

Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

December, 2016

iPADS MAKE MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEBUT

It's no surprise that the landscape of education is continually expanding to include innovative ways to use technology. Recognizing its potential as an interactive learning device and problem-solving tool, Pemberton has taken a progressive approach to integrating technology in the classroom. While one-to-one tablet distribution began at the high school 3 years ago, this year saw the distribution of iPads to every middle school student, and most recently, to every third through fifth grade student at Fort Dix Elementary.



8th grade student James Bogdol uses the program StudySync on his iPad at the middle school.

Tablets have been shown to increase the volume of learning content available, engage students on a deeper

level, and allow teachers to measure learning outcomes, along with a host of other functions.

Middle school distribution took place just before the first day of school, with over 1,000 iPads issued to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Over 200 Fort Dix students received their iPads in September, and students and teachers in both schools got to work right away.

Fort Dix fifth grade teacher Melissa Foremny finds the iPads to be a welcome resource in her classroom. "We were very excited to get the iPads this year," she said. "It's a great way to get students automatically engaged in the lesson."

On a recent day in her classroom, students were working on a project on the sea turtle, utilizing their iPads to research, write, create and present. "I think these iPads help you work better and faster," said 5th grader Joseph Lorenzo. "They also help you check your work, too." Student Erica Labeth agrees. "I can go into Google Classroom, and I can use the thesaurus to find a synonym or antonym. I just really love this thing a lot!"

At the middle school, students are involved in using the *StudySync* Digital Tool for English Language Arts instruction. The program offers anonymous peer review,



Fort Dix elementary student Erica Labeth works on her sea turtle project using Keynotes on her iPad.

which allows students to analyze the writing of their peers, increasing their analytical skills as they learn to revise their own work and become critical thinkers. Other tools include the popular "Blast" program that uses short weekly reading and writing assignments to challenge students to develop informed opinions on current topics of cultural significance.

Most of the recent research on tablets in the classroom focuses on the engagement levels of students. The prevailing conclusion is that the use of tablets is associated with higher student engagement levels in learning activities. In addition, studies also show increased student motivation, resulting in additional benefits such as increased levels of confidence and self-efficacy.



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



PECEC ACHIEVES IMPRESSIVE 5-STAR RATING!

The Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center has been awarded a Five-Star rating from Grow NJ Kids, and they celebrated with their very own 5-Star Celebration at the start of the school year.

Grow NJ Kids is New Jersey's Quality Rating Improvement System designed to raise the quality of child care and early learning across the state. It provides parents with information on selecting a quality provider to help them make the most of their child's early learning opportunities, and it also provides early learning programs with resources to help them improve their programs.

"We chose to participate in the Grow NJ Kids rating system because we wanted to raise our quality and look at it from a deeper perspective," said early childhood assistant



Proudly displaying the 5-Star Certificate are: Tania Davis, NJ DOE, Early Childhood Division; Dr. Ellen Wolock, NJ DOE, Early Childhood Division; Superintendent Tony Trongone; Deborah Ceplo, Assistant Director of Early Childhood and PECEC Principal; Vincent Costanza, Executive Director: Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge at NJ DOE; Andrea Breitweiser and Kim Owens, from Grow NJ Kids.

director and principal Deborah Ceplo. "We are always looking for ways to continuously improve our program."

Criteria for obtaining a rating include completing an extensive Self-Assessment and a Quality Improvement Plan. Ratings are based on verification of evidence for each standard through a documentation review and scores on the Environmental Rating. The process began in June of 2014, when PECEC volunteered to participate in the program. Participating programs can earn from one to five stars, and PECEC soared right to the

top when they were awarded a 5-Star rating—the highest rating possible—this past summer.

A special celebration took place at the opening of the school year to celebrate this remarkable achievement. Staff, board members and guests from the Department of Education and Grow NJ enjoyed an upbeat ceremony, reveling in the triumph of the Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center.

PEMBERTON MUSIC STUDENTS EARN RECOGNITION

November is always a busy month for music students, especially as they prepare for the upcoming holiday concert season. But this year was packed with even more music for three talented PTHS students, whose hard work and ambition led them to exciting new experiences.

Senior Sean Barton and junior Eugene Sandel were selected to perform with the New Jersey All State Mixed Chorus in November. They performed at Convention Hall in Atlantic City and at Prudential Hall in Newark, led by esteemed composer Dr. Rollo Dilworth.

In addition to the choral achievements, two members of the PTHS band, Eugene Sandel and Anthony Joseph, were



Anthony Joseph, Eugene Sandel and Sean Barton earned positions in prestigious musical organizations this fall.

accepted into The College of New Jersey Wind Ensemble. As such, they attended sectionals with TCNJ students and faculty, and got to work side by side with the TCNJ Wind Ensemble students, before performing in the culminating concert at TCNJ.

The accolades and honors did not stop there, as PTHS band drum major Anthony

Joseph proudly represented Pemberton in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade, leading the Tournament of Bands All-Star Band down the Ben Franklin Parkway! This honor was part of his award for winning Best Drum Major and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Tournament of Bands Competition.

Congratulations to these fine young musicians!

PEMBERTON PARTICIPATES IN RESPECT & ANTI-VIOLENCE WEEKS



Teaming Up Against Drugs!



Staff & Students Form Life-Size Red Ribbon!



Guest Speaker Inspires Teens



Displaying Super Character Traits



Doing the R-E-S-P-E-C-T Dance!



Joining in the Flash Mob Character Dance!



Learning to Respect Your Selfie!



Students Honored for Successfully "Paying it Forward"



PEMBERTON FAMILY WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPALS!

*This year, three of Pemberton's schools welcomed new leaders.
Below, meet the newest members of the Pemberton Family!*



**Eder Joseph, Principal,
PTHS**

Mr. Joseph joins Pemberton from Woodbury Junior-Senior High School, where he served as principal for the past two years. But he is a familiar face to many, as he spent 6 years as the assistant principal at Helen Fort/Newcomb Middle School prior to moving to Woodbury. His past experience includes serving as assistant principal at Orange High School, as a 5th grade teacher at Haines Elementary School, and as a special education teacher in Hubbard Middle School in Plainfield, NJ.

He earned his master's degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University, and his bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from Daemen College in Buffalo, NY.

"Students will see me in the hallways, in classrooms and at sporting and special events," Joseph said. "I want the staff, students, parents and community members to see me, talk to me and know me."



**Robin Blue, Principal,
Harker-Wylie Haines School**

Mrs. Blue joins Pemberton from Peter Muschal School in Bordentown, a pre-k through 3rd grade school, where she served as assistant principal for the past four years. Before that she taught 3rd, 4th and 5th grades in the Bordentown School District for 8 years and grades kindergarten through third for 5 years in South Brunswick, NJ.

She earned her master's in Educational Leadership from Thomas Edison University and her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Bloomsburg University.

"Everyone has been so welcoming and has made my transition seamless," she said. "I look forward to making connections with the staff to build a team atmosphere, and working to ensure Harker-Wylie students meet with success."



**Maureen DiBella, Principal,
Busansky Elementary School**

Mrs. DiBella served as the curriculum supervisor for Berlin Borough School District for the past four years before coming to Pemberton. Her past experience includes serving as principal of a private school in Haddonfield, an assistant principal in Gloucester Township School for three years, and over 20 years experience teaching kindergarten through 5th grades.

She earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership from Rowan University and her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Chestnut Hill College in Pennsylvania. "Everyone has been so helpful as I get to know the Pemberton community and begin my tenure here," she said. "I look forward to continue to build our moral and academic performance and strive to being named a State School of Character."



Upcoming Board Meetings:

**January 5th—Reorganization Meeting; January 19th—Work Session;
January 26th—Action Meeting**

**New Board Members will be sworn in at the Reorganization Meeting on
Thursday, January, 5, 2017 @ 6:30 pm in the PTHS Auditorium.
Elected to new 3-year terms are: Sandra Glawson, Wanda Knox
and Tom Maier.**

Happening Around Our Schools



1. Second grade student Joseph Wright enjoys the "Turkey Trot" tradition at Harker-Wylie.
2. Fourth grader Javon Gordon releases a monarch butterfly after following its metamorphose at Denbo.
3. JROTC cadet Christopher Miller reads to preschoolers at PECEC, as part of a service project. Fellow JROTC members read and even cooked up some green eggs and ham for the preschoolers.
4. PTHS hosted the November meeting of the NJ Association of Student Councils. Cindy Lin, far left, is the first student from Pemberton to hold an office (treasurer) in the state organization.
5. Danni Lei Lippincott proudly shows off her dog Bubba during "Pet Day" at Harker-Wylie.
6. Students in the 21st Century program celebrated "Lights On Afterschool" with an Open House event at each of their schools. The nationwide event celebrates afterschool programs and their role in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn and helping working families. Above, students at Busansky show off their gardening skills for their parents.



PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

UPCOMING WINTER ACTIVITIES

YOUTH INDOOR SOCCER

Open to children in grades K to 8th and also 3 & 4 year olds.



NEW! Little Kickers Division (3 and 4 yr olds) - Our new and exciting Little Kickers Division will focus on soccer development and will introduce your young soccer stars to the basic skills needed as well as developing their motor, social and psychological skills.

Fee: \$40/Residents; \$50/Non-Residents; \$15 Late Fee begins November 21st

Fee includes: shirt, referees, trophy & end-of-season party. (Players must wear shin guards, non-marking soled sneaker or indoor soccer shoes and socks)

Top Soccer: Open to children ages 3-14 with special needs. The program offers modified versions of soccer drills and exercises designed to meet the needs of the individual child. For more information on the Top Soccer program please contact Gina Ford at fordregina1@gmail.com
Top Soccer Fee: \$25/Residents; \$35/Non-Residents

HELP WANTED: Referees (paid positions), Coaches (Head Coach receives 1/2 off registration fee for child coached at the end of season) & Top Soccer Buddies (Volunteer Position).



YOUTH BASKETBALL

Open to boys and girls in grades K-9. Assessments will be required for ALL players except Peewee Division (K & 1st). Practices will be held weekdays from December-March at various Pemberton Schools. Games will be weekday

evenings and Saturdays from January-March; traveling to neighboring communities required (Pemberton, Eastampton, Joint Base MDL). Fee: \$85/Residents; \$95/Non-Residents - Late fee of an additional \$15 beginning November 28th. Deadline to register will be December 2nd at 4:30pm.

Seeking Sponsors: \$75 per team.

Help Wanted: Clock Persons & Bookkeepers (paid position)- Ages 13 & Up earn \$7.50-\$10per game.

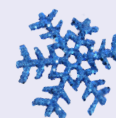
Coaches (Volunteer) will receive 50% back for the child coached (issued at the end of the season).

PILATES STRENGTH & YOGA STRETCH

8 Weeks: November 29th - January 20th

Tuesday: 6:30-7:30pm & Thursday 6:30-7:45pm

Fee: \$55 (Residents will receive a \$10 discount)



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Mail-in forms and online registration is available at 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.

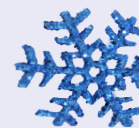
Contacting the Pemberton Township Recreation Department:

Phone: 609-893-5034

Email: recreation@pemberton-twp.com

Website: www.pemberton-twp.com

Facebook: Pemberton Recreation



PTHS SENIOR SIGNS WITH PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY



During the NCAA early signing period for baseball in November, PTHS Senior Gavin Homan proudly committed to play baseball for Philadelphia University. Gavin is a stand-out academic student at PTHS, as well as an accomplished baseball player. During last year's baseball season, Gavin led the Hornets in extra-base hits (8) and RBIs (14), as well as pitched and played first base and third base defensively.

The Philadelphia University Division II Rams play in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and won 23 games this past year while earning a spot in the CACC Tournament's championship game.

"I'm happy to have this opportunity and really look forward to playing for Philadelphia University," Gavin said.

PTHS SHINES THE "SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS"



Above, PTHS students who are currently taking Advanced Placement courses were recognized with a ceremony in their honor.

Nearly 100 Advanced Placement (AP) students were honored at the high school during a recent "Spotlight on Success" ceremony. The AP program was created by the College Board and offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

In just the past 5 years, the number of AP students at PTHS has increased dramatically, growing from 24 AP students in 2012, to 91 students taking AP courses this year. The courses are rigorous and challenging, on the level of college courses. In addition to equipping students with

the skills and information they need to succeed in college, they provide students with an opportunity to earn college credit and placement. If a student takes the AP exam and earns a qualifying score, a college will grant credit and placement for that course—nearly all colleges and universities in the United States participate in the program.

Last year, 32 Pemberton students earned qualifying scores on a total of 54 AP exams, helping them save money and get a head start on their degree.

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, students at Fort Dix Elementary observe the PTHS JROTC presenting colors; center, Jason Tunstall at PECEC tries on some special gear courtesy of military personnel from the Joint Base; and right, students in the middle school band play a medley of Armed Forces themes during their celebration.

Pemberton Township Board of Education

P.O. Box 228 - One Egbert Street

Pemberton, NJ 08068-0228

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Pemberton Pride is a publication of
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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 Coop Education Award recipients Shaun Westmoreland, Jennifer Williams, Mariah Laster, and Student Intern Award recipient Olivia Coyn.

Please send ideas for articles to the Media Services Department or email jmignella@pemb.org. Questions? Call 609-893-8141, ext. 2038.