



# Southeast Delco School District

## *Knightly News*

Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill  
Communities

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### ***Academy Park Hosts Winter Festival***

Academy Park High School will welcome students, families, staff, and community members to their Annual Winter Festival and Family Night on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Face painting, games, and crafting activities will be sponsored by several Academy Park clubs and organizations. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. For our younger community members, Elsa and Anna will be in attendance, as will Santa Claus.

District administrators and staff hope the community takes advantage of this opportunity to come to Academy Park High School, meet our students and staff, and build positive relationships within our Southeast Delco community.

### ***Rethink Recycling at the Philadelphia Zoo***

As in the past, students enrolled in the district gifted program are working with the Philadelphia Zoo on the UNLESS Project. Fueled with research, students are preparing to take action in an effort to raise awareness to help save endangered animals. This year's focus is "Rethink Recycling" to help save gorillas and other wildlife.

In November, the students participated in a video conference with a conservationist from the Philadelphia Zoo. The topic of the video conference was climate change and its impact on endangered animals with a particular focus on gorillas. Students' awareness was raised as



they learned how recycling can save energy and wildlife. Students also received suggestions on projects to further their understanding of climate change along with its causes and effects.

The overall goal is for students to demonstrate a measurable increase of the variety and amount of products recycled at home, school, and in the community. Students were inspired by Landfill Harmonics, ([www.landfillharmonicmovie.com](http://www.landfillharmonicmovie.com)) which they found in their research and have been fashioning musical instruments from recyclable materials. The instruments will be displayed in each district school.

In January 2015, the Philadelphia Zoo will host these students for a classroom experience where they will learn more about the science behind climate change and its impact on endangered animals.

*"UNLESS someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~ Dr. Seuss*

### ***District Schools Present Winter Concerts***

Academy Park High School and all district grades 1 - 8 buildings will present their annual winter concerts during the month of December. These musical events will include vocal and instrumental performances by our talented students. Dates, times, and places are as follows:

**Darby Township School** - Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 PM at Academy Park High School

**Delcroft School** - Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 PM at Delcroft School

**Harris School** - Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 PM at Harris School

**Sharon Hill School** - Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 PM at Academy Park High School

**Academy Park High School** - Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM at Academy Park High School

### ***The Year of Living Poetically Challenge***

District gifted students have accepted the Mensa for Kids: A Year of Living Poetically challenge. They will memorize one poem a month, and at the end of just one year, they will have twelve powerful poems committed to memory.

According to the Mensa for Kids website, "Memorizing poetry turns on kids' language capability. It not only teaches them to articulate English words; it heightens their feel for the intricacies and complexities of the English language - an indispensable attainment if they are to go on to speak, write, and read English with ease."

Not only have the gifted students accepted this challenge, but they have also challenged their classmates and family members to embrace this opportunity. Students began in November and plan to memorize the poems in the order provided.

#### ***Memorization List***

1. "No Man is an Island" by John Donne
2. "Sonnet 116" by William Shakespeare
3. "The Road not Taken" by Robert Frost
4. "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley
5. "Death be not Proud" by John Donne
6. "Sonnet" by Edna St. Vincent Millay
7. Teddy Roosevelt quote
8. "RichardCory" by Edward Arlington Robinson
9. "Hope is the Thing with Feathers" by Emily Dickinson
10. "A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
11. "The Cloths of Heaven" by William Butler Yeats
12. "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night" by Dylan Thomas

## **Academy Park High School**

### **So So Socratic**

As families of Academy Park High School, do you ever wonder what teachers are doing on those professional development or in-service days? Do you ever think to yourselves, "why are students not in school today?" Well, if you have, this article will give you a peek behind the curtain!

On a recent professional development day, teachers of Academy Park were trained on the use of a teaching strategy called Socratic Seminar. English and Social Studies teachers learned how to provide students with an excellent way to read an article, textbook, or story closely...and get the most out of the reading.

They first practiced the skill themselves, and then shared ways they could use it in their classrooms. Some of the very things students experience in the classroom, teachers experienced as they learned how to use the strategy.



Teachers have now begun using the strategy in classrooms. They just might use it in yours! So if a teacher tells you that your class will be doing a Socratic Seminar, know that you are (or your child is) in for a treat!

## **Darby Township School**

### **DTS Happenings**

Several exciting events took place at Darby Township School in the month of November. Students in grade 3 received first-hand experience of a fossil dig when their classroom was converted into a fossil dig site. DTS Home and School sponsored a family fun night at Chuck E Cheese. The event drew a crowd of enthusiastic students who spent the night playing games, eating pizza, and having fun. The Home and School also helped set up and manage a school book fair. Students and staff were able to purchase items from a wide variety of books and crafts at bargain prices. Throughout the month of November, student council, sponsored by Mrs. Bourque and Mrs. Jackson collected canned goods that were then donated to several organizations that serve local needy families.



### **Mark Your Calendar**

The Darby Township School Winter Wonderland will be held on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

## **Delcroft School**

### **Canned Food Drive**

Delcroft Safety Patrol sponsored the school's annual canned food drive during the month of November. Over 1400 canned goods and nonperishable food items were collected, and along with turkeys donated by Delcroft staff were used to create Thanksgiving Baskets for 12 local families.

Each homeroom competed to see who could collect the most cans. Ms. DiDomizio's class topped the list with 173 cans, Mrs. McCallums' class donated 113 cans, and Mrs. Ortiz's class contributed 94 cans.

### ***Everybody Needs a Buddy***

Delcroft School hosted a fundraiser at Chuck E Cheese on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The money raised will go toward implementing the Buddy Bench at recess. When students are at recess and are looking for friends to play with, they can sit on the bench. When other students see someone sitting on the bench, they can invite them to play. The Buddy Bench is a great way to help students make new friends.



## ***Harris School***

### ***Season of Giving***

The spirit of giving and family is alive and flourishing at Harris School. Each year, the staff at Harris comes together to collect can goods, nonperishable food items, and turkeys to ensure that our families in need are provided with a complete Thanksgiving feast.

This year was no different, and in fact we set a few records for collections. We prepared Thanksgiving bags for 36 of our families (the highest number ever) and all of the turkeys were donated by Harris staff members! All of the families received two bags of food, a turkey, and a \$10.00 WAWA gift card.

There are a lot of good causes to raise money for and we do throughout the year, but around the holidays at Harris we realize that many of our families could use a little help. So we make sure that we find the families that are in need and provide them with a true Thanksgiving feast.

There are many people to thank for all of the hard work that went into our "Season of Giving". Mr. Danny Ruane is the driving force behind the food drive and in fact it was a total Ruane family effort. Mr. Ruane's mom Terry who runs the kitchen at Harris, his Dad Jimmy who drives a van for the district, and his brother Chris all pitched in. Thank you to Mr. Allan Boylan our custodian and teacher Cindy Silverthorn for helping to unload. Thank you to Mr. Lorine and his 1<sup>st</sup> grade SAP group, as well as Mr. Ruane's 5<sup>th</sup> graders for helping put out all the food.



Thank you to all those who stayed after-school to help pack the bags: Danielle Luciano, Danielle Vaccaro, Annemarie Teodori, Patricia Alford, Jean Quinn, Terrie Maisano, Eleni Xenidis, Karen Cook, Stacie Lacava, Rebecca Dulac, Chris Hall, Deb Rickards, Phyllis Barsky, Stephanie Ash, and Shawn McDougall. Thank you to Dawn McCloud for helping to tape the gift cards onto the bags. Special thanks to Chrissy Frederico, Doranne Nattress, and Tony Lorine for their assistance with the pick-ups. Finally, thank you to the Giant Food Markets in Aldan and Radnor for their generous donations.

In addition to the Thanksgiving basket items we also collected canned goods and that effort was led by Harris teachers Danielle Luciano and Danielle Vaccaro and our student council. Some of the cans collected were used for the Thanksgiving baskets.

Harris truly came together to produce our most successful Thanksgiving drive to date! The staff of Harris truly rose to the occasion and displayed the Harris values that we promote to our students on a daily basis.

## ***Sharon Hill School***

### ***Rewarding Positive Behavior***

Sharon Hill School is committed to building character and encouraging positive behavior from all of our students. We provide a structure to achieve these goals through our PBIS (Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports) program. Each month we focus on a different positive character trait, such as responsibility, which is highlighted during Responsive Classroom. Students that are caught exhibiting that character trait are rewarded with a PBIS ticket and entered into a daily raffle where students are awarded prizes.



Students are also given Owl Bucks for positive behavior and effort that can be redeemed each Friday at our Owl Buck Store. Each marking period we also hold our PBIS Social. Any student that has not received any disciplinary consequences is invited to attend. Our first social of the year was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### ***"What's the Word?"***



This year Sharon Hill School held a Word Parade! In order to focus on and build vocabulary students and staff used their creativity to depict different words. Each grade level was given a theme and the students chose a word and dressed in a manner that illustrated that word.

Students were able to define their words selected and explained how their costumes represented their selected words. The students paraded around the outside of Sharon Hill School as parents and community members looked on. It was a very exciting and fun event!

## ***Kindergarten Center***

### ***Thanksgiving Tradition***

In celebration of Thanksgiving, it is a tradition at the Kindergarten Center that all classes gather in the cafeteria to "reenact" the first Thanksgiving. The students dress up as pilgrims and Native Americans and each of the classes perform a Thanksgiving song or poem. After their performance the classes have Thanksgiving trail mix or Thanksgiving fruit salad. It is a wonderful activity enjoyed by everyone!



### ***Building a Sense of Community***

One of the goals of the Kindergarten Center for the 2014 / 2015 school year is to organize various community outreach programs. The first endeavor was a canned food drive that ran from November 6th through November 21<sup>st</sup>. The students and teachers collected over 1,000 canned goods and nonperishable food items. The collection will be donated to a local food bank to support many of our Southeast Delco families. We greatly appreciated all the support to help families that are in need!

### ***Playground Fundraiser***

This fall, the Kindergarten Center held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fund raiser with Claire's Gourmet. Several parents and teachers participated by purchasing some delicious treats and goodies. The Kindergarten Center raised over \$3500 towards their playground fund. The Kindergarten Center will continue to organize fund raising activities throughout the year to support this important cause.

## **Southeast Delco School District**

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