arrivals or early dismissals - were rewarded for their accomplishment. Darby Township School counselor, Mrs. Jackson, arranged to have doughnuts delivered to their classrooms on February 2nd, a party with pretzels on February 7th and a dress down day on February 10th.
Students of the Quarter and Students of the Month - November, December and January - were recognized at an assembly on February 3rd. There were several parents in attendance and teachers were very pleased to award certificates to their nominees.

**Delcroft School**

**100 Days of School**

On February 3rd, students at Delcroft School celebrated the 100th day of school by participating in a variety of activities in their individual classrooms, as well as completing projects with "buddy" grades. Students completed projects counting out 100 items and categorizing the items in various ways. Students also completed writing and art pieces that described what they believe they will be like when they turn 100 years old and took part in several physical activities that identified where 100 steps, hops or skips would take them to in the building. Students and staff genuinely enjoyed celebrating this milestone day in the school year.

![Image of student projects](image1.png)

**Delcroft Annual Career Day**

Students in grades 5 - 8 also participated in Delcroft's Annual Career Day presentations on February 3rd. Students were able to identify areas of interest that they would like to learn about in the various sessions provided. Arts, education, hospitality, tourism, marketing and sales, agriculture, finance, government, construction trades, technology, transportation, sciences, engineering, public safety, and human services were all represented.

![Image of students at Delcroft Annual Career Day](image2.png)
Delcroft School counselor, Ms. Bristow, worked tirelessly to recruit over 25 individuals to share their career experiences with the students. The staff and students greatly appreciated the special guests and their shared experiences provided our students with knowledge that they will have for a lifetime.

**Black History Trivia Contest**

Members of Delcroft's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and student council developed a daily trivia contest in honor of Black History Month. Trivia questions were announced each morning throughout the month of February. At the end of the month, students with the most correct answers were eligible for the trivia prize raffle. Mrs. Maria Toner, National Junior Honor Society advisor, assisted students with producing a Black History Month video presentation, which provided students with interesting facts and information they could utilize to answer the morning trivia questions. The NJHS and student council students did a wonderful job announcing the daily trivia questions.

**Harris School**

**100th Day Celebration**

Believe it or not, February 3rd was the 100th day of the 2016 / 2017 school year. Each year, Harris students in the 1st grade celebrate the occasion with 100th day themed activities. This year’s theme was “We are all 100 days smarter!” Students and teachers all wore 100th day t-shirts that they created at home. Throughout the day they participated in activities such as reading 100 words, doing 100 jumping jacks and writing their numbers up to 100 in various ways - counting by ones, fives, tens, and twenties.

The students also created and shared a friendship mix that was made by combining a variety of snack items. Each child brought from home 100 pieces of a particular snack item. The different snacks were all mixed together to create their very own friendship mix. The 100th day celebration was a fun-filled day, enjoyed by all.

**NJHS Students Make a Difference**

Under the direction of Mr. Ruane, the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) had been active in Harris School for several years. Since Mr. Ruane has assumed the role of assistant principal, middle school teacher Rachael Strunk has taken over direction of the organization. The purpose of the National Junior Honor Society is to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.

The members of Harris’ NJHS meet bi-weekly to discuss ways to help improve their community. An area of particular concern to the group is homelessness, an issue that has touched many of the NJHS
students’ friends and family. The students researched ways they could support the homeless population. They discovered that Habitat for Humanity collects donated jeans and turns the denim fabric into insulation, which they then use in the homes that they build.

The group went to work and collected 67 pairs of jeans, dividing the lot into jeans for donation to Habitat for Humanity and a local homeless shelter. They took something that would normally end up in a landfill and gave it a second life for those in need. The group intends to make the jean campaign an annual event. The next community service activity will be a bake sale to raise money and donated goods for a local pet shelter.

**Sharon Hill School**

**Geography Bee**

All students in grades 4 - 8 participated in the preliminary round of this year’s Geography Bee. After 7 preliminary rounds, 10 students participated in the finals. Students answered questions based on the guidelines set by National Geographic. Students were excited to participate and show their knowledge. The winner was 6th grader John Dickison.

**High School Course Selection**

Sharon Hill School students in grade 8 met with district high school counselors and administrators to discuss courses they will be offered as freshman next year at Academy Park High School. Students were excited to learn about the different required and elective courses available to them and are eager to begin their high school careers.

**Kindergarten Center**

**Superkids**

This year at the Kindergarten Center, two classrooms are piloting a reading program called Superkids. Mrs. Bonini and Mrs. McAnulty were provided professional development opportunities and decided to review this program with their classes.
The children are thoroughly enjoying the program and the teachers are extremely happy with the level of engagement that they are seeing. One of the key components of the program is the characters in the stories. The students regard them as "friends" and enjoy hearing about their adventures. The children had a wonderful experience this past month of actually meeting the main character, Cass. She came to visit their classrooms and discussed with them how much she enjoys cooking her concoctions. It was a great afternoon for the students!

100th Day
Kindergarten students celebrated their long awaited 100th day of school on February 6th. The students worked on special 100 items projects that are displayed throughout the Kindergarten Center. The teachers planned a variety of fun math and cooking activities that they enjoyed throughout the day. Also, Mrs. Burke read The 100th Day of School to each of the classes.

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