

# Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

May, 2023

## PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS CELEBRATES MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Pemberton Township Schools honored military students with a variety of activities and events throughout the month of April. The United States Department of Defense celebrates



*Busansky student Mariano Lujano Secundino poses for a photo with his father Russell Force III at the military breakfast.*

over 1.6 million military children nationwide each year with the Month of the Military Child initiative that was created by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986.

The celebrations kicked off with a military family breakfast at Howard L. Emmons Elementary School on April 4th. Parents were invited to attend a fully-catered breakfast with their children, provided by the district's food services department. Students received honorary certificates and a video was shown of students telling their parents about their favorite part of being a military child.

Neighboring campus Samuel T. Busansky Elementary School followed suit with a military family breakfast on April 5th. Lieutenant Colonel Curtis from Joint Base McGuire-

Dix-Lakehurst served as a guest speaker. Marcus W. Newcomb Middle School, the Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center, Pemberton Township High School, Helen A. Fort Middle School and Denbo-Crichton Elementary School hosted breakfasts for military families that also featured a variety of honorary certificates and videos.

The celebrations continued with a district-wide "Purple Up Day" on April 21st. Students and staff at all schools wore purple in honor of military children. The color purple represents all branches of the United States Armed Forces.



*Lt. Colonel Megan Hall served as a keynote speaker at Fort Dix Elementary School's Military Child Assembly on April 28.*

The month concluded with a military child assembly at Fort Dix and a military ball at Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School on April 28th.



*Esmeralda Soberal sits in a Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst firetruck at Fort Dix' Elementary School's Touch-a-Truck Event on April 21.*

Throughout the month, students from all nine schools in Pemberton Township were also recognized by Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst School Liaison Services for demonstrating core values of each branch of the military both inside and outside of the classroom.

"We are extremely grateful for our strong relationship with Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and proud to have this opportunity to support our military families," Pemberton Township Schools superintendent Jeff Havers said. "It is a privilege to be able to honor our military students and their families with events throughout Month of the Military Child each year."



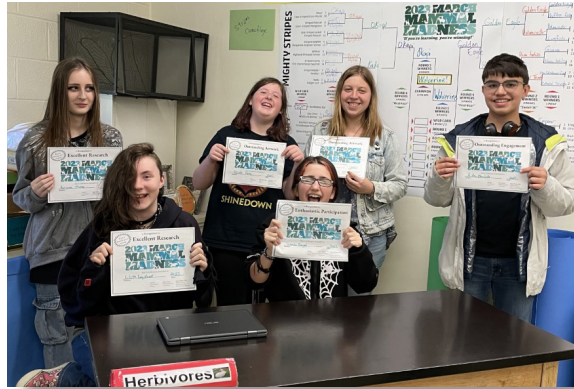
Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time

# HELEN FORT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MARCH MAMMAL MADNESS BRACKET PROJECT

Seventh grade science students at Helen A. Fort Middle School participated in a March Mammal Madness project that spanned the months of March and April.

The yearly project is operated by Arizona State University and is designed to coincide with the annual NCAA men's basketball tournament, providing students with an interactive method of learning in biology studies.

The students were assigned one out of 65 animals to research in a group slide project. Then they had to use that as a resource to fill out their individual brackets which were based on NCAA basketball. Videos were released three times a week by Arizona State showing the combatants battles and the winners. Students were awarded certificates for research, artwork, participation, engagement and top score. Trophies



*Students (front row, sitting from left) Lilith Longstreet, Iremsu Kangal, (standing from left) Brienna Thomas, Brielle Moran, Kenzlee Shinn and Aiden Mendiola received certificates for their efforts in Helen Fort's March Mammal Madness project designed for seventh grade science classes.*

were also awarded to the top three scorers in each of the three science teachers' classes.

Through the exercises of the project, students were able to learn about different mammals and how they differ in terms of size, diet, habitat and behavioral traits.

Seventh grade students Lilith Longstreet, Iremsu Kangal, Brienna Thomas, Brielle Moran, Kenzlee Shinn and Aiden Mendiola were among the students that were recognized with certificates for their successful research.

"This project is great for our students as it allows them to learn about different species in a fun, interactive way," science teacher Merri Hirsh said. "The students

enjoyed working together in groups in a fun, yet competitive environment. Participants were able to learn about the research process through their studies. Projects like this will help prepare students for the future."

## BUSANSKY POLLINATOR GARDEN DESIGN CONTEST

*Pre-G.A.T.E. and G.A.T.E. Teacher for grades 1 through 5, Rebecca Gudknecht, created a school-wide contest at Busansky for all students on campus to participate in. Students were asked to create a layout for the school's courtyard, including a pollinator garden and outside classroom. The winning design with the most votes would be used by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance to build the courtyard garden. The series of projects implemented at Busansky increased environmental awareness among students, and the implementation of a green infrastructure taught students about the importance of environmental stewardship.*



*Fifth grade student Olivia Chen won the first-ever Pollinator Garden Design Contest at Busansky. Olivia's design will be used by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Rutgers University to build a pollinator garden in the school's courtyard across from the main office.*



*Scott Elliott from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance places a cardinal plant in the rain garden at Busansky. National Elementary Honor Society students at the school helped Elliott with the planting process as part of a green infrastructure learning initiative at Busansky.*



# PTHS RECOGNIZES SENIORS AT DECISION DAY



PTHS hosted its annual Decision Day on May 1 to recognize students committed to furthering their education beyond high school!

1. Lola Jenkins (James Madison), left, and Kai Hutchins (Manhattan), right, celebrate their college choices at Decision Day.
2. Aleece Black and Montana Fulmer will both be attending Stockton University in the fall.
3. Jordan Sessler, left and Elijah Carrero, right, celebrate their commitments to Rowan University.
4. Pablo Roman celebrates his decision to attend Rowan College at Burlington County.
5. From left to right, Camryn Barkley, Destinee Goodly, Azariah Giddings, Elyssa Gravatt, Ameile Jones and Victoria Morfin celebrate Decision Day with Class of 2023 gear.

## Newcomb Names New Pemberton Police K9



Students and staff at Newcomb Middle School were given the opportunity to name the newest officer of the Pemberton Township Police Department. L.E.A.D. Program students and staff were asked to vote and make the final decision on a name for the department's newest K9 after name recommendations were provided by employees at the Pemberton Township Municipal Complex. The winning name selected was Zeus.

The district also celebrated National Police Week in May with visits from local law enforcement members and interactive activities for students to engage in positive conversations with police officers.





# 43 STUDENTS HONORED AT PTHS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS



*PTHS hosted its annual People's Choice Awards on May 11, 2023. 43 students were honored at the ceremony by staff members. The People's Choice Awards is a tradition that was revived by retired PTHS teacher Joseph Zangaro in the early 2000s. Each nominee received the honor as a result of a staff member observing their character being displayed, with each student fulfilling one or more of the four pillars of character: Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity and Gratitude.*



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