

CHIEF'S REPORT

PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Jason Lester, Principal

June 2017

MESSAGE FROM MR. LESTER

Congratulations to the Class of 2017! We send all of you out into the world to make change for the better. This class is poised and passionate about achieving EXCELLENCE. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your principal, and I wish all of you healthy and happy times. I am proud of ALL of your ACCOMPLISHMENTS and how you represented the PHS Empire. You are a fine group of young people.

The preparation has begun for our class of 2021. We look to continue our innovative ways of educating our newest members of this GREAT EMPIRE. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of students arriving to school in September READY to learn! That hard work begins over the summer, WE (teachers & administration) strongly recommend that each and **every one** of our students read for a minimum of 45minutes per day. Choose to read a book or article, etc., that stimulates your mind and engages you in a manner that promotes critical thinking. Help us to help you become the success that you want to be!

Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2017. Be Well!

Strength and Honor

PHS HAPPENINGS

PISCATAWAY CODES

Over the past five year, computer science has grown greatly at PHS. Last June, the AP Computer Science class conceived the idea of running "Piscataway Codes" to introduce computer science and computational thinking to middle and elementary school students, grades 4 - 8.

We received a generous grant of \$3000 from Piscataway Education Foundation, to run this event. With the backing of the administration and the help of students from various computer science classes at PHS, we hosted Piscataway Codes on May 20th 2017.

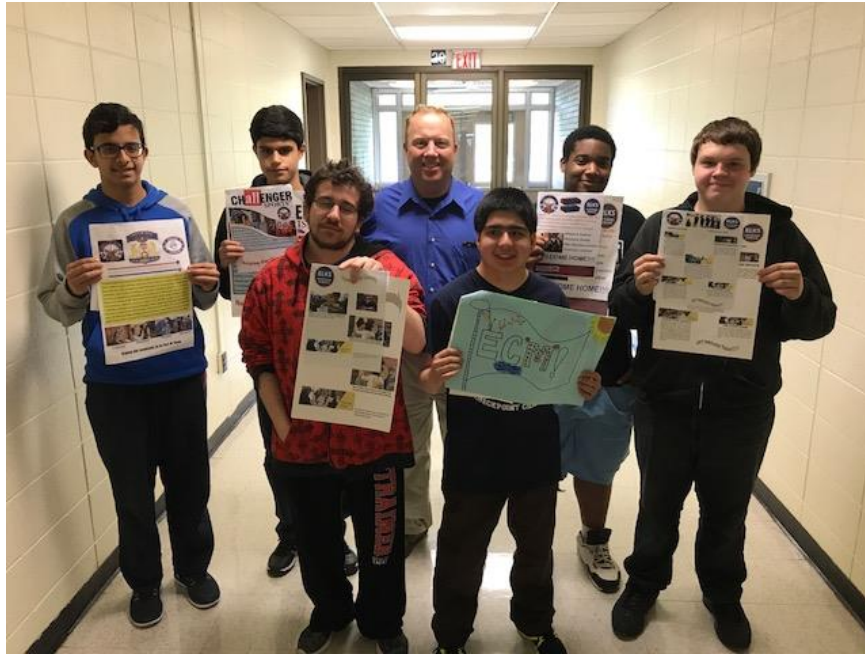
During Piscataway Codes, we taught the fundamentals of logical thinking and problem solving to more than 100 elementary and middle school students. This was done in well-coordinated and structured manner, where more than 30 trained mentors were assigned to each small group of students.

To sum it up, Piscataway Codes was an excellent event: kids were focused, interested, motivated and taught. Students and mentors left happy and content with the feeling of having achieved something good. We were able to teach over 260 students with 100% participation. Students were on-task and worked for more than four hours; that fact itself speaks about the success of this event.

Please find below link to images and videos from Piscataway Codes.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4GhkS3dAecDeVhyLVIWR3J1ZWs>

NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS' COLORING POSTER CONTEST



Earlier this school year, Mr. Calvo's period 6 Computer Graphics class submitted entries to the New Jersey State Elks' Coloring Poster Contest. Piscataway High School had the following winners:

1st Place

Anthony Coppa

Mohammed (Akram) Khan

2nd Place

Scott Digirolamo

3rd Place

Jehovanny Altamirano

Gerarde Guy

Nathaniel Munzing

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

Wednesday May 31, during the traditional candle lit ceremony, 172 members of the Class of 2018 were inducted into the National Honor Society. The new executive board received their honor stoles from the outgoing officers. Dr. Frank Ranelli, Assistant Superintendent, offered remarks on behalf of central administration, Board members, Dr. Tom Connors and Ms. Alexandra Lopez, Vice President, were in attendance on behalf of the board of education. Mr. Lester concluded the ceremony with remarks and best wishes to the inductees and their families. Congratulations our newest inductees!

SCIENCE

WAKSMAN STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM (WSSP)

As part of this year's GenEn team project, students in the Waksman Student Scholars Program (WSSP) successfully presented their findings at a poster session held at Rutgers University on Monday, June 5th. Their poster focused on a protein known as PsbK found in duckweed, *Landoltia punctata*. Through the students' efforts in the laboratory and research into the protein's structure using international databases, the students found that the protein is coded for by genes found in the chloroplast and that it is an important part of the light harvesting complex of photosynthesis. The scientists who judged the students' posters from many different schools were very impressed with the team's analysis and hypotheses about their protein.

VISUAL ARTS

"AMONG US"

PHS staff was asked to view student produced short films and vote for their favorite. Thank you to those of you that voted. The short film, "Among Us" was a clear winner and got a trophy for "Best Short Film" in our PHS Film festival last Thursday night as well as "Best Editing" and "Best Cinematography." They also got "Audience Favorite Short Film."

"Among Us" was one of the 15 national finalists in the Ten Day Film Challenge and at Nationals, they won the award for "Best Use of Cinematic Technique" (high angle), which means they were the best at using that technique out of the 450 entries from 25 states. They were also nominated (in the top 4) for "Best use of Genre" (monster movie) and "Best Opening Title Sequence." We are very proud of these students (all listed in the credits) - they worked relentlessly for 10 days straight on this film as a solid team with a goal. Their hard work paid off placing them 4th in the state and in the top 15 in the country! Next year the PWAY-TV crew will have to work harder than ever to reach the bar set by this year's crew!

Link to "Among Us"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9V75MKy4Qo&t=1s>

MATH LEAGUE

Once again (for the 16th consecutive year), the PHS Math League Team, led by Diane Moskal, finished in the first place category in the American Scholastic Math League. The Math League also had the greatest number of perfect scores this year:

- 9 for the Calculus League
- 8 for the American Scholastic Math League
- 3 for the New Jersey Math League

CONGRATULATIONS!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Just a note to remind parents that the 2017-18 Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in October. Evening conferences will take place on October 26 and October 30. Daytime Conferences will be conducted on October 27. In September, you will receive information regarding how to register for conferencing.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Let's give a huge shout out to the Piscataway Chief's Special Olympics track team led by Coaches Lindsay Bean and Jon Buggy. THIRTY athletes participated in the Special Olympics Summer Games at TCNJ which attracted over 2500 athletes from the state of NJ. The athletes earned over 50 medals combined in all track events. Congratulations to the team, coaches and volunteer PHS students on a terrific performance.

STAFF NEWS

FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

The time has come to bid farewell to some of our staff members who are retiring in June. They have served the district well and they will be missed.

Jonathan Liberto, Special Education
Sabrina Mitchell, Social Studies (retired)
Joanne Petrone, Secretary to the Principal
Mary Ann Voliva, Clerk - Principal's Office

We wish them the best of luck and a happy, healthy, and relaxing retirement!

WELCOME NOAH!



Congratulations to Mr. Ryan Davis and his wife, Katie, who welcomed their son, Noah Patrick, on Monday, June 5. Noah weighed 8 lbs., 7oz., and was 22 in. in length. Mom and baby are doing great! Best wishes.

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 4 – Labor Day
- September 5 – Teacher In-Service Day
- September 6 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- September 13 – Back to School Night
- September 21 – Rosh Hashanah – School Closed



HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!