

Neshaminy UPDATE

May, 2015



Neshaminy School District
Langhorne, PA

Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent

www.neshaminy.org

NSD offers camps, programs, academic help

School is a Summer Place

Even though you may have just put the snow shovels and boots away for the season, summer is coming fast and it is time to think about summer programs for school-age children. Once again, Neshaminy is offering a variety of programs for district students that can help them maintain and build their academic skills, explore the arts, or experiment with science and technology. Each has a different purpose, but all are designed to enhance the curriculum during the rest of the year. All programs listed below meet at Neshaminy High School unless otherwise noted, and have varying costs. More information on each program can be found on the district web site, www.neshaminy.org.



Summer Stock Theater (entering grades 3-5 and 6-12):

Part of the Summer Fine Arts program and open to all Bucks County students, this program has been teaching all aspects of theater arts for over 40 years. The younger students focus on theater basics such as stage direction, character development and basic dance. They will be performing 'Honk! Jr' during the workshop, and also be in the senior production. The older students collaborate with professionals to produce a full-length Broadway production. This

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Students Navigate Naviance

Scheduling classes, choosing a career path and planning for college can be a daunting task for secondary school students. Neshaminy has introduced a new online tool to help them with everything from researching careers and colleges to planning what classes they should be taking in high school to achieve their goals and help finding appropriate scholarships.

Naviance, which is available on the web and as an app on mobile devices, started in 2002 as a college search service but has expanded over the past several years to become a complete 'Career Readiness Solution' geared to middle and high school students. Students in grades 9-11 at Neshaminy High Schools received Naviance Family Connection accounts and training in the system this year, and moving forward all students in grades 9-12 will be using the system.

When students log in to Naviance, the information they see is >> Continued on page 2

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday May 4

Facilities and Finance meeting, 6:30 pm

Tuesday May 5

Board Special Meeting and Work Session, 7 pm

Monday May 11

Neshaminy Education Foundation, C&I Conference Room, 4 pm

Tuesday May 12

Educational Development Committee, 6:30 pm

Wednesday May 20

Public Board Meeting, 7 pm

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

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

	Region
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Mr. Mike Morris	2
Mr. Stephen Pirritano	1
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Mr. Don Harm
Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration

Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger
Director of Human Resources

Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Business Administrator

Naviance

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geared toward their age group and needs. A ninth-grader, for example, might see more information about careers and what high school classes would be appropriate for those careers. Seniors would see more information about colleges and scholarship opportunities that take into account their academic record, interests and stated goals.

When students first begin using the system, they take a personality assessment test, similar to those that have been used by guidance departments in the past. In Naviance, however, the data can be cross-referenced with college and career databases that allow students to explore various options in great detail, and even let them see how other students from the district and across the country achieved their life goals. Users can research college programs, acceptance statistics by geographic region or school, take a test prep course, and get real-time data-driven advice on how to achieve college and life goals.

The system also offers tools such as a journal to keep track of extra-curricular and community activities, a resume builder that can be used to help secure a part or full-time job, and an integrated electronic college application tool that allows them to apply their stored information, apply and track the status of their applications after they are submitted.

Naviance is designed to be an integral part of the high school guidance department, and even offers a messaging tool that allows students to schedule appointments with guidance counselors or just ask a question. Parents can also log in to view their children's information and progress.



Summer

(continued from page 1)



year these students will be staging 'Les Miserables (Student Edition)' during the workshop.

Instrumental Music Program (entering grades 3-12): Also part of the Summer Fine Arts program, lessons are provided for string (entering grades 3-12), percussion and wind instruments (entering grades 4-12).

Summer STEM Academy (entering grades 4-8): Offers several courses and two-week camps focusing on such areas as engineering, robotics, computer programming and digital modeling. New this year is the nationally-recognized Camp Invention, a two-week STEM camp created by the non-profit National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Neshaminy Summer School (entering grades 7-12): Now in its 58th year, this program provides graded courses in a variety of subjects for both academic enrichment and remediation purposes. Courses are open to both residents and non-residents (tuition varies).

NHS Jump Start (entering grades 9-12): This unique, non-graded, free program provides a high quality introduction to course work students will encounter during the school year in multiple subjects such as algebra, biology, chemistry, calculus, history, physics and more. An 'Everyday Writing Lab' is also offered to help students improve their presentation skills at all grade levels.

Non-open enrollment programs: The district offers programs for students with specific needs identified by NSD staff. **The Elementary Summer Tutoring Program** offers assistance in reading and math to children entering grades 2-5. Students are invited to participate based on an established set of criteria.

Summer Pass is grant-funded camp-like program designed for middle school students that helps them develop their social, physical and academic skills. Included is classroom lessons, recreational activities, community service projects and field trips that combine creative learning skills, teamwork and career development. Students are identified

for the Summer Pass program through the guidance staff at their school.

Non-district programs: The **Neshaminy Kids Club** offers a variety of summer camp options and classes at Oliver Heckman, Pearl S. Buck and Lower Southampton Elementary Schools for grades 5-8 from June 15 - August 27. For information navigate to www.neshaminykidsclub.org.

CONSOLIDATION UPDATE

Tawanka bids accepted

On April 29, Neshaminy School District received public bids for nine contract packages for the construction of the new Tawanka Elementary School in Lower Southampton Township.

The total of the bids from the apparent low and responsible bidders for each package, including alternate project additions to be recommended to the Board of School Directors by the District Administration, was \$26,003,269. The project amount is approximately 10.4% below anticipated costs, and even further under the limits set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for new construction for this project. The total cost of the work will be in the target range envisioned by the School Board since the onset of the project.

The alternate projects included are: extra storage cabinets in all classrooms; three bus canopies outside the school, and automated lighting controls to enhance energy savings during daylight hours.

Project bid costs were driven down by diligent value engineering and scope selection, as well as competition generated from a significant bid solicitation effort.

The project architect is Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. and the construction manager is Reynolds Construction, LLC. Demolition, site preparation and construction are expected to begin this summer.

5-8 GRADE TRANSITION UPDATE

Recommendations updated

The 5-8 Work Study Group Status of Recommendations was updated once again April 23. This is the final scheduled update for the group. The report is available on the Fifth Grade Transition Information web pages at www.neshaminy.org.

The 5-8 Go Team continues to meet and will manage all aspects of the transition.

Everitt Elementary planning farewell events

While Everitt Elementary School is scheduled to close at the end of the current school year as part of a building consolidation plan, it will not do so without a farewell party.

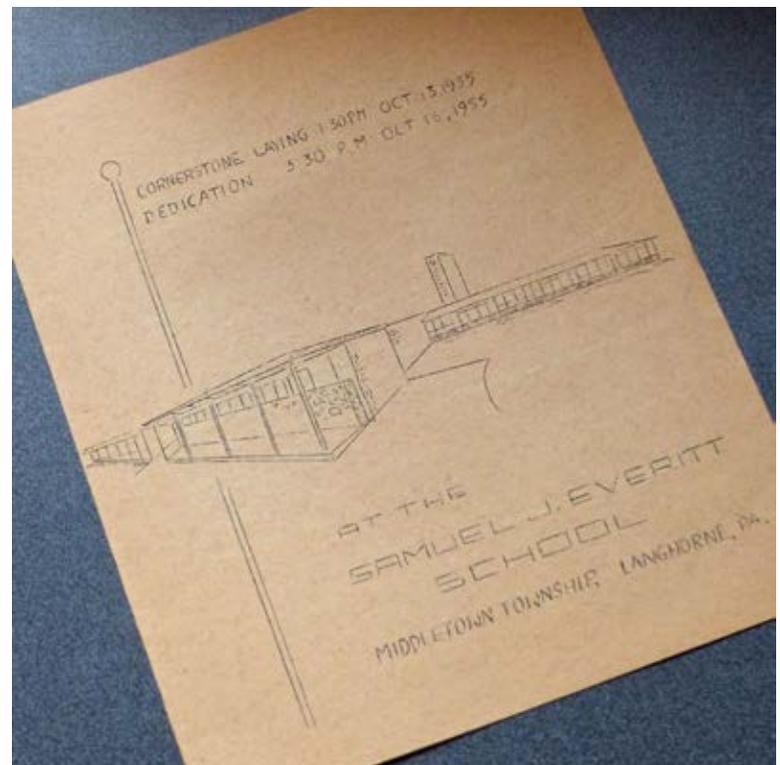
According to Principal Andre Modica, two events are planned to celebrate the history of the 60-year-old building and offer Everitt families and the community a chance to get together to reminisce.

The first event is an outdoor celebration on **Saturday, May 30 from 4 - 8 PM**. Kids can enjoy games, activities, inflatables and more, and families can enjoy food and beverages from food trucks and other vendors.

On **Wednesday June 3 from 7 - 9 PM**, teachers and staff will be in the building for an open house. This event is also open to the community, primarily geared to Everitt graduates, former staff members or anybody who would like to take a look around one last time and share some Everitt memories.

Memorabilia wanted

As part of these celebrations, the community is encouraged to share old Everitt photos, stories or memorabilia to be displayed on screens or on tables at the school during the open house on June 3. Photo contributions can be emailed to cstanley@neshaminy.k12.pa.us or contact the main office at Everitt for any other items at (215)-809-6320.





NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Pearl S. Buck ES

Drums, exercise ease PSSA crunch

At Pearl Buck Elementary School students were treated to a break from their PSSA tests with a 'Stress Less Fest.' Each grade participated, whether or not they took the exams, enjoying such activities as 'Drum Fitness', music therapy with yoga and flutes, art therapy with Play-Dough, karate exercises and even a visit from therapy dogs and a guinea pig.



Chorus sings, signs National Anthem

Buck students once again attended a Trenton Thunder baseball game on April 19, and sang the National Anthem on the field and signed the words as well.



Samuel Everitt ES

Green lessons from Waste Management

Mr. Michael Ramos, an Everitt parent who works for Waste Management, visited 2nd-graders at Samuel Everitt with one of the company's big trash trucks in April. The second grade has been learning about the environment and our community, so they were very excited about the visit. The students learned about what Waste Management does and their important role when it comes to collecting trash, yard waste, and recycling within our community. They also

learned that although trash trucks look really cool, they can be very dangerous and should be viewed at a distance.



Joseph Ferderbar ES

Students, teachers 'crush' PSSA stress

April was PSSA exam month, and the staff at Ferderbar gave their students a little motivation to help them de-stress at exam time. On the first day of the tests, the students were greeted with motivational sidewalk art as they entered school.

Students also hand-decorated bright orange t-shirts with the theme, 'Crush the PSSA's' and participated in other activities.

Creativity shines at art show

The Ferderbar Art Show was a big hit with the families on April 23 (along with the Spring Book Fair Family Night). Among the art works, the 5th Grade Art Club showed their completed marionette puppets.

The District Art show will take place May 20th & 21st at Neshaminy High School from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



Author shares her love of writing

Allison Gutknecht, author of a series of books featuring the character Mandy Berr including 'Don't Wear Polka Dot Underwear with White Pants (and Other Lessons I've Learned)' and 'Pizza is the Best Breakfast,' visited Ferderbar on April 24 to talk about reading and writing,



offer advice to aspiring writers and sign copies of her books for students during three assemblies.

Oliver Heckman ES

Kindergartners plant their 'Kindergarden'

As part of an Earth Day project, kindergarten classes put on boots, gardening gloves and hats and spent time in the courtyard garden of the school weeding, digging and planting new flowers and shrubs.



The project will continue with different student designated as helpers each week to keep their Kindergarden looking good.

Herbert Hoover ES

Poetry Night planned

The cafeteria at Hoover might not have the ambiance of a cool city cafe, but nonetheless it will be the site of a Poetry Night on Friday May 8. Young poets will be sharing their work, followed by a small reception.

Lower Southampton ES

LoSo helps autism research

Lower Southampton Students and staff raised money for autism research during the month of April. Staff purchased and wore autism shirts every Friday and donated money weekly. Students completed a coin drive and all money from both fund-raisers will be donated to support Autism Research.

Students raise funds by reading

During the month of May, all students will be participating in a unique fund raiser that raises money for school programs through a Read-A-Thon.

Students are gathering pledges from their families, friends and neighbors for donations based on the number of minutes they read during the month. Their reading and the pledges are tracked on a web site (www.learn2earn.org), and will be tallied at the end of the month.



Walter Miller ES

Students clean up and plant for Earth Day

Miller students spent some time outdoors in April not just playing outside, but making their school grounds a little nicer as part of an Earth Day project.

Each grade took on various projects, from planting flowers around the school to collecting the bits of trash that accumulated around the building over the winter.



Kindergartners visit Living History Farm

Miller kindergarten students spent a morning with some horses, sheep and goats on April 15 on a field trip to learn about the history of farming in Lambertville, NJ. The Howell Living History Farm is a 130-acre working facility that takes visitors back to life at about the year 1900.

Albert Schweitzer ES

Tech Trot raises \$1540



The third annual Schweitzer Tech Trot was held Friday, April 17. This event is sponsored by the PTO to raise money for classroom technology. Students gathered pledges from friends and family for walking, running or trotting around the track at Sandburg.

Fire Marshal teaches poison prevention

Sandy Morgan from Middletown Township Fire Marshal's office visited kindergarten students at Schweitzer in April to warn them of the dangers of household poisons.

Maple Point MS

Young authors win book award

Budding Bucks County authors and illustrators in grades

1-12 were invited to put their writing skills to the test by participating in a book contest sponsored by the Southampton Free Library of Bucks County recently.

Jesse Kovaschetz and Bobby Blum, two students in Mrs. Johnson's sixth grade English classes at Maple Point Middle School, partnered up to write and illustrate a book titled *Creature Island*, and won second place in the sixth grade category.

Their book will be professionally bound and added to the Southampton Free Library's permanent book collection.

Catapult contest tests engineering skills

Students at Maple Point MS designed and built competitive catapults as part of their science studies. On Wednesday April 8, they competed in the gymnasium after school, launching tennis balls across the floor, averaging the distances of five launches for a score.

The competition is the brainchild of Maple Point Science Department Chair Tim Hunt. Originally the competition was held in the school's LGI (Large Group Instruction) room using ping-pong balls, but has since been upgraded in materials and space.



Poquessing MS

Holocaust survivor speaks to 8th graders

Holocaust survivor Ronnie Reutlinger Breslow spoke to 8th-grade students at Poquessing Middle School April 28 about her experiences escaping Nazi Germany just before World War II.

Ronnie, who was born in Kircheim, Germany, was able to escape through a detention camp in Holland with her mother. She had to give up the only possession she was able to bring from her home in Germany to secure passage on a ship - a stamp collection given to her by her uncle.

Ronnie, who now lives in Montgomery County, spoke to the students then took questions following the presentation.



Middle school students ace computer fair

Over 45 Neshaminy SD students in Academic Enrichment classes and the computer clubs from all three middle schools participated in the Bucks County Computer Fair in Doylestown Friday April 11.

The team of Stevie Buffardi and Jenna Kaufman from Poquessing won first place in Digital movie. And the team of Rachel Schodowski, Joie Wicher and Elaine Baker from Maple Point came in second place in the same category.

Connor Menzel from Maple Point came in first place in the animation category and Jack Toy from Maple Point came in first place in the programming category.

The Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Regional Middle School Computer Fair is an annual event that highlights Bucks County middle school students' application skills and computer knowledge. Students are able to unleash their creativity, learn how to convey information more dynamically, and enhance the learning process. The participation categories were: animation, computer fair logo, digital movie, graphic design, programming and web page design.

Carl Sandburg MS

Sandburg group has a Great Adventure

The Great Adventure theme park in New Jersey was all about Sandburg on April 24. About 475 students and adults attended, including many parent volunteer chaperons.



Neshaminy HS

NHS wins Bucks Envirothon, heads to states

Congratulations to Neshaminy High School Environmental Science students that competed in the annual Bucks County Envirothon held at Bucks County Audubon in new Hope Friday May 1. Neshaminy Team One consisting of Diana Maher, Patrick McCormick, Kevin Faccenda, Ashley

Sked, and Cole Tiemann placed first out of thirteen teams. Neshaminy Team Two, consisting of David Kneiss, Kristin Link, John Stay, Ryan Galuchie, and Wil Taylor placed second.



This is the sixth county win in a row and the 11th win in twelve years for Neshaminy. Next up is the state competition which will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown campus May 19 and 20.

Business leaders take state titles

The Business, Computer and Information Technology Department is proud to recognize the Neshaminy winners of the state FBLA competitions held in Hershey, Pennsylvania on April 13th through April 15th. Over 4,500 FBLA students from across the state of Pennsylvania went to this conference to compete in various business and technology related events.

Twenty regional winners from Neshaminy High School's FBLA Club attended the state competition in Hershey. Neshaminy had the following students recognized for placing within the top ten of their events.

- 3rd place award Alex Szymanski - Business Plan (eligible to compete at Nationals)
- 3rd place award Matthew Smith, Ryan Doyle and Ryan MacDonald – Sports and Entertainment Management (eligible to compete at Nationals)
- 8th place award David Kim – Computer Applications

FBLA competitors who also placed in four open competitive events:

- 1st place award David Kim – Human Resource Management
- 1st place award Tim Cho – Leadership
- 3rd place award Tim Cho – FBLA Creed / Code of Ethics
- 6th place award David Kim - Internet

The National FBLA Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois June 27 through July 2 .

Musicians visit New Orleans, win awards

Approximately 150 NHS musicians visited New Orleans in April to compete in the Heritage Festival of Music and take in the sights of the historic city.

The festival involves musicians from across the country, and gives the musicians not only the chance to perform but to work with professional musicians at workshops.



The winners:

Symphonic Band

- Gold Rating – 1st Place (2A Division)
- Festival of Gold Invitation
- Adjudicator Award (for score 92 or above)

Wind Ensemble

- Gold Rating - 1st Place (3A Division)
- Festival of Gold Invitation
- Adjudicator Award (for score above 92)
- Outstanding Band Group Award (highest overall score in band category)

String Orchestra

- Silver Rating (3A Division)

Jazz Ensemble

- Gold Rating – 1st Place (2A Division)

Jazz Band

- Gold Rating – 1st Place (3A Division)

Instrumental Sweepstakes Award

- Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
- Awarded to schools with two ensembles participating with highest combined score out of 200.

Maestro Awards (for outstanding individual musicianship)

- Michael Keiper – drums, Jazz Ensemble
- Mae Prasch – vibes, Jazz Ensemble
- Danny Aslanian – clarinet, Wind Ensemble
- Kaitlin Sibre – flute, Wind Ensemble
- Joe Stanford – tenor sax, Jazz Band
- Andrew Northrup – bari sax, Jazz Band

Ovation Award

- Danny Aslanian
- One student nominated by directors from each participating school that represents the spirit of determination, inspiration and service to others.

Playwickian editors keynote FL conference

Playwickian Editors-in-Chief Gillian McGoldrick and Reed Hennessy were selected as keynote speakers at the 2015 Florida Scholastic Press Association Conference. The two spoke to about 1,400 student journalists, advisers and media professionals on April 23 in Orlando.

Senior Citizen Prom a hit

Approximately 100 Senior Citizens from the Neshaminy area enjoyed their very own prom Friday April 10, complete with everything you would expect including dinner, refreshments, dessert, dancing, lavish decorations and more thanks to students and staff at Neshaminy High School.



For the third year in a row, the Senior Ball was hosted by members of the NHS Student Council, the Service Learning Club, and the FCS Major Classes. Teachers behind the event were Richard Kain, Cate Romano, and Kelly Macauley.

Gym 1 at the high school was decorated with hundreds of balloons and tables were also decorated for this year's theme, Candyland. Seniors from area

residences, nursing homes and senior centers were invited to attend the prom free of charge.

Claire McGee and Denis Dorsey, both of Middletown, were crowned Prom Queen and King.

Color Fest raises funds, awareness

Members of the Interact Club at Neshaminy High School wanted to help out the family of one of their own, and did so with a colorful fund-raiser outside the school Saturday April 18.

The Color Fest was held to benefit the Glut1-DS Foundation, a group that supports patients dealing with an extremely rare disease. Only 500 cases have been diagnosed world-wide, and the 89th is Herbert Hoover Elementary School second-grader Gracie Martens. Her sister, Lilly, is a NHS student and a member of Interact.



Students get real at Financial Reality Fair

Over 150 BCIT (Business, Computers and Information Technology) students at Neshaminy HS got a dose of reality - the good kind - during the Inspire Financial Reality Fair held during classes April 7.

Several staff members from Inspire Federal Credit Union along with a number of volunteers ranging from Inspire vendors to retired teachers manned stations at the fair, each providing students with information about the price of various life choices, counselors. Students prepared mock budgets and had them reviewed by the financial experts.

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