**Academy Park High School**

**College Bound**

Academy Park staff facilitators for the Rising Scholars program are in the process of booking their next campus tour! The program hosts one tour per marking period for students who plan on continuing their education at a post-secondary institution.

This marking period students will visit West Chester University. Campuses previously visited include Kutztown University, John's Hopkins University, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, University of Delaware, Cheney University, Lincoln University, Delaware County Community College, and Temple University. For each tour, the program attempts to utilize previous Rising Scholars as tour guides. Fortunately, each of the universities visited thus far includes in its current student population previous Rising Scholars.

The purpose of these college tours is to acquaint students with a variety of campuses to enable them to make an informed decision when choosing a college. Many graduates have returned to Academy Park High School and shared how happy they were that they had the opportunity to visit their campus of choice and how touring other schools influenced their final decision. Of the program, one student stated, "Every student should have the opportunity to visit their school before going there!"

College tours is just one tool Rising Scholar facilitators use to engage and encourage our students to achieve their full potential.
Darby Township School

DTS Students Celebrate MLK Holiday

To celebrate the Martin Luther King Holiday, Darby Township School Student Council sponsored a card designing activity. Students created handmade greeting cards that were delivered to residents of Little Flower Manor in Darby by reading interventionist, Ms. Nicole Bourque and guidance counselor, Mrs. Camile Jackson.

Student council members also read stories about the life and work of Dr. King to 1st grade students and assisted them in making mini-books that illustrated what they learned.

Delcroft School

Delcroft School Buzzing About Geography

Delcroft School held their annual Geography Bee on January 16th. Twenty-three students from grades 6, 7, and 8 participated in the event that consisted of seven rounds of questions regarding world-wide geography.

This year, 8th grader Jahmir Slaughter won the Delcroft Geography Bee with a perfect score, answering all seven rounds of questions correctly. James Samura, grade 8 and Lauren Jaskowiak, grade 7 both tied for runner-up. Both students only answered one question incorrectly. We are extremely proud of their knowledge of geography.

Jahmir Slaughter will complete the National Geography Bee qualifying exam, which will be sent as an entry for the National Geography Bee. The top 100 ranked students in each state qualify to represent their school in the state Bee and then the state champions attend the national championship in Washington, D.C. We will receive information regarding the qualifiers for the National Bee in the upcoming weeks. Special thanks to Ms. Compton and Ms. Lees for judging the Delcroft Geography Bee.
Harris School

Parenting Connection

Harris School has always been a school community that jumps in and helps whenever a need arises. In that spirit, a group of teachers organized the "Parenting Connection" to offer support and information that parents can use to create strategies to help their children be successful in school.

The group met at the beginning of the school year and developed a survey to determine areas of interest for parents. Topics on the survey included safety in technology, reading resources, making quality time with your child, time management and the single parent, positive consequences, homework help, creating educational games, and setting limits with your child. The surveys were sent home and parents indicated their interests and returned them to Harris. The group then used the information gathered from the surveys to begin to plan workshops.

Outside resources, such as the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, Holcomb Behavioral Systems, and other social service groups were contacted to provide experts to present information to parents on their selected areas of interest. Childcare was offered to enable parents to participate in the workshops and to further entice parental involvement a social aspect was included, such as the holiday cookie bake and last session's spaghetti dinner.

The first session was all about Reading and what parents can do to help their children excel, and through their support develop a love of reading. The session was led by Cindy Kruse a reading specialist from the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and was attended by approximately 25 parents and their children. The session was a success and the parents in attendance were very grateful for the opportunity to participate and are looking forward to future sessions.

The Harris teachers and staff members who were the spark to put this group together are Dawn McCloyd, Toni Benson, Peggie Schommer, Charlotte Walker, Pat Alford, Cindy Silverthorn, and Sharon Lopatin. As the year continues the group will organize more meetings based on the parent surveys.

Sharon Hill School

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sharon Hill School and community honored Dr. Martin Luther King by taking part in several academic activities that centered on the life and legacy of the great civil rights leader. Students read biographical information and completed several writing activities about Dr. King's life and how he influenced history and civil rights.
**MLK Day of Service**

This year, MLK Day was not a day off, it was a day on! Sharon Hill students, staff, and parent volunteers took part in a day of service by volunteering at the school and taking part in some school beautification projects. Closets were cleaned, classrooms were organized, and inspirational quotes were painted on walls throughout the building. A total of 40 students came out to volunteer, as well as teachers and parent volunteers.

**Building School Climate**

Sharon Hill School Leadership team, Climate Committee, and staff members are working hard to establish and maintain a positive collegial school climate that helps to foster collaboration and support teaching and learning. During winter break, staff members and their children met at Bette's Family Fun Center for a day of fun.

A creative painting session was also held in which staff painted owls that are now displayed in the school. A group of teachers will also attend a Flyers game in February!
Kindergarten Center

Zoo on Wheels

In January, Kindergarten students were treated to an assembly presented by the Philadelphia Zoo entitled "Zoo on Wheels." A representative from the zoo entertained and educated students with interesting facts about animals. The highlight of the program was the introduction of a live armadillo, duck, owl, and snake. It was an exciting and educational morning appreciated by the students and staff!