

CHIEF'S REPORT

PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Jason Lester, Principal

March 2017

MESSAGE FROM MR. LESTER



North America's Largest Leprechan

We have had a tremendous month celebrating Women's History Month. The members of L.I.F.T. (Ladies of Inspiration, Fortitude, and Talent) were able to provide the students and staff with an inspirational reading about GREAT women in American History.

Our sister school in Barcelona, Spain, visited us during the middle of the month. Their visit began with a welcome reception, and Mrs. Rafferty, Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Lopez, Vice President of the Board of Education, had an opportunity to provide warm greetings to the students and teachers of Barcelona. The Lopez family graciously hosted a Barcelona student.

Our PTSO set another record at our annual Tricky Tray, raising over \$17,000...some say it must have been the luck of the Irish, but I know it was all the hard work and dedication of the PTSO on behalf of the students and staff of PHS. Absolutely an OUTSTANDING job and teamwork! I want to say THANK YOU to all that made this an AWESOME event. If you donated time, gifts, and/or participated in the event itself, it is deeply appreciated.

Please make sure that you read the important PARCC information posted in the virtual backpack - it is critical to our success.

Please read on to find out more about PHS.

PHS HAPPENINGS

PHS MATH TEAM – PERFECT SCORES

The PHS Math Team had a great February with 6 students achieving perfect scores on various Math contests.

- Nicholas Bagwandeem, Isaac Nathoo, & Rudra Shah each achieved a perfect score on the Continental Calculus Contest.
- Catherine Wang and Bhunit Patel each achieved a perfect score on the New Jersey Math League Contest.
- Birju Dhaduk achieved a perfect score on the American Scholastic Math League Contest.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

MIDDLESEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS HONOREES



On Wednesday, March 1, 11th grade Alison Kuderka (pictured left) and 12th grade Ash Interdonato (pictured right), were honored at the 32nd Annual Middlesex County School Boards Association of School Administrators dinner. Each year two students from every Middlesex County school are brought together to be recognized for their hard work, achievement and exemplary character. This is a prestigious honor and we congratulate Alison and Ash on this outstanding achievement!

ATHLETICS

Wrestling State Championship Tournament





Recently, some of our wrestlers competed in the NJSIAA individual region tournament. Among those wrestlers, the Chiefs had 4 advance to the NJSIAA state tournament by placing in the top 4 in their weight class in the region tournament. Those who did so were Samuel Rogers who placed 4th at 220 lbs, Nick Recine who placed 3rd at 170 lbs, along with Michael Petite and Joseph Hatcher who both placed 2nd at 160 and 152 lbs. While down at the state championship tournament, Nick Recine made it to the second round of wrestling, Samuel Rogers finished in the top 16, Joseph Hatcher finished in the top 12 and Michael Petite placed 4th in the state of NJ at the 160 pound weight class. The coaches cannot be more proud of the outcome of these athletes' hard work and look forward to continuing the Piscataway Wrestling winning tradition next season.

Winter Sports Awards Night



On Tuesday, March 7, our 2017 Winter Sports Awards Night was held. The PHS Athletic Booster Club supplied the beautiful awards and refreshments for the night. Each team was introduced with a short video of pictures from the season produced by Ms. Pascullo and our TV production department. The teams were asked to come to the front of the stage where each coach discussed the accolades of the season as well as honor the Most Improved Player and the Most Valuable Player of the season. After each head coach and team received their awards, parents and athletes were asked to enjoy some refreshments and proceed to the individual recognition of each player associated with each team by the coaches. We would like to thank the Booster Club for supplying all the great awards and refreshments for this wonderful event. Congratulations to all the athletes!

Chiefs' Softball Clinic, written by Junior P/OF Caitlyn Erdman



For three weeks the varsity softball team ran an instructional clinic. Partnering with the PHS PTSO and Zoned Sports Academy, the players worked with girls from third through eighth grade to teach participants the fundamentals of softball and have some fun while doing it. The idea first came to Caitlyn Erdman, a junior on the team, when she saw other high schools doing clinics in their towns and she realized that it could be a great tool to build the program in the community. With the help of her teammates and her mom, she proposed the idea to the PTSO and PHS Principal, Mr. Lester. The PTSO approved of and generously agreed to donate a \$500 grant for supplies. Then she turned to Zoned, Inc., the training facility where she and her teammates went for winter workouts, and even for private lessons. The owner of this facility, Duke Baxter, was completely supportive and donated a trainer from his staff to be with the team for each session and help them teach the young girls.

The three sessions brought in over 25 girls who were ready to learn. Along with her teammates, Jessica Alicea, Carly Bressler, Taylor Maher, Jen Majorczak, Ariana Percivale, and Ella Posada, the girls focused on improving their basic hitting, throwing, and fielding skills and worked their way up to pitching and catching. This clinic was a great way to spark interest, excitement, and hopefully a love of the game.

Varsity Softball Coach Lauren Straube Scinto said "I couldn't be more proud to coach this team. As I was hired I learned that Caitlyn Erdman had organized these clinics and that they were completely player driven. I was proud of these girls before I was even their coach. I have no doubt that they will continue to impress myself and the community by their talent, passion and drive."

GO CHIEFS!

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The Business Department Presentation went very well last year, but Mrs. Leacy wanted to "up the ante." The assemblies were MC'd by our very own Radio DJ, Xay and Mrs. Leacy. They began the assembly with a clip from Shark Tank. Students quickly took their seats hearing the buzz about special performances throughout the assembly. Seniors show-cased their talents while Mrs. Leacy, Seniors, and Radio DJ introduced each course. After they described all of our Business Course offerings, Isaiah J and Zach S shared their special talent of music (a bit of rap and beatbox), followed by our very own, soon-to-be "famous", Ahmen L (also

known as BabyFace Kobe). Students cheered and left very excited about the assembly. This is one assembly where most, if not all students will remember what the Business Department has to offer.

PHS FBLA MAKES SUCCESS AT 2017 STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



On the heels of a near-blizzard, on Wednesday, March 15th, 35 dedicated and committed PHS FBLA members walked into Atlantic City's Waterfront Conference Center, brimming with excitement and knowledge about business plans, accounting concepts, and more, ready to do battle with over 2,300 others from around New Jersey. We are thrilled to share that we had 26 PLACERS at the 2017 SLC!

The top 4 placers in each event automatically qualify to compete at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California, at the end of June. Those who placed outside the top 4 can move up if others drop out.

1ST PLACE:

Battle of the Chapters - Neelay Patel/Catherine Wang/Chelsea Wong
Local Chapter Annual Business Report - Catherine Wang/Chelsea Wong
Network Design - Amruh Mubin/Kunal Thakker

2ND PLACE:

Community Service Project - Adam Liang/Neelay Patel/Chelsea Wong
Word Processing - Ryan Liang

3RD PLACE:

American Enterprise Project - Isaac Nathoo/Neelay Patel/Rushil Patel
Business Financial Plan - Isaac Nathoo/Neelay Patel/Rushil Patel
Future Business Leader - Chelsea Wong

4TH PLACE:

Social Media Campaign - Jadyn CA/Joanne Plaras/Annie Wang

5TH PLACE:

Business Plan - Grace Tan/Catherine Wang
Impromptu Speaking - Oona Nelson
Scrapbook - Grace Tan/Katy Selinger

Individual Recognitions:

Christopher Heider Memorial Scholarship - Chelsea Wong
Who's Who in FBLA - Chelsea Wong
Member of the Month - Jadyn Cruz-Arriaga
Gold Member - Sheel Vakil
Gold Officer - Joanne Plaras

Chapter Recognition:

3rd Honors - Outstanding Chapter
Chapter Membership Expansion
March of Dimes Fundraising Award (North Central)
Outstanding Local Chapter
Community Service Challenge
Chapter Membership Equalization Award
Chapter Website Award of Merit
Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit

AFJROTC COMPETES

On Saturday March 25, 2017, AFJROTC's drill team competed at Washington Township High School. There, the members of the drill team exhibited all of the hard work, dedication, and constant practice they have been putting in for the last few months. They competed against 13 other schools from Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. They earned a total of 8 trophies as follows:

- 2nd Place Academic Team (commanded by Cadet Major Tanya Chahal)
- 2nd Place Armed Team Exhibition (commanded by Cadet Major Tanya Chahal)
- 2nd Place Armed Dual Exhibition (commanded by Cadet Major Tanya Chahal)
- 2nd Place Armed Solo Exhibition (commanded by Cadet Major Tanya Chahal)
- 2nd Place Unarmed Team Exhibition (commanded by Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Bivi Baby)
- 3rd Place Unarmed Inspection (commanded by Cadet Senior Airman Alyssa Ruiz)
- 3rd Place Armed Regulation (commanded by Cadet Senior Airman Yusuf Rafi)
- 3rd Places Armed Varsity Colorguard (commanded by Cadet Second Lieutenant Hams Elshaikh)

Great job, cadets!

L.I.F.T. (LADIES OF INSPIRATION, FORTITUDE AND TALENT)

The members of the L.I.F.T. (Ladies of Inspiration, Fortitude, and Talent) mentoring program spent the month of March, which is Women's History Month, emphasizing the power and influence of women. During their weekly group sessions, L.I.F.T. explored complex issues facing young women today, such as recognizing one's own strengths as a woman. The members also conducted a presentation on the effects of media and advertisements on body image and beauty standards. In addition, every morning via PA announcements, the members shared the stories of numerous influential women who have made an impact, such as NASA astronaut Mae Jamison and the owner of the Colorado Rockies, Linda G. Alvarado.

ROBOTICS



Ten students created this year's robot, which is a very technical swerve-drive mechanism that gave it the ability to out maneuver other robots on the playing field. The students enjoyed the experience and wish to thank mentors Sal DeLello and Roger Blake and John Burke from MARS, INTERNATIONAL, who served as mentors throughout the process.

SCIENCE NEWS

The Pharmacy Outreach Program



On March 17, afterschool in F100, two Rutgers Pharmacy students (Priyanka Trivedi and Elizabeth Adekunle) came to PHS to host a Pharmacy High School Outreach program. This is a program that the Rutgers SNPhA (Student National Pharmacist Association) takes part in every year. They visit different high schools to talk to students about the field of pharmacy. Their goal is to educate students on what pharmacy is, how they can learn more about it, and the programs at Rutgers. At the end of the presentation students were able to ask any questions they had about pharmacy or just college in general. The goal of this program is to get more students interested in pharmacy and encourage them to consider pharmacy as a future career option. Since one of the visiting students was a former PHS graduate (Priyanka Trivedi), she was able to speak about her experiences at PHS and how she felt PHS really prepared her for college.

WATER STATION



The Health and Wellness Club, along with the Inspire Teacher Grant, have paid for three brand new water stations for the high school. Two water stations were purchased through the Inspire Teacher Grant. The third water station was purchased through a grant by the AdCap Organization. Saira Imran, alongside Mr. Awad, worked hard in writing the grant to provide the high school with the water stations. The water station provides our students with filtered cool water to drink. By having filtered, cold water more easily accessible, students are more inclined to drink water instead of bottled, sugary drinks. Two of the water stations have been installed in the East wing, one by the Anthony gym and one by the Commons. A third water station will be installed during the summer in the West wing. The students can refill their bottles with fresh filtered water as needed. Allowing students to refill their water bottles will reduce waste on the environment. In the short time that the two water stations have been installed, they have saved close to 7,000 disposable plastic bottles from being wasted.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



From February 14 until February 25, a group of our students visited Spain during the annual exchange with Sagrada Familia, Barcelona, Spain. Nineteen students, one teacher (Amarfi Herrera) and an adult chaperone stayed in the homes of Barcelona families, attended classes and visited major tourist sites. Under the guidance of Amarfi Herrera, our students prepared and rehearsed presentations for the Sagrada Familia School. The feedback on the quality of the presentations and the wonderful behavior of our students was delightful and humbling.

PTSO TRICKY TRAY





The PTSO's (Parent, Teacher, Student Organization) mission statement is to encourage family and community involvement to develop in-school and extracurricular activities for the growth and development of students and community as a whole. With our 3rd Annual tricky tray we are well on our way to achieving these goals.

With the donations from our surrounding community, corporate sponsors, and student volunteers, the PTSO will be able to continue to support and encourage the students and families of this great community.

In addition, we held several raffles and the proceeds from the Calendar Raffle and the 50/50 are being donated to two separate families. One is to help with costs associated with a senior student diagnosed with Leukemia (APML) this year and who has spent most of this school year in the hospital. The other is to a junior student's family who recently experienced a house fire and have been temporarily displaced.

PROM ALERT!!

Attention Seniors: Just prior to Spring Break, we will be posting information and forms regarding this year's Prom on our website. You will go to the PHS website where you will find the Prom letter and Contracts. Be sure to have the Contracts completed and signed prior to purchasing your Prom bids.

STAFF NEWS

Sylvia Guensch and Glennysa Jurado-Moran presented a session at the NECTFL (North East Council on Teaching Foreign Languages) Regional Conference. They had been selected as "Best of New Jersey" for their presentation at the FLENJ (Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey) Spring Conference 2016.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 3: PHS PTSO Meeting, 7 pm, Commons
April 7: End of the 3rd Marking Period
April 10 – 17: Spring Break. School Closed
April 20: AFJROTC Awards Night, 6 pm, East Wing Faculty Dining Room
April 21: Junior Class Spring Formal, 6 pm, Patton Café
April 23: Pway 5K, Athletic Field
April 25: Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, 6 pm, PAC
April 28: PHS Talent Show, 6 pm, PAC

