

# Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

April, 2015

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTNER WITH COLLEGE

Eighth grade language arts students at Helen Fort/Newcomb Middle School spent the first half of the year improving their writing, thanks to some very special mentors. As part of a partnership with Rider University, 58 middle schoolers were paired with 15 English Education pre-service teachers to embark on the project.

Language Arts teacher Ms. Schott, who is currently a graduate student in the educational leadership program at Rider, worked with Rider's Dr. Kathleen Pierce to have Pemberton's students participate in Rider's School/University Writing Partnership. The program connects the college students with middle school student writers, and provides a platform for the mentoring via Google drive.

The students participated in three rounds of writing with support from the college students: drafting/feedback, revision/editing and final revision/proofreading/publication. "The 8th graders wrote on the same topic across three different genres: narration, poetry and essay writing," said Ms. Sitzler, who co-teaches with Ms. Schott. Writers were asked to think of a time when a situation required them or someone they know



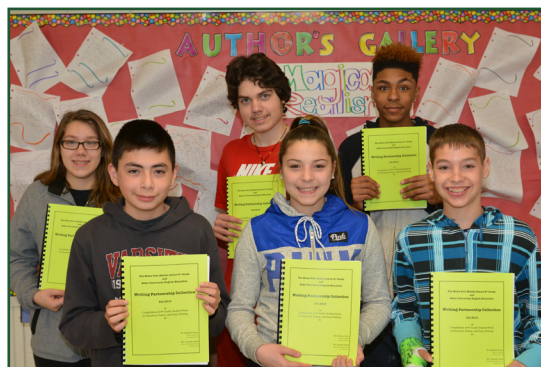
*Middle school students meet their college mentors at Rider University, before enjoying a complimentary lunch and tour of the campus.*

to "bounce back" from difficulty, and then tell the story of the difficulty and resiliency. "I really felt understood," said 8th grader Melody Beam. "I wrote about my uncle dying and my mentor made me feel comfortable enough to really open up."

At the conclusion of the program, students traveled to Rider University to meet their mentors in person, and present their work out loud.

The university treated them to lunch while they talked with the college students and got to know more about college life, and then toured the college before leaving for the day. "It was fun to present at a college," said student Eric Spivak. "Overall, it was a great hands-on experience."

Many students agreed, saying it was an experience they would remember for years to come.



*Students display booklets containing their writing samples from the collaboration with their mentors. Pictured are Gabby Pallante, Brian Zapien-Chavez, Eric Spivak, Melody Beam, Currio Crawley and Nick Goncalves.*



Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time



# PTHS ATHLETES CELEBRATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASONS!



**Fastest Girl in State, 55M-Dash!**

▲ PTHS Sophomore **Aliyah Taylor** won the 55-meter dash in the NJSIAA Meet of Champions, and became the fastest girl in New Jersey for the 2016 season! She also won the Group 2 55-meter, and became the first Pemberton Township High School girl to win an indoor Meet of Champions title on the track.

The PTHS Girls Bowling ► Team won the 2016 BCSL (Burlington County Scholastic League) Divisional Tournament.



**Boys Basketball: 2016 Central Group 3 CHAMPIONS!**

▲ The Hornet Boys Basketball Team won the first Sectional Title in school history, becoming the 2016 Central Jersey Group 3 Champions!



**BCSL Girls Bowling Tournament Champs!**



**District Champion, 220 lbs.!**

▲ Sophomore **Alex Cawley** captured the District 25 title in the 220 lb. weight class. The varsity wrestling team placed 3rd overall with 6 wrestlers qualifying for the Region 7 tournament.

## SCIENCE PROJECT ENTHRALLS BOTH YOUNG & OLD

Whether you are 6 or 16, watching a baby bird break through its eggshell into the world for the first time is an awesome sight. And it's one that both high schoolers and elementary students got to experience together.

"Bobwhite quail were once part of our local ecosystem and are now endangered," said Success Academy science teacher Scott Mitchell. "I decided to do a project with my students centered around them, since a major part of the curriculum encompasses habitat, genetics, development, and human impact on the environment."

Those science topics literally came to life when the class began the project of raising quail from eggs to adulthood. And when the eggs began to hatch,

they invited students from Harker-Wylie to come witness the unique event.



◀ *Science teacher Scott Mitchell holds a baby bobwhite quail so students can get a closer look at the hatchling.*



▲ *Harker-Wylie 1st graders William Emmons & Brianna Nichols join high school students Orlando Mercado and Ronnie Pullen in observing the quail eggs in the incubator.*

At the end of the school year, students will release all but four of the quail. Mitchell will keep three females and one male to keep the project going.

"Our goal is to see the population of local wild quail be brought back to a self sustaining population in the coming years," he concluded.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORED FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

Helen Fort/Newcomb Middle School has been named an Honorable Mention School of Character by The New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD). The NJSOC Committee reviewed 30 applications from New Jersey schools and districts with character education programs of exceptionally high quality and named 13 State Schools of Character. The Honorable Mention award signifies that HFNMS has demonstrated a strong commitment to character education, and with further development of the Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education, there is the potential to advance to the next level.

"I'm extremely proud of our team of teachers and administrators who initiated this," said principal Keith Swaney. "Character education will remain an area of emphasis and we will continue to evaluate and reflect on our progress as we move forward in our efforts."

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development that has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. The Honorable Mention designation is a positive step on the road to being named a State School of Character and eventually a National School of Character.

This year, the middle school's character education program introduced "Six Character Strengths" to help students develop Grit, Curiosity, Zest, Optimism,

Self-Control and Empathy. Staff used a variety of strategies to help students understand the core values, including creating dual purpose lesson plans and

having students reflect on the values in both short and long writing assignments. Staff members communicate the core values in all facets of the education process, and together with other strategies, such as the ambassador program and peer mediation, students are given ample opportunity to put the values into practice.



*Peer mediators Anthony Hamilton and Kristen Pallermini talk with 6th graders about bullying.*

"Character education focuses not only on our students and staff, but the entire community," said Swaney. "Research shows that quality character education programs positively impact academic achievement, behavior, school culture, peer interaction, and parental involvement."

The middle school will be honored at a special recognition ceremony during the NJASECD Annual Conference on May 20th at Rider University.



*Eighth graders Lauren Colby and Katie Lowe share information with 6th grade students as part of the Peer Mediation program.*



◀ Left, middle school students are arranged in the word "Grit," one of the six character strengths. Visit the middle school website to see more, at <http://ptms.pembsschools.org>.

# HARKER-WYLIE PAJAMA DRIVE AIDS CHILDREN IN SHELTERS

Fifth graders can be very persuasive, especially when it comes to something near and dear to their heart—like a pair of warm, cozy, pajamas. So when fifth graders were asked to take on a pajama fund-raising project for the homeless, they poured their heart and souls into it and were thrilled when their efforts resulted in 120 pairs of brand new pajamas they were able to donate to area shelters.

The project was first conceived by Mrs. McCuen, who took it to Mrs. Wilkins. When Wilkins presented it to her fifth grade class at Denbo, they took on the project with zeal, and brainstormed all the ways they could make the project successful. “The students wrote announcements, designed posters to plaster the building, and sent persuasive emails to classroom teachers to remind their classes to participate,” said Wilkins.

Some of the student’s emails were quite compelling, as these excerpts demonstrate:

*“Please find some love in your heart and donate to the homeless... please please please help them, it will let us know that they are snuggly wuggly just like us.”*

*“Think about those poor homeless people, especially*



*Above, Selina Webre helps gather donations at the completion of the pajama drive.*

*babies and little children. Winter is coming and people are freezing, cold, and homeless. ...So please help donate pj's so all homeless people will have a cozy pj to sleep with.”*

Additional students from Mrs. Hammond’s class volunteered during their lunches to help prepare collection boxes, which McCuen then drove to the donation site. “We had about 35 students involved in the effort,” said Wilkins, “but really the whole school was involved in making this a success.”



*Right: Neveah Davis and Francesca Rodriguez wrap boxes for student pajama donations.*

## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STUDENT AWARDS



**Myles Bolden**  
**Alexis DiCicco**  
**Chance Penney**  
**B. Student Intern**

**Esther R. Monroe**  
**Jacob R. Saville**



# Happening Around Our Schools



1. PTHS alumni returned to the high school to give current students insight into college life. Standing: Kim Davis, Joe Harvey and Lauren Wilkins. Sitting: Krystal Emerson, Alyssa Gregory and Caileen Fitzpatrick



2. Preschooler Peyton DeCamp gets her stuffed animal bandaged by student nurses from Rowan College at Burlington County during PECEC's "Teddy Bear Clinic."

3. Allison Kemp holds her "Best of Show, 3-D" award at the Deborah Art Competition.

3. SSG Stephanie Nye came home early from a 7 month deployment in Kuwait and surprised her 11th grade daughter Alexis in class at PTHS!

5. Students in the PTHS Commercial Baking Program baked over 3100 shamrock rolls to serve with lunches during St. Patrick's Day.

6. Eight seniors in the JROTC met the strict criteria to earn their varsity letter jackets at PTHS.





## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETIES INDUCT 67 MEMBERS



*Sean Martin and Astrid Ramos light their candles at the high school ceremony.*



*Taking the pledge at the middle school induction are Jadya Frederick, Gabriela Directo, Isabella Coyne, Myla Brewer and Adlen Allegood.*

Pemberton Township Schools is proud to have three distinct National Honor Society chapters to celebrate our top students. The Elementary, Junior and National Honor Society are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding students. From 5th grade through 12th grade, the associations honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

Congratulations to all 67 students who achieved this outstanding accomplishment this year!



*Superintendent Tony Trongone congratulates 5th grader David Baker at the elementary induction ceremony.*

## MARY POPPINS A SMASH HIT WITH CHILDREN & ADULTS ALIKE!





# PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM - 8 WEEKS

June 20th - August 12

Students entering grades K-6 in Sept. 2016

Program held at Crichton Elementary School

**Green Package:** Full Day, Cost - \$936

Hours: 7:30am - 5:30pm

Payment Plans Available: \$312 due at Initial Registration

**Orange Package:** Half Day Mornings, Cost - \$470

Hours: 7:30am- 12:30pm

Payment Plans Available: \$235 due at Initial Registration

**Blue Package:** Half Day Afternoon, Cost- \$470

Hours: 12:30pm - 5:30pm

Payment Plans Available: \$235 due at Initial Registration

### BOATING SKILLS & SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Saturday, May 14th 8am-5pm

Pemberton Township Senior Center (Across from Browns Mills Post Office)

Cost: \$65/Student

If sharing a book, \$15 for each additional student

More Information: Dave Jenkins -

(609)882-6610 or

dbjenkins22@verizon.net

### FULL BODY CHALLENGE

April 4th - May 25th

Classes held at Crichton Elementary

Mondays and Wednesday

6:30-7:30pm

Cost: \$45/ Resident;

\$55/ Non-Resident

### COUPON CLIP IT CLUB

April 6th & 20 - May 4th & 18th / 7-9pm

Country Lakes Clubhouse (69 Tensaw Drive, Browns Mills)

### BEST OF ME PROGRAM

For students in grades 5th- 12th

Through journal writing, Best of Me will encourage self expression; provide strategies for dealing with life's stressors & situations; increase grammar, spelling, vocabulary & critical thinking; teach strategies on how to communicate feelings effectively; promote healthy self-reflection; and more.

Thursdays, March 3rd - April 14th/ 5-6pm

Dominique Johnson Center (101 Scrapetown Road, Pemberton)

Thursdays, April 21st - June 9th / 5-6pm

Nesbit Center (1 Anderson Road, Pemberton)

### SAVE THE DATES:

**COMMUNITY YARD SALE** - May 7th, Pemberton

Township Municipal Grounds

**KIDS FISHING DERBY** - June 11th,

Country Lakes

### 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



**Reminder: The January 25th Snow Day will be made up**

**Monday, June 13, 2016**

**End of year schedule:**

*(subject to change if any more emergency days are taken)*

**Early dismissal: June 9th, 10th and 13th**

**June 13th: Last day of school, PTHS Graduation 6 pm**

**Pemberton Township Board of Education**

P.O. Box 228 - One Egbert Street

Pemberton, NJ 08068-0228

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Vincentown, NJ

08088

Permit No. 28

*Pemberton Pride* is a publication of  
Pemberton Township Schools

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Christopher Otis, *President***

**Sandy Glawson, *Vice President***

**Tom Bauer**

**Tim Haines**

**Tom Maier**

**Terry Maldonado**

**John Ulrich**

**John Willitts**

**Jeffrey Wilson**

**Tony Trongone**

*Superintendent*

**Pat Austin**

*Assistant Superintendent for Business/  
Board Secretary*

**Deborah Beideman**

*Director of Curriculum & Instruction, 6-12*

**Jeff Havers**

*Director of Curriculum & Instruction, PreK-5*

**Adelina Giannetti**

*Director of Special Services*

**Jodi-Lynn Flaherty**

*Human Resources Manager*

**Mike Pinto**

*Media Services Coordinator*

**Jeannie Mignella, *Editor***

## DISTRICT CHORAL FESTIVAL USHERS IN SPRING



*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.*