Southeast Delco Students Participate in the Southern Delaware County Middle School Band

The Southern Delaware County Middle School Band was formed 12 years ago by a group of Delaware County school districts to highlight their most talented middle school musicians. Currently, the band is comprised of over 80 students from six local districts, including Chichester, Garnet Valley, Interboro, Penn Delco, Ridley, and Southeast Delco.

Students from the participating districts rehearsed together on three Saturday mornings in January and performed beautifully on January 30th at a wonderful concert held at Northley Middle School in Aston.

Music teachers from each district served as directors and each took a turn conducting the band, including Southeast Delco’s Ms. Rebecca King and Mrs. Kristina Cubbage.

Students who participated from Darby Township School were 8th graders Danielle Balogh, Aaron Benton, Brittney Brown, Shayna Flory, Randi White, and 7th graders Allison Ostrander and Reed Rowan. Also participating from Sharon Hill School were 8th grader Zayah McLain and 7th grader Ryan Kirchoff.

The concert was amazing and the hard work and dedication of these students was truly something to make Southeast Delco proud!

Career Festival at Academy Park

On Saturday, February 21st, over 250 Academy Park students attended the "What's Your Passion?" Festival held at the high school. Senior Victor Ariyo and math teacher Susan Reutter had been planning the event since they attended the Aspen Ideas Festival as Bezos Family Foundation Scholars last summer.
The goal of the festival was for students to explore their passions and possible career paths for life after high school. Over 40 professionals, most of whom are APHS Alumni in a wide variety of fields, came to meet with the students and talk about what they do and how they got there. Students rotated through 8 classrooms where they heard from professionals in the areas of Arts, Medical, Education, Military, Law, Trades, Business, and Engineering. Careers ranged from music, steamfitters, a state trooper, accounting, photography, athletic training, drug counseling, Air Force, nursing, and so much more!

Students and professionals had a great day and said many positive things about the experience. Students stated "I met a lot of people that had good jobs and that graduated from Academy Park," "It was good to see all of the successful people from Academy Park," and "Meeting former Academy Park students that I could relate to opened my eyes and I got advice for a career path I am seeking." Plans for next year's festival are already underway!

Academy Park High School

Students Embrace Art at Academy Park

Each year, art classes at Academy Park High School are filled to the brim with eager students who have chosen art as one of their electives. When visiting these classes it is easy to see why. Student engagement is high and the enthusiasm and interest in the course content is evident.

At a recent visit to one of these classes students were working on still life drawings. Although at different points in their progression, each student was engaged and focused on their drawing. As with many art assignments, students could choose an object they wanted to draw from just about anything in the classroom, and it was fascinating to see some of their choices.
When asked about his drawing, one student shared the item he chose to draw. On the exterior, he exhibited a calm and collected demeanor (behavior typical of high school teenage students), almost a "too cool for school" attitude. When encouraged to elaborate, it was clear that the student was quite proud of his drawing!

**Darby Township School**

**DTS Celebrates Friendship**

Darby Township School recognized the theme of Friendship during the month of February and also celebrated the 100th day of school with several activities and craft projects on Friday, February 6th. From February 2nd through February 13th candy grams attached to messages of friendship were sold at lunchtime and sent throughout the school.

**Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss**

The Read Across America Day celebration of reading and Dr. Seuss' birthday was kicked off on March 2nd. Several literacy-based activities were held for students in grades 1 - 5 and the Delaware Blue Rocks mascot, Rocky Bluewinkle, visited the school and read to students. Students who completed the Rocky Bluewinkle Reading Challenge will be offered tickets to Blue Rock baseball games.
Book Fair

DTS librarian Mrs. Hawkins and the Home and School Association are sponsoring a book fair on March 9 - 13. The theme this year is *Undersea Adventure* and several new and interesting books will be available for purchase.

Delcroft School

100 Days of School Celebration

Delcroft School students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school for the 2014 / 2015 school year on February 6th. Students completed a variety of activities to observe the day. Students in first grade created 100th day posters, and while wearing their 100th day celebration hats took 100 steps though the building after estimating where 100 steps would take them.

Students also participated in a variety of exercises, including jumping jacks and jumping rope 100 times and working in groups to identify and sort items by 2s, 5s, and 10s up to the number 100. Students also worked together with partners to create poems celebrating the first 100 days of school. The poetry highlighted their favorite subject and what they have learned in the subject over the past 100 days.
Delcroft Students Compete in County Spelling Bee

On Saturday, February 21, Delcroft was represented by two 6th grade students at the Delaware County Spelling Bee. Gabriella Jackson fought hard and earned 4th place out of the registered 24 students in the county. Congratulations Gabriella.

Harris School

National Junior Honor Society

Southeast Delco has initiated the National Junior Honor Society in district schools. Fifth grade teacher Daniel Ruane has volunteered to sponsor the Harris School chapter. The purpose of the National Junior Honor Society is to promote recognition for middle school students who reflect outstanding accomplishment in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

Membership is a privilege, and students selected to be members must exhibit excellence in academics and leadership, display honorable and admirable character, and demonstrate a commitment to service and good citizenship with the aim of using their personal talents and skills for the improvement of both self and society.

The initial criteria for consideration is having attained distinguished honor roll or honor roll for the second marking period, as well as having no suspensions throughout the school year. Students are required to submit application packets and their teachers must complete a questionnaire verifying that the student possesses the requisite character traits.

Academic Success

To promote the academic success of our students, Southeast Delco has introduced a new initiative. The Read 180 program is now in full swing and instruction is provided during and after school.

Read 180 is an educational system designed to improve performance in students who are struggling with reading. Reading interventionist Cynthia Silverthorn, Read 180 instructor Michele Kuc, 5th grade teacher Daniel Ruane, and 3rd grade teacher Dawn McCloud serve as instructors in Harris’ Read 180 program. Instruction is provided to small groups of children and only a limited number of students are enrolled in the program at one time. New students join the program as current students leave the program. We are confident that Read 180 will support our efforts to improve our students’ reading skills.
Sharon Hill School

Recognizing Students

Sharon Hill students were recognized for their second marking period achievements during the quarterly awards ceremony. Students were recognized for perfect attendance, improvement, effort, service, citizenship, and academic excellence. Students that achieved honor roll were rewarded with a reception where they enjoyed refreshments while socializing with peers. Students that exhibited positive behavior during the 2nd Marking Period had the opportunity to attend the PBIS Social.

New Drama Club Performs the Story of Ruby Bridges

Sharon Hill School has started a drama club this year and staged their first performance. In honor of Black History Month, the students presented the story of Ruby Bridges. The Drama Club students were both excited and nervous, but they did an excellent job. They are already gearing up and ready for their next production.

Student Spotlight

Congratulations to 5th grade Sharon Hill student Kamyi Pettrey for winning 2nd place in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Groundhog Day art contest.
Kindergarten Center

100th Day Celebration
Kindergarten students celebrated the long awaited 100th day of school on February 9th! Students worked at home on special "100 Things" projects that are displayed throughout the Kindergarten Center. The Kindergarten teachers implemented several fun activities throughout the day! It was a great time for everyone!

Pennies for Patients
The Kindergarten Center kicked off their Pennies for Patients campaign on February 18th. The students were presented with a slide show from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The campaign will run through March 13th, and the funds raised will go directly to the pediatric care of children. Each day when a student brings in coins their name is displayed in the lobby on a star. To date, sixty five pounds of coins and over one hundred dollars in cash has been raised!