Congratulations to Oxford Valley Elementary School and Pennsbury High School for earning National Promising Practices awards from Character.org! Both schools earned these distinctions for outstanding initiatives they have put into practice to help students build strong character in myriad ways. Following are synopses of these school programs:

Principal Donna Minnigh is proud to report that Oxford Valley Elementary received a National Promising Practice distinction from Character.org in recognition of the school’s recently-inaugurated running initiative. “The intention of this program, which is facilitated by Devyn Dukes and Adrian Stoffregen, is to help students develop goal-setting through running,” said Ms. Minnigh. “Students face challenges and develop the grit to see their way through, across various settings.” This inaugural practice was established not only to help children to strengthen their bodies, but also to build connectedness and community among children, parents/guardians, and the community. “The premise of the program is to teach children about exercise, nutrition, and giving back to the community,” added Ms. Minnigh. “We believe that if children learn to love exercise at an early age and realize how fun it is to feel healthy and strong, then they will maintain an active and healthy lifestyle throughout their lives. Running activities also give them confidence and positive self-esteem, which will carry over into their school work and daily lives. Not only are the children healthier and stronger each week of training, but they also learn about endurance, resilience, and grit. They learn that being the fastest and winning is secondary to learning patience and building character by supporting their fellow runners. They gain a strong sense of giving back and helping their community by doing 26 good deeds by the end of their running program. Teachers, parents/guardians, and community members (including Officer John Yeager from the Falls Township Police Department) work with these students after school as coaches.” Congratulations to all!

Pennsbury High School Assistant Principal Patti Steckroat shares the following information about the initiatives that won PHS special recognition this year:
“Friday 15” - (Teachers: Doug Campbell, Elizabeth Titano, and Rachel Vesey-Diniglio)

Friday 15 is an opportunity for students to discuss events affecting their lives, friends, school, community, country, and the world. The idea of Friday 15 is to combine curricular initiatives with social-emotional learning. It is our school’s goal to have character education woven seamlessly into daily instruction. Friday 15 is a unique opportunity to focus primarily on the students’ social and emotional well-being. Friday 15 allows students to wrap up a week of instruction by decompressing. Students are asked to submit topics for discussion throughout the week in order to make these 15 minutes more meaningful to the students. Teachers running Friday 15 sessions review these topics, research them if necessary, and facilitate the discussions during the last 15 minutes of class on Fridays. Our goals for Friday 15 sessions are to foster critical thinking skills, expose students to the viewpoints of others, as well as improve upon other social and emotional competencies. Our teachers meet as a professional learning community on Friday afternoons to discuss their individual Friday 15 sessions. They reflect upon the discussions and take note of discussion highlights, improved competencies, and suggestions for future discussions. Additionally, these teachers collaborate and prepare for the following week’s Friday 15. When there are no student-generated topics, teachers develop topics of discussion, which reflect the social and emotional needs of their students. They use a combination of the high school’s core values and the social and emotional learning core competencies developed by CASEL to guide the development of these mini lessons.

Multicultural Youth Leaders (MCYL) Group (Teacher: John Sanders)

MCYL grew out of Pennsbury’s African American Youth Leaders group. John Sanders, the faculty sponsor, took over this group in 2001 and immediately changed the name to MCYL with the motto, “Inclusion of all, exclusion of none.” This motto represents the core value of this group as its members seek to embrace all perspectives of the school community. MCYL meets weekly to learn about different cultures within the school community. They discuss school-wide, community-wide, nationwide, and worldwide issues from as many perspectives as they can. This group has become invaluable for the District as teachers, counselors, administrators, and central office personnel, including the Superintendent, have visited the group to gain better understanding of how school-wide issues affect different cultures. This empowers the participants of MCYL. Their voices are heard at all levels of our school community.

In addition to their in-house discussions, MCYL invites community leaders to share information and perspectives in order to further expand their horizons. MCYL makes its mark on the school community by way of a yearly talent show, fashion show, and food festival. All students and staff are invited to either participate or simply experience multi-cultural talents, fashions, and specialities, all organized by the MCYL participants. Additionally, this year MCYL invited all Pennsbury High School staff and students to a showing of the Oscar-winning film, Black Panther, with discussion that followed. MCYL extends its reach into the community by attending the annual Bucks and Montgomery Counties Teen Peace & Social Justice Summit and by fundraising for various charities throughout the year. MCYL has raised money yearly for the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of the Delaware Valley as well as Red Kettle Day for The Salvation Army during the holiday season. The participants also volunteer at the local Good Stuff Thrift Store in the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. Lastly, MCYL is one of the first groups to lend a helping hand to other groups or causes. For example, they raised funds for Puerto Rico last year after the country was devastated by Hurricane Maria.

PENNSBURY NAMES 2018-2019 PARTNERS OF THE YEAR

The Pennsbury Partners Program celebrated its 20th annual partnership recognition event on April 30th at William Penn Middle School. As in previous years, awards were presented to one outstanding
business partner and one outstanding non-profit partner of the year. The 2019 celebration also featured musical entertainment by members of the Pennsbury Concert Jazz Band.

The event was organized by Ann Langtry, Supervisor of Communication Strategies, and Robin Peters, Partnership Program Assistant. “In addition to benefiting students, partnering with Pennsbury offers brand enhancement and publicity for community agencies and businesses,” said Ms. Langtry. “It’s a win-win for both the students and our Partners.”

The recipients of the outstanding partnership awards for the 2018-2019 school year included:

- ShopRite of Yardley: Business Partner of the Year, and
- AOY Art Center: Non-Profit Partner of the Year.

A brief video presentation outlined the many ways that both Partners of the Year benefit the students and families of Pennsbury. ShopRite of Yardley, for example, provides extensive donations of food and beverage products for Pennsbury events, along with offering generous financial support for various school projects. The store also invites Pennsbury Principals to serve as “celebrity baggers” each fall to help generate funds for local food pantries. For the past three years, the AOY Art Center has exhibited a gallery-wide showcase of selected student art created by Pennsbury’s talented senior art majors. AOY artists work with Pennsbury faculty members to give the student artists an authentic gallery experience by having their work adjudicated and exhibited in a public space. Cash prizes are also awarded to three students for their outstanding pieces thanks to funding donated by one of the AOY artists.

This year’s premier event sponsors were ShopRite of Yardley and KidsCare of Pennsbury. Funds provided by these sponsors, and all of the 2019 advertisers, will enable the Partnership Program to provide mini-grants to Pennsbury teachers in the coming school year.

Over the last two decades, the Pennsbury Partners Program has grown to be a highly successful, collaborative effort involving over 1,000 partners in the Pennsbury community. For more information about the program, visit www.pennsburysd.org > Departments > Pennsbury Partners Program.
District Highlights Report

SPECIAL OLYMPIANS COMPETE IN COUNTY COMPETITION

Pennsbury School District once again participated in the Bucks County Special Olympics Track and Field Competition in a big way on April 27th at Council Rock High School North. This year, a total of 41 Pennsbury Special Olympics athletes competed against school districts within Bucks County. Pennsbury’s athletes, ages 6-21, had been practicing since February to compete in the following events: Mini Javelin, 100 meter, Shot Put, Softball Toss, and Long Jump. A special thanks to the many volunteers within the District, faculty, staff, and National Honor Society students, for making this event a great success.

CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL

Sherri Morett, Director of Special Education since 2013, has announced that she will be leaving Pennsbury in early July to take a similar position in the Pottstown School District. Please join in congratulating Ms. Morett on this next step in her professional career. Since joining Pennsbury, Ms. Morett has launched new initiatives for our students, forged deeper relationships with community partners to benefit our families, and developed the Special Education faculty and staff to best serve all students in need of supports.

Among Ms. Morett’s most noteworthy accomplishments:

- Formation of the Mental Health and Opioid Task Force, established at the School Board’s urging in response to a number of local tragedies that involved drugs and suicide. A large team of District professionals, partner agencies, community members, and students teamed together and made great strides in providing assessments, services, and in-house counseling opportunities for students and families.
- Creation of smaller learning environments and customized programs for students with specific needs.
- Partnerships with the Caron Foundation, St. Mary Medical Center, and the Drug Enforcement Agency to better serve students and families on-site in the schools.
- Development of the elementary Student Assistance Program, as well as middle and high school Student Assistance Programs.
- Positive School-Wide Behavior programs in all buildings K-8, with four elementary buildings recognized by the state as model schools.
- Multiple-Tier Systems of Support for all buildings K-8.
- Expanded Autistic, Emotional, and Life Skills support services throughout the District.
- Enhancement of District chapters of Best Buddies International and Special Olympics.

Prior to joining the School District, Ms. Morett served as Director of Student Services/Special Education and Federal Program Coordinator in the Wyomissing Area School District. Previously,
Ms. Morett was the Assistant Director of Special Education K-12 in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District in Kennett Square, and also held teaching and administrative positions in the Owen J. Roberts School District in Pottstown.

As Director of Special Education, Ms. Morett reported to the Superintendent. She provided supervisory oversight of all special education programs, as well as the development, implementation, and administration of all aspects of the special education and gifted education programs. She has also overseen psychological and behavioral services, speech and hearing support, as well as occupational and physical therapy. In addition, Ms. Morett has been responsible for directing and overseeing the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 504 processes, and making recommendations for action to the Board of School Directors.

Ms. Morett earned a Master’s degree in Leadership and Supervisor of Special Education from Arcadia University. In addition, she holds a Master’s degree in Special Education and a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, both from Arcadia. She plans to continue her professional studies in a Ph.D. program.

Charlie Williams, Director of Transportation, hosted a Pennsbury bus at the recent “Touch a Truck” event at Falls Township Park. Featured among other assorted vehicles such as trucks, cranes, and emergency response vehicles, the Pennsbury bus was a popular destination throughout the event. “The event started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 2:00 p.m., and the bus was loaded with kids and parents throughout the day,” said Mr. Williams. “I don’t think I’ve seen so many empty strollers since I was outside the ‘It’s A Small World’ ride at Disney. Thanks to the School Board for letting us be part of the event.”
Teacher Katie Bolger writes, “School Board member, Gary Sanderson, visited fifth grade students at Afton for a presentation on wastewater treatment and conservation of water after students learned about the cycles in the REEP unit of the science curriculum. A few weeks later, the students and their teachers joined Mr. Sanderson at the Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority to learn about the wastewater treatment process in action through a tour of the facility.”

Julie Mitchell’s fourth grade class competed in their first annual PSSA Olympics. The students were split into four teams, picked the countries they represented, and made their team flags. They competed for two days in different competitions such as Math Basketball, Science Soccer, Grammar Tic-Tac-Toe, TDA Touchdown, and Reading Relay, to name a few. The top three teams in each event won a gold, silver, or bronze medal. “At the conclusion of the second day, we held our medal ceremony, where we tallied up our medal count and awarded each team with their overall medal,” said Ms. Mitchell.

“Mr. VanDemark was a huge help letting us borrow his gym equipment to transform our class into an Olympic Stadium. The students enjoyed working collaboratively in teams while competing in events to practice their skills prior to the PSSAs.”

PTO President, Elizabeth Beckelman, shares that Teacher Appreciation Week at Afton took a gardening theme this year in recognition of how teachers help their students “bloom and grow.” The special daily events all week long included such things as a “Gardeners’ Breakfast” and a “Farmers’ Market Stand,” all supporting the District wellness policy.
EDGECWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Edgewood held its annual campaign to promote awareness, inclusion, and self-determination for all with a series of school-wide efforts highlighted during April for National Autism Awareness month. Principal Stephanie Hultquist writes, “This year we went beyond simply promoting Autism awareness thanks to a collective collaboration of our staff, students, and parents. The entire Edgewood family was encouraged to become partners in the movement toward acceptance and appreciation. Under the leadership and vision of special education teacher, Kristen Wise, and a partnership with our PTO, a multifaceted celebration was actualized. Members of our Student Council portrayed famous persons with Autism through brief learning video vignettes shared across the building, including: movie producer Tim Burton (portrayed by Ethan Roskein), animal behaviorist Dr. Temple Grandin (portrayed by Rylie Mitchell), artist Stephen Wiltshire (portrayed by Bobby Borgman), Pokemon creator Satoshi Tajiri (portrayed by Sam Harrison), and physicist Albert Einstein (portrayed by Jimmy Iacona). The parent-school committee worked to develop building-wide signage with quotes and works of art by famous persons representing neurodiversity, all in an effort to encourage conversation around differences. Finally, a walk-a-thon was held for all students and community members with proceeds donated directly to the Autism Cares Foundation (ACF). Raffle baskets, spirit sticks, and t-shirt sales helped in raising $3,458, which was accepted by ACF Chief Executive Officer, Linda Kuepper, at a recent Edgewood Town Hall Meeting. With great pride, Edgewood was eager to celebrate their continued support of all learners and the endless possibilities of bringing inclusive practices to our community.”

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure!” The kids in Brittany Brown’s third grade class at Eleanor Roosevelt brought this famous line to life during their Treasure Shop. “Just prior to the PSSA testing, we wanted to get some last-minute money exchange practice in,” said Ms. Brown. "So, each third grader brought in a few old toys that they didn’t play with anymore to ‘sell’ to their classmates. Every child had a blast selling, buying, and sorting money. The best part was – everyone went home with a new treasure!”

A walk-a-thon with the school mascot was held at Edgewood Elementary last month to raise funds for the Autism Cares Foundation.

During a Treasure Shop activity – where students could “buy” used toys from each other – third graders at Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary practiced making change prior to taking the PSSAs.
A total of 54 historical figures filled the gymnasium at Fallsington Elementary when the fifth graders staged their Biography Wax Museum. The assignment called for each student to select an historical figure, research the individual, create an essay and poster about the person, and dress as him/her on the day of the Wax Museum. Students from the younger grade levels visited the gym and could press an imaginary “button” on the floor to see these famous figures come alive and share details of their accomplishments. Fifth grade teachers Courtney Gould and Sara Long organized the event.

Gifted Support teacher, Sherri Cohoon, worked with her students to create sculpted works of art from recycled materials. These eye-catching items were put on display in the school lobby so that all grade levels could visit the exhibit and vote on their favorite creations.

Thanks to a grant from the Pennsbury Partners Program, Fallsington Kindergarten students took part in a science-based activity at the Fallsington Library across the street. In a study of different types of leaves in nature, the students discussed the various shapes of leaves, including cactus needles and giant banana tree leaves. They also made crayon leaf rubbings on paper banners. Kindergarten teachers, Jenn Tietz and Amber Baez, accompanied the students on the trip to the library. Fallsington Library Program Director (and Pennsbury parent), Chariene Rendeiro, led the activities.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, the Fallsington PTO pulled out all the stops! Teachers at the school arrived on Monday morning to see huge letters on the front lawn that stated, “We Love Our Teachers.” Inside, the PTO had created a Walk of Fame comparable to Hollywood Boulevard with large stars placed neatly in a row all the way down the hallway to honor every staff member in the building. The lobby was encircled with a balloon arch and banner that read, “We Love You!” To top things off, the door to the faculty lounge was decorated as a VIP
Have you ever wanted to meet an Historically Influencing Person? These famous HIPsters took over Makefield Elementary School one day last month. Each of the fifth grade students, taught by Karen Baran, Nancy Courtney, Staci Northrup, and Mary Ellen Doto was assigned to select a famous HIPster for a special research project that culminated in a “living wax museum.” The assignment included a four-paragraph essay on the historic figure, a poster display with photos and facts, props, and costumes suitable for the students to be able to represent their famous individuals. The fifth graders shared their knowledge of their selected HIPsters with other grade-level visitors as well as with family members and guests who came to the school just for the living exhibition. “These opportunities allow for history to come alive,” observed Principal Donna McCormick-Miller. “The students researched so much information that it felt as though you were actually talking to the real person. They really put themselves in their HIPster’s shoes and understood the impact they had on the world today.”

“I was impressed by the enthusiasm and passion that the students had in presenting their Historically Influencing Person,” added Mark Cherepko, K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, who also attended. “The presentations were creative and had a dramatic appeal that really made history come alive. The students were well organized, utilized important research methods, and created exhibits that contained visual images, timelines, and objects that enhanced the research findings and their presentations. The students were excited to share their information with a live audience and we had a lot of fun learning about these inspiring historic individuals at the HIPster Wax Museum!”

Oxford Valley’s Student Council hosted an April “Recycling Give-back” with the help of first-grade parent, Ms. Friel, and the No Crayon Left Behind Project. Did you know that crayons do not break down? They just sit in landfills across the country. Student Council faculty advisors, Ashley Juno and Lotus Deis, spearheaded the program and explained that The No Crayon Left Behind Project allows families to collect and recycle old used/broken crayons. Their motto is “To color the lives of kids around the world.” The program will melt the old crayons down and make new crayons out of them. Then they give/send the new recycled crayons to underprivileged areas. Additionally, No Crayon Left Behind has recently expanded its reach to military veterans, beginning with its project Coloring to Combat PTSD, which is a coloring book of original artwork drawn by veterans. These coloring books are gifted, along with crayons, at no cost to those military veterans who use them as therapy to relieve the stress and anxiety associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In order to help support this worthy cause, the OV Student Council had colorful bins placed...
This school-wide group at Oxford Valley Elementary represented every color in the rainbow!

Throughout the school to collect old crayons from students. They also hosted a “Crayon the Rainbow Spirit Day.” This entailed asking each grade level to wear a specific color of the rainbow and donate $1.00 to help defer the costs of shipping the crayons to No Crayon Left Behind as well as provide a donation to this great cause.

The Oxford Valley Student Council’s motto is “it’s not about Giving BIG, it’s about Giving BACK!” In March, the Student Council partnered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and their Pennies for Patients Program. This was the first year that OV participated in the program and it was quite a success. The students, staff, and families of OV raised $2,189! Ms. Hearn’s first-grade class was the highest grossing classroom with $350, which earned them a special prize from the Olive Garden restaurant.

**In a new partnership with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Oxford Valley Elementary raised over $2,000 with a Pennies for Patients campaign.**

Reading Specialist Kerry Bauerle writes: “Penn Valley students were pleased to welcome master teacher and children’s author, Frank Murphy, to the school on April 15th.”

According to Mr. Murphy: “I have been teaching, mostly as an elementary school educator, for almost 26 years now. I got started writing children’s books almost immediately when I began teaching, but it took me about six years to finally get published. What got me started? A desire to make learning about history more fun for young readers (and adults!). I also wrote books about strong women in history. I noticed there weren’t many books about women in history for young girls and in some ways, even more importantly, for boys to read about. After many years having books published about historic men...I finally have a book about one of history’s strongest women. Clara Barton’s heroic life is the subject of my newest book.”

Children’s author, Frank Murphy, visited with students at Penn Valley Elementary.
Ms. Bauerle added: “Mr. Murphy has written many *Step into Reading* biographies covering the lives of Babe Ruth, Ben Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Edison, Teddy Roosevelt, and Clara Barton (and he has one about Frederick Douglass in the works).”

Teacher **Heather McGurrin** shares that the third grade welcomed storyteller Robin Moore for an in-school “class trip.” “Mr. Moore coordinated a tipi raising in the morning with all of the third grade students and later shared artifacts in the afternoon. “We are in the process of learning about the Kwakiutl, Cheyenne, and Navajo Native Americans in social studies,” said Ms. McGurrin, so the special guest provided a perfect tie-in with the curriculum.

The PTO at Walt Disney worked hard to make Teacher Appreciation Week extra special for the school’s teachers. “They had Chuck’s BBQ cater a special Teacher Appreciation Day breakfast complete with a made-to-order omelet bar, waffles, bagels, pastries, and fruit,” said Ms. Bosack. “It was delicious and so appreciated!”

**Pennwood Middle School**

Pennsylvania State Senator **Steve Santarsiero** (a former Pennsbury parent) visited Pennwood on May 9th to spend time with the Life Skills classes of **Erin Houmas** and **Jennifer Kiriloff**. The Senator spoke
with the combined classes about how a bill becomes a law in the state legislature and what it’s like to work in the State Capitol building in Harrisburg. He also took questions from the students concerning everything from his favorite cartoon character (Bugs Bunny) to whether he was ever injured (he still has a small scar on his chin from a childhood fall). Senator Santarsiero’s visit was one of five public-service themed visits — all in one week — by community members who represented such additional professions as firefighter, emergency room nurse, Army soldier, and K9 police officer.

The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project has announced that William Penn Middle School was named the Pennsylvania School of the Year in recognition of what the organization deemed an “outstanding energy education project” created by the students of science teacher, Kristin Slota. The project, called “Pennsbury Energy Force,” will be posted on the NEED website in mid-June with other Youth Awards submissions. Thanks to PECO and Exelon, two partners of NEED (and Pennsbury), the student group was awarded $2,500 to support a trip to Washington, D.C. in late June.

The Pennsbury Energy Force Team, comprised of 20 seventh grade science students, has developed a stronger understanding of both non-renewable and renewable energy resources, while also working on an energy conservation project at William Penn. Students have been conducting an Energy Audit of the entire building. They have gathered data about water and air temperatures, humidity, and light levels to determine what Pennsbury is doing well at William Penn, and in what areas the school community can improve their conservation efforts. “Students have displayed exceptional communication skills, leadership skills, and an amazing team effort,” said Ms. Slota. “The team will be presenting the results of their conservation project at the third annual PECO Energizing Education Program Innovation Challenge Showcase and Symposium on May 28th at the Franklin Institute.” We wish the team good luck when they share their project with a panel of judges (comprised of STEM professionals) at the showcase. Congratulations to all!

On May 2nd, teams from Pennsbury High School participated in the county-wide Reading Olympics competition at New Hope-Solebury High School. The competition encourages students to read more than they currently do, read a greater variety of books, and enjoy the excitement of talking about books. Congratulations to all four PHS Reading Olympics teams and their coaches, Lynn Wambach, Rita Ann Thompson, and Jennifer Hillemann. All four Pennsbury teams, 127 Pages: I’m ½ Way Through, Bound by the Book, A Student’s Guide to Misery and Mediocrity, and The Final Chapter earned the top prize — a blue ribbon! “We are Pennsbury proud since two Pennsbury teams tied for top score of the night out of all other teams in the county!” said Ms. Thompson. “We are very proud of the hard work and dedication by all of the team members in preparation for this one night that celebrates reading. They all did a marvelous job and represented our school proudly!”

Pennsbury launched its first Unified Track Team for PHS this spring. Special Olympics Interscholastic Unified Sports is a fully-inclusive, co-ed high school sports program that successfully brings together
Pennsbury High School launched its first Unified Track Team. This is a fully-inclusive, co-ed high school sports program that brings together students with and without disabilities.

PHS environmental science students took a guided tour through the Pennsylvania American Water treatment plant on Edgewood Road in Lower Makefield.

The PEACE Challenge activity for March at PHS was a donation drive for The Joy of Sox. This Philadelphia-based organization collects new socks to be distributed to homeless individuals. They work with local groups within the community to identify need and distribute the socks. The PHS community donated 413 pairs of socks. Fran Sweeney’s B period class collected the most; Stacy Garretson’s and Megan Swope’s B periods were the runners-up in the contest. Well done!

Instrumental Music Curriculum Coordinator, Frank Mazzeo, writes that the Symphonic Orchestra’s recent performance in Washington, D.C. was outstanding. “The students played with vigor at an exceptional level,” said Mr. Mazzeo. “The selection of literature for the students’ performance by teacher Felicia Reilly was spot on and the students demonstrated great learning. Since Ms.
Reilly has been here, we have seen the orchestra program double from about 400 students to over 800. Her hard work, as well as that of the students, is paying off with major dividends!”

The Pennsbury Thespians recently hosted their annual Thursday Night Live comedy event. “The night featured student-written and directed comedy sketches just like Saturday Night Live,” reports Assistant Drama Director, Matt South. “Students from all high school grades were involved, and we had a special musical guest, The Wellborne! It was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance. Congrats to the writers and directors - Allyson McKeever, Alpha Camara, Daniel “DJ” Tomalin, Nic Fallacaro, Shane Howell, and Zach Holzberg. In addition to the comedy and music, this event also provided an opportunity for a food drive that brought in boxes overflowing with food items to help restock our local food banks. Awesome job, Falcons!”

The students of the MOST Program (MOST stands for More Opportunities for Student Training) participated in a Peeps competition hosted by Peddler’s Village, writes teacher, Aly McBryan. “The students worked for two weeks to create a representation of the Autism Awareness Ribbon, which they titled, Peep Into Our World. Our students were awarded second place in the 2D mural category for their hard work and creativity. Big thanks to para-professionals, Joy Adams and Amber Ferraro, who worked closely with the kids on this wonderful project!”

Commendable Accomplishments

PHS National Merit Scholarship Finalists and Winners Announced

PHS East Principal, Reggie Meadows, and PHS West Acting Principal, Cherrissa Gibson, are pleased to congratulate the following students after the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the 2019 Finalists and Winners:

2019 Finalists:
Miles Borowsky, Andrew Delworth, Vincent Mariani, Christian McKernan, Brendan Polo, Matthew Steele, and Madeleine S. Umstead

2019 Winners:
Miles Borowsky and Christian McKernan were both named winners of the National Merit $2,500 award.

We join in commending these students for their impressive achievements!

Miles Borowsky (left) and Christian McKernan each received a $2,500 National Merit Scholarship award. Congratulations!
District Highlights Report

**PHS STUDENT SELECTED TO INTERN AT CHOP**

Pennsbury junior, *Diya Cherian*, was recently selected to attend the highly-competitive, five-week Neurology High School Scholar internship program conducted by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). This year, the program received over 300 applications from students attending area high schools.

As part of this internship, Diya will get a chance to work on CHOP’s main campus for five weeks with a neurologist on a clinical research project and will shadow her mentor. At the end of the five weeks, Diya will also have the opportunity to prepare a presentation outlining the project results and present this at a conference. As part of the application, she was required to submit her grades, two essays, and teacher recommendations. Diya considers herself “fortunate to receive this opportunity” and owes her success to teachers *Ryan Boylan* and *Laura Rockwell*, who recommended her for this program. Diya is also grateful for “the excellent and dedicated science teachers at Pennsbury” who have nurtured her love for science and neurology.

**KOLE MEINHART GATHERS MULTIPLE AWARDS AT PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW**

PHS art teacher, *Jonathan Twersky*, is pleased to report that *Kole Meinhart*, a junior, entered a community photo contest on his own and won no fewer than six awards! When the Churchville Photography Club held its 28th annual photography contest and exhibition at the Churchville Nature Center in April, Kole was awarded the following honors:

1. Creative Achievement Award
2. First Place in the “Plant” category
3. First Place in the “Open” category
4. Honors in the “Animals” category
5. Honors in the “People” category
6. Honors in the “Weather” category

“Kole took his first photography course at Pennsbury in the fall of this academic year,” said Mr. Twersky. “Although he had minimal experience as a photographer, Kole had a strong thirst for knowledge and a deep curiosity for the medium. With each assignment, he set forth the highest standard for technical proficiency and creativity. From day one, Kole displayed an impeccable work ethic, equally matched by his willingness to learn new concepts. His enthusiasm was contagious, bringing out the best in his classmates and teacher. Kole was a model student in the classroom as well as an asset to the learning community. More of Kole’s work will be on display at the District Art Show on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.”

**FALCON MILESTONES: EVERYTHING’S RELATIVE**

Pennsbury High School student athletes, *Justin Massielo* (senior) and *Emelie Curtis* (junior), are first cousins. Both reached impressive milestones in their respective sports earlier this month. Justin
recorded his 100th career hit as a four-year starter for the Falcon Baseball Team. Two days later, Emelie, a three-year starter for Pennsbury’s Girl’s Lacrosse Team, scored four goals in a game against Jenkintown High School to mark 100 career goals. Each of these Falcon athletes demonstrates an outstanding work ethic both in the classroom and in preparation for their upcoming seasons. Justin has committed to continue his baseball and academic endeavors at Arcadia University in September. Emelie was recently recruited by Duquesne University and will begin her collegiate career in the fall of 2020. Congratulations and continued success to both of these outstanding Pennsbury students!

In conjunction with the Pennsbury School District’s ongoing character education initiative, students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels are being spotlighted each month for possessing specific positive character assets. For the month of May, students are being recognized for exemplifying the trait of leadership. Honorees this month include Zoe Lear, Alpha Camara, Cameryn Miller, and Joley Hohman.

Joley Hohan is the first elementary honoree this month. She is in the fourth grade at Penn Valley Elementary School. Joley was nominated by teacher, Jennifer Klacik. She shared that Joley is a leader in the classroom, working particularly hard to become a reading leader. She took on the role of Student Council representative, where she brings new ideas to the group. Joley is an active member of Penn Valley’s Good News Club and a leader on the basketball court.

Also winning the character award at the elementary level this month is Cameryn Miller, who is in first grade at Oxford Valley Elementary School. Cameryn or “Cami,” was nominated by her teacher, Cherie Lynn Kooker, who says that Cami is 100% made of integrity and always leads by example. She is a problem solver in the KidsCare program and other students come to her for her ability to find solutions to problems that make everyone happy. Cami has been active in her school’s efforts to save the Golden Lion Tamarins, leading the way by making suggestions on how to save paper and reduce waste in her classroom.

Zoe Lear, an eighth grader at Charles Boehm Middle School, was nominated by teachers, Patti Dormer, Alyssa Sunday, and Matthew South. They say that Zoe is the President of the school’s chapter of Best Buddies International and is always one to lend a helping hand to organize events and get everyone started. She leads by example, showing her peers how to be a good person. She also shows leadership skills in both chorus and the Women of Note groups to which she belongs, always the first to arrive and set up.

The high school honoree this month is Alpha Camara, a junior who was nominated by teacher, John Sanders. Mr. Sanders shares that Alpha is one of the executive members of the Multi-Cultural Youth Leaders Club, where he always brings great ideas to the table. He is also an officer and plays a leading role with Student Council. He displays interpersonal skills that are second to none and recently was the student director of the high school’s spring drama.
U.S. News & World Report ranked Pennsbury High School among the top 14% of high schools in Pennsylvania in its recently-issued 2019 Best High Schools ranking. PHS was ranked 96th in the state. Using a new methodology that allowed for the inclusion of more schools, the publication used six measurements, including graduation rate, performance of under-represented groups of students, math and reading proficiency scores, seniors who took and earned a passing score on AP exams, and number of AP courses taken by students. “We are exceptionally proud of our staff and students in achieving this ranking,” said PHS East Principal, Reggie Meadows. We strive every day to do our best to educate the students at Pennsbury High School.”

The magazine was previously known for its annual high school ranking using data from just 2,700 schools. With the new methodology, the results were drawn from the data of 17,245 schools in 2019. “By evaluating more schools than ever before, the new edition expands that focus so all communities can see which schools in their area are successfully serving their students – including historically underserved populations,” said Anita Narayan, managing editor of education at U.S. News & World Report.
Musical Theatre Summer Camp
presented by the Pennsbury Community Chorus
July 29 - August 15, 2019

This Musical Theatre Camp is the perfect opportunity for young musical theatre fans to experience the thrill of performing in a full staged production! This program gives young performers of varying experience the opportunity to put up a show under the direction of Pennsbury faculty and professional theatre artists. Students spend their camp experience rehearsing and collaborating on the production in addition to acting & singing exercises, engaging games, and group activities. Open to both boys and girls ranging from rising 7th graders to rising 12th graders.

July 29 - August 15
9:00am - 4:00pm
$500

Registration available online at
www.pennsburycomethingchorus.org