

CHIEF'S REPORT

PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Jason Lester, Principal

April 2015

MESSAGE FROM MR. LESTER

It is said, "April showers bring May flowers." I hope that old adage holds true to form. We have seen our share of rain this month; however, it still remains BRIGHT as ever inside PHS. We returned well rested from Spring Break, immediately bouncing back into action. The PARCC EOY has been operating smoothly throughout with little to no technical difficulties. As the 3rd MP ended, students were updated on our school goals. We informed them that academic performance is up, discipline is going down, and students/staff are involved more than ever before.

Parents, please help us by reminding your children that their attire needs to be in line with our student dress code. We look to a GREAT finish of the school year.

To find out more about PHS students and the State of the Empire, you must read on.

Strength & Honor

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

PHS STUDENT FEATURED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

Robert Justino is an 18 year old senior at Piscataway High School. He is being featured in a *New York Times* article pertaining to his participation on three swim teams. He is an avid swimmer and is dedicated to making life better for others around him. Currently, he swims on the Piscataway High School team, Scarlett Aquatics team and the Hammerheads swim team. Robert is also a member of the Rivercrest swim club. He strives to be the "fastest swimmer" and hopes to be "faster than Michael Phelps, one day." Robert is committed to doing his best in whatever activity he engages.



PHS HAPPENINGS

ETHICS DEBATE

Senior, Cameron Moy, received an honorable mention (along with \$250) for his ethical debate submission to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The focus of Cameron's debate submission is *Net Neutrality*.

Close to ninety entries from around the country were submitted; only twelve received awards.

Cameron remains an integral member and Captain of our Ethics Debate Team, and he is also the leader of our Philosophy Club.

Congratulations, Cameron!

AFJROTC WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP DRILL COMPETITION

Congratulations to our AFJROTC cadets who competed in the AFJROTC Washington Township Drill Competition on April 25. They had a great weekend with outstanding results!!

1st Place
Armed Exhibition
Armed Dual Exhibition
Armed Inspection
Unarmed Inspection
OVERALL ARMED

2nd Place
Armed Solo

3rd Place
Armed Regulation
Unarmed Regulation
Unarmed Dual Exhibition



VISITORS TO OUR CHEMISTRY CLASSES

Croda, an Edison-based specialty chemical manufacturer with plants and offices in Pennsylvania and Delaware, offers an Outreach program with local school districts. This company is approached by major companies that produce shampoos, lotions, etc., and is asked to formulate an ingredient that will have a specific purpose. Over the last several years, Janet Mrotek has contacted Croda to come to several Chemistry classrooms at Piscataway High School for as many days as they can be spared. This year Croda was nice enough to spend three days with us visiting 5 different chemistry teachers and sharing their program with over 250 students. These employees shared a PowerPoint about their company and the products that they produce and sell to other companies. They also shared with our students different careers in the chemical field and how they personally got to this point in their life. These employees are young students, fresh from college, completing a 2-year rotation in different departments, i.e. marketing, research and development, and environmental. They spend about 8 months in 3 different locations.

Erica Addonzio, Hannah Kronenwetter, and Nathan Grande came to Piscataway High School on April 14, 15, and 16 to present to our chemistry classes. At the end of their presentation, they engaged our students in the making of soap. They brought enough product and materials for all our students to take away a sample of their work. Students walked away with the idea that there is more to chemistry than working with chemicals or working in a lab situation.



Pictured: Boys in back: Nathan Grande (Croda), Eric Singh (10th grade), Tristan Rumble (11th grade)
Girls in front: Erica Addonzio (Croda), Hannah Kronenwetter (Croda), Olivia Greene (10th grade), and Jasmine Spann (10th grade)

CONGRESSIONAL ART AWARDS

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

Only 18 pieces of artwork were selected for this year's juried exhibit. Piscataway High School visual arts students received 5 of the 18 awards! Mrs. Lentini-Pombrio's student, Christian Zelaya received 1st Place. His artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year, along with winning pieces by students around the country. Mrs. Amme's students, Nikki Bustillo received 2nd Place and Kimberly Nguyen received 3rd Place. Priyanka Malhotra and Jocelyn Deleon both received Honorable Mention and are also Mrs. Amme's students. All the students were honored at the Sixth Congressional District Spring Awards Ceremony at Rutgers University.



Christian Zelaya - 1st Place



Nikki Bustillo – 2nd Place



Kimberly Nguyen – 3rd Place



Priyanka Malhotra – Honorable Mention



Jocelyn Deleon – Honorable Mention



ROBOTICS

On Monday, April 13, 2015, the Robotics team sponsored guest speakers from Picatinny Arsenal ARDEC (Armament Research Development Center). The program was open to all Piscataway High School students after school, and many students from Technology and Science classes were in attendance.

Dr. V. Swaminathan shared with the students some of the team's technical research regarding high strength nano-tube films, super sensitive thermo sensors derived from insects, and non contact, non invasive human heart monitoring. Also present, Dr. Aisha Haynes, an ARDEC engineer and PHS parent, and Mr. Jean Patrick Antoine, Rutgers University Assistant Dean, Enrichment Programs.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT COMPETES IN DISNEY WORLD, WITH GREAT SUCCESS!

On April 15th-20th, 130 high school band and choir students, 21 parent chaperones and 3 music directors traveled by way of a 22-hour bus ride to Disney World. The award-winning Superchiefs marched down Main Street USA in The Magic Kingdom. Their parade performance was both exhilarating and professional. The choir competed with high schools from all over the country in Festival Disney. Their outstanding performance awarded them a Superior Rating, Best in Class and Bronze Overall! All groups participated in workshops lead by Disney professionals. The workshops provided once-in-a-lifetime authentic learning opportunities. Band students performed the score to the stampede scene from the Lion King, choir students recorded a Lion King medley and received audition tips, and our color guard learned routines to three different Disney pieces! Once again the Piscataway music department had a successful and memorable learning experience.

M.C. FOODS 2015 ANNUAL SPRING FOOD DRIVE

Due to the hard work of many of our students, parents, and faculty, The Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services received about 200 pounds of food and necessities. The items collected will replenish the organization's shelves and help them to meet the increasing demands for emergency food throughout the County.

THE PWAY 5K

The Pway 5K took place on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at Piscataway High School. The Piscataway Education Foundation sponsored the event to raise money for the Class of 2015's Project Graduation. This year we exceeded our numbers from the past and had over 850 registered runners and walkers, with an additional 100 student and adult volunteers lined along the race route. Prior to the start of the race, studio owner Shirley Lopez from Burn Fitness led our participants in a Zumba warm-up workout, dancing to songs played by our volunteer DJs Mr. and Mrs. Tuvera from their company JC2VRA. Junior student, Dvorah Southland sang the National Anthem and our Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Ranelli welcomed our participants as they lined up to begin the race.

The race started at 9:00 am and our winner, 25 year old Stephen Mennitt, crossed the finish line at 16m19sec. Our top adult female, Jillian Pollack, finished in 19m14sec. The two high school winners: Tiger Li and Crystal Ortiz finished in 19m33sec and 18m47sec, respectively. In our youth category, Lynn Diaz's son, Brandon Diaz, finished second overall and first in his age category, at 17m17sec, his personal record to date. Our female youth participant, 12 year old Kaitlin Napoli finished in 24m48sec.

When the participants crossed the finish line, they were given water and food refreshments such as bananas, granola bars, pastries, muffins, and sandwiches donated by Snapple, Jimmy Johns, Partner's Realty Group, La Bonbonniere, PHS faculty members and our NHS students. The participants also enjoyed a leg massage from masseuses at Essential Healing.

The event overall was a huge success and we want to send a special thank you to our sponsor vendors who attended the race including Burn Fitness, Max of Piscataway, Affinity Credit Union, Doctors Express, European Wax Center, Essential Healing, Jimmy Johns, Smoothie King and Kona Ice. We would also like to thank our faculty and student volunteers, including the Piscataway Youth Soccer team who "manned" our water station at the mid-way point.

For those who participated in the event and would like to look up your time, please click on the following link: http://www.racingnj.com/files/2015_pway_5k_overall_finish.htm.



TEACHER FEATURE

By Nadyne Perlin

My climbing team, The Regulars, began in 2005 to mount one of the grandest, most physically demanding, and exciting campaigns to get the word out to promote the need for two cures. We are committed to climbing 10 mountains in 10 years and by virtue of our efforts, raise general awareness for Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease. In 2006 we began our journey on the highest peak in continental Europe, Mont Blanc. Collectively, our route around the globe will be named "A Trail Called Hope." Our Expeditions will be in honor of the families who are directly impacted, the people who provide services to those affected, and those who battle to find a cure. We are regular people who decided to make a positive impact on the world around us. In

2010, our climb of Mount Kilimanjaro was turned into a documentary film narrated by Anne Hathaway. The film, 10 Mountains 10 Years, was shown at film festivals around the country. This summer we will continue climbing on Mount Etna, in Italy. This cause is very dear to my heart as my father suffered from Parkinson's Disease for 12 years before passing away in 2012. I do this not only in hope to find a cure, but in his honor.



IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 1 & 2 – Dance Performances, 7 pm, PAC
- May 8 – Spring Choir Concert, 7 pm, PAC
- May 15 – Talent Show, 7 pm, PAC
- May 19 – National Honor Society Induction, 6 pm, PAC
- May 20 – Band and Orchestra Concert, 6 pm, PAC
- May 21 – Battle of the Classes, 3:30 pm, East Gym
- May 28 – World Languages Honor Society Induction, 6 pm, PAC
- May 29 – ICCA Show, 7 pm, PAC
- June 2 – Senior Athletic Awards Banquet, 6:30 pm, Pines Manor
- June 3 – Senior Awards Night, 6 pm, PAC



APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!