



Southeast Delco School District

# *Knighly News*

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill  
Communities

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## ***Congratulations Deborah!***

Academy Park senior, Deborah Abiola, has earned a highly coveted spot with the Liberty Youth Wind Symphony. Sponsored by the Liberty Wind Symphony, the high school honors wind ensemble serves as an enrichment opportunity for talented high school musicians. Based on the model of regional youth orchestras, members of the Liberty Youth Wind Symphony will participate in weekly rehearsals that expose students to full ensemble and chamber music settings.

Deborah participated in a rigorous audition process where student musicians were required to perform two pieces that highlighted their technical and expressive abilities. Additionally, students were expected to execute scales up to four sharps and flats.



Miss Abiola is not only a skilled musician, she is also an exceptional student and is enrolled in the enrichment program at Academy Park High School. Congratulations Deborah – Knight Pride!

## ***Coming Soon to a School Near You***

Each school year, students enrolled in the district enrichment program learn about watersheds and freshwater ecology. Part of the lesson requires a field trip to Ridley Creek Park to conduct stream health surveys to determine water quality based on the macroinvertebrates harvested from Ridley Creek. The program is sponsored by the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative and the Pennsylvania Resource Council Watershed Initiative.

Through partnerships established by the district's enrichment teacher, Colleen DiMaggio, Southeast Delco has received a grant to construct rain gardens in two district schools. After surveying the schools and conducting infiltration tests, it was determined that Academy Park and Darby Township Schools had ideal locations.

The gardens will be installed at Academy Park on October 16<sup>th</sup> and at DTS on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The installations will be supported by the Philadelphia Horticulture Society and by master gardeners from Penn State Extension. District life skills and gifted students will help maintain the gardens.

Pictures of the two gardens will be presented in the November newsletter.

# Academy Park High School

## FAFSA Night and Dual Enrollment

Completing the FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) is the first step for anyone making college plans. The FAFSA is the form used by the federal government, states, colleges and other organizations to award financial aid. Submitting an application is the key to accessing grants, scholarships, work-study programs and federal student loans.

Academy Park will present a FAFSA completion night for parents / guardians and students on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) will be in attendance to help families complete the application.

To prepare for the FAFSA completion night, students and parents / guardians can review the application process online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Instructions on materials and information needed to complete the application, as well as deadlines for filing are provided.

Students can get a head start on college courses by enrolling in the district's dual enrollment program. Academy Park High School will host an information session on dual enrollment opportunities at Delaware County Community College on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Students will learn which courses are being offered by the college, the benefits of taking dual enrollment courses and the application process.

Want to Know What's Happening at  
Academy Park High School?

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# Darby Township School

## DTS Store Has a New Look

Part of Darby Township School's PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program is DTS dollars. Students earn DTS dollars by meeting school, classroom and bus expectations. Students can use the dollars to purchase items from the DTS store.

To help build excitement about some of the new items students can purchase in the store with their hard-earned DTS dollars, the DTS store got a facelift! Second grade teacher, Rosie Robb, and first grade emotional support teacher, Gabrielle Ciallella, sold field day t-shirts in May and used the profits from the t-shirts to give the store a much needed makeover. Everyone loves the new look of the store and students are working hard to earn DTS dollars.



## **Summer Reading Rewards**

As a reward for participating in the summer reading program, Darby Township students in grades 1 - 4 attended an ice cream social. The students gathered in the multipurpose room to eat their ice cream and read books with their classmates. As a special treat, the students were read to by Pastor Brown and Dr. Mosakowski. Students in grades 5 - 8 were rewarded for their participation with a dress down day.

These students were celebrated for their commitment to keeping their minds sharp and active over the summer. Darby Township School commends these students for their continued commitment to learning, and we hope to see even more students at the social next year.

## **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program**

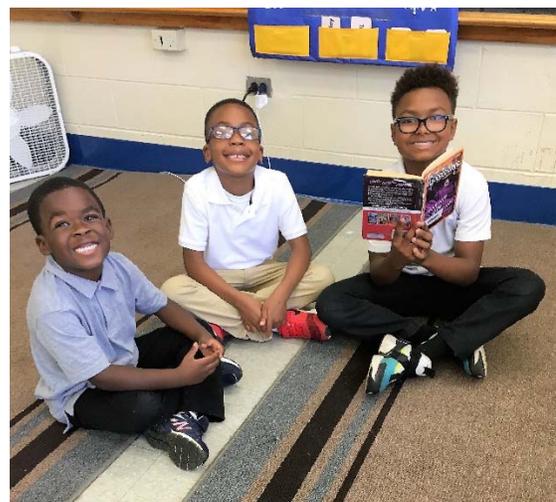
Students in grades 1-6 will be enjoying a variety of fruits and vegetables at Darby Township School this year. DTS received a \$25,000 grant that will provide students with a variety of fruits and vegetables on Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays. This program helps introduce students to new foods and encourages healthy eating. Ms. Smith's first grade class posed for a picture as they enjoyed their nutritious treat.



## **Delcroft School**

### **Summer Reading**

Delcroft students celebrated the completion of their summer reading packets. Over summer break, students were tasked with reading a variety of grade-level books. For each book read, the students completed a reading log that was then signed off on by a parent or guardian. Students also completed various "calendar activities", which varied depending on a student's grade level. The activities involved all subject areas and could be completed individually or as a family activity. Students also were able to complete assignments on Study Island, which is available to every student.



To earn extra credit, students in grades 5 – 8 had the opportunity to complete a summer reading project. Students that completed the project received a certificate for 25 Delcroft dollars, which can be saved for large prize items during the school year or "cashed in" for use at the Delcroft School store.

## ***My Buddy***

Again this year, students are partnered up by grade level to establish “grade buddies”. Throughout the school year, students participate in grade level events ranging from special crafts, reading activities, outdoor games, special group projects, and collaborative working exercises. This collaboration encourages a strong sense of connection and community throughout the entire school.



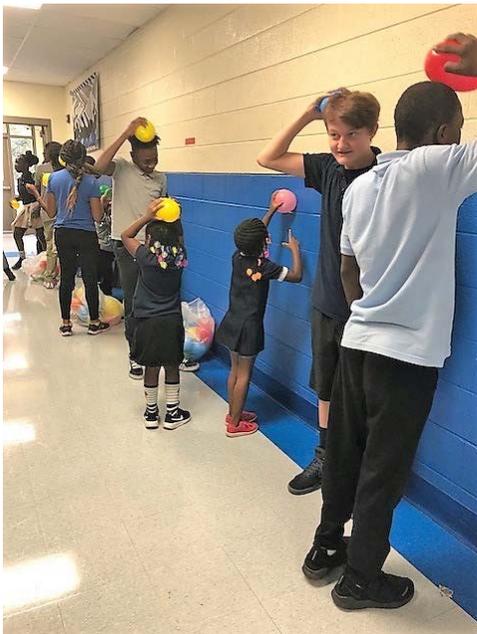
Many grade levels hosted special “get to know you” activities during the month of September. Students and staff are always excited and genuinely enjoy the partnerships that are established and frequently continue past the school year

## ***Harris School***

### ***Weird Science***

One of the benefits of being a 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades building is the opportunity for the older students to work with the younger students. Throughout the year, teachers look for opportunities to work together and on September 20<sup>th</sup> Ms. Kelly’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes had the opportunity to work with the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes.

Ms. Kelly’s classes are currently studying motion and forces in science and they are learning that different types of forces can cause objects to move, speed up, slow down, or change direction. One type of force that slows objects down is friction.



To explore the concept of friction, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade students were invited to compete with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in a friction challenge. The first graders came to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science room and were given a brief lesson on what the word friction means – when two objects come in contact with each other. They were asked to rub their hands together very fast to demonstrate that friction would cause their hands to become warm. Friction can also cause a buildup of static electricity.

After the lesson, the students were broken into six teams of 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders mixed together. The students were given a bag of thirty balloons and a section of wall and were challenged to rub the balloons against their hair, clothes, shoes, socks, anything they could think of, to create static electricity from friction. They were given one minute to see how many balloons they could stick to the wall. Each group counted how many balloons were on the wall and the group with the most balloons won the challenge.



The students found that they had to rub the balloons for more than a brief time if they wanted them to stick to the wall. Several of the students asked if it was because of the concrete wall that the balloons did not stick for as long as they wanted them to stay. To test their idea, the students went to a different part of the building and did the challenge again, but this time placing the balloons on glass windows. They found that glass was a better surface for the static electricity to cling to. While the highest number of balloons that would cling to the cement walls was only four, one group was able to hang 27 balloons to the glass window.

Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were awesome and worked together so well. As Ms. Kelly stated "Amazing scientists at work!"

## ***Sharon Hill School***

### ***PSSA Celebration***

Great news! Sharon Hill School has improved their scores on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing. Students who scored proficient or advanced were treated to a fun afternoon celebrating their success. Students enjoyed water ice and soft pretzels and some down time with friends. We are proud of how hard our students and staff work to make improvements each year. Congratulations!

### ***Opening Day at SHS***

Sharon Hill School had a great start to the new school year. Community members and staff gathered to welcome students back to school after summer break. Students were excited to return and reunite with staff and school friends and eager to begin a new year of learning. The staff and students anticipate another successful year working with community members, parents and staff.



Parents are encouraged to visit Sharon Hill's calendar on the district webpage at [www.sedelco.org](http://www.sedelco.org) to view upcoming district events. Welcome back!

### ***Back to School Night***

Back to School Night at Sharon Hill School received excellent support from parents and guardians! Many families took advantage of the opportunity to meet community members and the staff who will be educating their children this year. Parents are encouraged to continue the open communication throughout the school year and to take advantage of the many great opportunities for parents to get involved, including the home and school association.

### ***Ice Cream Party***

Students that completed and submitted their summer packets enjoyed an afternoon ice cream treat. Students were very excited to make ice cream sundaes and relax with their friends. The summer academic activities are very important to continued student success.

## ***Kindergarten Center***

### ***The School Year Kicks Off at the Kindergarten Center!***

The start of the 2018 / 2019 school year at the Kindergarten Center began with an open house on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents and students had the opportunity to meet the staff, attend an informational seminar about school procedures and "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. Parents were informed of a new PBIS program and curriculum items that the teachers will be implementing throughout the year.



Parents also had an opportunity to purchase books at the Scholastic Book Fair and receive information about community partnerships.

The kindergarten staff was very excited to start the year with a new PBIS program. A team of staff members partnered with Delaware County Intermediate Unit to be trained on how to develop and implement school-wide expectations.

The program teaches students appropriate social skills by implementing a common language. Students are reminded to “be safe and be respectful” throughout the day. They are rewarded with kinder bucks and twenty students are chosen each week to be the PBIS stars! The program is off to a wonderful start and staff members are seeing positive results.

## **SOUTHEAST DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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