

CHIEF'S REPORT

PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Jason Lester, Principal

January 2017

MESSAGE FROM MR. LESTER



HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our family members throughout the Piscataway Community. I am excited to say that we are off to an **OUTSTANDING** start to 2017. We closed out 2016 with a staff ugly sweater contest, and I'd like to express my sheer gratitude to all of the staff members who participated in the festivities - job well done by all. Mr. Metting, pictured left, best embodied the spirit of the season.

On January 11th we hosted the annual Piscataway High School Experience for our 8th grade students and their parents. We had a tremendous turnout while showcasing our school and all of our exceptional course offerings and extracurricular activities. The positive feedback we receive each year is a true testament of what Piscataway High School is all about. The night would not have been possible if we did not have the strong support of students, teachers, staff members, and administrators who came together to showcase the academic prowess and talents of our diverse school population. We continue to build for a **BRIGHT** future one student at a time.

Strength & Honor

PHS HAPPENINGS

AFJROTC



Cadets of Piscataway High School AFJROTC participated in the Piscataway Pepsi Bottling Group employee MLK Celebration on January 13, 2017. Cadets led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, then performed the National Anthem, read the poem "Standing Tall" by Jamie McKenzie, and sang "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong and "Freedom" by Pharrell Williams.

ATHLETICS NEWS

The PHS Boys Winter Track Team placed 4th in the Middlesex County Indoor Track and Field Championships held this month in Toms River. Justin Peace was a Middlesex County Champion in the High Jump with a leap of 6`4". Eddie Castro placed 4th in the pole vault with an 11 ft. vault. Jared Halsey placed 6th in the high jump and 6th in the pole vault with marks of 5`10" and 10`6", respectively. Rahul Tanna placed 4th in the 1600 M run in 4:34 and placed 4th in the 3200 M run in 9:57. The mile relay team consisting of Larry McCullum, Brent Bowers, Jared Halsey and Jalen Racine finished 6th in 3:37. Congratulations to all!

PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



On Wednesday, January 11, we held our annual Piscataway High School Experience. Each year we invite 8th grade students and their families to the high school to learn about the multitude of course offerings and extracurricular activities we provide at the high school. Mr. Lester stopped by the "Curriculum Corner's" GenEn table and practiced pipetting a "sample or DNA" (water with food coloring) from a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube into an Agarose gel using a P20 pipet. He was assisted by students Kamil Skup and Nikita Koura; 2 of the 3 student co-leaders of the GenEn Team. Good job, Mr. Lester.

FBLA NEWS

PHS FBLA & “Friends” Visit MLK SCHOOL TO TEACH FINANCIAL LITERACY



Dr. Alex Gray, principal of Martin Luther King Intermediate School, partnered with PHS FBLA to make MLK the first P'way school to participate in the Junior Achievement (JA) High School Heroes program. Over 40 high school volunteers, after hours of preparation and practice, taught standards-aligned lessons to over 20 classrooms full of eager learners in 4th and 5th grades. JA provided materials and training for this terrific program that earned “thumbs up” from all involved. Their hope is to reach all the K-8 schools in the District throughout the year. Special thanks to Keith Guarino, Practical Arts Department Chair, for championing this endeavor.

Junior Achievement/Rutgers Business School Entrepreneurship Workshop



Over a dozen PHS FBLA members attended an entrepreneurship workshop sponsored by Junior Achievement, in partnership with the Rutgers Business School on Livingston Campus. The day started with a motivating presentation by a local entrepreneur, followed by breakout sessions on entrepreneurship.

2016-17 Junior Achievement Titan® Competition



After weeks of competing against over 500 teams state-wide, PHS FBLA sent 13 teams to the semi-final round of Junior Achievement's TITAN competition, held at premier corporate locations around Central and Northern New Jersey. TITAN is a business simulation where members make pricing, R&D, and other decisions, and a computer-run algorithm compares them other teams' to determine a performance index (PI). The team with the highest PI wins. We're thrilled that Adam Liang, Kunal Thakker, and Adam Nathoo (a/k/a "Team AKA") earned a spot in the final round where the top prize is \$1000. In addition to the competition, teams heard from top executives and other managers at the host companies on selecting colleges, choosing majors, and developing relationships that will lead to careers.

Rotary Club of Piscataway Hosts Business Plan Simulation Competition



For too many years to count, the Rotary Club of Piscataway has hosted a Business Plan Competition in the PHS Library. Over 20 participating students, working in teams with volunteer Rotarians serving as advisors, purchase a business, learn to analyze a profit and loss (P&L) statement, and make difficult decisions. The competition ends with presentations to actual bankers from the Piscataway area, who decide which team has the most viable plan. Graduates of this event have gone on to win state- and national-level awards at FBLA competitions. Rotary “regulars” at this event include Fred Cassaday, PHS alumna Nancy Ostrowski, P’way Library Director James Keebler, and Piscataway Schools Superintendent Teresa Rafferty. PHS FBLA truly values the decades-long relationship with Rotary, who does many terrific things with and for the P’way community.

MATHEMATICS NEWS

Continental Calculus Contest

Congratulations to Birju Dhaduk and Kunal Thakker. They each achieved a perfect score on December’s Continental Calculus Contest. Birju also achieved a perfect score on December’s New Jersey Math League Contest. Additionally, Kunal achieved a perfect score on December’s American Scholastic Math League Contest. Great job!!

NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

Ikjot Tagore, 12th grade, was selected as a 2017 National Honorable Mention winner of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. She was one of only 14 students selected from New Jersey and this means she will also be a state level winner. Ikjot was also one of only a few NJ students selected from non-magnet public schools. Congratulations, Ikjot!

DISNEY MARATHON



This month was very special in Disney - Piscataway school district students participated in the 5K and the 10K Disney Marathon in order to raise research money for Duchene’s Muscular Dystrophy. Student participates from PHS were Emma Broggi, Ashley Eodice, and Kiara Harris (pictured above). Conackamack Middle School

entrants were Mia Harris, John Napoli, Kaitlin Napoli, Alexis Broggi, and Allison Eodice. Their parents (all PHS alumni) ran the full Dopey Challenge, which took place over the course of four days.

These children and parents raised more than \$80,000.00 for research to find a cure for Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy. They RUN because THE BOYS cannot run...We commend all the participants and are proud of their accomplishments.

A new drug for testing was released this year. Hopefully Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy will someday be forever eradicated.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

NJ Science Olympiad Competition



Piscataway High School's Science Olympiads placed 9th out of 24 competing Schools in the New Jersey Science Olympiad Competition! The following students listed below earned individual medals:



- Jovan Snyder, and Isaac Nathoo: 5th Place for Astronomy
- Aracelly Almerzo, and Catherine Wang: 4th Place for Disease Detectives
- Catherine Wang, and Grace Tan: 6th Place for Electric Vehicle
- Manan Brambhatt, and Neelay Patel: 6th Place for Game On

Neelay Patel and Birju Dhaduk were close to a medal with 7th Place for Chemistry Lab.

Congratulations to those students who earned medals and to the entire team!

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Art Educators of New Jersey Early Winter Exhibit

Nina Gabriel and Mariah Pierre had their artwork selected for the Art Educators of New Jersey Early Winter Exhibit at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Their artwork is part of a 30-piece exhibit that is hung in the Victoria Theater Lobby displaying K-12 artwork from around the state. Over 6,000 visitors to NJPAC will see their artwork while it is on display.

2017 Art Educators of New Jersey Youth Art Month Design Competition

Congratulations to Emma Broggi! Emma's design for the 2017 Art Educators of New Jersey Youth Art Month Design Competition was chosen as one of the six winning entries. The Art Educators of New Jersey join other state art organizations to participate in the YAM Design Competition each year to highlight the importance of art in our school and community. Emma's artwork will be featured on a billboard in New Jersey and will be displayed at the New Jersey State YAM Reception in Trenton on March, where she will receive an award.

Region 2 Ensembles

Two PHS music students were accepted into Region 2 ensembles. Auditions were held on Saturday, December 10th. Annie Wang (gr. 9) Clarinet – was accepted into the Region 2 Symphonic Band. This was Annie's first year auditioning for the high school region bands and beat out over 50 other clarinetists in the region. Catherine Wang (gr. 12) Flute - was accepted into both the Wind Ensemble and the Orchestra. Catherine had the 3rd highest score out of 100 flutes that auditioned.

STAFF NEWS

Three Principles of Teaching and Learning In-Service



On January 24th and 25th roughly 22 teachers participated in a day-long workshop, “Three Principles and Learning,” with the infusion of technology, which provided research-based practices to enhance student learning through various methods. This professional development explored multiple means of engagement, multiple means of representation, and multiple means of action and expression. There will be several more training sessions with our teachers. As you can see, they were totally focused during the training session and Mr. Mazur’s raised arms show he was very excited to be a part of the session.

Mrs. Cregar-Porch Fosters Dogs

Mrs. Holly Cregar-Porch, Social Studies teacher, has a love for dogs so much so that she and her family foster dogs in need of forever homes. Below is just one of the dogs Mrs. Cregar-Porch fosters. Click on the link below to meet Tyson. If you’d like more information regarding a shelter dog or how to foster a dog, please see Mrs. Cregar-Porch.

Meet Tyson, a Petfinder adoptable Labrador Retriever Dog in South Plainfield, NJ | Petfinder.com.

<https://www.petfinder.com/petdetail/37252337>

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 4	2 nd Annual Father & Son Conference
February 6	PTSO Meeting, 7 pm, Commons
February 14	Valentine’s Day
February 20	Presidents’ Day – School Closed
February 28	PHS Athletic Booster Meeting, 7 pm

