

# Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

December, 2015

## PTHS TAKES ITS PLACE IN SUPER BOWL HISTORY

Pemberton Township High School has become a member of an elite Honor Roll reserved for high schools who have contributed to Super Bowl history. On October 30th, Ed Smith, 1987 PTHS graduate and former NFL tight end, presented PTHS with a commemorative Wilson Golden Football in recognition of Smith's participation in Super Bowl XXXIII.

The Super Bowl High School Honor Roll is designed to link past Super Bowls with this year's 50th Super Bowl game and honor the high schools and communities that have



positively impacted the game of football.

"I consider my time here at Pemberton to be some of the best moments of my life," said Smith. "I'm thrilled to be able to come and give back to the high school that gave me so much."

An outstanding baseball and football player at PTHS, Smith was voted 'Most Athletic' and 'Most Likely to Succeed' in the class of '87. After graduating, he was drafted by the Chicago White Sox, declining football scholarships to Penn State and Florida in order to begin his professional baseball career. After 9 years playing in the minor league system for various teams, he moved on to begin his football career. Smith won an NFC championship with the Atlanta Falcons in 1998, earning him his place in Super Bowl history.

Smith presented the Golden Football to principal Ida Smith at the pep rally before the homecoming game. "I think one

of the best things about Ed coming here is that he is showing students that he remembers high school and it was important to him," Smith said. "It's all about where you came from."



*PTHS Principal Ida Smith displays the Golden Football presented to the high school. It will be permanently displayed in a trophy case at the high school.*



*Ed Smith was visibly moved when he was presented with a Pemberton Township High School replica football jersey representative of his football days at Pemberton. He also received a plaque expressing appreciation for his giving back to the school.*

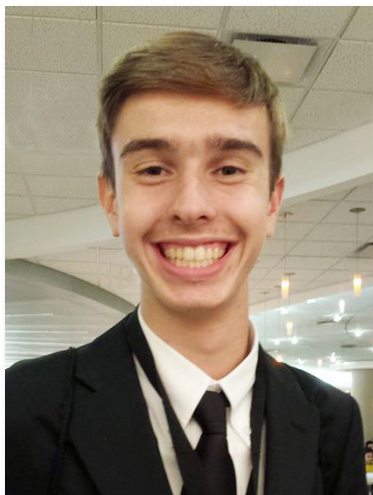


*You can get there from here!*

Pemberton Learning Community: *Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time*

# PTHS STUDENT PERFORMS AT THE GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE

PTHS senior Joe Barton took his place on stage in Nashville in October as one of the “best of the best” in the All-National Honor Choir. Joe is the first Pemberton student to achieve this honor, and did an exceptional job representing his school district.



*Joe's excitement at being in Nashville is evident in his smile!*

“It was an amazing experience to stand on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House,” said Joe. “Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be performing there.”

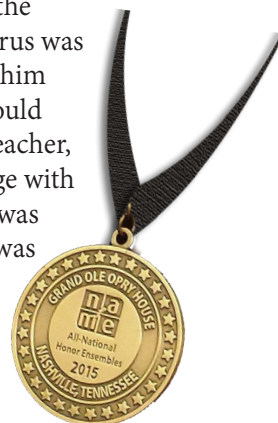
Joe was one of approximately 350 vocalists to make it to the high level of All-Nationals. In

order to even qualify to try out for the program, they must first go through the rigorous auditions on the local, district and state levels. After securing a spot in the New Jersey State Choir, Joe became one of the elite students selected for the National Association for Music Education's (NAFME) 2015 All-National Honor Ensembles.

PTHS choral director Gayle Rubenstein could not

be prouder. “Joe's participation in the NAFME All National Honors Chorus was a once in a lifetime experience for him and everything he had hoped it would be—and more,” she said. “As his teacher, watching him perform on that stage with the best of the best in the country was something I will never forget and was a profoundly moving experience.”

Joe plans to go to college to pursue music education and voice, and then go on to get a higher degree in choral conducting. He credits Pemberton with helping him along his path to success. “I wouldn't be where I am right now without the incredible teachers at Pemberton. I owe so much to our schools.”



*The choir takes the stage at the Grand Ole Opry House*



## ...AND CONTINUING TO SING THEIR PRAISES...



*Joe Barton, Christine Martin, Sean Barton, Siobhan McGuinness and Eugene Sandel were all named to the South Jersey Region III Choir.*

In addition to Joe's spotlight on the national stage, he and four other high school students have earned a place of honor on the local stage. Kudos to seniors Joe Barton and Christine Martin, juniors Sean Barton and Siobhan McGuinness, and sophomore Eugene Sandel on being named to the South Jersey Choral Directors Region III Choir! All five scored exceptionally well at the rigorous audition and will perform in January at Eastern High School.

In addition, in November, three of those students performed with the New Jersey All State Mixed Chorus and Orchestra. Joe, Sean, and Eugene rehearsed June through November with the prestigious group, and on November 6th their hard work and practice culminated in a spectacular performance at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.



# CELEBRATING RESPECT AND ANTI-VIOLENCE WEEKS



**Giving Drugs the BOOT!**



**Putting a Cap on Drugs!**



**Creating a Buddy Bench**



**Teaming up Against Violence**

From preschool to high school, Pemberton students joined in state-wide recognition weeks to put an end to bullying, violence and drugs. Coordinated by building counselors and administrators, the weeks featured scores of activities ranging from poetry contests to guest speakers to drug-free pledges and more.

"We observed both weeks by providing age-appropriate instruction, and students displayed their creativity in themed activities and projects throughout the week," said guidance supervisor Rita Jenkins.

Both recognition weeks were put in place by the state to recognize the importance of character education. The weeks give schools the opportunity to highlight activities that help them develop and maintain a safe and positive learning environment.

Character education is a priority in Pemberton Township Schools. "Our goal, simply stated, is to be smart and good," explained superintendent Tony Trongone. "Martin Luther King, Jr. once eloquently stated, 'The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.' To unlock the power of character is to define character to include the quest for excellence as well as the quest for ethics," he added. "The pathway to being smart and good is embedding character into our students' lives each school day through our curriculum, in the classroom."



**Creative Anti-Bullying Lessons**



**Displaying Our Character!**



**Inspirational Guest Speakers**



**Doing our Hair, Not Drugs!**



## NEW DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION PREK - 5

Jeff Havers has joined the Pemberton Township Learning Community as the new Director of Curriculum for grades PreK through 5.

Havers comes to us from Berlin Community School, where he served as principal for the past 6 years. As principal of the preschool through 8th grade school, he was responsible for the supervision of building level administrators, basic skills, ELL, nurses, guidance and 84 certified staff members. Prior to that, he served as the lead teacher/disciplinarian of Hainesport Elementary School, after teaching social studies, 5th grade and Basic Skills there for 13 years. He was the Hainesport School District's Teacher of the Year in 2008 and also served as president of the Hainesport Education Association. He earned both his master's and bachelor's degrees from Rowan University in Glassboro.

When he served as principal at Berlin, his school ranked in the 75th percentile for academic achievement in the state. He increased the level of support to students by offering reinforcement and enrichment periods,



Jeff Havers

teacher access, literacy lab, math lab, and academic support groups.

He is looking forward to bringing his experience and expertise to Pemberton. "My goal at Pemberton is to collaborate with all members of the learning community, as we continually seek ways to provide each scholar with an exceptional education so they can grow intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and academically to the best of his or her ability," he said. "Our children deserve nothing less."

No stranger to the Pemberton community, Havers is excited to be coming back to Pemberton. "As a child, I lived in Pemberton when I was in the 4th and 5th grades. These were very challenging years for me personally, but it was my fifth grade teacher, Ms. Avila, who made an indelible impression on me. She believed in me, and that made me believe in myself. I have never forgotten her," he said. "I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to give back, by helping to make a difference in the lives of all the children of Pemberton."

## BRETT THORP NAMED PRINCIPAL OF DENBO SCHOOL

Brett Thorp has been appointed the new principal of Alexander Denbo School. He joins Pemberton from Gibbsboro School District, where for the past five years he served as the principal/curriculum supervisor of the PreK through 8th grade Gibbsboro School. Under his leadership, the school was named a National School of Character by Character.org. and recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education as a high performing school district.

Prior to serving as principal at Gibbsboro, Thorp was a 5th/6th grade teacher in the Brooklawn School District for ten years. In addition, he currently serves as the Southern Regional Network Coordinator for the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD).

Thorp earned his Master of Education degree from



Brett Thorp

Wilmington University in Delaware, and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Elementary Education from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

His professional memberships include the NJ Principal and Supervisors Association, National Association of Elementary School Principals and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

He is excited to bring his experience to Denbo. "It is an honor to join the Pemberton Township School District and the Alexander Denbo School learning community. I firmly believe in the strong partnership between character and academics," he said. "Social and emotional learning go hand in hand with academics. I look forward to working with all stakeholders in the Alexander Denbo School learning community to *Pursue Excellence, One Child at a Time!*"



# Happening Around Our Schools



1. Career Day guest Dr. Louis deLise talks to students at the middle school about his career as a music composer.

2. Emmons student Alyssa Smith lifts some heavy bags of potatoes during the Pemberton Rotary Food Drive. The annual event provided 40 Pemberton families with overflowing food baskets, and brought together volunteers from the PTHS National Honor Society & Interact Club, and members from local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops.

3. The PTHS football team completed a record-breaking season with 9 wins, the most in school history! In addition, they brought home the Thanksgiving game Commander's Cup, and finished the season as Liberty Division Co-Champions.

4. The PTHS Field Hockey team had an outstanding season, earning the title of Freedom Division Conference Champions!

5. Fall fests were held throughout the district, and student Ellsie Clinger enjoyed stuffing a scarecrow during the fall fest at Fort Dix.

6. Harker-Wylie students met their goal of reading 3000 books over the summer, and were rewarded with a pajama party.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOW OFF WORK SKILLS

Teachers, staff members and administrators were treated to a delicious brunch at the middle school in November, courtesy of the Community Based Instruction students. The first of four fund-raising brunches hosted by the group, donations from the event were allocated to the "Read Something Amazing" summer reading program in honor of teacher Allison McGinnis, who passed away this summer.

Students have specific jobs during the brunches, serving as a host/hostess, cashier, waiter/waitress, or beverage maker, and of course,



*Kayla Donnelly waits on a table during the brunch fund-raising event.*

The first brunch of the year was an overwhelming success, raising nearly \$200 for the Read Something Amazing program.

"Ms. Theinert and I are overwhelmed by the professional way our students performed their jobs. Our 8th grade students did an outstanding job mentoring our 7th grade students throughout the brunch," said Seeley. "We are so proud of our students, but more importantly, our students are proud of themselves."

they all participate in the set up and clean up. They are compensated for their work with a 'salary' of PBSIS Buzz Bucks, which can be used to purchase items from the school store.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to practice their interpersonal skills, following directions, and academic skills," said teacher Deborah Seeley, who coordinates the event with teacher Alyssa Theinert.

Students take their tasks very seriously, and guests are asked to complete evaluation sheets regarding the service they received. And of course, guests are encouraged to tip students for outstanding service, also with the currency of Buzz Bucks.



*Desire Jones focuses on taking an order during the brunch.*



*Waiter Mason Hos serves brunch to superintendent Tony Trongone.*

## PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPCOMING WINTER ACTIVITIES

### FLYAROO FITNESS - 8 WEEK PROGRAM COMING SOON!

FLYAROO Fitness program bounces around the world using imaginative themes to stimulate minds and bodies of young children. This learning-based movement program is a fun way to exercise and teach preschoolers about healthy habits through yoga, dance, and imagination. The unique program keeps kids moving and learning simultaneously!

### LEGO CREATIONS - NEW SESSION COMING SOON!

Open to ages 4-11. Lesson for Ages 4-7 includes: Early Simple Machines, DUPLO Tubes Experiment Set, and Tech Machines. Lesson for Ages 8-11 will include Simple and Motorized Mechanisms.

### PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Mail-in forms and online registration is available at [www.pemberton-twp.com](http://www.pemberton-twp.com). Register in-person at the Recreation Department located at the Country Lakes Clubhouse (69 Tensaw Drive, Browns Mills) / Mon.-Fri. 8am-4:30pm.

### Contacting the Pemberton Township Recreation Department:

Phone: 609-893-5034

Email: [recreation@pemberton-twp.com](mailto:recreation@pemberton-twp.com)

Website: [www.pemberton-twp.com](http://www.pemberton-twp.com)

Facebook: Pemberton Recreation



# JROTC STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC WREATHS



Members of the PTHS JROTC were recently awarded the prestigious "Academic Wreath" for achieving high academic standards. This national award was presented to 24 students who achieved an 'A' average in JROTC and at least a 'B' average in all other subjects. Many students have received the award for multiple years. Congratulations to all!

Front Row: Assistant Principals Mr. Bamber and Mrs. Walulak, Iyad Nasef, Branden Rodriguez, Ashley Cox, Esther Monroe, Robert Atwood, Alexander Rodriguez, assistant principal Mr. Dickenson and Major John Cook.

Row 2: Curtis Ford, Jordan Grover, Garreth Henry, Christopher Miller, Jennifer Landis, Katelyn Toohey, Joaquin Directo, Kelly Garrison and Lauryl Begley.

Row 3: Donal Betts, Tyler McCall, Gavin Rook, Joseph Davey and principal Mrs. Smith.

Row 4: Tyler Horn, Judith Arnce, Shae Christenbery, Erin Curley and Anthony Neve.

## SCHOOLS CELEBRATE AND HONOR OUR VETERANS



Veterans Day celebrations were held throughout the district in November, with students honoring veterans through ceremonies, performances and thoughtful displays. Above left, Sincere McNeil gets ready to plant flags outside at Denbo/Crichton. Center, students at the Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center climb aboard a visiting US Coast Guard boat, and right, members of the PTHS JROTC present colors at the Fort Dix Veterans Day ceremony.



**Pemberton Township Board of Education**

P.O. Box 228 - One Egbert Street

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## 1ST QUARTER CO-OP AWARDS



Cooperative Education students were recently presented with awards acknowledging their achievements during the first quarter.

The PTHS School-to-Career Advisory Board presents awards to co-op students and student interns who exhibit such qualities as outstanding attendance, maturity, behavior and citizenship.

*Pictured above are first quarter recipients Manuel Medina, KeAmber Levatte, Abberly Bevilacqua and Darrell Bracey.*

*Please send ideas for articles to the Media Services Department or email [jmignella@pemb.org](mailto:jmignella@pemb.org). Questions? Call 609-893-8141, ext. 2038.*