

Neshaminy UPDATE

February 2016



Neshaminy School District
Langhorne, PA

www.neshaminy.org

A Super delivery honors NHS alumni



As part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Super Bowl championship game this year, the National Football League is honoring those high schools that past Super Bowl players attended before they became national football stars. The schools are receiving a gold-colored Wilson football for each player as part of the NFL High School Honor Roll program.

Neshaminy High School has received four of these footballs in honor of the following players:

Chris Bahr, NHS Class of 1970.

Chris was a place kicker for the Oakland and Los Angeles Raiders, playing in Super Bowl XV and XVIII. His brother Matt Bahr (see below) was also a NHS graduate and NFL Super Bowl Player. For college, Chris attended and played for Penn State.

Matt Bahr, NHS Class of 1974. Matt was a place kicker in Super Bowl XIV for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Super Bowl XXV for the New York Giants. For college Matt attended and played for Penn State.

Harry Schuh: NHS Class of 1961. Harry was a tackle, playing for the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl II. For college, Harry attended and played for the University of Memphis.

Steve Shull: NHS Class of 1976. Steve was a linebacker and one of three captains for the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl XVII. For college, Steve attended and played for College of William and Mary.

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2016-2017 budget moves forward

While much attention is still directed at 2015-2016 budgetary concerns due to the state's continued failure to pass their own budget, the Neshaminy School Board and administration is already busy looking ahead to the next school year. In January, the School Board approved a Preliminary Budget (which can be viewed on the District web site, www.neshaminy.org). This first draft includes expenditures of \$184,712,830, including approximately \$118 million for curriculum, \$52 million for support services; \$1.97 million for non-instructional services; \$1.15 million for facilities, construction and improvement; and \$10.8 million for debt service and other financial expenditures. Estimated revenues from all sources is currently \$169,477,810, leaving an approximately \$15.2 million gap.

Though the School Board has the ability to raise taxes by 2.4% for the next school based on the Act I index and cover some of those costs, District Business Administrator Barb Markowitz said that her office is working to reduce the expenditures by examining every line item looking for

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday February 9
Board Public Work Session, 7 pm

Tuesday February 16
Board Educational Development Committee,
7 pm

Thursday February 18
Board Technology Committee, 7 pm

Tuesday February 23
Public Board Meeting, 7 pm

All meetings held at the Maple Point District Board Room unless otherwise indicated.

Please consult the Neshaminy district web site for any updates or additions.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

	Region
Scott Congdon, President	1
Tina Hollenbach	1
Stephen Pirritano	1
Bob Feather	2
Mike Morris	2
Robert Sanna	2
Irene Boyle, Vice-President	3
Ron Rudy	3
Marty Sullivan	3

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Acting Superintendent and
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum &
Instruction

Mr. Anthony Devlin
Director of Pupil Services

Mr. Don Harm
Assistant to the Superintendent for
Administration

Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger
Director of Human Resources

Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Business Administrator

Mr. Paul Meehan
Director of Administration

Super Skins

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Mike Frederick, a Neshaminy graduate and former NHS football coach, would have made #5 as a player for the Tennessee Titans during their Super Bowl run of 1999-2000. Unfortunately, he was declared inactive after the regular season and did not play in the big game.

According to the NFL, only 36 high schools among the approximately 2,000 honored had four or more players represented in Super Bowl games, including Neshaminy High School.

“Neshaminy High School has a proud football program, with a long history of excellence,” said Neshaminy High School Athletic Director Tom Magdelinkas Tuesday. “Our players have long excelled on the high school, college, and professional gridirons. Young boys in our community dream of one day becoming a Neshaminy Redskin, and many of our current and former players dream of going on to play in the NFL.”

“We are proud of the four individuals who played in Super Bowl, and we are equally proud of the all that have worn the Red and Blue with pride. In the words of the immortal Coach Harry Franks, ‘... time will never dim the glory of the Neshaminy Redskins.’”

From the NFL: “As part of the nationwide Super Bowl 50 celebration, the NFL started the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll program to acknowledge schools and communities that have directly influenced Super Bowl history and impacted the game for the better.”

“The NFL Foundation, which gave \$1 million for the campaign, will also provide schools with the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to support their football programs, along with a new character education curriculum.”

The four footballs will be displayed proudly at Neshaminy High School.

Budget

(continued from page 1)

reductions. She said that at this point in the budget process, such a gap between projected revenues and expenditures is not unusual and the administration has managed to reduce similar gaps over the past six years without raising taxes.



There are also some factors which cannot be predicted just yet, such as specific enrollment numbers, staffing needs, state mandates, special education needs, and the outcome of Board decisions on the proposed closure of two elementary schools. Many of these will become clearer

by the time the final proposed 2016-2017 budget is presented in May.

Under Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations, a final budget must be approved by the School Board by June 30, 2016.

A summary of the current preliminary proposed budget can be found on the District web site, www.neshaminy.org.

MLK Day tradition continues

On January 18 the Martin Luther King Day of Service, students and families from two schools teamed up to pack hundreds of breakfast and lunch bags for disabled people not able to leave their homes.

Students from Maple Point Middle School and Our Lady of Grace School in Pennel and their families gathered at Maple Point to pack the meals for Aid for Friends, which helps the homebound disabled across the area.

This service project has become a tradition for the two schools, but was moved from the church to Maple Point this year for logistical reasons.



Winter Watch



While the east coast enjoyed a spring-like December, our luck ran out in January as we were pummeled with over 20 inches of snow on January 23.

We were fortunate this major snow event fell on a weekend, allowing our crews ample time to clear the massive snow piles with only one full snow day used. It was a full three-day job.

Winter isn't over yet, and as a reminder the District posts weather delays and cancelations on the web site, Facebook page, Twitter feed, email, phone calls, text alerts and notifications to local media.

Please do not call individual schools for weather information before checking these outlets. It is important to keep the lines open for staff and emergency use.

In addition, please review your plans for emergency pick-up of your children at school or at bus stops on early dismissal days.

DISTRICT NEWS

Foundation announces classroom grants

The Neshaminy Education Foundation announced \$11,578 in classroom grants in January. Teachers and other staff members were encouraged to apply for the grants to support innovative programs in all Neshaminy Schools. The deadline for the grants was December, 2015 and the money must be used by May, 2016.

The Foundation raises money for grants and scholarships throughout the year through a variety of fundraisers. The all-volunteer organization meets monthly at Maple Point Middle School.

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 winners:

- Cara Buttari, Pearl S. Buck Elementary: iCanRead Program \$1289
- Jeff Rodos, Pearl S. Buck Elementary: Read Naturally Live Reading Program \$599
- Lauren Miller, Oliver Heckman Elementary: Nonfiction Notice and Note signposts for 3rd and 4th grade \$1,485
- Patricia Kropp, Lower Southampton Elementary: Osmo robots \$1,385
- Yazmine Adamson, Albert Schweitzer Elementary: Dash and Dot robots \$1,500
- Kathleen Kenney, Carl Sandburg Middle School: Bosu fitness / exercise balls \$654
- David Wert, Poquessing Middle School: Video cameras for student projects \$500
- William H. Lever, Maple Point Middle School: Flocabulary video subscription \$96
- William H. Lever, Maple Point Middle School: Camtasia software to create video tutorials \$198
- Joanne Strack and Neshaminy Certified School Nurses: Funds to support the 2016 Neshaminy School District Health Fair \$500
- Gail Park, Neshaminy High School, American Reading Company subscription for 9th-grade reading program, \$500
- Janet Dougherty, Neshaminy High School BCIT Department: Virtual Business – accounting simulation software \$1,295
- James Maloney and Matt Thompson, Neshaminy High School: Digital ProBeware for HS Science Department \$1,577

Neshaminy staff shines in United Way campaign



The staff of Neshaminy School District contributed \$22,166 – more than any other school district in Bucks County - to the United

Way 2015 year-end campaign. Contributions came in both in the form of payroll deductions and one-time gifts.

Maple Point teacher honored

Congratulations to Anne Schmidt, a social studies teacher at Maple Point Middle School, who has been named the VFW Post 6393 Teacher of the Year for 2015 in honor of her many



activities promoting citizenship education in her classroom and throughout the school. This was a county-wide contest, which now also makes her eligible to compete for a similar state-wide and national award. She was nominated for the award by the 8th grade teaching team, which praised her as a “true leader, an exceptional teacher, explaining the concepts of Liberty, Equality, Conflict and Citizenship and how these concepts are manifested socially, politically and economically in our country.” Anne is the organizer of the annual Veterans Day Service at Maple Point, at which over 100 veterans attended this past November, as well as the Constitution Day speaker series which brought lawmakers, a former District Attorney and the subject of a landmark Supreme Court case to Maple Point to discuss the Constitution with students. This award was announced at a VFW banquet earlier where a Maple Point student Kezia Joseph also picked up a third place award for her entry in the Annual Patriot’s Pen essay contest.

STEAM Expo seeks community tech experts

The 2nd Annual STEAM Expo (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) will be held on Thursday April 7, 2016 between 6:30 and 8:30 pm at Neshaminy High School. The event will feature Robotics, 3D Printing, Food/Textile Science, Videography, Biotechnology, Art Design, STARLAB, Computer Activities, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Science Activities/Demos, Screen Printing and more. A number of outside groups will be attending including the NASTAR Center, Mad Science, the Silver Lake Nature Center, Bucks County Community College, the Michener Museum and more...but we have room for more volunteers and demonstrators. If you know of an individual or group that would like to share their love for all things technology with hundreds of enthusiastic Neshaminy students and their families, please contact David Geanette at 215-809-6515 for information about joining this great event.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Pearl S. Buck Elementary

A snow day in school

The students in Mrs. Junod’s class have been enjoying all that winter has to offer. After reading about how snow forms, writing snow stories, and learning about igloos, they had an in-school Snow Day of their own. The team building began inside by first trying to build igloos out of marshmallows. Then the very excited students went outside in the snow to learn how to play Circle Snow Tag, how to work together to build a snowman, and how to make snow angels.

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Deitrick’s class read Snow Happy by Patricia Hubbell and The Biggest, Best Snowman by Margery Cuyler. Afterward, they “played” in the snow while demonstrating and discussing math concepts with size and shape. Ask us, “Who had the tallest snowman?!”

Social media presentation on tap

NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance) will present an information session “Growing Up Mobile” about keeping your child safe in the world of social media on Thursday February 11. The presentation, which is for parents only, will begin in our library at 7:00.

Joseph Ferderbar Elementary

National Handwriting Day in the spotlight

Mrs. Conklin’s second grade class practice handwriting each day. In January the Courier-Times visited to photograph the students for an article on National Handwriting Day. Evidence suggests that the links between handwriting and broader educational



Photo courtesy The Bucks County Courier Times

development run deep. Children not only learn to read more quickly when they first learn to write by hand, but they also remain better able to generate ideas and retain information. In

other words, it’s not just what we write that matters — but how.

Mathathon raises funds for St. Jude’s Hospital

In February Ferderbar ES students will be once again fundraising for the St. Jude’s Mathathon.

For more than 35 years, the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, benefiting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, has been America’s largest education-based fund raiser. Ferderbar students in grades K-4 ask family and friends for pledges to solve math problems in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon Funbook. While doing this students are practicing and demonstrating their math skills while earning great prizes. Most important, our students learn the importance of helping others and the mission of St. Jude.

This is Ferderbar’s 20th year fundraising for St. Jude’s raising tens of thousands of dollars.

Oliver Heckman Elementary

Students deliver donation to Rosa’s Fresh Pizza

After a blizzard-related delay, a group of students and their



families from Oliver Heckman ES finally visited Rosa’s Fresh Pizza in Philadelphia in January to hand-deliver their \$1362 donation for the ‘Pay It Forward’ campaign to feed the homeless. They were joined by a TV crew from CBS-3 and Fox 29 who documented their visit.

Students raised money by selling paper ‘slices’ of pizza for a dollar which were placed on a wall at the school as well as holding a ‘Bring Your Teddy Bear to School’ day. The project was started by Lauren Miller’s fourth-grade class with help from the entire school.

Herbert Hoover Elementary

Castle construction a 3-D geometry lesson

Proving that it’s never too early to learn about geometry, students in Kimberly Matyi’s kindergarten took on a project to build a castle using various shapes such as cones, pyramids, cylinders, cubes and spheres.

During math center time 2 centers were allocated to doing



research consider the solid shapes to attributes as construction materials. One center had available about 10-15 castle books so the students could look at real life castle structures and develop a basic understanding of these structures. The second center had a tub of many foam solid shapes with which the students could investigate putting in practice how the shapes could be used for constructing a castle.

The children were given time to explore many varied solid shapes collected previously...empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls, green floral foam, floral cones, cereal boxes, empty tissue boxes, soda cans, Styrofoam balls (just to name a few). They planned how the structure would be put together.

Lower Southampton Elementary

Pennies for Paws campaign raises \$408



Claire LoManto from the Women's Humane Society visited Lower Southampton Elementary School in January to present a poster signed by the entire WHS staff thanking the school for their \$408 donation to the Pennies for Paws campaign. WHS started the campaign as a year-end fund raiser to help their operations, and challenged schools, teams and clubs to help out with the effort. Lower South stepped up and held a number of fund-raisers in December, making them the largest contributors of any group.

The effort was part of a year-long series of projects at the school encouraging students to 'leave their mark' by making a difference in their community, at home, at school and in the world.

Cartoonist draws lessons from his work

Cartoonist Duane Abel, creator of the Zed comic strip, which can be found in several newspapers and books, also visited Lower South in January. He talked to the entire school about his work. Using his illustrations to make his points, he highlighted the values of goal-setting, the power of reading and the value of education during his presentation.

Walter Miller Elementary

Bookstore night features author, STEM activities

This year the Barnes and Noble experience for Walter Miller students started during the day with a wonderful visit from children's author Lauren Magaziner. Ms. Magaziner is an up and coming author with roots in Bucks County who has recently published her first delightful story, 'The Only Thing Worse Than Witches,' with her second book 'Pilfer Academy' coming out in February.

During the afternoon assembly Lauren shared with the students what inspires her as well as the writing process. The author introduced the boys and girls to the 'What If Game?' to the sheer delight of all. Above all, Lauren Magaziner stressed reading books as being crucial to become a better writer.

The Barnes and Noble evening event was jam-packed with a variety of activities. Teachers were reading their beloved stories to the students, fourth graders were participating in the latest science technology, but the highlight and perhaps, most the most exciting event was receiving a highly personalized autographed book from their newest favorite writer.

Albert Schweitzer Elementary

Service Learning Club tackles multiple projects

The Service Learning Club at Schweitzer continues to keep busy with multiple projects, including the creation of recycled bracelets,



earrings and necklaces as part of their year-long Environmental Science project, taking a trip to Attleboro Nursing home to sing holiday songs, delivering plants and cards, and raising money for holiday meals.

The work continues in February with Valentine cards for military

and nursing home, making dog treats for Women's Humane Society, and creating more recycled artwork and jewelry to be displayed and sold at the spring craft show.

Maple Point Middle School

Basketball team finishes undefeated in league play

Congratulations to the Maple Point 8th grade girls basketball team, who finished their season as the undefeated Bucks County League Champions for the second year in a row! The team finished with an overall 20-1 record.



Poquessing Middle School

Multiple projects mark MLK Week of Service

In January, the Student Council visited Attleboro Nursing Home in Langhorne where they played board games and bingo. There was no shortage of smiles as each resident was also given a handmade snowflake. Students loved getting to know the residents and "competing" to win the games and gain prizes.

In another activity, the Interact club made no-sew fleece blankets. These soft blankets are being donated to patients at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as a way to brighten their days. One student even took it upon himself to make a matching pillow for each blanket!

Finally, the Environmental Club put together breakfast bags for the Bucks County Homeless Coalition. This group hosts monthly dinners during the winter for the homeless and they like to send them off with something when they leave. The students worked feverishly to fill 96 bags in just an hour. The bags contained granola bars, cereal, juice boxes and other non-perishable foods as well as a personal note of encouragement written by a student.

These projects were funded through Neshaminy's \$1,000 Community Partnership Grant awarded last year to Mrs. Carrie Lenahan, a guidance counselor at the school. The hope for the future is that even more groups, clubs and teams will participate in our week of service next year!! Mrs. Lenahan, Mrs. Scott and Mr. Barnes would like to thank all of the students for giving of

their time to these worthy projects.

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Family STEM nights a hit

Fifth and sixth-grade students at Carl Sandburg Middle School participated in two Family STEM Nights held at the school in January - one for each grade. The students were given a problem



to solve - in this case how to land an earth-bound version of a 'Mars Rover' (an egg) undamaged from the ceiling of the cafeteria to a target on the floor using only the materials provided - plastic bags, Popsicle sticks, cardboard tubes, foam cups, etc. Working with a family members, students were able to first test their creations by having them dropped from a ladder; the final test was a drop all the way from the ceiling using a lift.

Tower of Power challenges budding engineers

Another STEM challenge at Sandburg is the annual Tower of Power, which was held in early February. About 200 students on 29 teams turned out for the evening event in the gymnasium, which included all grades at the school.

Each team of four students was given a few raw materials - straws, paper clips and a tennis ball - and had to create the tallest tower possible that could support the weight of the tennis ball. Students had a limited amount of time to complete the project, then had to leave their creation behind so it could be measured.

As is often the case with this activity, the tallest tower isn't always the winner, since they may collapse once the tennis ball is added. Students had to use their knowledge of structure and work as a team to accomplish their goal.

Many of the teams dressed in themed costumes. Prizes for the costumes and the winning towers, as well as random raffle prizes were donated by local merchants.

Neshaminy High School

Sophomore heading to national tech summit

Congratulations to Neshaminy HS sophomore Kevin Sheenan, who was selected as a delegate for The Congress of Future and Science and Technology Leaders taking place this summer in Boston. The Congress is an honors-only program for high



school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Kevin was chosen to represent Neshaminy based on his academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology. At the Congress he will join students from around the country to hear Nobel Laureate and National Medal of Science winners talk about current scientific research and the future of science and technology as well as educational opportunities.

BCIT students tour financial technology company

On Wednesday, January 20, Loanlogics hosted thirteen Neshaminy Business, Computer and Information Technology (BCIT) students for a “Technology Career Day.” Loanlogics is a software technology company located in Treose, that serves the market needs of residential mortgage and consumer lenders who want to improve loan quality, performance and reliability throughout the loan lifecycle. They are not the mortgage lender but provide software support to the lenders.

Neshaminy students were given an overview of the company, led by Leah Fox, SVP of Customer Success. This was followed by a number of managers in the company who talked about their education and career paths that landed them in the positions they currently hold with the company. Areas of discussion were



software project management, cyber security, document handling and processing, and product management. Careers in both technology and non-technology were discussed with students. The President and CEO, Brian K. Fitzpatrick, also gave his time to the students in discussing his career path and answering questions.

The culmination of the morning for the students was an activity in which students created an app as “project managers” with each of the three teams being guided by a Loanlogics manager.

Athletes sign college scholarship letters of intent

A group of 17 student athletes were honored at a signing ceremony in the hub at NHS Friday February 5. Each has been offered a scholarship

to study at and play for their respective schools:

- Amanda Blum, Field Hockey, Quinnipiac University
- Marlena Koellner, Field Hockey, Sacred Heart University
- Maria Palmieri, Field Hockey, Drexel University
- Christen Pennington, Field Hockey, Villanova University
- Sean Conway, Track and Field, Bucknell University
- Sophie Beretski, Softball, Kutztown University
- Mackensie Compton, Softball, Providence College
- Caitlyn Seely, Softball, Mercer County Community College
- William Meyer, Baseball, Mercer County Community College
- Denzel Hughes, Football, Bloomsburg University
- William Ritchey, Football, Sacred Heart University
- Kyle Smith, Football, Lock Haven University
- Harmon Yalartai, Football, Bloomsburg University
- David Nuckles, Lacrosse, North Greenville University
- Julia Andreozi, Soccer, Campbell University
- Alyssa Antonelly, Soccer, Millersville University
- Gabrielle Farrell, Soccer, Liberty University

12 inducted into All Sports Hall of Fame

Ten Neshaminy High School alumni athletes and two coaches were inducted into the Neshaminy High School All Sports Hall of Fame January 15, 2016. The ceremony, held at the Black Box Theater at NHS, marked the 25th anniversary of the Hall. Inductees and



their families enjoyed a buffet-style meal at NHS, followed by the ceremony and finally an introduction to the public in Gym 3 at the beginning of a boys varsity basketball game.

Players

- Class of 1993: Craig Reid Van Demark (boys soccer)
- Class of 1994: Michael B. Torda (in memoriam)(baseball)
- Class of 1990: Anne Karmilowicz Powers (field hockey)
- Class of 1988: Thomas Costello (football)
- Class of 2006: Kyle S. Smith (boys indoor track)
- Class of 2004: Danielle Scardino (girls indoor track)
- Class of 2006: Allison Yost (girls soccer)
- Class of 2004: Molly Dacey (softball)
- Class of 1980: Brett D. Connelly (boys track)
- Class of 2001: Michele Barnard (girls track)

Coaches

Bob Bricker (cross country and track coach 1971 - 1989)

Kathleen Mullins-Houser (softball coach 2002 - 2010)

Two seniors nominated for US Service Academies

Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-8) joined Bucks and Montgomery county students, families and military veterans Wednesday evening to announce his selections for military service academy nominations.

This year's class includes 36 nominees with recommendations to the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Two of the nominees are Neshaminy High School students: Parker Minotti, who was nominated for the US Military Academy at West Point, and Matthew Doyle, who was nominated for the US Naval Academy at Annapolis.



Basketball team earns another league title

Congratulations to the Neshaminy High School Girls' Basketball Team for clinching their third SOL Championship Title in four years! Playoffs begin February 12 at NHS. The team is coached by Joe Lally.

Neshaminy Education Foundation

NEF Night at the Flyers



The Philadelphia Flyers has partnered with the NEF to offer discount tickets for a great night of pro hockey on Wednesday, March 30 as the Flyers take on the Washington Capitals. Neshaminy community members can take advantage of

group discount rates of \$45 for upper level seats and \$80 for lower level seats. \$10 of each ticket sold goes directly to the NEF!

Tickets can be ordered online at www.neshaminy.org/nef.

Dining Out Night at Bertucci's

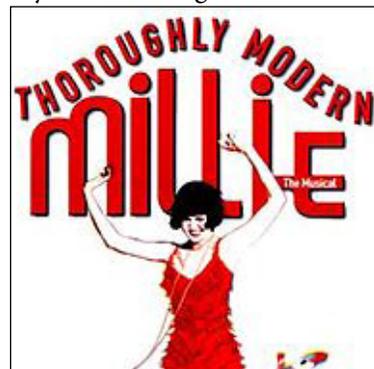
The Bertucci's location at Oxford Valley Mall once again is hosting a fundraising night for the Foundation. 15% of all orders - takeout or dine-in on Monday and Tuesday, March 14 and 15, will be donated to the NEF. Join the NEF for a post Gym Night dinner with your Neshaminy neighbors and friends!

District

Summer Stock registration under way

The Neshaminy Summer Fine Arts program has announced its shows for the 2016 season. This theater program has been operated continuously for over 50 years, drawing students from not only Neshaminy but also other districts in Bucks County.

The younger students, entering grades 3-5, will be performing the musical, 'Dear Edwinna.' Students entering grades 6-12 will be performing 'Thoroughly Modern Millie,' a stage musical based on the 1967 film starring Julie Andrews and Mary Tyler Moore.



The workshop begins July 5 at Neshaminy High School and wraps up with public performances the weekend of July 30. Information and registration forms can be found at the District web site, www.neshaminy.org.

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