Parent Connection at Harris School

The Harris Parent Connection is a group of teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals, who work directly with parents to support their success and their child’s achievement. Special events are held throughout the year where information and guidance are provided on topics that are of value to both parents and their children. Parents are asked at the beginning of each school year to offer suggestions on areas they would be interested in learning about.

In February, the Parent Connection hosted a session on Managing Your Finances. Representatives from PNC Bank shared information about housing, banking, and budgeting, and answered questions from individuals. During the session, students were engaged with constructing superhero banks and to everyone's delight, PNC provided give-a-ways to all who attended.
At the end of the event, a uniform exchange was held and students were able to choose any items they needed; all of which were donated by Harris parents.

**APHS Students Attend DCCC STEM Program**

Nineteen APHS students accompanied by mathematics teacher, Mr. Daniel Seif and 21st Century grant coordinator, Mrs. Patricia Alford, attended Delaware County Community College's Ninth Annual STEM Program on February 25th. Local employers provided students with information regarding high-growth, high-paying career opportunities and representatives from DCCC offered information about campus resources, student organizations and STEM scholarships.

The program was held at the DCCC Media campus and began with a keynote speech by Mr. Jon Hunt, senior director of terminal operations at Sunoco Logistics. His speech was followed by a diverse panel of professionals who gave brief histories of their backgrounds and answered questions from attendees.

Students spent the next hour interacting with employment representatives from Sunoco, Urban Engineers, TMNA Services, SAP, Southco, SEPTA, UPS, and Flower’s Foods to name a few. Colleges represented were DCCC, Drexel University, Temple University, Penn State University, and Delaware College.

One very lucky APHS student, Damir Henson, won a Dell Venue 8 Tablet that was raffled off by DCCC.

**Academy Park High School**

**APHS Celebrates Black History Month**

In celebration of Black History Month, Academy Park teachers stepped up to the challenge by incorporating Black History throughout the building. Classroom doors were decorated with informational posters and interesting facts all focusing on Black History Month. In the music wing a multimedia display with original music recorded by students was presented and outside the main gym a collage celebrating African American athletes, past and present, decorated the walls.
The winner of the door decorating contest was Mrs. Sacrenty's "MLK had a dream, what's yours?" Her classroom door was festooned with pictures of all her English students expressing their dreams for their future. Her creative display incorporated the pictures and dreams of over 100 students.

The quest for knowledge has filled the hallways and classrooms. Students are sharing stories in the cafeteria and working together to answer Mr. Robinson's daily trivia challenges. It has truly been a celebration of Black History.

**Local Ideas Festival, "What's Your Passion?"**

On Saturday, February 27th the high school hosted its 2nd annual Local Ideas Festival, "What's Your Passion?" Originally created by 2015 graduate Victor Arriyo after attending the Bezos Family Foundation Scholar program with AP Calculus teacher Ms. Reutter, this year’s festival was the continuation of an Academy Park tradition and was organized by senior Lattana Sithara under the guidance of Ms. Reutter.

Over 30 Academy Park alumni shared their personal experiences and journeys to pursue their passions. Students had the opportunity to attend information sessions and hear alumni speak about various career fields, including education, business, engineering, trades, law, military, arts, and medical fields. Over 200 students attended to learn from the experiences of the alumni who once filled the hallways of Academy Park. Chris Dyer shared his story of how he pursued an acting career, he inspired students to create opportunities for themselves and be creative. The "What's Your Passion" is a definite must attend event, so be sure to check out next year's festival!

**2016 Football Banquet**

Academy Park's varsity football team celebrated their extraordinary season this year at The Oak's Ballroom on February 24th. During the presentation of awards, each of the coaches acknowledged the effort and contributions of each individual player, as well as highlighting the players that stood out this year. Most of the players chosen to receive awards were selected by their teammates. The players showed tremendous skills, as well as contributing leadership and the ability to make plays on the field.

- **Jawan Collins**, Offensive MVP
- **Clarence Buchanan**, Defensive MVP and Special Teams MVP
- **Togba Porte**, Defensive MVP
- **Senesee Jalloh**, Outstanding Lineman and Hammer Award
- **Davante Harris**, Coaches Award
- **Marion Holmes**, Phil Wahl Award

**Darby Township School**

**DTS Happenings**

In celebration of Black History Month, guidance counselor, Mrs. Jackson, included "Little Known Facts in Black History" in her daily morning announcements.
On February 9th, students in grades 1 & 2 celebrated the 100th day of school. Teachers planned several activities using the number 100. Students especially enjoyed making necklaces using 100 cheerios.

With Valentine's Day on the 14th February is also a celebration of friendship and love. Under the sponsorship of Mrs. Jackson and Ms. Bourque, student council held a week-long candy gram sale. Students and staff members could purchase candy grams and send notes of friendship to one another.

**Delcroft School**

**100 Days of School**

Delcroft celebrated the 100th day of school with various activities throughout the day. This year's theme was "100 Days of School - 100 Days Smarter". Students in 1st grade completed individual 100th Day posters that utilized math skills they learned this year to calculate items or number groups to the sum of 100. Students wrote 100th Day poems, sang 100th Day songs, and participated in 100 step challenges. Students and staff always enjoy this milestone day.

**Black History Trivia**

Throughout the month of February, Delcroft's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held a daily trivia question contest to celebrate Black History Month. National Junior Honor Society members researched and created a host of trivia questions that highlighted various topics focusing on African American history. Each morning a NJHS member would pose a Black History Month trivia question and students would submit their answers. Correct responses were entered into a daily raffle. The winner of the raffle was announced each day, and received a certificate worth 10 Delcroft dollars.

**Harris School**

**Harris Celebrates Read Across America**

To acknowledge the importance of reading, the National Education Association (NEA) lobbied to establish a special day to celebrate reading throughout the United States. The first Read Across America day was held on March 2, 1998.
This nation-wide observance coincides with the birthday of Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel), an American writer and author of many children's classics including *Green Eggs and Ham*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *The Cat in the Hat*.

Every year at Harris, we too celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. But not for just one day, we celebrate with a whole week of activities focused on reading and the impact it has on the future academic success of our students. Under the direction of reading interventionist Cindy Silverthorn, and 5th grade teacher, Mr. Danny Ruane, the 1st and 2nd graders at Harris will be treated to many different activities throughout the week.

**Monday: Dr. Seuss Day** - Students can bring their favorite Dr. Seuss book to read in class.

**Tuesday: Pete the Cat Day** - Students may wear navy school pants or sweat pants, and either a blue or yellow shirt. Students will make Pete the Cat puppets and read his groovy books.

**Wednesday: Read at Home** - No school.

**Thursday: Fairy Tale Day** - Students will read and compare fairy tales.

**Friday: Fairy Tale Day** - Different cultural versions of Cinderella will be read and discussed. Students, who may dress in their favorite fairy tale character, will watch Cinderella and enjoy an ice cream treat.

All activities are created to support lessons being taught daily in the classrooms. This year, as in past years, mystery readers will appear in different classrooms. A mystery reader is any teacher, support staff, assistant principal, or principal that goes into a classroom and reads a book of their choosing to the students. While this can be intimidating for some people the students absolutely love it.
The highlight of the *Read Across America* celebration is always celebrity reader day. Over the years, we have been lucky enough to have Superintendent Dr. Butz, school board members Dorothy Gallagher and Cynthia Williams, and ESC personnel Dr. Ambler, Jen Peterson and Kim Brown. The students truly enjoy having a celebrity in the room reading to them and are always on their best behavior.

Thank you to everyone who helps to make *Read Across America* day so special at Harris School every year.

**Sharon Hill School**

**Send in the Clowns**

Sharon Hill's 1st grade students had an exciting opportunity to meet some of the clowns from the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. The clowns visited Sharon Hill as a treat to get the students excited about their trip to the circus. The trip was a culminating activity that engaged and motivated students to complete and participate in instructional activities during math and reading classes. Giving students the opportunity to make a real world connection and broaden their experiences is important to their cognitive growth and development.

**Sharon Hill School Geography Bee**

The Sharon Hill School Geography Bee was held on February 5th. Students in grades 4 through 8 had the opportunity to participate. Nine students qualified and showed what they knew about the geography of the world we live in. Congratulations to 8th grade student Ryan Kirchoff for winning the Geography Bee. All students did an excellent job. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Testa for organizing and facilitating and Mrs. Conroy and Mrs. Carvin for judging.
Kindergarten Center

100th Day

On Wednesday, February 10th Kindergarten students celebrated the long awaited 100th day of school. The students worked on special "100 items" projects that are displayed throughout the Kindergarten Center. Also, the teachers planned a variety of fun activities and Mrs. Burke read The 100th Day of School to each of the classes.

Pennies for Patients

The Kindergarten Center kicked off their Pennies for Patients campaign on February 16th. This is the 2nd year that the Kindergarten Center has participated in this fund raiser. The campaign will run through February 25th and funds raised will go directly to the pediatric care of children. Each day when students bring in coins or cash their names are displayed on a star in our lobby. To date, we have over one hundred and fifty nine pounds of coins and over four hundred dollars in cash!

SOUTHEAST DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT

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