Southeast Delco Gifted Students Take Two Trophies at SeaPerch Challenge

The gifted middle school robotics team collaborated to design, build, and operate a SeaPerch - a simple remotely operated vehicle, or ROV. The culmination of their work was participation in a regional competition held at Drexel University's Dakalakis Center, where thirty-five middle schools from Delaware County, Chester County, Philadelphia, and New Jersey competed.

Our gifted students' hard work and dedication paid off as they placed 1st in Team Spirit & Sportsmanship, aided by Kromoh Mansalay dressed as Poseidon and Brian Johnson dressed as the Academy Park Knight. They placed 3rd in Vehicle Performance due to the excellent gaming skills and piloting by Darby Township School's Steven Williams. They also received an Honorable Mention for their Engineering Notebook.

The SeaPerch Challenge is a perfect venue to demonstrate our commitment to STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math). These students had the opportunity to build skills and become prepared to live and work in our increasingly high-tech world. In addition to learning science and engineering concepts, they experienced the importance of being part of a team and realized that it was not just about winning. They learned many lifelong lessons including:

- How to persevere in an emotionally charged environment and technically difficult situation
- How to focus and maintain composure
- Trust your instincts when quick decisions are necessary

The members of the team, Poseidon's Chariots, included:

### Darby Township School
- Steven Williams – 8th grade
- Kromoh Mansalay – 7th grade
- Cheyenne Phillips – 7th grade
- Robert Dowell – 6th grade

### Delcroft School
- Ethan Sears – 8th grade
- Isis Sueksagan – 8th grade
- Phi Tang – 8th grade
- Jordon McGowan – 6th grade
**Harris School**
Kianne Allen-Rodriguez – 8th grade
Ajanie Hires – 6th grade

**Sharon Hill School**
Amauri Hart-Banks – 7th grade
Ibrahim Kamara – 7th grade
Dai-Quan Bryan – 6th grade
Dianne Pierre – 6th grade

**Apprentices:** Riley Macafee, Zoie Gatewood, David Hagan, Alexandria Thomas, Aya Laassel, Ghita Laassel, Adriana Drones, Ariel Hare, Bryan Williams

The team will meet again in May to discuss their strengths and areas of improvement in order to successfully compete again next year. Congratulations to Poseidon's Chariots for making Southeast Delco so proud!

**Reading Olympians Compete**

For the 6th consecutive year, approximately 110 elementary students, 60 middle school students, and 11 high school students competed in the county-wide Reading Olympics Competition. To qualify, students were required to read at least 10 books from a list of 45, which means that due to this wonderful program, 171 district students read approximately 1700 books!

Students were coached by teachers and met weekly to review book summaries and perform practice rounds. The competition consisted of three rounds of 40 questions based on the books read. Students from all over Delaware County descended on Springton Lake Middle School to participate in the 3 hour competition. This year, many Southeast Delco parents attended the Reading Olympics program. The district provided busing, bagged dinners, and tee shirts for the event.

At the end of the evening, with tallies of scores completed, each team received a blue, red, or white ribbon for their participation. Our students did well and won some, tied some, and lost some.

However, each student is a winner for all of the stories enjoyed, vocabulary learned, sportsmanship, and pure fun of being a qualified student in a challenging academic event. We are grateful for the teachers who attended to chaperone each of the 13 teams, as well as teachers who kept score and served as moderators.

**District Musical Celebrates 40 Years of Tradition**

This year, Southeast Delco School District celebrates the 40th production of the annual District Musical so we're pulling out all the stops and performing the high-flying musical *Peter Pan*. And YES, the students WILL FLY!

District students in grades 5-12 will perform in the cast, stage crew, tech crew, and orchestra. Each year they work hard to bring the best show possible and this year is no exception. The set is amazing, the costumes are spot on, and the singing, music, and dancing will have you running off to Never Never Land.
Tickets purchased in advance are $8 for adults and $7 for students. Children ages 2-12 are $6 for the matinee shows or $10 if they attend the "Neverland Party" at 12:00 on matinee days. The party includes a child's ticket for the 1:30 show, Neverland snacks, games, and meet and greets with Captain Hook, Peter, Wendy and other Neverland characters.

Tickets purchased at the door for all shows and ages are $10. Show dates are 7:30 PM on Friday, May 8th, Saturday, May 9th, Friday, May 15th, Saturday, May 16th, and 1:30 PM on Saturday, May 9th & Sunday, May 17th. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early, especially if you plan to buy your ticket at the door. The box office will open 1 hour prior to curtain time. You can purchase tickets on-line at www.sedelcomusical.com/tickets.html. We hope to see you in Neverland!!

**Academy Park High School**

Academy Park senior George Wilkins was voted the school's All Delco Hi-Q member by his teammates and was honored at the annual Partners in Education Celebration sponsored by Delaware County Intermediate Unit and Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union.

During the season's highly competitive Hi-Q matches, George answered several questions and was dedicated to studying physics, mathematics, and world history throughout the season. George diligently attended study sessions in preparation for the matches, while also participating in various other extracurricular activities, including Interact Club, technical crew, Rising Scholars, and the district musical. George was a valuable asset to the Academy Park High School Hi-Q team and will be sorely missed next year. We wish George success in his future academic endeavors!

**Omega Knights Volunteer at MS Walk**

The Omega Knights volunteered at the Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Philadelphia on May 2nd. They assisted people before the walk, encouraged people during the walk, and handed out hundreds of medals as people passed the finish line. While they worked diligently, they were also able to meet people from all over the Delaware Valley, including the Fox 29 News team.

**Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)**

PSSA testing dominated the month of April at Southeast Delco School District. Testing began with students in grades 3 - 8 taking the English / Language Arts assessments and ended with Science testing for students in grades 4 and 8. The testing took place over 3 weeks in April and each of the district's grades 1 - 8 schools provided programs and activities to motivate students and help them maintain their focus throughout the process.

**Darby Township School**

**The Fun Side of PSSA**

The Friday before PSSA testing, Darby Township Home and School sponsored a program by the YOJO Company for all grades 3 - 8 students. YOJO presented an entertaining and informative program that provided best test taking strategies, best behaviors during the test, and ways to prepare for the test in terms of attitude, rest, and nutrition.
For additional motivation, students were able to earn tickets based on their behavior during the test, the effort they demonstrated while taking the test, their attendance, and being on time and ready for the challenge. At the end of each testing day, tickets were raffled off for gift cards, headphones, and iPods.

Opportunities were also provided for fun with physical activities. Teachers Ms. Bennett and Mrs. Stephens organized student / teacher basketball and King Pin games. DTS staff and students enjoyed both events and under the supervision of Mr. Breithaupt, were treated to soft pretzels and water ice at an end of testing celebration.

New Book Club at DTS

In an effort to promote literacy throughout the school, DTS reading specialists Nicole Bourque and Mary Cait Fogel introduced a book club. The first book presented was *The Silent Sister* and students and staff met before school for a group discussion. The book of choice for May is *The Girl on the Train*, a psychological thriller that received rave reviews.

Delcroft School

PSSA Power Up

The students and staff at Delcroft School created a variety of upbeat, spirited activities and themes to bolster enthusiasm for the completion of the PSSAs. Special themes for each day were created for all students in grades 1-8. *We are Red-y* for the test encouraged students to wear red shirts or pants, *Dress for Success* gave them an opportunity to demonstrate their career choice by wearing the correlating attire, and for *It is a Team Effort* students wore sports themed shirts.
On the day prior to the start of the PSSAs all students participated in a pep rally. This year, each grade chose a grade level theme color to wear, created inspirational banners or signs, and developed a chant or song focusing on the importance of doing their best on the test. Each grade then displayed their theme and performed their chant or cheer for the entire school.

Examples of the chants included the YMCA song, recreated to focus on the PSSA, *The Sky is the Limit*, which included student made streamers, and the lyrics for *We Will Rock You* were changed into *We Will Rock the PSSAs*.

Students also participated in the *Who Gets the Pie* fundraiser by purchasing a vote for 25 cents. The staff member with the most votes got a pie in their face during the pep rally. This year’s lucky winner was Delcroft Principal, Mrs. Ray. Students in all grade levels enjoyed the festivities and were pumped-up and ready to do their best on the test.

**Harris School**

**Harris Represents at Reading Olympics**

Harris School students in grades 4 and 5 participated in the county-wide Reading Olympics at Springfield Lake Middle School. The group was directed by teachers Toni Benson, Kathy Amadeo-Damico, Dolores Monzo, and Kelsey DeStevens. The students prepared for the competition for months and held a mock Olympics at Harris School that included teams from Sharon Hill, Darby Township, and Delcroft Schools. The students were given books to read in preparation for the competition, and according to the teachers, their preparation paid off. The teams were awarded a blue and a white ribbon for their efforts and represented Harris School and the Southeast Delco School District commendably.

**Harris School Reading Olympics Teams**

**Team 1 - Mrs. Benson**

Jamir Anderson  
Abrianna Bennett  
Ce'Yonna Black  
Nylah Clark-Nelson  
Laila Lewis  
Kassidy Lopez  
Miciah Malachi-Anderson  
Owen Nelson  
Zedekiah Odallo  
Jovan Sam  
Reem Tanae  
Kayla Tubbs

**Team 2 - Miss Monzo**

Saadiq Anderson-Frink  
Bree Ashby  
Cameron Brodley  
Bianca Brown  
Alex Freocre  
Hasina Gooden  
Breanna Ha  
Hadj Kanneh  
Mariam Mansaray  
Nasir Miller  
Funto Olatona  
Chamara Whitley

**Sharon Hill School**

**PSSA Spirit Week**

Sharon Hill School students were motivated to do their best during this year’s PSSA testing through a variety of activities and events that were held during the week prior to PSSA administration. The week of activities was kicked off with an assembly / pep rally presented by No Puff Daddy, who communicated the importance of a nutritious breakfast during testing.
Each day had a different theme and students dressed in fashions that illustrated each premise. Themes included, *We’re Gonna Sock It to the Test, Hats Off to Us as We Take the Test*, and *Let’s Take Our Scores to the 70's, 80's, and Higher.*

**Spotlight on Sharon Hill Staff Members**

Congratulations go out to three Sharon Hill staff members who were recently recognized and honored by various community organizations. First grade teacher, Jennifer Teehan received the Franklin Mint Excellence in Teaching Award, building aide, Elyanore Davies was honored by Vashti, and guidance counselor Taryn Conroy received the Making a Difference Award.

**PSSA Info / Family Bingo Night**

Sharon Hill School and student council hosted a PSSA Info / Bingo Night. Information about the PSSAs was provided to parents, and just for fun, followed up with Bingo. Winners went home with Wawa gift cards.
Kindergarten students and teachers traveled to Camden, New Jersey's Adventure Aquarium in April. The students enjoyed touching starfish, sting rays, and baby sharks. They had the opportunity to walk through a shark tunnel and experience a shark cage simulation. The students had a wonderful time and continued to discuss marine life in their science lessons throughout the week.