

March 2018

Learning in North Arlington

North Arlington Public Schools

222 Ridge Rd.

North Arlington, NJ 07031



Superintendent's Message

Dear School Community Members,

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to present this newsletter to you, featuring just a few of the uplifting events that our school community has been a part of midway through the school year. These successes would not be possible without the continued efforts of our Board of Education, administration, teachers, support staff, students, parents, and all other stakeholders throughout North Arlington.

Among the many great stories noted within this newsletter, I'd like to take a moment to highlight our 2017-2018 Educators of the Year: Jennifer D'Aries, Teacher of the Year (Jefferson), Donna Hennessy, Teacher of the Year (Roosevelt), Tracy Dillon, Teacher of the Year (Washington), Leanne Fisher, Teacher of the Year (NAMS), Judith Kommer, Educational Services Professional of the Year (District), and Patricia Tomko, Teacher of the Year (NAHS). We are all proud of their accomplishments and appreciate their efforts towards the development of our children.

Additionally, I'd like to remind everyone that we are still exploring opportunities to expand our existing facilities to reduce class size, while also focusing on our students with special needs, establishing a full-day PreK4 program, and increasing students' accessibility to technology inside and outside of school. Over the course of the next few months, we are hopeful that definitive timelines will be in place to achieve these goals. Please also know that school safety continues to be of the utmost importance and we've been working closely with the North Arlington Police Department to review our Crisis Management Plan.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a successful final few months of the school year! Please remember my constant message to always feel free to contact your child(ren)'s building principal(s) or my office for any assistance that you may need. We are always happy to help!

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Yurchak

Stephen M. Yurchak, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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North Arlington Board of Education

George McDermott, *President* Michele Higgins, *Vice-President*

Robert Dorsett, *Trustee* Heather Gilgallon, *Trustee* Edward Smith, *Trustee*

Stephen M. Yurchak, Ed.D. *Superintendent of Schools*

Kathleen McEwin-Marano, *School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

North Arlington Welcomes Two New BOE Members!

The North Arlington Board of Education welcomed two new Board members at their recent reorganization meeting held on January 9, 2018. Robert Dorsett and Edward Smith were greeted by family and friends during this special evening. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stephen Yurchak stated, “Our new Board members are current educators and parents of children attending North Arlington Public Schools. They are committed to continue moving our school district forward by ensuring that all of our children are provided with the very best educational opportunities. We all look forward to working with them.”



Pictured from left to right (Standing): Mrs. Michele Higgins, Board Vice-President, Mrs. Heather Gilgallon, Board Member, Mrs. Samantha Dembowski, Assistant School Business Administrator, Mr. Robert Dorsett, Board Member, Mr. Edward Smith, Board Member, and Mr. George McDermott, Board President. Pictured from left to right (Seated): Mrs. Kathleen Marano, School Business Administrator and Dr. Stephen Yurchak, Superintendent of Schools.



North Arlington Continues Commitment to Anti-Bullying with the Screenagers Event

On Monday, December 4, 2017, North Arlington Public Schools hosted a screening of the film *Screenagers*. This film revealed how tech time impacts children’s development and offers solutions on how adults can empower children to best navigate the digital world. With over 300 students and parents in attendance, many now feel more confident and better equipped to establish a well-rounded balance around screen time.

Pictured from left to right (Front Row): Jonathan Miranda, Isabella Silva, and Sydney Hays. Pictured from left to right (Back Row): Jayson Crowe, Ashley Miranda, Daniel Higgins, Alex Nogueras, Jordan Nogueras, Shea Sweeney, Jacob Woznicko, Matthew Higgins.



North Arlington Elementary Students Enjoy “The Day the Crayons Quit”

Students in Mrs. Giuffre’s and Mrs. Cutruzzula’s classes were inspired to write a follow-up story to “The Day the Crayons Quit” after Dr. Yurchak visited their classes as a mystery reader. In addition to writing such creative stories, all students had a chance to develop their public speaking skills as they present their stories.

Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Cutruzzula’s Class (Washington) and Mrs. Giuffre’s Class (Roosevelt).



North Arlington Honors Educators of the Year!

The North Arlington Board of Education recently recognized five Teachers of the Year and one Educational Services Professional of the Year at their public meeting held on January 22, 2018. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stephen Yurchak stated, "North Arlington has some of the very best educators and we were delighted to recognize several of them throughout our community. Our honorees are all well-deserving of this prestigious honor and we appreciate their continued efforts towards helping our children grow academically and socially." Board President, Mr. George McDermott and Board Vice-President, Mrs. Michele Higgins echoed Dr. Yurchak's sentiments and offered their sincere appreciation for going above and beyond in educating our children.



Pictured from left to right standing: Mrs. Michele Higgins, Board Vice-President, Mrs. Heather Gilgallon, Board Member, Mr. George McDermott, Board President, Dr. Stephen Yurchak, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Edward Smith, Board Member, and Mr. Robert Dorsett, Board Member. Pictured from left to right seated: Donna Hennessy, Teacher of the Year (Roosevelt), Jennifer D'Aries, Teacher of the Year (Jefferson), Leanne Fisher, Teacher of the Year (NAMS), Tracy Dillon, Teacher of the Year (Washington), Judith Kommer, Educational Services Professional of the Year, and Patricia Tomko, Teacher of the Year (NAHS).



Jefferson School's "Healthy Snack Day"

Jefferson School is proud to promote health and wellness by celebrating "Healthy Snack Day!" The students were encouraged to bring in a healthy snack as they continue to learn how to make good food choices through a nutrition unit during physical education.

Pictured from left to right: Jayden Reis, Mrs. Cheryl Hermann, David Alvarez, Steven Mazewski, Nicholas Paul, and Mirolla Twdroos.



"Soup"er Bowl at Jefferson School

Ms. D'Aries and Mrs. Buchanan led Jefferson School's Student Council in a school wide initiative collecting cans of soup for needy families in our community. Many Jefferson School students donated cans of soup for this extraordinary cause... it was their version of the "Soup"er Bowl! All soup cans were delivered to the Queen of Peace Food Pantry.

Pictured from left to right: Isabella Huerta, Aidan Maleski, Jolene Liu, and Christopher Sousa.



NAMS Educates Students on CPR and AED

North Arlington Middle School in the months of January and February has certified 35 students in Adult and Pediatric CPR and AED through the American Red Cross. These students signed up for an afterschool course with Mrs. Fitzpatrick in which they went through the required training and successfully performed the skills assessment to earn their certificate.



Six-Word Stories Strike a Chord with NAHS Students

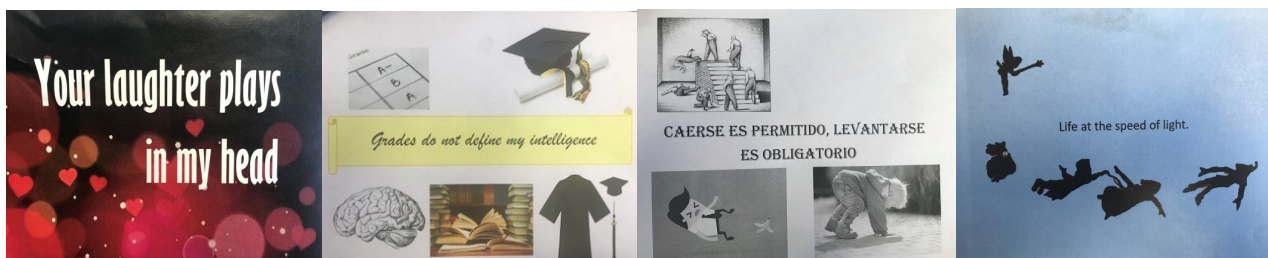
When one thinks of a “story,” he or she is bombarded with images of classic novels, wacky, dystopian Sci. Fi. Trilogies, and Nicolas Sparks’ books turned into romantic gushers on screen. What if we told you that some of our most beautiful stories are only a few words in length? Well, this is true for Mrs. Ingannamorte’s Creative Writing class. Students were challenged with the task of writing “Six-Word Stories” packed with meaning and heart. Boy did they live up to the challenge!

In fact, the students were so impressed with their own work, and that of their classmates, that Mrs. Ingannamorte facilitated a “Gallery Walk” where students could view and react to one another’s stories. Students left comments like “Relatable!”, “Always...” and “This is my life!” on each other’s stories. Ernest Hemingway, famously wrote one of the most famous six-word novels in history. Our students’ stories are arguably quite comparable to Mr. Hemingway’s poignant tale about baby shoes. Their creativity shines through simple expressions that carry a boatload of significance for each and every one of them. Please enjoy some of our featured students’ stories and, perhaps, write one of your own!

We own nothing but our minds



Author: Tyler Austin.



Authors from left to right: Nicole Padiero, Emily Hontiveros, Inri Rosas, and Emily Karras.

NAMS Pajama Drive

North Arlington Middle School had a fundraiser on January 19, 2018. Students were allowed to wear pajamas to school if they donated \$5.00 or donated a brand new pair of pajamas. The students raised over \$900.00 and 20 pairs of pajamas. These funds and the pajamas are being donated to pajamaprogram.org. This program donates bags full of new pajamas and storybooks to shelters and underprivileged children all across the country to give them a goodnight ritual that they may be missing out on. Pajama Program was designed to bring love and hope to them all in the form of a loving bedtime.



Roosevelt School Aims to Spread Kindness

After reading the book “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio, the fifth grade students at Roosevelt School watched the movie on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at AMC Clifton Commons. Students enjoyed watching the characters come to life as they compared the novel with the movie. Most importantly, they learned the importance of spreading kindness all around. “When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.” –Dr. Wayne W. Dyer.

Pictured to the right: Ms. Frazao’s and Mrs. Haag’s 5th grade classes and special visitor, retired teacher, Mrs. Arena!



North Arlington Middle School Chorus Members Spread Holiday Cheer at the Senior Center

On December 20, 2017, the North Arlington Middle School Chorus members spread holiday cheer during their visit to the North Arlington Senior Center. Mr. David Mullen, middle school music teacher, put together a collection of songs to showcase the hard work and dedication of our students. Throughout the year, the students have been studying the application of the elements of music and working to refine their performances. The afternoon proved to be a great way to give back to the community, especially during the holiday season.



Pictured from left to right: Youanna Labib, Isabella Colon, Lyla Velez, Leyanna Cheng, Ibrahim Gabr, Natalia Czachor, Madeline Nagel, Naiya Singleton, Bryce Edwards, Evan Guzman, Bozhena Plotytsya, and Mr. Mullen.



Washington School Students Have Fun With Science

Students in Mrs. Sauchelli's 5th grade class discovered the role fungi plays in creating soil. In the activity, students planned and conducted an investigation to discover the factors affecting decomposition. After creating mold terrariums, they observed patterns in the rates of change of the mold. Students also noted similarities and differences when analyzing how mold grows on different foods under different conditions.



NAHS Bowling With a Record Breaking Season

The 2017-2018 NAHS Bowling Season was a special one without a doubt. The team was lead by seniors Kenny Bennett and Brandon Barth where they all persevered through each challenge they encountered. Led by Coach Daniel Farinola, the team became the NJIC Meadowlands Division Champions during the regular season with a win against rival Lyndhurst, finishing with an undefeated record of 22-0, a feat that has never been done by the Vikings' bowling team in previous seasons. Their league title was the first in bowling since 2009 and is the most recent since the boys' soccer team won the league title in 2015.

As if the league title wasn't a big enough accomplishment, the team also won 2 other prestigious titles before winning a state championship. They won the Bergen County Group 1 and 2 championship and also won the Baker's Bonanza Tournament. Both championship victories solidified that the Vikings were one of the top teams in Bergen County this season. To finalize this historic run, the Vikings won the North 1A Group 1 State Championship, where Kenny Bennett nearly bowled a perfect game with a score of 283! For Liam Henkel, Kenny Bennett, Brandon Barth, it was their second State title in three years. The victory sent them to the tournament of champions where they placed 4th among Group 1 schools and 15th overall in the entire state! The team set school records with a team high series for 4 bowlers of 2414, a team high game for 5 bowlers of 1111 and a team high series for 5 bowlers of 2973.

In addition to the team's successes, there were several individual noteworthy accomplishments, including Kenny Bennett and Brandon Barth advancing to the Individuals Tournament of Champions.

Finally, with all of the success of the boys' team over the last couple of years, several girls showed interest in the bowling team this past season. The interest led to our first girls' bowling club and if the interest continues to grow, there is hope that a girls' team will be formed in the near future.



Pictured from left to right: Liam Henkel, Kenny Bennett, Brandon Barth, Eric McKenna, Trent Petito, and Coach Daniel Farinola.

NAMS “Hoops for Heart”

“Hoops for Heart” is an annual fundraiser that the middle school physical education department runs with the American Heart Association. Each grade level competes in a different basketball style, heart healthy activity. Eighth grade students compete in a 3 on 3 basketball tournament; seventh grade students compete in a hot shot contest, and the sixth grade students travel to a number of different basketball and heart healthy stations. The sixth grade also competes against other homerooms, which is judged on their skills, team spirit, heart health knowledge, and amount of money raised. This is an extremely fun day that all the students always look forward to. Overall, the middle school was able to raise almost \$900 for the American Heart Association.



North Arlington High School: “Start With Hello!”

“Start With Hello” week at North Arlington High School kicked off on February 5, 2018. “Start With Hello” week brings attention to the growing epidemic of social isolation in our schools and communities, and empowers young people to create a culture of inclusion, while connecting with others throughout the school. During this week, hundreds of schools and youth organizations across the United States participated in “Start With Hello” week, which teaches students, grades 2–12, the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness. Students in North Arlington celebrated the week through a poetry contest, scavenger hunt, advertisements within the school and to parents, announcements, and daily challenges. The students pictured played a leadership role during the week by helping to prepare materials, making school-wide announcements, and partaking in the poetry contest and scavenger hunt. Many other students in the school also assisted in this event such as the Interact Club, the Guidance Department, The Child Study Team, The Viking Saga Team, and many teachers and staff members. The hope is that students will take the realizations and lessons that they have learned throughout the week to do their part to decrease social isolation, bullying and school violence.



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Dennis Kenny, Assistant Principal, Emily Irizarry, Carlos Ocasio, Tayana Abreu-Rivera, Tatyana Abreu-Rivera, Bridgett Stillwell, Dante Andrews, Daniel Marques, Tierney Byrne, Kaitlin Vanderhoff, School Social Worker, and Kevin Criollo.



North Arlington High School Welcomes Hockey to the Athletic Department!

After continued interest in hockey within North Arlington Public Schools, athletic director, David Hutchison, worked with Kearny High School and Secaucus High School to establish a Tri-Cooperative Hockey Team allowing North Arlington High School students to play high school hockey for the first time ever! Our hockey team finished 7-7-3 in its inaugural season.

Pictured from left to right: Michael Paolazzi, Brian McDermott, and Brendan Jimenez.

