



BUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MATH TEAM BREAKS SCORING RECORDS

This year's Pearl S. Buck Mathematical Olympiads team completed the 2014-2015 season with the highest score in its eight year history. The team scored in the top 10% of all teams and received the first plaque in its eight year history with its final score of 193. This topped the previous high score of 167 by the 2013-2014 team. Team scores are obtained by totaling the scores of the top ten finishers in each school.

The following team members were Pearl Buck's top ten: Olivia 'OJ' Jacobson, Brendan Kaiser, Samay Ruparelia, Chris Fiel, Cara Bressler, Morgan Drass, Evan Fitch, Micah Miles, Skylar Lall, and Alexander Vylkov. This year's top player, Olivia 'OJ' Jacobson, finished with a score of 24, making her the highest scoring player in the history of the Pearl S. Buck program. That score also placed her in the top 2% of all players, and she received a gold pin for her achievement as well as a trophy for top team player.

Silver pins, awarded to the top 10% of all players, were awarded to Brendan Kaiser, Samay Ruperelia, Chris Fiel, Cara Bressler, and Morgan Drass. These students along with seventeen others also received a MOEMS patch for scoring in the top 50% of all players.

The Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools (MOEMS), started in 1979, is a program located in forty-nine states, thirteen American territories, and twenty-seven foreign countries. Over 110,000 students participated this year. The program consists of five monthly contests consisting of five problems each. A score of twenty-five is considered a perfect score for the year. Individual and team awards are based on specific scoring criteria.



ELL STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR CULTURES AT NESHAMINY HIGH SCHOOL

English Language Learner (ELL) students celebrated the end of the school year by preparing food from their native countries with their families and sharing it with their classmates at Neshaminy High School in June.



NESHAMINY HIGH SCHOOL JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM PRAISED BY STUDENTS

The Business, Computer and Information Technology Department had partnered with area businesses to create job shadowing opportunities for eight seniors. Students worked with industry professionals to receive hands-on experience that modeled the connection between school and career.

In May, Kenny Lehman and Andrew Stewart had the privilege of an up-close look into the responsibilities associated with an accounting position at TruMark Financial Credit Union. The students spent an entire day shadowing TruMark employees in the Accounting and Finance Departments. Kenny and Andrew saw how the accounting functions were separated among employees, recognized the extensive use of Microsoft Excel Applications, and realized an emphasis on teamwork throughout the company. The students were excited about how their experience made a definite connection to their accounting knowledge and reassured them about their decision to pursue an accounting degree in college.

Having aspirations for careers in communications and information systems, Alex Sharp and Chris Albright job shadowed employees at Inverse Paradox, a web design and Internet marketing company in Penndel. Students saw employees interact with customers, viewed advanced software applications and experienced a positive working environment. Alex and Chris were also enthusiastic about the day's events and the extension to career goals.

In March, Ethan Transue joined Monster Tree Company for a day to learn about their operations, a large tree service business. Ethan saw land clearing work, job estimate calculations with customer interaction and benefited from conversation with experienced employees. Ethan found his day to be highly beneficial since he is currently growing a family business that provides similar services.

In January, Nate Hankinson and Maggie McAnulty spent an entire day shadowing employees at the Newtown Athletic Club. Both students have marketing interests. Promotional events, programs and social media outlets were shared with Nate and Maggie. Feasterville Shirt Gallery also partnered in January to have Mason Donahue spend a day with their operations. Mason has entrepreneurial interests which aligned to the community-based business and their production facilities. All students found their day to be a valuable opportunity.

The Job Shadowing Program is a natural partnership between classroom and workplace providing benefit to all involved. Students make a new connection to a career choice, see a link between education and future success, and can prepare for a personal action plan to acquire skills and education. Companies can assist in preparing our future work force, inform students about industries, increase visibility in the community and impact a young person's life in an exciting way. The BCIT Department is grateful to our neighboring businesses for providing these opportunities to Neshaminy students.

GROUND BROKEN FOR THE NEW TAWANKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Though site work is already well underway for the new Tawanka Elementary School on Brownsville Road in Lower Southampton Township, dignitaries, district staff, community members and the media gathered Tuesday, June 30 to celebrate for a groundbreaking ceremony.

District Community Relations Coordinator Chris Stanley opened the ceremony, which was held between late afternoon rain storms under two tents and a canopy behind the old Tawanka building. Other speakers included Neshaminy School Board President Scott Congdon; School board member and consolidation ad hoc committee chair Stephen Pirritano; board members Susan Cummings and Anthony Sposato; and Lower Southampton Township Board of Supervisors Chair Keith Wesley. Also in attendance were District Superintendent Robert Copeland, Business Manager Barbara Markowitz and Facilities Director Paul Minotti as well as representatives from Spiegle Architectural Group and Reynolds Construction Management.

Several former and current district staff members attended including former Tawanka principal Dr. Christine McKee and retired Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowman.

The new building will replace the 50-year-old structure currently on the site as part of a district-wide comprehensive school consolidation and grade re-alignment project. That plan will alleviate under-utilization issues in the district's three middle schools while at the same time providing much-needed renovations at several older school buildings plus construction of the new building at Tawanka.

The old Tawanka Elementary School was opened in 1964, and operated as an elementary school until it was closed in 2002 due to declining student population district-wide. Since then it has been operated as a special needs school serving the district and the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. The BCIU has moved to their operations to the Everitt Elementary School building in Levittown, which closed at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

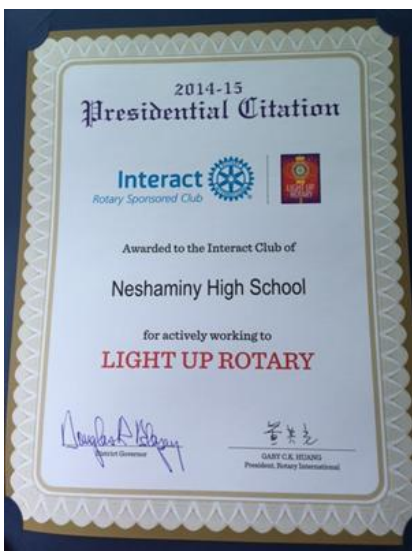
The new Tawanka Elementary School will serve students from Lower Southampton and Middletown Townships starting in August, 2016.



ROTARY CLUB HONORS NHS INTERACT CLUB

The Neshaminy High School Interact Club Received a Presidential Citation from Rotary Deputy Governor Joseph Krug during one of their weekly meetings in July. Core members Dana McCabe, Emma Stewart and advisor Suzi Drake were on hand to accept the citation. McCabe and Stewart also brought the club up to date about upcoming initiatives, including the 'Show Your Socks' raising funds for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House and Day 1 for the Tyler Clementi Organization.

Interact is an international service-learning organization affiliated with the Rotary International. The Neshaminy HS chapter is sponsored by both the Feasterville and Langhorne Rotary clubs. The purpose of Interact is to help make the world a better place through projects such as walks to raise money for various causes, baking cookies for hospice patients, participating in Operation Paperback for soldiers and organizing the annual 'Neshaminy's Got Talent' competition.



SUMMER STOCK SHOWS DAZZLE AUDIENCES

The Neshaminy Summer Stock program, offering professional-level theater workshops for Lower Bucks County students for over 50 years, captivated audiences with two productions in July.

Students in grades 6-12 staged 'Les Miserables (School Edition)' five times over four days, and the younger participants performed the family musical 'Honk! (Jr)' twice.

In just four weeks, the cast and crew of 'Les Miserables' learned the songs, created the spectacular staging, and worked with a live orchestra to create a memorable rendition of the world-wide musical legend under the direction of Neshaminy HS grad and seasoned theater professional Michael Brown. Michael's wife, Kristen Brown is the choreographer for the workshop and has also performed professionally with some of the biggest names in theater.

IDEAS ABOUND AT SUMMER STEM ACADEMY

Invention and technology are taking center stage during the annual Neshaminy School District Summer STEM program. Students in grades 3-8 had the opportunity to participate in several workshops, including the first year of two-week ['Camp Invention: Illuminate.'](#) a national program sponsored by the US Patent and Trademark Office in partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

This is the fourth summer the district has offered these workshops, and is part of an effort to increase the emphasis on STEM district-wide. The program started with a grant from IBM the first year, but has become self-sustaining since then. During Camp Invention, elementary school students were encouraged to develop creative solutions to a series of challenges using both technology and non-technological methods and materials. In July a group of middle school students spent a week building and programming robots from the same kits used by students in the robotics program at Neshaminy High School.

Three more workshops have been offered in late July into August - two basic courses for students entering third and fourth grade to learn the basics of programming and robotics and one advanced course for students who have already participated in the basic workshop to further their skills. The classes meet at the engineering lab at the high school. The program is directed by lead technology teacher Josh Elliott, who has been teaching technology at the high school and will be teaching fifth-graders at Maple Point Middle School this upcoming school year.

AWARD FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Neshaminy School District by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to:

BARBARA MARKOWITZ, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION – PAUL MEEHAN

Paul started his educational career at Lower Moreland High School while attending Gwynedd Mercy College and earning a Business Education Certification. In 1997 Paul obtained his first teaching assignment at Harry S. Truman High School as a Business Education Teacher and remained in that position until June of 2002. In the fall of 2002 Paul began teaching at Pennsbury High School; in 2007 he was named an Assistant Principal at Pennsbury High School. In 2010 Paul was promoted to Principal of William Penn Middle School, where he remained principal until his appointment as Director of Administration for the Neshaminy School District in June, and started in that position on August 7, 2015.



Paul earned his undergraduate degree from Widener University; he has a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Business Management, and an Associates Certificate in Human Resource Management from Widener. He obtained a Master's degree in Secondary School Administration and a Certification in Business Education from Gwynedd Mercy College

He is married to his wife Michelle, a teacher in the Pennsbury School District, and they have three boys who are all “proudly” students of Neshaminy School District.

29 BCIT STUDENTS ATTEND PA FREE ENTERPRISE WEEK AND FBLA NATIONALS

This summer, twenty-five Business, Computer and Information Technology students attended the Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW) Program. PFEW is a unique and challenging educational experience designed for high school sophomores and juniors to learn about career opportunities while taking an active role in operating a simulated business. Students are judged in the areas of management, return on net assets, a marketing and advertising campaign and a stockholders' presentation. Also, many keynote speakers creatively address the role of business in our economy and share messages to inspire the participants.

When asked about her PFEW experience, Neshaminy senior Shelby Prizer said, “When I first arrived at PFEW I was a ball of nerves. I didn't know what to expect because I've never done something like this before. When the week was over I walked away a different person. I feel like PFEW has helped me prepare for college and even the real world. It made me step out of my comfort zone which is important in life. I made a lot of new friends that I will keep in touch with! PFEW was an amazing experience and I will definitely have my sister go to PFEW when she becomes a junior or senior.”

Neshaminy senior Tim Odgers said, “I learned a lot of valuable lessons and skills at PFEW. I learned the proper way to shake a hand and how to present myself during interviews. I also learned that in order to become successful I will need to be able to sell myself. Not only did I learn about business but I learned about myself. The speakers during the week changed how I viewed the world. The lessons I learned throughout the week will undoubtedly help me with life after high school. I don't feel that I have the words to completely express how this week has changed me. I also think it helped me to become more independent and helped increase my self-confidence.”

Congratulations to those Neshaminy students who attended this exceptional program over the summer. Those students are Jerry Broll, Maria Calderon, Stephen Caldwell, Brianna Cunningham, Emily Curran, Thomas Farrell, Eva Fisher, Grace Hitchen, Emily Martin, Danielle McGlynn, Meghan Moyer, Saim Mumtaz, Timothy Odgers, Fred Polis, Sarah Pringle, Shelby Pizer, Victoria Repoly, Kieran Ricciardi, Alexander Schettino, Matt Smeck, Emma Stewart, Taylor Stroup, Crystal Teoh, Stefania Ursu and Joseph Verrecchio. Each student received a scholarship valued at \$1,500 through the PFEW organization. The Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce takes a very active role in supporting PFEW.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Nationals were held June 29 through July 2nd in Chicago. Four Neshaminy students represented the state of Pennsylvania to compete at this national level. Ryan MacDonald, Ryan Doyle and Matthew Smith competed in the Sports Management Event. Alex Szymanski, who competed in the Business Plan Event said, “I found

that the environment that was created, the people that I networked with, the life lessons that I learned from the workshops, and the memories that I formed at the 2015 NLC in Chicago has bettered prepared me for my college experience as well as my future career. Speaking in front of judges at states and nationals will certainly help me feel more comfortable in job interviews, business negotiations, and casual everyday conversations.” Although the Neshaminy competitors did not place in the winning tier, the BCIT Department is very proud of our competitors’ motivation and dedication to prepare for this national competition.

RENOVATION PROJECTS ON SCHEDULE

Major renovation projects at three District schools are proceeding on schedule, and contractors that have been busy all summer are expected to complete the vast majority of work by the time teachers return to their classrooms to prepare for the new school year. Students at Sandburg Middle School, Schweitzer Elementary School and Hoover Elementary School will return to their classrooms Wednesday September 2 (5th, 6th and 9th grades) or Thursday September 3 (all grades).

Each school received energy-saving upgrades provided under the Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA), a program that allows the District to reduce operating costs by installing new HVAC systems, insulation, efficient lighting and other improvements. Each of the three schools renovated this summer will have air conditioned classrooms and office areas, double-paned energy-saving windows, roof improvements, new electrical and plumbing systems all designed to bring these buildings up to a modern standard of comfort and efficiency.

Because this is a guaranteed program, the District will enjoy approximately \$3 million in energy savings over 20 years once the project is complete. The renovations completed this summer are Phase I of the project, which included the most extensive work. Phase II and III, scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016, includes renovations to Ferderbar Elementary, Poquessing Middle School, Miller Elementary and minor work at Maple Point Middle School. None of the projects will interfere with classes.

Additional work completed at Hoover, Schweitzer and Sandburg include the installation of security vestibules, which provide a 'holding area' for visitors so the office staff can better control who is entering the buildings during the school day. Vestibules will be added to other school buildings in later phases of the project.

Another project scheduled to begin in September is an upgrade to District's two pools at Sandburg and Poquessing Middle Schools. This project will include new pool pumps and filters, better ventilation, and improved lighting at each pool. Work will begin at Sandburg in the fall, then shift to Poquessing once that work is complete. The swim teams and leagues that use these pools worked out schedule changes over the summer to accommodate these projects.

1:1 TECHNOLOGY iTEAM VISITS THE APPLE STORE

A group of fifth and sixth-graders was chosen by their former elementary school principals to be members of the 1:1 iPad Technology program 'iTeam' at their new middle schools this year, acting as 'technology ambassadors' by providing some basic troubleshooting help and directing their peers and teachers to support resources.

This past week the iTeam visited the Apple store in Center City Philadelphia to meet the staff, take a tour, and learn about Apple support from one of the Apple 'Geniuses'. Following their visit they returned to Maple Point Middle School for a pizza lunch, and helped install Otter Box cases on a few of the iPads that will be distributed to their classmates later this fall, followed by some role-playing exercises.

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