



Southeast Delco School District

Knighly News

**Collingdale ★ Darby Township ★ Folcroft ★ Sharon Hill
Communities**

**Volume 1, Issue 5
February 2012**

District Winners to Compete in County-Wide Spelling Bee

During the week of December 19th, students in grades 6 through 8 participated in the Scripps Spelling Bee. Its purpose is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

Prior to the individual school bees, every middle school student took a Spelling Bee test. The top scoring students were selected to participate in their school's Spelling Bee. Over 100 Southeast Delco students participated.

Before acknowledging the winners, we first want to thank everyone who helped make the Spelling Bee a success, including the pronouncers and judges.

Congratulations to the following winners who will go on to represent the Southeast Delco School District in the county-wide Scripps Spelling Bee at Neumann University on Saturday, March 24th.

Darby Township School:

1st Place: Ciana Coston
2nd Place: Nyfease Sims

Delcroft School

1st Place: John Vona
2nd Place: Salahaldin
Taymullah

Harris School*

1st Place: Jenny Vu
2nd Place: Tyler Moors
3rd Place: Natasha
Richards

Sharon Hill School

1st Place: Belinda Lewin
2nd Place: Mercedes
Wisner

** Harris' 1st place winner is unable to attend the county spelling bee. Our 3rd place winner will represent the district in her place.*

"School Directors Stand Up for Public Education"

Every January, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and school districts throughout the state celebrate School Director Recognition Month.

There are currently 4,500 school directors serving Pennsylvania's 500 public school districts. School directors are elected locally and the state constitution delegates to them the responsibility to administer the school system as agents of the General Assembly.

The typical Pennsylvania school director is male, well-educated, and married with two or three children attending public schools. Approximately 15% of school board directors state-wide are retirees, 7% are homemakers, 9% are self-employed or business owners, and 7% are office supervisors, and all of them serve as volunteers, without pay. Southeast Delco School Board members are as diverse as the communities they serve.

Board members were honored at the January board business meeting. In appreciation of their hard work and commitment to the students of Southeast Delco, board members were presented with Certificates of Recognition from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Southeast Delco Board of School Directors

Donald Young, President
Collingdale

Theresa Harris-Johnson
Darby Township

Bryon Mundy
Collingdale

Ron Cabbage, Vice President
Glenolden

Lucy Lopez
Folcroft

Eric Mundy
Glenolden

Dorothy Gallagher
Collingdale

Robert MacGuire
Collingdale

Dr. Sharon Wilson
Folcroft

Academy Park High School

Are You Smarter than a “Hi-Q’er”?

The Academy Park High School Hi-Q team went to battle on January 11th against the Academy of Notre Dame and Strath Haven High Schools. Audience members were astonished by the amount of knowledge these team members possessed. With a mere 15 seconds on the clock per typical round, questions in the competition ranged from Art History to Geography and Mathematics to Present Day Sports. Some questions were quite difficult and detail oriented. A typical question might be, “Name the type of musical instrument in the right foreground of the Rembrandt painting “Nightwatch”.” Do you know the answer?

After the competition, Academy Park students hosted a “Chat and Chew” in the school library for the two schools. Although our Knights were not victorious in this particular competition, both opponent schools recognized that Academy Park students are a force with which to be reckoned and will be for many years to come.



Academy Park Hi-Q Team

Strategies for Success

Teachers at Academy Park High School are using a program called Restorative Practices as a character education and anti-bullying program. The program features many strategies of note, but a particularly impressive approach is the use of proactive roundtable discussions.

A proactive roundtable discussion is a strategy used by teachers to help build a sense of community in their classrooms and the school. Here, students and the teacher sit in a circle and discuss a host of subjects including the theme of the day, happenings in their lives, and plans and ideas. Students from one class shared their feelings about the roundtables. Comments included:

- ★ “I met new people and enjoyed [it].”
- ★ “You should give and receive respect when interacting with others.”
- ★ “We all have different opinions on subjects... and express ourselves in different ways.”
- ★ “I learned a better understanding of how people think.”

As can be clearly seen, roundtable discussions are having a positive impact on the students of *The Park*.

Upcoming Academy Park High School Events

February

February 1	Early Dismissal – 11:00 AM
February 16	Dodge Ball Night – 6 PM – 8 PM
February 17	Professional Education Day – No School for Students
February 20	Presidents’ Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff
February 24	Progress Reports Issued

Darby Township School

Street Smarts

Darby Township School students started the New Year by attending a series of assemblies on road safety.

“Street Smarts” is a public education and awareness campaign focusing on a variety of highway safety issues, including seat belts, pedestrian safety, aggressive driving, and DUI. The goal of the program is to decrease the number of avoidable deaths and injuries associated with traffic related crashes.

Positive Behavior Program

Students that achieved Citizen and Student of the Month status in January will be rewarded for their “Positive Behavior” with either a skating outing or a trip to the Franklin Institute, as well as a host of other fun activities.

Upcoming Darby Township School Events

February

February 1	Early Dismissal – 12:45 PM
February 10	Hoops for Heart
February 17	Professional Education Day – No School for Students
February 20	President’s Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff

February 24 Citizen of the Month Assembly
February 24 Progress Reports Issued
February 24 Jump Rope for Heart

Delcroft School

Phanatic About Reading

Delcroft School students participated in this year's *Phanatic About Reading* program sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies and Comcast. The program encourages students to become life-long learners through reading. All Delcroft students in grades 1 – 8 participated in the program and received pencils, books, and bookmarks as a reward for their involvement. Every month, each class submitted their reading logs, which automatically entered them into a contest for new books and a special assembly. Out of hundreds of entries, Mrs. Lee's 6th grade class won the contest.

The assembly was held on January 10th and students and staff were unaware that surprise guest, the Phillies Phanatic, was waiting in the wings to entertain them. In addition to his usual shenanigans, the Phanatic took an energetic turn around the dance floor with Delcroft principal, Mrs. Stacey Ray. As a special gift, the Phanatic graciously provided Delcroft School with an autographed picture and memories that will last a lifetime.

The event was covered by WPVI 6 ABC News. Highlights from the assembly were broadcast during the evening news.



Jeans for Teens

Delcroft students participated in the *Jeans for Teens* program, which provides jeans to homeless teens across the country. The school that collects the most jeans, we will be entered into a drawing to win \$5,000 and every student in the winning school will receive a pair of new jeans.

Special Events in February

Upcoming activities at Delcroft in February, include daily student trivia to celebrate Black History Month, and fundraising for Jump Rope for Heart / Hoops for Heart benefiting the American Heart Association. Delcroft's Jump Rope for Heart / Hoops for Heart celebration day will be February 24th.

Upcoming Delcroft School Events

February

February 1 Early Dismissal – 12:45 PM
February 17 Professional Education Day – No School for Students
February 20 President's Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff

February 24 Progress Reports Issued
February 24 Jump Rope for Heart / Hoops for Heart Celebration

Harris School

Harris 7th Graders Hold 4th Annual Probability Fair

The 7th grade students at Harris School held the fourth annual “Probability Fair” on Friday, January 20th. Fourth grade students came to play games of chance designed and built by the 7th grade students as part of their study of probability. The project also included a report where the 7th graders calculated the theoretical and experimental probability of winning their games, as well as the expected payout and profit. This was the first time that 7th graders who were putting on the fair had also been to the fair when they were 4th graders.



4th Annual Probability Fair

National Geography Bee Winner

Harris students in grades 6 and 7 participated in the National Geography Bee on January 11th. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. The bee was directed by Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Vaccaro. The students answered seven rounds of questions relating to Geography. The competition was hotly contested but in the end 7th grader Kyle Fok came out on top with the highest score. As the school winner, Kyle then took a timed 70 question written exam, which was submitted to National Geographic Society to be scored. If Kyle scores in the top 100 students in Pennsylvania, he will proceed to a state level competition to be held on March 30th. If successful at that level he will be eligible for the National completion in May.

Kyle spent many hours of his own time preparing for the Geography Bee and his efforts paid off here at Harris. Hopefully his hard work will send him on to the state level competition. Congratulations Kyle and good luck.

Upcoming Harris School Events

February

February 1 *Early Dismissal – 12:45 PM*
February 17 *Professional Education Day – No School for Students*
February 20 *President’s Day Holiday - No School for Students and Staff*
February 24 *Progress Reports Issued*

Sharon Hill School

Positive Behavior Earns Rewards

As part of Sharon Hill's school-wide Positive Behavior program, students can earn character tickets for demonstrating self-control and by modeling behavior exemplified in the monthly character trait. Tickets are then collected for a weekly drawing from which four winners are randomly selected. The winners of the weekly drawing can choose from a variety of prizes, including snack line vouchers, dress down passes, or lunch with a teacher. The winners' name are placed on an owl award and added to our character wall of fame.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Sharon Hill school staff and students celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. throughout the month of January.



Upcoming Sharon Hill School Events

February

February 1	Early Dismissal – 12:45 PM
February 16	Black History Assembly Program
February 17	Professional Education Day – No School for Students
February 20	President's Day Holiday - No School for Students and Staff
February 24	Progress Reports Issued
February 29	PSSA Information / Game Night

Kindergarten Center

Dad's Matter

The Kindergarten Center Parent Council meeting for January was held in the morning and included a breakfast for dads and their Kindergarteners. The breakfast, entitled Dad's Matter, provides an opportunity for dads and grandfathers to share a meal and listen to a discussion on the importance of men serving as literacy role models for their children by engaging in reading activities together. Principal Sue Vaites discussed the importance of vocabulary development that comes from talking with, and reading to, young children throughout the day. Literacy coach, Nicole Barrella spoke on the critical need for men to talk about and model their reading lives for their children, particularly boy children. Fathers and students pledged to hold daily reading session at home. The event was well attended with 102 dads and grandfathers, and 103 Kindergarteners attending.



The event was well attended with 102 dads and grandfathers, and 103 Kindergarteners attending. The next Parent Council meeting will be held February 28th at 6:30 PM, and will focus on math instruction. Parents will engage in Everyday Math games with their children, and learn about the math standards for elementary grades. Take home packets will be provided to allow families to practice math by playing the games at home.

Upcoming Kindergarten Center Events

February

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| February 7 | 100 th Day |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day – Wear Red |
| February 17 | <i>Professional Education Day – No School for Students</i> |
| February 20 | <i>President's Day Holiday - No School for Students and Staff</i> |
| February 24 | Progress Reports Issued |
| February 28 | Parent Council – Math Night – 6:30 PM |
| February 29 | Wacky Wednesday |

Southeast Delco School District

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