

CHIEF'S REPORT

PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Jason Lester, Principal

April 2017

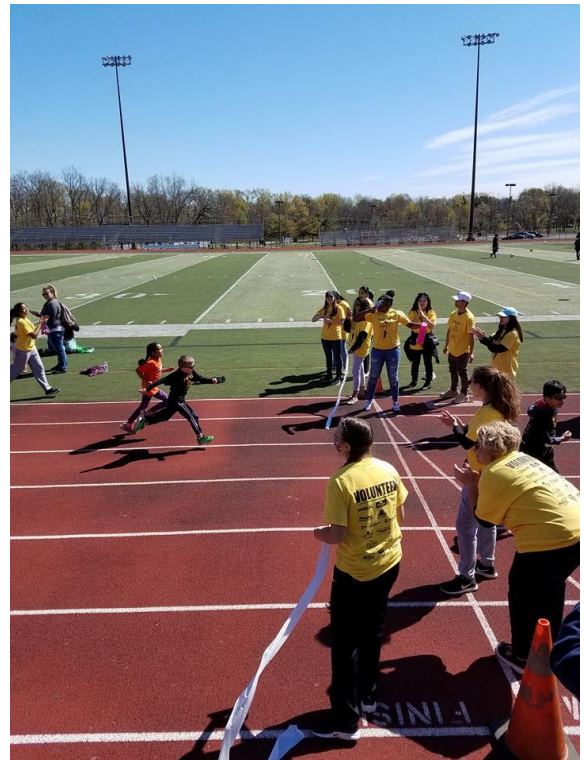
MESSAGE FROM MR. LESTER

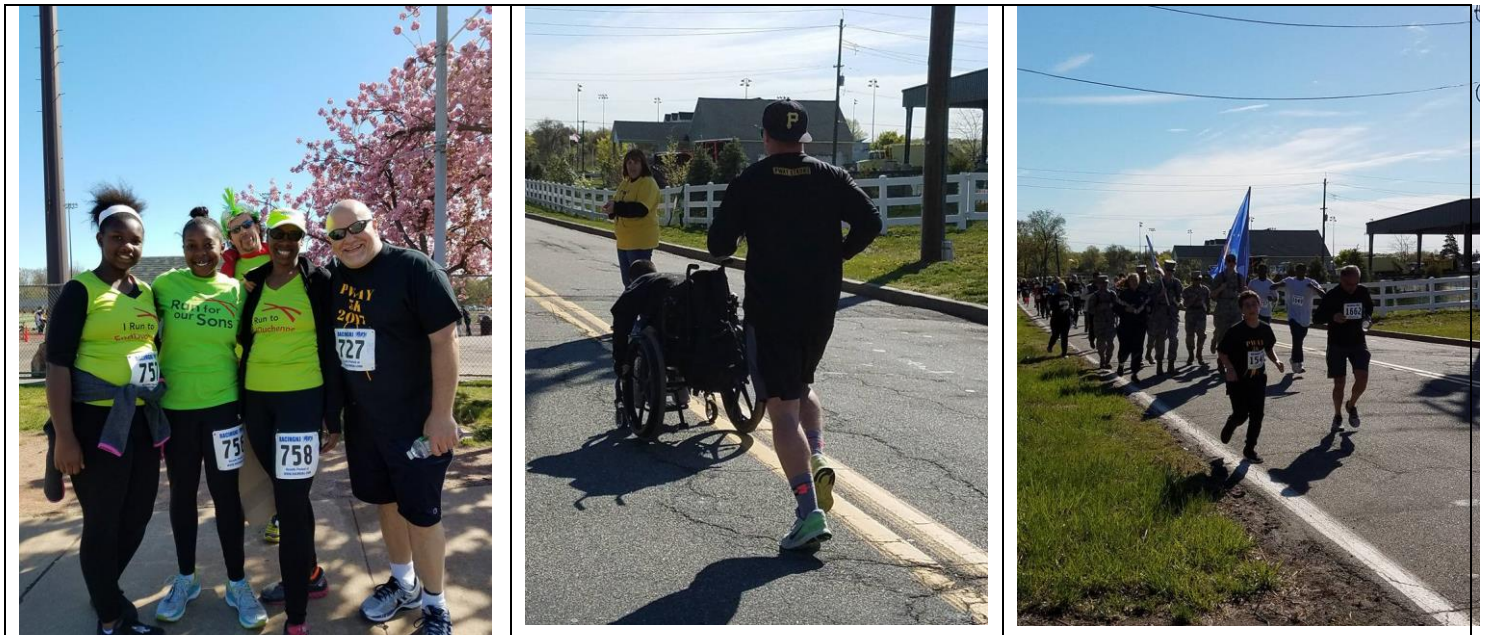
The Cherry Blossom trees all around our campus create a warm, inviting landscape of our vast EMPIRE. We have much to celebrate, starting with recharging our batteries during spring break. During that time, our Band and Color guard members competed in Boston, Massachusetts, and performed a SUPERIOR show, receiving multiple awards. Our student exchange trip to China was extremely successful. Mr. Bizzell, the cohort Assistant Principal for the World Languages Department, was our PHS diplomat who promoted the Chief's Nation and goodwill. He informed me that the trip was outstanding with great food and warm, lovely people. Throughout the month we recognized autism awareness with several events to educate our students and community. You will be amazed by the incredible student artwork that will appear in the Congressional Art Exhibit showcase...it is a must see! We rounded out the month with a nice brisk 3.2 mile run/walk, the PWAY 5K, another community event sponsored by our PTSO and many others to raise funds for project graduation. If you want to read and see more...

Strength & Honor

PHS HAPPENINGS

PISCATAWAY 5K





This year's Annual Pway 5K Run/Walk was held on April 23rd. The 5K is a community fundraising event that raises funds for Project Graduation. This year's proceeds benefit the Class of 2018. Class Advisors for the Class of 2018 and 2019 organized the event. The event hosted 475+ runners and walkers, as well as a Fun Run and babysitting services for elementary age children. 80 student volunteers and 40 staff, administration, and parent volunteers all made the event a tremendous success. The event raised over \$9,000 for next year's Project Graduation, a drug and alcohol free event to celebrate graduating seniors.

Runners were led by Piscataway's AFJROTC members carrying the Nation's flag as a DJ played music throughout the day. The overall race winner was Piscataway High School's own Junior Rahul Tanna with a race time of 17:52.2. Piscataway middle school student, Jenna Engles, won first place in the 18 and under category with a time of 25:26.2. The winners of each age group received donated gifts from local businesses who sponsored the event.

ATHLETIC NEWS

ATHLETIC SIGNINGS



Student-Athletes from left to right:

Justin McKeown – Bloomfield College, Baseball
Antonia Simunek – Rowan University, Swimming
Anthony Ciancio – Stevenson University, Football
Daniel Haus – Muhlenberg College, Football
Michael Stalenyj - University of New Haven, Football
Terrell Hagans – Norwich University, Football (not present)

Coaches from left to right:

Kenny Walker, Noelle Hartje, Scott Foglyano, Dan Higgins, Jamie Marsh, Gerry Wilson, Terrance Fox

On Wednesday, April 19, six student/athletes signed college admission commitments, meaning their excellent academic and athletic performance earned them a scholarship to an institution of higher learning. This was the third signing day this year; with now over 20 upcoming graduates going on to play collegiate sports, a feat that includes only about four percent of high school graduates in the country.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping our student-athletes achieve this recognition.

Best wishes to these student-athletes!

IMPROV SHOW



The Improv Show was a huge success! We raised \$202.08 for Saint Jude Children's Hospital. The students did a magnificent job. They had the audience laughing and cheering all night! Shout out to senior students Emily Rider and Julia Gilleece who directed/coordinated/hosted the event as their Senior Project. Both students were professional, organized, and positive throughout the entire process. The cast included the following students: James Barton, Austin Boland, Chayne Cooper, Evan Dickinson, Michael Dickinson, Reese Garcia, Emily Harding, Justin Harris, Kristian Mann, Carl Harmsen, Xander Mitchell, Jay Nash, Diya Patel, and Marcos Perez-Lucos.

Thanks to all who helped make this event the success it was.

MATHEMATICS NEWS

The NJDOE notified the district that it is being recognized as part of this year's NJ State Board of Education's Special Recognition Ceremony on May 17th for the work done through the Achievement Coaches Program. This annual program spotlights the outstanding achievements by schools and individual students. High School mathematics teacher, Julia Cabrero, will be accepting the award on behalf of the district along with administrators Daniel Ross and Jennifer Sernotti.

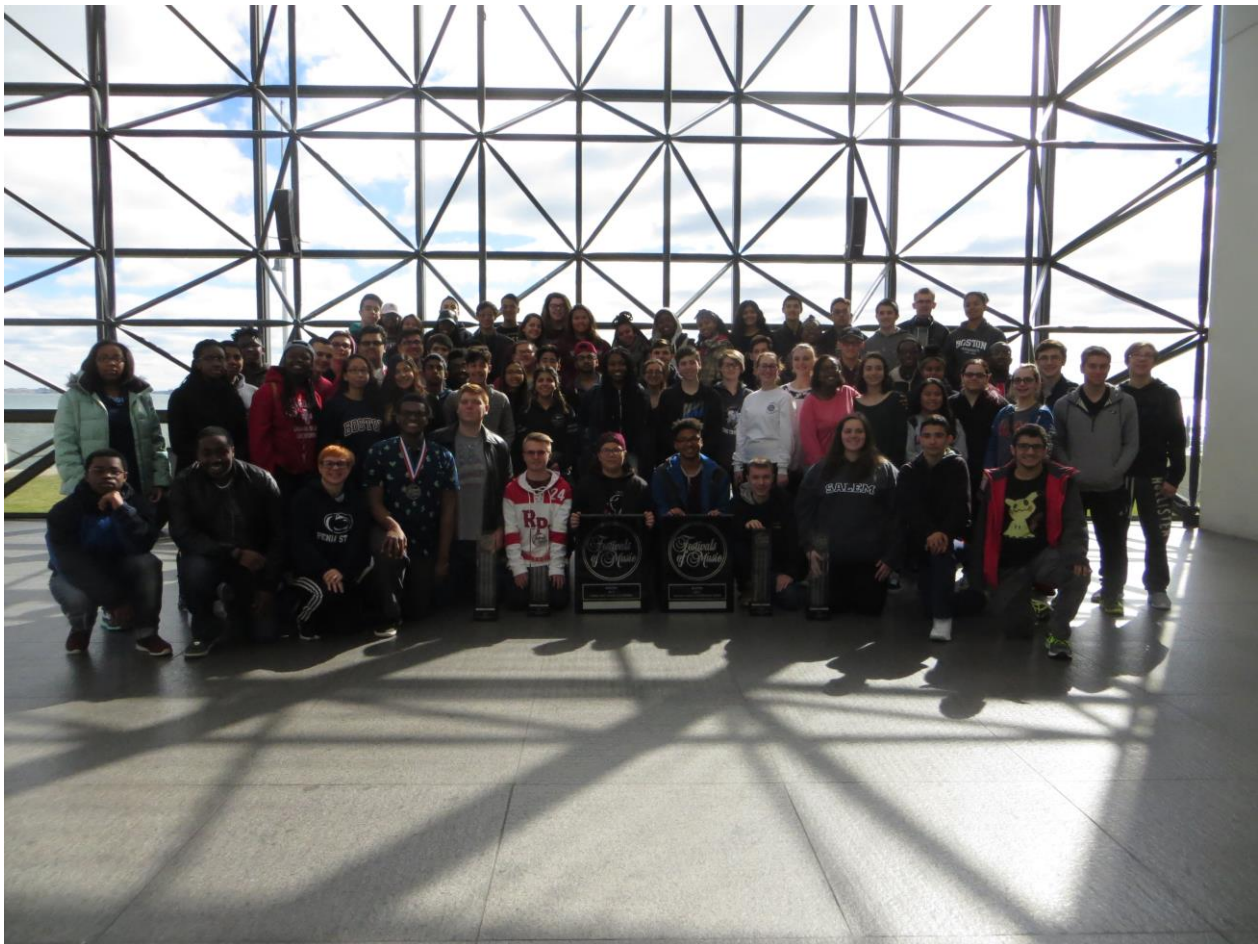
MCSPA OUTSTANDING STUDENT BANQUET



On Wednesday, April 26, senior student Kevin Carolina was among those honored at the Thirty-Eighth Annual Middlesex County Secondary Principals Association Outstanding Student Banquet. This event spotlights one senior student from every school in Middlesex County. Piscataway High School is very proud to have had Kevin represent himself, our school, and our district at this prestigious gala. Congratulations, Kevin!

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

BAND AND COLOR GUARD WIN BIG IN BOSTON!





From April 5 to April 8, our band and color guard students were in Boston to compete and perform in a music festival. It was an exciting event for our students with many enjoyable and informative activities, including the Witch Museum in Salem, MA; seeing the Boston Pops in concert, going to the Boston Museum of Science, and the JFK Memorial Library, among other things. Most important of course were the performances by our four groups. They all performed exceptionally well, as evidenced by these results:

Concert Band: “Excellent” rating

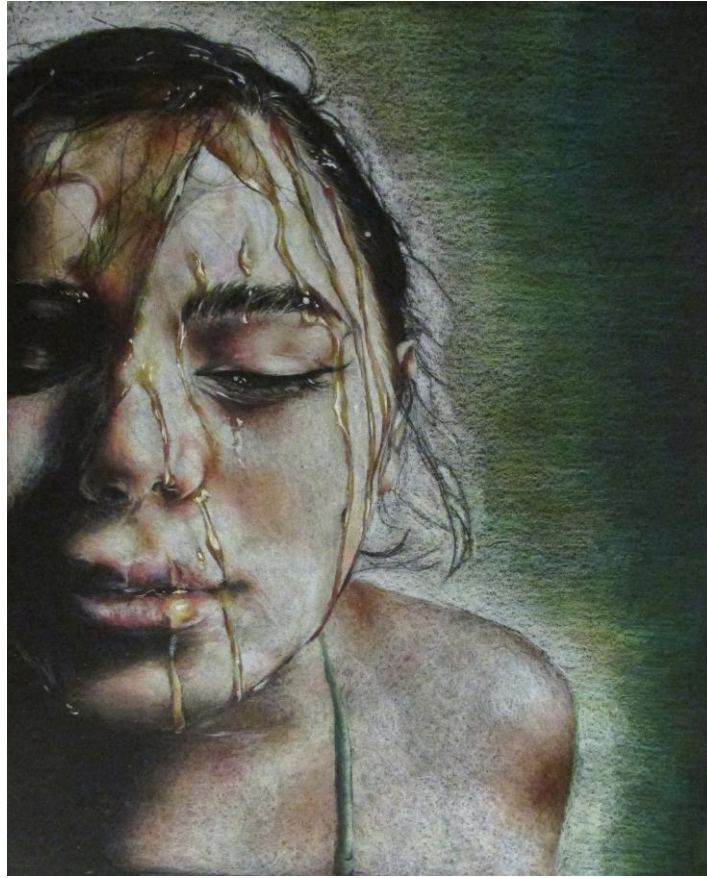
Color Guard: “Excellent” rating

Wind Ensemble: “Superior” rating, 1st place, and the William Revelli Concert Band award for Best Overall Concert Band.

Jazz Band: “Superior” rating, 1st place, and the award for Best Overall Jazz Band.

Our students represented our school district with maturity and integrity. We are all very proud of their accomplishments. Congratulations!!

CONGRESSIONAL ART AWARDS



Artwork by Christine Papanier, 1st Place



Artwork by Neha Patel, 2nd Place



Artwork by Mariah Pierre, Honorable Mention



Artwork by Nina Gabriel, Honorable Mention

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 4 of the 18 awards! Christine Papanier received 1st Place. Her artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol, for one year, along with winning pieces by students from around the country. Neha Patel won 2nd Place and Mariah Pierre and Nina Gabriel each received Honorable Mention. All the students will be honored at the Sixth Congressional District Spring Awards Ceremony.

TEEN MEDIA ART CONTEST



By Gisselle Criollo, 1st Place



By Kiyomi Sutton, 2nd Place



By Jackson Giesin, 2nd Place

High School students, Gisselle Criollo, won 1st place and Kiyomi Sutton won 2nd Place in the digital computer generated category and Jackson Giesin won 2nd Place in the hand drawn category in the 2017 Teen Media Contest. This contest is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Student entrants were asked to create and submit a piece of artwork, which complements the state's ongoing advertising and community outreach campaign. The students will be honored at a ceremony at the New Jersey Statehouse where their artwork will be on view. Gisselle, Kiyomi and Jackson's winning artwork will be included and published in the 2017 New Jersey Child Support Calendar.

DAY OF SILENCE

Friday, April 21, was the Day of Silence, a national day of action in which students across the country vowed to take a form of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ+ bullying and harassment in schools.

Piscataway High School's Gay Straight Alliance – O.U.T. P-Way (Organizing Under Tolerance) observed the National Day of Silence with a series of desk displays throughout the school symbolizing the impact anti-LGBTQ+ bullying has on school attendance and overall wellbeing. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), LGBTQ+ students are two to three times more likely to miss school because they feel unsafe (<https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm>).

On April 21, many students took a vow of silence by displaying a sticker or "speaking card. Many class lessons allowed students to remain silent if they wished to participate in the Day of Silence. For more information on this topic and educator guides on topics related to anti- LGBT bullying and harassment in schools, please go to <http://qlsen.org/educate/resources/guides>.

STAFF NEWS

OUTSTANDING KIWANIS ADVISOR



Mathematics teacher, Mitch Fuhr, was awarded Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor at the 2017 New Jersey District Key Club Convention. This recognition came as a result of his dedication to the program and the nomination and letters written by the Key Club members at Piscataway High School. Pictured above is Key Club Governor, Luke McGeown, who presented this prestigious and well-deserved award to Mr. Fuhr. Congratulations!!

PTEA 2016-17 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSON (ESP) of the YEAR

We are proud to announce that Maureen Micales, paraprofessional, has been selected as the 2016-17 PTEA Educational Support Person of the Year. Ms. Micales has dedicated herself to working with our students to ensure they receive the help they need in order to be successful in the classroom. We commend her for her unwavering support of the students of Piscataway High School.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

Wednesday, April 26, was designated as Administrative Professionals' Day. The high school administration expressed their appreciation to the support staff for all their hard work and dedication to the students and staff of Piscataway High School. Every support staff member is appreciated for the excellent service they provide on a daily basis. Thank you all!

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 5: Dance Concert 7 pm, PAC
- May 6: Dance Concert 7 pm, PAC
- May 8: PHS PTSO Meeting 7 pm, Commons
- May 10: PHS Spring Band Concert 7 pm, PAC
- May 12: ICCA Show 7 pm, PAC
- May 17: World Languages Honor Society Induction Ceremony 6 pm, PAC
- May 18: Spring Art Show, 6 pm, PHS Library
- May 19: PHS Spring Choir Concert 7 pm, PAC
- May 19: AFJROTC Dining Out Ceremony 6:00 p.m., Piscataway Senior Center
- May 24: PHS Spring Orchestra Concert 7 pm, PAC
- May 31: PHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 6 pm, PAC
- June 1: Film Festival 6 pm PAC
- June 6: Senior Varsity Sports Banquet 6 pm, Pines Manor, Edison NJ
- June 7: Senior Awards Night 6 pm, PAC
- June 9: Senior Prom 6:30 pm, Grand Marquis, Old Bridge NJ
- June 12: Spring Sports Night 6:30 pm PAC
- June 20: Graduation 6 pm, Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) Piscataway NJ
- June 20: Project Graduation 10:00 pm College Ave. Gym, New Brunswick NJ

