Lattana Sithara Recognized as Scholar / Athlete

The Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame recognized Academy Park senior Lattana Sithara for her accomplishments on the tennis court and in the classroom. Lattana was one of ten Delaware County Scholar / Athletes selected to receive an award.

Lattana's achievements are impressive. She ranks among the top ten in her class and serves as president of the National Art Honor Society and head audio technician for the Tech / AV club. She has also earned an American Association of University Women Achievement Recognition and participated in the Local Ideas Festival.

Lattana is a four-year varsity tennis player. She was team captain as a junior and senior, helping Academy Park win three Del-Val League Championships. She earned a Del Val Doubles Championship in 2013, 2014, 2015, and was the league singles and doubles champion in 2014 and 2015.

Lattana is a true Scholar / Athlete and proud to be an Academy Park Knight!

APHS Athletes Score All-Delco Honors

In Delaware County, there are 20 high school football teams that compete on the gridiron. Out of those 20 teams, 12 athletes are picked for All-Delco offense and 12 athletes for All-Delco defense. All-Delco Athlete is much more than a title or an award, but an honor and privilege to be named one of the best athletes in Delaware County.

Academy Park had 3 athletes make the All-Delco offensive team and 3 athletes make the All-Delco defensive team.

All-Delco Offense

1. Jermaine Wesley - A senior running back, Jermaine carried the ball 274 times this season for a total of 1,629 yards and a whopping 20 touchdowns for the Knights.

2. Nykeal Jalloh - A senior tackle, Nykeal was able to provide the Knights offense with plenty of room to operate. Having Nykeal on the line, the Knights were able to average 305 yards.
3. Jawan Collins - A senior wide receiver, Jawan carried the ball 90 times for a total of 722 yards and 11 touchdowns. Jawan was inserted at quarterback in the second round of district playoffs. In his three games at QB, he was 15 for 27 in completions, 228 yards and 2 touchdown passes.

All-Delco Defense

1. Togba Porte - A junior defensive end, Togba accrued 104 tackles, 12 sacks, 112 sack yards loss, 2 fumble recoveries, 3 caused fumbles and 1 touchdown for the 2015 season. He was an integral part of the Knight’s success.

2. Clarence Buchanan - A senior defensive back, Clarence finished the 2015 season with 56 tackles, 2 fumble recoveries, and 9 interceptions, making him the best DB in the county.

3. Teddy Wright - A junior free safety, Teddy had 89 tackles, 6 interceptions, and 2 fumble recoveries.

Academy Park High School

Winter Festival

Transformed by students and staff into a winter wonderland, the Academy Park High School’s Winter Festival on December 11th was a tremendous success. Organized by various school groups, the festival offered a variety of arts and crafts activities for all of the children in attendance. The Excalibur Yearbook staff, Omega Eta and Phi Knights, Gay Straight Alliance, National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society, Young Men and Women of Academy Park, tech crew, and SWEEP program all worked to coordinate several reindeer games, face painting, jewelry and holiday ornament crafting, photo ops with the famous Elsa and Anna, and a very special visit from Santa himself! A great time was had by all.

A special thank you to Collingdale Fire Company and their volunteers, Stynor Carter and Brian Johnson, for providing assistance with our jolly visitor and helping to make this year’s winter festival one of the best!

Grade 4 Students Visit Academy Park

Academy Park held their annual Winter Concert and Art Show on December 16th and staff, students, family, and friends filled the auditorium to offer their support of the arts program and our talented Academy Park artists and musicians.
All grade 4 students from the four district elementary schools were treated to a special performance of this year's spectacular winter concert. Academy Park band director, Mrs. Kristina Cubbage, spoke to the youngsters about the exciting opportunities the district music program has to offer students who play an instrument and students in the band shared their personal experiences with the younger students.

The Academy Park Chorus, led by Ms. Lori Muller, performed their winter concert repertoire for the guests and wowed everyone with a cappella rendition of *Now Behold the Lamb*, by Kirk Franklin. The exclusive concert was a huge success and hopefully an annual event in future years.

**Young Men and Women of Academy Park Give Back**

The Young Men and Women of Academy Park (YMWAP) sponsored a winter dance on Friday, December 18th. Students danced the night away to the music provided by AP senior, Byron Johnson. In lieu of a flat admission fee for the dance, students were offered a discounted rate for donating canned goods. All canned goods collected were donated to the Church of Nazarene Soup Kitchen in Collingdale.

The YMWAP also held a winter coat, hat and glove drive. Students were able to collect dozens of donations this year. All items collected were donated to Senator Anthony Williams, who in turn distributed them to families in need. More specifically, several of the donated items were given to a Darby family who recently suffered an extreme loss due to a house fire.

The Young Men and Women of Academy Park continue to plan ways to contribute to their community through volunteer outreach initiatives and additional food drives.

**Darby Township School**

**Spelling Bee**

The annual DTS Spelling Bee was held on December 9th and the three top winners were 1st place - Cheyenne Phillips, 2nd place - Victoria Braxton, and 3rd place - Skyler Hoyte. Congratulations to all three young ladies and to all the teachers that assisted with the Spelling Bee.
**Honoring Achievement**

DTS guidance counselor, Mrs. Camile Jackson, organized the Citizen of the Month and Student of the Quarter assembly that was held on December 18th. Students that earn Citizen of the Month are recognized for how well they demonstrate the designated monthly skill or characteristic. So far this school year, September was Routines & Responsibilities; October - Safety; November - Gratitude; and December - Kindness. Student of the Quarter honors are awarded by teachers to the highest achieving students in their content areas.

**Community Sharing**

Darby Township police officers Mike Andrel and Danny Fines came to the school in December to conduct an assembly with grades 3 and 5 students highlighting their K-9 unit. They brought 3 of their canine officers and conducted demonstrations of how they respond to search and rescue commands. It was very interesting and students were engaged and excited.

**Winter Holiday Fun**

Students in grade 2 took a walking field trip to the Darby Township District Court to sing holiday songs and decorate an evergreen tree in the lobby. That evening, the annual DTS Winter Concert was held in the auditorium of Academy Park High School.

The DTS Home & School hosted a Winter Wonderland on December 19th. Students could have their pictures taken with Santa and do various winter related crafts and activities.
Delcroft School

Bees, Bees Everywhere
Students in grades 5 through 8 participated in the annual Delcroft Spelling Bee on December 10th. This year, Kenneth Udumua - grade 6, was the champion speller after 18 rounds of rigorous competition. The runner ups included Alexandria Thomas - grade 6 and Kiara Kidd - grade 7. The champion speller will attend the Script's County Spelling Bee on March 12th. Many thanks go out to Mrs. Lees, Mrs. Toner and Mrs. DeStephanis for judging and pronouncing at the event.

The annual Delcroft Geography Bee competition was held on December 15th. Thirty-one students in grades 6, 7 and 8 participated. This year's Geography Bee winner was Valdayyah Stroud - grade 8. All of the competitors worked extensively for many weeks in preparation for the competition. Their hard work and dedication was evident during each round of the competition. Many thanks to Mrs. Compton and Mrs. Lees for overseeing the event.

New Venue for Delcroft Winter Concert
Delcroft proudly presented their annual Winter Concert on December 9th. A new tradition was established by holding the concert in the auditorium of Academy Park High School. Delcroft's instrumental band, led by Ms. Rebecca King, performed several pieces including Jingle Bells, O Tannenbaum and Holiday Sampler. The 4th and 5th grades chorus performed Angels in the Snow and A Jolly, Jingling Carol Medley. The middle school chorus, comprised of students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, preformed Cold and Fugue Season and A Blessing.

Both chorus performances were led by Mrs. Sprague, Delcroft's vocal music director. The program was well attended by family and community members. The students were extremely excited to perform at Academy Park High School and the audience gave rave reviews for the event.

Harris School

Can You Spell....?
Harris School held its annual Scripps Spelling Bee for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 on December 15th. The Bee was organized and directed by assistant principal, Mr. Baxter, with help from teachers Mrs. Silverthorn as facilitator, Ms. Ash as announcer and Mrs. Trachy and Ms. Strunk who served as judges. Each student that competed in the Bee was able to invite their parents and a friend, which filled the Harris gym with enthusiastic supporters. After a total of 16 hard fought rounds the following students triumphed:

Championship Word "Collude"
First Place - Laila Lewis, Grade 6
Second Place - Haleigh Kehner, Grade 7
Third Place - Ian Francis, Grade 8
Season of Giving

Each year during the holiday season the Harris School community joins together to help our families in need. The Harris Season of Giving Campaign 2015, led by 5th grade teacher and head Elf, Mr. Danny Ruane, provided over 40 families with bags of gifts. Special thanks go out to the Harris student council, led by Danielle Luciano and Danielle Vaccaro, who stuffed 40 stockings that were added to the gift bags for our families. The stockings were filled with winter hats, gloves, coloring books, crayons, markers, books, small toys, puzzles and games. Our families also received Wal-Mart gift cards.

The money and gifts were donated by our staff. Special thanks to those who helped to wrap and distribute the presents: Charles Baxter, Chris Hall, Eleni Xenidis, Karen Cook, Shawn McDougall, Stacie Lacava, Toni Benson, Kathie Amadeo-D’Amico, Tony Lorine, Theresa Welsh, and Mike Masterson. Our efforts truly made the holidays a lot brighter for many of our families.

Sharon Hill School

’Tis the Season

The Sharon Hill School and community geared up for the holiday season by taking part in some fun and exciting activities. The annual door decorating contest was held and classes adorned their doors with holiday scenes. Student council also hosted a holiday sweater contest. Students showed their creativity and were excited to participate. The Sharon Hill School annual Winter Concert was held at Academy Park High School. The concert can be seen on your cable provider’s district channel.
Busy Bees
The Sharon Hill School annual Spelling Bee was held on December 22nd. Students in grades 6 through 8 were tested and the top spellers from each grade level earned the opportunity to participate in the Bee. Academy Park senior and past Sharon Hill Spelling Bee winner, Mercedes Wisner, provided her support to the competition by serving as judge.

Imabong Eka and Catherine Salee

Imabong Eka, grade 6, was the first place winner and Catherine Salee, grade 8, was the runner up. Both students will be participating in the county Spelling Bee held at Neumann University.

Kindergarten Center

Kindergarten News
Teachers from the Kindergarten Center delivered over fifteen boxes of canned goods to a local food bank on December 15th. The kindergarten community was able to assist many families in need of food. The staff is planning another community outreach program for the month of February.

Students and teachers at the Kindergarten Center participated in their first Winter Wonderland Sing Along! Everyone gathered in the cafeteria and sang several songs in preparation for the upcoming break. As part of the festivities, the students received a special visit from the character Elsa from the movie Frozen and enjoyed a pretzel treat!

Kindergarten students celebrated a Winter Pajama Day on December 23rd. It is a tradition at the Kindergarten Center to allow students the opportunity to wear their pajamas and participate in a variety of activities that focus around either the book The Polar Express or the movie Frozen. It is a wonderful day that the children truly enjoy and a great way to lead into winter break!