

June 2018

Learning in North Arlington

North Arlington Public Schools

222 Ridge Rd.

North Arlington, NJ 07031



Graduation Dates

NAMS

Monday, June 25 (6:30 PM)

NAHS

Tuesday, June 26 (6:00 PM)

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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 over the past few months. 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. In addition to the many great stories noted within this newsletter, please take a moment to review some of the updates below:

NJDOE Designates North Arlington Public Schools as "High Performing"

I'm proud to announce that North Arlington Public Schools has successfully undergone the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) review headed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). On May 29, 2018, the NJDOE's Assistant Commissioner for Field Services notified us that we have once again been designated a "High Performing" school district after meeting detailed criteria within the five QSAC areas: Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Operations, and Personnel. This wonderful designation could not have been possible without our hardworking educators and students who strive to be the very best! Congratulations!

Expansion Efforts

The Board of Education is still negotiating with the Newark Archdiocese to potentially acquire Queen of Peace High School; however, alternate plans are in place in case a deal cannot be structured, including an expansion of Roosevelt Elementary School. Either of these plans will provide us with the space needed to reduce class size, broaden our services for special needs' students, and establish a full-day PreK4 program. We are hopeful that progress will be made in the summer months and any definitive information will be shared with you all.

School Safety

School safety continues to be at the forefront of our day-to-day operations, and our primary goal is to ensure that our students and educators remain safe. Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, in coordination with the North Arlington Police Department, we have taken several steps to strengthen our safety efforts by establishing several Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs), which includes live-streaming of our security cameras to the NYPD and the issuing of I.D. access for all police officers in the case of an emergency. Additionally, the Board of Education has approved the purchase of several door upgrades, as well as a protective film to be placed on all classroom windows over the next few months. These additions will significantly delay any intruder from entering a locked classroom. North Arlington Public Schools was applauded by several state agencies earlier this year for our efforts and be assured that we'll continue to focus on everyone's safety year after year.

Chromebooks, G-Suite & Emails

During the 2018-2019 school year, North Arlington Public Schools will be implementing a pilot 1:1 program for 7th graders at North Arlington Middle School. The pilot program will be closely monitored and recommendations for future expansion of the program will be made at the conclusion of the upcoming school year. Students in grades 3-12 will be issued school-based emails to increase electronic communication, while also setting the foundation for future expansion of G-Suite.

New Website

On July 1, 2018, North Arlington Public Schools will launch our new website: www.navikings.org. This website was developed by our Website Development Team, which included administration, teachers, parents, and students. We're continuing to develop our eAlert system, which will provide parents an opportunity to receive immediate updates through our unique North Arlington App.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the graduating *Class of 2018* and wish them well on their post-secondary endeavors. We are always here for you and we know that you'll make North Arlington proud!

Please have a safe and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Stephen Yurchak

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



NORTH ARLINGTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.narlington.k12.nj.us

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▶ Page 2 **Lunch Buddies at Roosevelt School**

For the past several years, Mrs. Malanga, teacher of kindergarten, and Ms. Frazao, teacher of fifth grade, have developed a Lunch Buddies Club. Fifth grade students eat lunch and enjoy recess one day a week with the kindergarten class. The children have made new friends as they play board games, create crafts, draw, build, and read stories together. The fifth graders have been positive role models for their younger schoolmates and all students have grown from this valuable time together.

Pictured are Ms. Frazao's fifth grade students and Mrs. Malanga's kindergarten students.



North Arlington High School's David Hutchinson Earns the Honor of Athletic Director of the Year!

Our very own Athletic Director, Mr. David Hutchinson, has received the distinguished honor of Athletic Director of the Year for the Meadowlands Division of the North Jersey Interscholastic Conference (NJIC)! The NJIC consists of 37 public and private schools throughout Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson counties. The Meadowlands Division is comprised of North Arlington, Hasbrouck Heights, Becton, Wallington, St. Mary's, Paterson- Charter, Weehawken, Wood-Ridge and Saddle Brook. Mr. Hutchinson was nominated and selected for this award by his fellow athletic directors within the NJIC Meadowlands Division.

Mr. Hutchinson has been a valued member of North Arlington Public Schools for the past 7 years. Prior to becoming our athletic director, he was a special education science teacher at North Arlington High School, as well as a special education science teacher at Chancellor Academy. Mr. Hutchinson is also the Supervisor of Physical Education and Health.

Mr. Hutchinson's highlights as an Athletic Director include the planning and opening of "RIP" Collins Athletic Complex, the creation of the Nick Mazzolla Track and Field Invitational, taking the lead and overseeing the inception of the NJIC competition cheerleading event, and bringing new sports to the students of North Arlington such as crew, ice hockey, and cross country.



Jefferson School's Fifth Grade Scientists

Scientists in Ms. Iuele's fifth grade class at Jefferson School explored the transfer of energy and matter between organisms in an ecosystem. Scientists discovered what all organisms need to survive and described how competition for these items affect the populations in an ecosystem. Scientists used this knowledge and research to present information on diverse ecosystems! Pictured is the team, "Desert Experts," who created an informational poster and diorama model of a desert ecosystem.

Pictured from left to right: Mahmudrasim Sharipov, Aidan Maleski, Katherine Lind, and Jianna Parisi.



“Remembering T.J.”

On Wednesday, April 4th, North Arlington Public Schools held a district-wide parent presentation entitled “Remembering T.J.” The following day, the same presentation was held for students in grades 9-12. This program provided students, parents, and educators a view of what teen depression can look like and discussed many of the red flags that are often dismissed as typical teenage behavior. It also empowered teens to look to others for help and support, while offering insights to parents and teachers to help them better understand teens.

Remembering T.J.

...by raising awareness for mental health.



“Bubbles for Autism” at Washington School

On April 18th, Washington School celebrated Autism Awareness Month with their annual Bubbles for Autism event. Students celebrated by donating \$1 to *Autism Speaks* and were able to wear a colorful shirt. All staff purchased Autism Awareness shirts and were able to wear them for the day, as well as the following Mondays in April, in honor of Autism Awareness Month. The idea for the colorful shirts came from Mrs. Orovio’s Specialized PreK students, and with the help of the Student Council and Ms. Paserchia, the front office area was beautifully decorated with Autism Awareness ribbons. Together, Washington School was able to make a sizable donation to *Autism Speaks* and to show how united Washington School is for such a great cause!



NAHS Students Complete the Inaugural Year of the Early College Program

Walt Disney once said, “If you can dream it, you can do it.” Student success comes from setting goals and achieving them. With that being said, we would like to congratulate our Early College Academy students on the successful completion of their first year in the program. Although the rigor of the program, coupled with AP courses, was no easy feat, our 20 juniors rose to the occasion. They excelled in their courses, and intellectually “raised the bar” among other college students enrolled at Bergen Community College. We are proud of their accomplishments and confident that they will continue to succeed!



Pictured are NAHS Students in the Bergen county College Early College Academy.

First Row (left to right): Olivia Ruiz, Alyssa Tattoli, Pedro Bandeira, Victoria Martins.

Second Row (left to right): Lauren Asuzano, Arianna Hernandez, Nicole Torsiello, Melissa Michaud, Kayla Soares, Cassie Armout, Jayden Martinez.

Third Row (left to right): Michael Awad, Louis Visotcky, Joseph Rutigliano, Patrick Czachor, James Phelan, Matthew Lynch, Jonathan Estfanous.

“Friendship Day” at Washington School

On May 7th, Washington School students in Ms. Ade’s kindergarten and first grade class, along with Mrs. Cutruzzula’s class, attended the *Friendship Festival* at Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange. The special day was sponsored by the North Arlington Elks Lodge No.1992. The children had a wonderful time observing the animals, riding the train, taking part in carnival games, and enjoying a hot dog for lunch. Students even got to touch sting rays! Thank you, Elks, for a fantastic day!



Washington School 2nd Graders Have Fun With Math



Mrs. Drozdowski’s second graders utilized their math skills to record measurements of the playground at Washington School. The students measured objects in both standard and metric units, recorded their data, and compared the results using a line plot.

Pictured from left to right: Gia Damesquita, Khloe Loureiro, Sofia Kenny, and Anthony Maglio.



Multicultural Night at NAHS

On May 17th, North Arlington community members were invited to “come explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of the world” during our annual NAHS Multicultural Fair. Overseen by physical education and health teacher, Mrs. Gagliano, a number of students took on leadership roles to organize an amazing evening of food, music, and celebration of diversity! Featured countries included Poland, Spain, Colombia, Italy, and many more! Every table was beautifully decorated and the students warmly welcomed visitors time and time again. This event was, once again, a huge success!



Pictured from left to right: Michelle Franko, Samantha DiPopolo, Genesis Rodriguez, Marianna Murphy, Valeria Saavedra, Valezka Strausberg, and Jaslie Cabral.

NAMS Field Day 2018

NAMS eighth graders participated in our Annual Field Day on May 23rd at “RIP” Collins Athletic Complex. Students participated in a number of activities including the long jump, 100m dash, 200m dash, 400m dash, football throwing competition, soccer kicking competition, javelin throw, puzzle building, and maze navigation. Students also participated in several team-related activities including the 4x100 relay race, tug of war, and water balloon toss. For the second year in a row, Mr. Barber’s homeroom won and claimed their trophy! NAMS would like to thank the North Arlington Volunteer Emergency Squad (NAVES) for being on site throughout the day, as well as the NAMS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), who donated lunches for our students. It was a successful day and everyone had a great time!

Pictured from left to right: Analyse Botch, Veronica Posada, Maira Gutierrez, Jakob Mazur, Matthew O’Mara and Karan Singh



Music at Jefferson School

Music teacher and elementary band director, Mr. Burke, recently conducted the 2018 Spring Concert at NAMS, which featured a very talented group of fourth and fifth grade students. Students were incredibly excited to perform for family and friends after devoting so many hours to learn several musical pieces from the movies!

Pictured from Left to right: Rohan Patel, Mr. Burke, Nathan Caballero, Leila Estrada, Eric Zhu and Jake Macrina.



Dr. Togna Visits Roosevelt School and Conducts Science Experiments!

Monica M. Togna, Ph.D., an Associate Teaching Professor in the Biology Department at Drexel University, recently visited Mrs. Giuffre’s third grade class at Roosevelt School to conduct science experiments with our very own scientists. Our third grade scientists mixed solutions, learned how liquids turn into solids, and used dehydrated plastic to make their own bouncy balls! Scientists even made slime! All scientists also looked the part as they prepped the room with protective sheets and wore lab coats, goggles, and gloves.



Exciting Spring for The Vikings

Even with the rain, extreme heat, and unpredictable weather the North Arlington High School spring sports' teams battled the elements like true Vikings. Many of our teams were in transition with new coaches and younger teams; however, everyone fought through the challenges with pride and determination! The future for this group of students looks bright for next spring!

The North Arlington High School track team has been on the rise. Recently, eight student-athletes from the boys' and girls' track team qualified for the State Group Championships in various events including long jump, shot put, boys' and girls' javelin, 3200 meter relay, 1600m and the 3200m. This season produced the most athletes to qualify for states since the 2010 season. Sirish Modhagala was the sectional champion in the 1600m and 3200m. Great job!

The Vikings baseball team also had many highlights this season. Junior pitcher Eric McKenna won Athlete of the Week by pitching a no hitter against Bogota for a 10-0 win. McKenna had 7 strike outs and 0 walks for the game, in addition to going 6-11 at the plate with 4 RBI's. One of the best games of this season took place on Friday, May 18th against Saint Mary's. It was a close game with the Vikings winning 7-6. The victory marked the first time in many years the team defeated St. Mary's. The Vikings baseball team went 12-11 on the season and hosted David Brearly (Kenilworth) in the first round of the state tournament. Another major highlight was head baseball coach, Mr. Paul Marcantuono, winning *Coach of the Year* for the NJIC Meadowlands division. Mr. Marcantuono has been a valued member of the North Arlington School District for 14 years as a physical education and health teacher and has been coaching baseball for the past 11 years. Congratulations!



Pictured Left to Right: Eric McKenna's profile drawing as the Bergen Record Athlete of the Week, Sirish Modhagala, and Coach Paul Marcantuono.

Two Vikings Receive Sportsmanship Awards!

North Arlington High School's graduating student-athletes, Ryan McDermott and Kaitlyn Stajek were recently honored at the annual North Jersey Interscholastic Conference (NJIC) luncheon for their respectful actions on and off the field. During the 2017-2018 school year, Ryan ran track and played football. He plans on beginning his career as an ironworker this summer. Kaitlyn ran track and played soccer. She plans on attending Kean University in the fall. Throughout their high school careers, Ryan and Kaitlyn have been exemplary student-athletes and we are proud to have them represent NAHS!

Pictured Left to Right: Mr. Hutchinson, Ryan McDermott, Kaitlyn Stajek and Dr. Yurchak.



Future Goals: Hockey Scholar Program

North Arlington Middle School recently teamed up with EVERFi and the New Jersey Devils to present the Future Goals: Hockey Scholar program to our seventh grade students. The Hockey Scholar program offers science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts through real-life simulations. The students enjoyed applying scientific thinking and problem-solving skills as they considered the angle and force needed to score a goal. As the session concluded, students explored how STEM applies to various careers and can be found throughout our world.

