



Southeast Delco School District

Knightly News

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill
Communities

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Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute

By Victor Ariyo, Student, Academy Park High School

When I was selected for the Bezos Scholars Program and given the opportunity to attend the Aspen Ideas Festival, I realized that I was facing a life changing experience.

You may wonder what the Bezos Scholars Program is and what it represents. The program selects 15 top high school students and 15 educators from the United States & Africa for a year-long leadership development program that begins with attendance at the Aspen Ideas Festival in Aspen, Colorado. I had the pleasure of being accompanied by Mrs. Reutter, Academy Park mathematics teacher and coordinator of the National Honors Society.



The program seeks students with academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and a desire to grow and develop as leaders. The scholars they select come from diverse backgrounds but share the same desire to see positive change in their communities. At the end of the trip, the attendees use the tools and information they have acquired to start a Local Ideas Festival in their own communities.

To describe how I felt about the experience in a nutshell, I would have to say I was truly in awe. Meeting students from all over the country was inspiring, especially because the group was so diverse, so open, and we all learned so much from one another. I met students from New York, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, and Louisiana. And as for the students from Africa, I met people from Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, and Kenya. I also find it interesting to say I met a student from Hawaii and another one from Mauritius.

Meeting students from across the globe made the experience incredibly rewarding; however, I was so very fortunate to also meet notable figures from public and private life such as Hillary Clinton, David Brooks, John Lewis, Arianna Huffington, Danny Hills, Vivian Schiller, and Walter Isaacson.

John Lewis was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Council. Lewis led freedom marches in the South and was part of the lunch counter sit-ins that were silent protests used to end segregation in public places. Meeting this important historic figure in person is an experience I will never forget. His words were filled with power, and his message full of inspiration. Talking with him one on one allowed me to see the perseverance and resilience that he displayed during the time of segregation.

Arianna Huffington was a really cool person to meet because she was so open about her story and the risk she took to create the Huffington Post. I am excited to say that she invited me to collaborate with her new start-up located in Philadelphia, *Ignite Philly*. One of the most down to earth people had to be David Brooks. Meeting someone who really displayed their passion by giving everything that he had to succeed was a true inspiration. He was so humble and open and shared that he was an average C student just getting by in high school. I found it truly impressive that he has come so far and he now teaches at Yale University and is a columnist for the New York Times.

One of the most interesting people that I met by far had to be Vivian Schiller who is the head of news at Twitter. We had a great conversation about how powerful social media is and how far it's gotten over the years. Being an avid Twitter user, I had to express my satisfaction of the platform and the way it engages its users differently.

Meeting Hillary Clinton was especially interesting because I had no idea I was going to meet her and I thought the U.S. Secret Service would intercept me if I attempted to shake her hand. After her interview with Walter Isaacson, (which had about 1.5k people in attendance) he introduced her to the Bezos Scholars, and no, the Secret Service did not prevent me from finally getting that handshake. There were so many great people that I met, but these people really stood out to me.



Being selected for this program and traveling to Aspen is an experience that I will always treasure. I learned a lot of things from all the people that I met, and there were many people who said that they were impacted by my presence, as well. I still have a festival to produce in the spring and I hope everyone that is reading this article will be in attendance to see the end product of this amazing program.

Good News from APHS Art Department

Southeast Delco is proud to share Academy Park Art Teacher, Christopher Sweeney's good news. In addition to being an outstanding art teacher, Mr. Sweeney has had an article he penned published in the October 2014 edition of *SchoolArts* magazine.

As their tagline indicates, Inspiring creativity since 1901; SchoolArts is a national art education magazine committed to promoting excellence, advocacy, and professional support for educators in the visual arts.

The article highlights his students' work, particularly the Van's Custom Culture sneaker contest. These everyday objects have been turned into works of art by a group of talented students under the supervision of Mr. Sweeney. The sneakers are on display in front of the library at Academy Park High School.

You can read Mr. Sweeney's article on pages 30 - 31 at <http://www.schoolartsdigital.com/i/375466>.

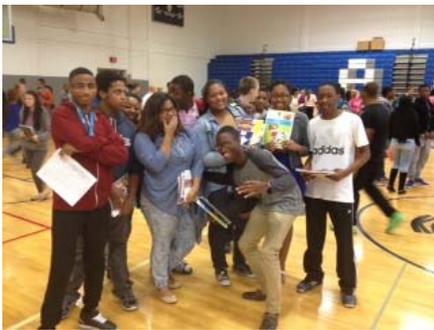
Congratulations Mr. Sweeney and thank you for the inspiration you provide to your students.

Academy Park High School

Planning for the Future

What's your dream? What do you want to do with your life? What do you want to be when you grow up? These are all questions that high school students must answer as they make their post-secondary plans. It is with this as a backdrop that on Tuesday, September 16th, Academy Park hosted its annual College and Career Fair.

Students were invited to link up and gather information about colleges, universities, technical schools, and branches of the military. It was a great experience for all involved. Several students were happy to report that their top schools were in attendance and they were able to share how they could be an asset to the school. Many of the colleges have now booked dates to return for personal visits to meet with students and assess their potential to attend. One student said of the fair, "I collected a lot of information today....now I have to go home and sort through it all!" While the sorting will be a daunting task, the reward for making a good choice for the future will pay for the time spent one-hundred times over!



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Darby Township School

Welcome Back

Darby Township School welcomed all students back to school for the 2014 / 2015 school year, paying special attention to new first graders. School administrators and teachers hosted a *Meet & Greet* in late August for parents and students.

Darby Township School also held a Back to School Night on September 16. Parents and teachers were invited to bring their favorite dessert to share with families before going to visit classrooms and meet their students' teachers. The *Bring & Share* has become a favorite tradition for Back to School Night at Darby Township School.

Learning Never Takes a Vacation

To keep students academically engaged throughout the summer, reading and math packets were provided to students to be worked on over the summer break. As a reward for students that completed their packets, students in grades 1 - 5 had a water ice picnic and students in grades 6 - 8 had a dress down day and extra recess time.



Delcroft School

The New School Year Begins

Delcroft started the school year off with an annual *Meet and Greet* and *Back-to-School Night*. Both events were well attended and parents were provided with information about the upcoming school year and curriculum. Several sessions were held for parents to receive information regarding their children's classroom.

Delcroft families were delighted to see the new Delcroft Knights cap display, which was designed and assembled by students in art class and during enrichment intervention. Last school year, students collected various colors of bottle caps, which were then adhered to a large wooden banner.



Summer Learning

Students in grades 1 - 4 who completed the summer reading packet were rewarded with an ice cream and book party and students in grades 5 - 8 received a dress down pass. Many Delcroft students were recognized for completing all of their summer reading activities, which fosters continued academic success.

Guest Readers Welcome

Delcroft classrooms continue to welcome family guest readers!! We are moving into the third year of encouraging guest readers in our classrooms. We ask for parents, grandparents, and other family members to volunteer their time to visit their children's classroom (grades 1-5) to read a book to the entire class. Students are always excited to have family members participate in school activities.

Harris School

A Very Positive Back to School

Harris School opened the doors to students for the start of the 2014 / 2015 school year, and Principal McDougall stated, "This year was without a doubt the best overall opening we have had in my years at Harris. While that is saying a lot about the first day of school, I believe it is true based on the positive attitudes and smiles I saw on the faces of the students, parents, teachers, and staff as the day started."

The students showed up ready to start the year off on the right foot. To maintain the eagerness of that first day going throughout the year and to support the positive attitude needed for Harris to continue to be successful, students and staff revisited the "Harris High Five" positive behavior program.

The plan is very simple and based on the following 5 values that the students and staff are responsible for following:

- ★ *Be Respectful*
- ★ *Be Prepared*
- ★ *Be Ready to Work*
- ★ *Be Engaged and Accountable*
- ★ *Be Positive!*

While these 5 values may seem basic, if applied throughout everything a child does in his or hers life, they will be not only be great Harris students, but as importantly, great citizens.

In addition to the "Harris High 5", last year Harris guidance counselor, Mr. Lorine, started a positive support program based on the book "How Full is Your Bucket". It provides an easy process that has proven to be very effective in promoting a positive climate at Harris School. Teachers and students are given "drops" which are literally drop shaped papers with lines to write on. The students, and staff, can take a drop and write a positive thought or comment about someone in the school. The students then put them in a bucket for Mr. McDougall to read during morning announcements. After they are read they are posted on the wall outside of Mr. Lorine's office.

The students and staff have really taken to the idea of writing drops, and it has definitely helped to promote a positive climate here at Harris. The administration and staff of Harris School believe that for any child to be successful, no matter what challenges they may face, one of the best things that can be done to support students is to ensure that Harris a positive place to be.

Sharon Hill School

Welcome Back!

The summer has come and gone and we are back into the swing of things! It was exciting to meet all of our first graders and other students new to Sharon Hill School during the first days of school. All of the students were excited to meet their teachers and to jump start a new school year that will be packed with lots of fun and much success. So far, our first PBIS Owl tickets winners were selected and won cool prizes like Owl Bucks, yearbooks, and ice cream certificates.

This year our goals are to provide a safe and positive school climate, to improve student achievement through implementing engaging instruction, and to be a school that focuses on the social and academic

growth of our students. We plan to accomplish these goals by effectively and consistently implementing a school-wide positive behavior incentive program, responsive classroom, providing meaningful professional development to staff, and delivering meaningful and effective interventions for all students.

We look forward to a wonderful and successful school year!

Strike Up the Band

Ms. King, our talented instrumental music teacher, each year introduces the students to band by giving a demonstration on a variety of instruments. The students are always very attentive and they can't wait until the first lesson is held!



Kindergarten Center

Kindergarten Kick Off

The start of the 2014 / 2015 school year at the Kindergarten Center began with an open house on August 28. Parents and children had an opportunity to meet the principal and staff and were able to attend an informational seminar about school procedures. Also, the kindergarteners and parents were able to "sneak a peek" at their classroom and meet their new teacher.

Over two hundred parents attended the Back to School Night at the Kindergarten Center on September 10. Parents were informed about a variety of curriculum items that students will be learning throughout the year. The Journeys Reading, Go Math, and Kid Writing programs were discussed. Also, the principal shared the upcoming fund raising events that will take place. The night concluded in the students' classrooms with the teachers giving presentations about classroom rules and expectations for the upcoming school year.



Safety First!

Students attended an assembly on school bus safety presented by The Segal Puppet Theatre & Co. Students sang songs and participated in an interactive puppet show. Each student was presented with a "Bertram Bear's Cool School Bus Safety Award" at the end of the day. Everyone was entertained while learning important bus safety tips!

Southeast Delco School District

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