



**KENNETT
CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**FALL
2016**

Football Team Welcomes Honorary Captain

When the Kennett High School football team took the field for its first home game of the season, a very courageous little boy led the way.

On Halloween 2012, when he was two years old, Grayson Savery was diagnosed with a form of pediatric brain cancer, medullary fibrillary astrocytoma. Grayson's tumor is enmeshed within his brain stem, the powerhouse of the brain, and entwined within the nerves that control major gross and sensory reactions such as breathing and swallowing. In January 2013, Grayson began what would total 18 months of weekly chemotherapy at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Grayson's tumor is currently stable.

"He is a larger-than-life kid," his mother, Mrs. Jaclyn Savery, says. "Through it all, he always wanted to live."

This year Grayson began first grade at New Garden Elementary School. In honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the Kennett High School varsity football team named Grayson and his older brother Aydan honorary captains for its game against Chichester High School on Friday, September 2.

It was an exciting and emotional night. Before the game, the Savery family was given a private tour of the campus, and Grayson and Aydan received custom Kennett High School football jerseys and helmets.



Grayson Savery, first grade student at New Garden Elementary School, was all smiles as honorary captain of the KHS football team.

Both boys were all smiles as they raced around the gymnasium and put on their jerseys in the locker room.

Fully outfitted in Kennett Blue Demon gear, Grayson and Aydan waited patiently to lead the football team onto the field. The Savery brothers were greeted with vigorous applause as they rushed onto the field with the entire Kennett High School Football team behind them. As the honorary captains, Grayson and Aydan were then asked to participate in the coin toss to begin the game.

As the game got under way, Grayson and Aydan watched eagerly from the stands and waited for their biggest moment of the night. At half-time, they were called onto the field to run one of the best plays of the night. As the brothers marched onto the field for the big play, their parents looked on with delight.

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KHS Senior Attends Summit at White House

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics was originally established by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 to address the educational disparities faced by the Hispanic community. Since then, this call

has been recognized by Presidents William J. Clinton, George W. Bush, and, more recently, Barack Obama, all of whom have renewed the Initiative.

Today, through public and private partnerships and in concert with

the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, the Initiative advances a strategic policy and outreach agenda to tackle critical education challenges such as:

- Improving availability of and access to high-quality early learning programs for Hispanic children;
- Dramatically increasing the number of Hispanic high school graduates;
- Ensuring that more Hispanics students enroll in and complete college.

All of this is focused on getting students college- and career-ready for the jobs of the twenty-first century and to guarantee they can compete globally, restoring the

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Spot LIGHT



Successful entrepreneur Mr. Mike Cangini, class of 2007 and vice president of United By Blue, looks back fondly on his years as a Kennett Blue Demon.

“As I reflect upon my time as a student in the Kennett Consolidated School District, I am often reminded of how profound an impact educators have had on my life,” Mr. Cangini explains. “I am thankful to have learned so many valuable lessons that have stuck with me to this day.”

One of his most influential instructors was business teacher Ms. Colleen Barber. Mr. Cangini credits Ms. Barber’s entrepreneurship class with lighting the spark of his success. He also thanks social studies teacher Mr. Shawn Duffy who challenged him to always remember people’s names—a skill that has helped Mr. Cangini become the businessman he is today.

Mr. Cangini was a dedicated student-athlete and a four-year varsity football player who captained the team his senior year and says he made some of his most cherished memories while wearing his Blue Demon jersey, such as playing in Kennett High School’s first-ever football game. He also played lacrosse his senior year.

After high school, Mr. Cangini attended Temple University’s Fox Business School where he studied entre-

preneurship. During his junior year, he met Mr. Brian Linton—and the rest is history. In 2010, as college students, Mr. Cangini and Mr. Linton combined their love for the environment and their entrepreneurial savvy to launch the startup United By Blue, a unique outdoor apparel store with a strong focus on conservation. Both were driven by the idea of associating the sale of each product with a concrete environmental action: For every product sold, United By Blue would remove one pound of trash from oceans and waterways through cleanups the company would organize and host.

“We wanted to make a tangible impact on the world’s waterways,” explained Mr. Cangini. “We decided the best way to make that happen was to do it ourselves.”

Now, six years later, Mr. Cangini is the vice president of United By Blue which has successfully removed over 315,000 pounds of trash from our oceans and waterways. After starting by selling just four different T-shirts and growing to dominate the outdoor apparel market, Mr. Cangini is just getting started.

“Kennett shaped who I am today,” Mr. Cangini says. “It was truly a huge part of my life, and I am excited to see where it takes me next.”

When Mr. Cangini is not hosting a clean-up, he enjoys

spending time with his fiancée, fellow Kennett graduate Ms. Katie Perigo, class of 2007, and his dog Hank. He also enjoys working on cars, carpentry, and building projects.

Know a Kennett High School alumni who we should spotlight? Please send us an email at PR@KCSD.org.

Football Team Welcomes Honorary Captain *Continued from page 1*

“It was an amazing moment,” Mrs. Savery said with a smile. The Savery family may be fighting the odds, but it is clear that the love they have for each other is a force to be reckoned with.

Grayson and Aydan lined up on the field and Chichester High School’s defensive players lined up against them. The officials gave the signal and the play began. Grayson took the handoff, swerved to the right and left, and rushed into the end zone for a brilliant touchdown that was met with roars of delight from the student section who waited for Grayson in the end zone.

“This is amazing!” Grayson exclaimed, still holding onto his game football. Both brothers were all smiles—and wanted to continue playing with the team.

Then there was another revelation: The Chichester

football team, marching band, and cheerleading team had organized a campaign to collect more than \$500 in gifts for the Savery family.

“He’s such an inspiration,” said Chichester cheerleading coach Mrs. Karen Baney. Having experienced the battle against cancer with her own family members, Mrs. Baney understood the family’s challenges and decided to help out.

It was an extraordinary night. The community and the Kennett Consolidated School District came together to support a little boy who is truly larger than life.

“The Kennett Consolidated School District has always rallied around ‘its own,’ and we want Grayson and his family to know that they have our unwavering support. That is what we do,” says superintendent Dr. Barry

Tomasetti. “Our prayers for Grayson’s complete recovery are with him each and every day.”

This is not the first time the Kennett Consolidated School District has united to support a member of its community. Last spring, the District was shocked to learn that a high school student, John Paul Dean, had been diagnosed with stage four non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“It was very gratifying to see how our school community rallied around this young man and his family,” Dr. Tomasetti comments. “John Paul demonstrated unwavering spirit and courage during his time of recovery. His cancer is in remission, and he has moved on to the next step in life as he entered Emory Riddle University this fall.”

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

KENNETT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

300 East South Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6600
Fax: 610-444-6614
www.KCSD.org

Board of School Directors

Kendra LaCosta, President
Joseph Meola, Vice-president
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Robert J. Perzel, Director of Construction and Facilities
Vacant, Curriculum Supervisor for Language Arts and Social Studies
Dr. Lydia Hallman, Curriculum Supervisor for Mathematics and Science

Kennett High School (grades 9-12)

100 East South Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6620
Dr. Jeremy Hritz, Principal
Raymond Fernandez, Assistant Principal
Dr. Tomorrow Jenkins, Assistant Principal
Jeffery Thomas, Assistant Principal
Sean Harvey, Athletic Director

Kennett Middle School (grades 6-8)

195 Sunny Dell Road
Landenberg, PA 19350
610-268-5800
Lorenzo DeAngelis, Principal
Brenna Levi, Assistant Principal
Jacob Moore, Assistant Principal

Bancroft Elementary School

181 Bancroft Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-925-5711
Leah McComsey, Principal

Greenwood Elementary School

420 Greenwood Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-388-5990
Dr. Tracey Marino, Principal

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center

409 Center Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6260
April Reynolds, Principal

New Garden Elementary School

265 New Garden Road
Toughkenamon, PA 19374
610-268-6900
Susan McArdle, Principal

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All In is published by Kennett Consolidated School District
For questions or comments email us at PR@KCSD.org



Kennett Consolidated School District Pilots National Science Program

With two-thirds of the earth's surface covered by water and the human body consisting of 75 percent water, it is clear that water is one of the prime elements responsible for life on Earth. Yet, collectively, only a small percentage of American high school graduates pursues a career in water science. To help ensure that more students are prepared to pursue a postsecondary education in water science, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has developed Water SCIENCE, a water-based science curriculum that is designed to help students establish stronger interests in water-related STEM careers.

In order to cultivate the best curriculum possible, the NSF has selected three school districts nationwide to pilot Water SCIENCE. Within the designated districts, two schools have been selected to pilot the new curriculum and record their results with the goal of improving it to best meet the needs of all students.

After an immensely successful 2015–2016 school year, the Kennett Consolidated School District was NSF's choice as the exemplar district to conduct the newest version of the Water SCIENCE program for the 2016–2017 school year. Within the District, building on the previous year's experiences, Greenwood Elementary School and Kennett Middle School were selected to once again pilot the curriculum. Greenwood Elementary School teachers Mr. John Boyer, Mrs. Elizabeth Weaver, and Dr. Jonathon Kilpatrick will once again be the teacher researchers facilitating the program. They will also be accompanied by Mr. Frank Herr, a biology major at Millersville University.

During the program, students at both the elementary and middle school levels participate in activities that cover Next Generation Science Standards and National Science Education Standards in life science, engineering, and earth and space science. Though the activities vary depending on grade level, the goal is to help students take a stronger interest in water-related STEM careers and boost their STEM content knowledge. The NSF also arranges for water science professionals to visit the different schools, allowing students to create relationships with working STEM professionals.

At Greenwood Elementary School, the Water SCIENCE curriculum is held as an after-school activity for fifth grade students. Once a week for six weeks, students have stayed after school to learn valuable lessons on topics that varied from water-testing to water-filtration systems. Each session begins with a water-science lesson before students form teams and conduct exciting



Fifth grade students at Greenwood Elementary School had a great time creating water filters as part of the Water SCIENCE.

experiments. Students are regularly challenged to find new solutions to environmental problems, encouraging them to think critically and collaborate for the best possible results.

Dr. Kilpatrick is thrilled to offer this unique program to his students.

"Thanks to the National Science Foundation, our students are some of the only students in the country experiencing this curriculum," Dr. Kilpatrick said. "This is a great experience. Students are becoming more and more excited to learn about science and our environment."

Greenwood Elementary School students are also thrilled to enjoy this program. Fifth grade student Ben Dietrich, who wants to be a water scientist like his mother, enjoyed everything about the Water SCIENCE program, but his favorite experiment was creating a water-filtration system.

Fifth grade student June Sabo, who too wants to be an aquatics scientist, also enjoyed conducting experiments with her group-mates.

Over at Kennett Middle School, the Water SCIENCE program is incorporated into student's daily science classes, and each grade level pilots a different part of the program.

Led by Mr. Paul Petrick, sixth grade students have focused on watersheds. After learning about watershed basics, they applied their education to the real-world

example of the watershed that Kennett Middle School feeds into.

Seventh grade, led by Mrs. Jeffra Leo, Mr. Tony Bowling, and Mrs. Gretchen Coe, spent a day in the field taking water samples and running water-quality tests. The students then analyzed that data in the classroom to determine the health of a local water source, Egypt Run. Based on good to excellent test results, they determined it to be a healthy stream.

Eighth grade students were led by Ms. Jamie Branham, Ms. Heather Uster, and Mr. Tyrone Johnson. Together, they created water filtration systems that mimicked the earth's natural system.

Mr. Rob Stenta, Kennett Consolidated School District parent, is proud that his children are taking part in the Water SCIENCE program. "The Kennett Consolidated School District is making an effort to cultivate environmental stewards that are critical to our planet's future. The sooner our students learn about these critical issues, the better."

The Kennett Consolidated School District would like to thank the National Science Foundation for funding the Water SCIENCE program.

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KMS Represented at National Conference

In early October, Kennett Middle School science teacher Mrs. Joy Rosser traveled to Austin, Texas, to present at the 43rd Annual Conference for Middle Level Education.

Her session, titled "Igniting the Middle Level: The Power of Educators," targeted administrators, counselors, media specialists/librarians, parents, principals, teachers, and team leaders. Mrs. Rosser had previously presented this material locally through the Chester County Intermediate Unit and the Kennett Consolidated School District.

The Association for Middle Level Education is the leading international organization advancing the education of all students ages ten to fifteen, helping them succeed as learners and make positive contributions to their communities and to the world.

"Personally, I was thrilled to learn that my proposal had been accepted for this year's conference," Mrs. Rosser states. "Professionally, presenting at the conference was a wonderful opportunity for me to showcase the positive culture of Kennett Middle School."

The goal of Mrs. Rosser's presentation was to engage attendees in conversations about how who they are and what they say enhances their students' learning experiences.

"Educators are the catalysts for their classroom and school," Mrs. Rosser explains. "I wanted attendees to leave my session with the motivational and optimistic wisdom to ignite the spark that will help them to make a positive difference in their students and their schools. I want to empower educators with a greater sense of purpose and confidence for their students' benefit."

Mrs. Rosser's session engaged attendees in discussions around juggling and balancing multiple roles, counseling parents, inspiring colleagues, and motivating students. Together, they explored obstacles in daily teaching and strategized through challenges in order to improve retention so that teachers bring their best energy every day for their students.

"We were so proud to have Joy represent Kennett Middle School and the state of Pennsylvania at the national convention," Mr. Lorenzo DeAngelis, Kennett Middle School's principal, comments. "Joy is truly a dedicated and hardworking individual with tons of

passion to 'ignite' our students and staff."

Mrs. Rosser serves as a member of the southeast regional board and the state board of the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education. In addition, she is the secretary of the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's board of directors and is a member of the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch State Team.



KCSD Teachers Travel to China

This summer, six Kennett Consolidated School District teachers traveled across the globe to China to share their love of teaching and learning in a challenging new way.

Four Kennett Middle School teachers—Mr. Evan Saikin, Mr. Herman Engel, Ms. Jennifer Gatnarek, and Ms. Jeffra Leo—joined Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center teacher Mrs. Joanne Connolly and Bancroft Elementary School teacher Mrs. Sara Simasek for a 14-day educational adventure in Asia. The group of Kennett teachers traveled to Tang Chen, China, where they spent their days helping non-English speaking students learn basic English skills.

The Kennett teachers were excited to share their teaching strategies with the teachers and students in Tang Chen. They used games and activities such as role-playing, greetings, and sharing to help their students build confidence. While they taught, the Chinese teachers observed the American teachers' strategies and participated in classroom activities alongside the students. All six Kennett teachers agree that, although at first there were some communication barriers, the members of each class significantly improved their spoken English.

During their days off, the teachers traveled to historic sites such as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xi'an. They even participated in a grueling and spectacular hike to the largest glass-bottomed viewing platform in the world at the top of the Stone Forest Gorge in Beijing.

"The trip to China was an amazing opportunity to take part in cultural immersion," says Mrs. Simasek. "The Kennett Consolidated School District teachers who have participated since the program came to the District five years ago have been enriched by this unforgettable teaching and learning experience."

Over the course of their two-week adventure, the Kennett teachers formed what they are sure will become lifelong friendships with students, student leaders, Chinese teachers, and their American teaching colleagues.



New Garden Elementary School Students Create Stunning Visual Timelines

When it comes to teaching English as a second language, New Garden Elementary School teacher Mrs. Becky Wagner understands that visual learning plays a crucial role in the development of English language skills. So when it came time for her fifth grade class to learn about America's first president, George Washington, she invited her students to create a visual timeline of his life.

Mrs. Wagner and her students began the project by reading a short biography of Washington. Next, to understand the important events of his life, they created visual timelines - graphical representations displayed sequentially along a line. Timelines can be organized by time of day, date, or event, and the tool allows students to create a label with text or a picture.

As Mrs. Wagner explains, "The timelines also provide comprehension support for English language learners, helping them make connections and recognize patterns in a series or process."

For this project, Mrs. Wagner assigned students into teams of two to help promote problem-solving and teamwork skills.

"The students were invested in the timeline project. Although it took a few days to complete, during each class period the students were engaged and working together to best convey through their art the important events in George Washington's life," says Mrs. Wagner. "As a teacher, it makes me proud to not only see students gaining a deeper understanding of a topic but also great teamwork skills and focus."

The students' beautiful work is currently displayed outside of Mrs. Wagner's classroom for all of New Garden Elementary School to enjoy.



Mrs. Becky Wagner and her class posed in front of the visual timeline of George Washington's life that they created.

Bancroft Elementary School Celebrates 5 Year Anniversary with Clay Tile Murals

This year, Bancroft Elementary School officially unveiled two new art installations in celebration of the school's five-year anniversary. Bancroft Elementary School art teacher Ms. Janice Finn dreamed up the idea of creating and installing two new clay tile murals that would be handmade by the students and staff members who make up Bancroft Elementary School's family.

Together, students and staff members were assigned three tiles each. The artists stamped and glazed their tiles in special designs and colors assigned to their respective grade level, and Ms. Finn then fired the tiles in the kiln. Once the tiles were processed, the Bancroft Elementary School artists were able to take home one tile while the other two were used to complete the murals.

After a year of hard work, the beautiful clay tile murals were completed. Thanks to the dedication of the Bancroft Elementary School artists, Ms. Finn, and the

facilities team, the murals were glued, grouted, and hung on the school's walls.

"Our entire Bancroft Elementary School family worked together to design and create two amazing clay tile murals," said Ms. Finn. "One of the greatest aspects of a collaborative art piece is watching a sense of accomplishment develop in not only in the students but in the staff members as well. Art and creativity are alive and thriving at Bancroft Elementary School!"

"I am very proud of the hard work and effort that every student and staff member put into creating this collaborative art project," said Bancroft Elementary School principal Mrs. Leah McComsey. "Ms. Finn's vision for a community art project was executed perfectly and looks fantastic in our school!"



Kennett Middle School Students Illustrate Children's Books

From the sublime to the ridiculous, with remarkable creativity and wit, children's picture-book art appeals to young and old alike. This was especially true for a select group of 60 Kennett Middle School students who visited the Brandywine River Museum's Get the Picture: Contemporary Children's Book Illustrations exhibition this October.

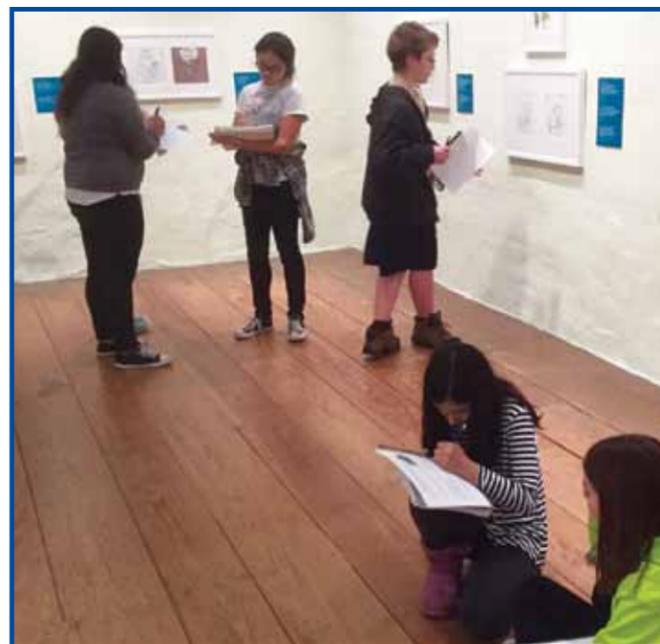
The whimsical exhibition featured an exciting selection of contemporary paintings and drawings created by 8 of the most renowned artists currently working in the field: Sophie Blackall, Bryan Collier, Raúl Colón, Marla Frazee, Jon Klassen, Melissa Sweet, David Wiesner, and Mo Willems. The exhibition revealed the artists' broad spectrum of working methods and subject matter, inspiring the middle school students to use their imagination and create their own masterpieces.

With this newfound inspiration, the students pulled out their paintbrushes and pencils to begin creating alphabet

picture books for students at the Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center. Much like how picture books introduce children to art, this collaborative art project was designed to help introduce kindergarten students to literacy.

"Kennett Middle School is very appreciative to the Brandywine River Museum for this opportunity. The students returned to campus motivated and brimming with ideas for our ABC books," says art teacher Ms. Maryanne Uhl. "Students were engaged throughout their tours and spent a great amount of time sketching and gathering references from the museum's vast collection. It was truly a unique experience to see the creative illustration process from start to finish."

Kennett Middle School students found inspiration at the Brandywine River Museum's exhibition: Get the Picture: Contemporary Children's Book Illustrations.



Kennett Middle School Students Dance to Promote Healthy Choices

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from Kennett Middle School were treated to an exquisite sampling of modern dance moves during a kick-off assembly for the school's newest after-school activity, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Foundation's Youth Dance Program.

The Youth Dance Program is a popular nationwide program that offers 20 weeks of free after-school dance instruction by a certified dance instructor at no cost to the students or the District. The goal is to help students feel a sense of belonging while providing an alternative outlet to "at risk" choices and behaviors. Each 20-week program begins with a kick-off assembly led by professional dancers. Between performances, the dancers speak with students as role models and encourage them to make healthy lifestyle choices.

At the Kennett Middle School kick-off assembly, five dancers from the professional dance company Contradiction demonstrated different styles of dance to appropriate musical choices. In addition to performing, members of Contradiction spoke to the students about the meaningful benefits of dance, such as maintaining a good attitude, building teamwork skills, creating a sense of responsibility, boosting confidence, and providing an outlet for expression and stress. Dancers also took time to share what dance means to them and encouraged the student audience to ask questions.

The assembly also featured DEA Special Agent Mr. Patrick Trainor who spoke with students about the risks and realities of drug use. Mr. Trainor expressed the

importance of making positive, healthy choices. He ended his segment with inspirational words of wisdom, encouraging Kennett Middle School's students to continue being the best they can be.

At the end of the assembly, both students and teachers had the opportunity to learn dance moves, perform on stage, and experience the thrill of dancing to the beat of the music.

Kennett Middle School parent and DEA Youth Dance Regional Director Mrs. Kelly Kuder is proud to offer this new after-school activity to deserving students.

"The Youth Dance Program is designed to inspire youth with healthy and drug-free messages and to encourage them to exercise and express themselves artistically. Through dance, students will build self-esteem, learn how to work with a team, and learn how to resist negative peer pressure. As a parent in the District, I am extremely excited for this opportunity," she said.



Mrs. Kuder will be the instructional coach at Kennett Middle School's Youth Dance Program, bringing positive energy and education to all student participants.

The Kennett Consolidated School District is proud to offer educational and healthy after-school programs where students will learn new skills and grow as individuals and teammates.

KCSD is All In Against Drugs

Recognizing the importance of being a community unified against drugs, the Kennett Consolidated School District held its first annual All In Against Drugs Night in early October. Superintendent Dr. Barry Tomasetti invited community members to attend an evening program as part of the District's ongoing fight against drugs.

"Though we have no knowledge that this is an issue in our community, stories about opiate drugs have been in the news. We wanted to provide the families in the District with an opportunity to learn how to keep our children drug-free and safe," explained Dr. Tomasetti.

The night featured a video created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) called "Chasing the Dragon" which graphically illustrated the horrors of opiate drug abuse. Following the video, FBI Agent and Unionville parent Mr. Kevin McShane and Kennett High School counselor Mr. Fran Ryan presented facts and provided valuable advice on how to keep the community drug-free.

Following the presentations, parents were given the opportunity to ask questions and present any concerns. The community members in attendance were truly "All In" against drugs as they collaborated on questions, concerns, and solutions, all in an effort to keep the District and its students safe.

"Kennett Consolidated School District's All In Against Drug Night is an opportunity to help our community stay well-informed and be better prepared to help their children make positive choices and avoid starting on the pathway to drug abuse," stated Dr. Tomasetti. "The Kennett Consolidated School District and our dedicated parents are partners in preventing drug abuse among our children and young people."



KHS Students Embrace Summer Learning Opportunities

This summer, while others were working summer jobs or enjoying free time by the pool or at the shore, nine Kennett High School students were participating in academically challenging university summer programs.

Alin Hernandez, Penn State University's S.C.O.P.E. and Summer ArtCamp

Alin Hernandez, a junior, participated in two summer programs at Penn State - S.C.O.P.E. and Summer ArtCamp.

S.C.O.P.E. (Summer College Opportunity Program in Education) is a four-week academic intensive program for high school sophomores from multicultural backgrounds interested in careers in teaching, counseling, special education, rehabilitation, or educational administration. Alin is considering teaching as a career.

During the program, Alin lived on Penn State's main campus in University Park, took college courses, prepared for the SAT, and learned time management and other study skills.

Alin also attended a one-week summer ArtCamp offered through Penn State's School of Visual Arts. The camp provided an intensive residential studio workshop program across various art media. The goal of the camp was to help participants develop a distinctive vision and voice by learning new artistic and technical processes that would enhance their creativity and assist them in preparing a distinctive portfolio.

"Both of these programs were important to me," Alin comments. "I really want to go to college, and these experiences gave me a taste of college life."

Leslie Zurita-Fonseca, University of Pittsburgh's Health Career Scholars Academy

Leslie Zurita-Fonseca, a senior, participated in the University of Pittsburgh's academically rigorous, hands-on Health Career Scholars Academy this past summer. The four-week program gave Leslie the opportunity to investigate different areas of medicine, such as geriatrics and global health, from both the administrative and practice sides.

During weekdays, Leslie and her peers attended lectures, took part in small discussion groups, participated in hands-on labs, and attended classes.

"The lab where we learned how to suture an incision using a pig's leg was very cool," Leslie says.

On Saturdays and Sundays, the students joined in field trips, studied, and participated in team-building and social activities designed to introduce them to college

life. Leslie's favorite field trip was to an organ donation institute where she participated in the dissection of a human cadaver.

Cindy Serrato, Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

Cindy Serrato, a senior, was accepted into the 2017 Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences, a four-week summer residential program held at Penn State University for academically talented and gifted high school students from throughout Pennsylvania.

During the first three weeks, Cindy and her peers focused on core courses, such as Plants and People, Ecosystem Ecology, and Environmental & Natural Resource Systems, and spent time in the laboratory. During the fourth week, they participated in a research-based service-learning project.

"The most interesting class I took was plant pathology because it confirmed for me that I want a career in medicine," Cindy says. "However, my favorite part of the program was working in the lab environment."

Juan Martinez, Summer Program for Diversity Pre-College Art & Design at Carnegie Mellon

Juan Martinez, a senior, was accepted to Carnegie Mellon's Summer Program for Diversity Pre-College Art & Design. The six-week program enabled Juan and his peers to explore traditional tools and new technologies in a variety of mediums such as printmaking, clay, computer graphics, and industrial design.

In addition to structured class time in the mornings and afternoons Monday through Friday, Juan participated in weekly workshops, open studio time, and portfolio reviews.

Juan enjoyed exploring the museums of Pittsburgh and walking the city looking for inspiration for his projects. He is looking forward to attending college next year and plans on studying art education.

Maria Mondragon, National Hispanic Institute at the University of Rochester, Lorenzo De Zavala Youth Legislative Session

Maria Mondragon, a junior, took part in an eight-day intensive leadership experience for students to learn how to navigate, manage, and create large organizations by taking charge of their own youth government and proposing future community policies and projects.

This was Maria's second experience with the National Hispanic Institute. Last year she attended a program at Villanova.

Maria's summer experience began in the weeks leading up to her time on the University of Rochester's campus when she was asked to submit ideas for community change and to consider what leadership roles she would like to take on during the program.

Once on campus, Maria and her peers began building a student government. They elected a slate of candidates and collectively set out to adopt laws.

"I loved how formal the process was," Maria comments. "It was as if we were truly working—the experience felt so real. I also loved the opportunity to widen my network of friends from the U.S. and from other countries."

Estefani Sanchez and Keyri Zurita-Juarez, National Hispanic Institute at Villanova University

Estefani Sanchez and Keyri Zurita-Juarez, both sophomores, attended the one-week "Great Debate" hosted by the National Hispanic Institute at Villanova University. Estefani and Keyri joined more than 150 students who came together to discuss and debate important issues related to the Latino community. The goal of the program is to increase the students' capacity to express thoughts, respond to intellectual challenges, work in organized endeavors, and compete against equally competent peers.

Both girls describe themselves as shy and agreed that this program helped to build their self-confidence and taught them to how to speak up.

Araceli Bahena and Keiri Lemus Ramirez, Science Leadership: A Festival of Innovative Ideas at Penn State University

Araceli Bahena and Keiri Lemus Ramirez, both juniors, attended Penn State's one-week Science Leadership Camp that prepares participants for a successful future in scientific careers. Unique to the program is the integration of the arts (literature, visual arts, music, etc.) and field challenges (group projects, lab tours, competitions, and lab work) with the theory and practice of innovative and creative thinking.

In addition to supervised enrichment and team-building activities, Araceli and Keiri participated in science challenges and prepared a final presentation of their group's work.

Araceli and Keiri agree that their takeaway from the experience was that leaders are not only the ones who step up from the group and take charge, they can also be the ones who stand to the side, see flaws of the group or the project, and provide constructive criticism.

Kennett High School Seniors Named National Merit Commended Students

Kennett High School is proud to announce that seniors (from left to right) Kerry Tomasetti, Austin Maxwell, Kate Doroba, Olivia Donia, Lydia Pelby, Victoria Gallivan, Molly Adelman, Delaney Chaffin, and Charles Shattuck have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from Kennett High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, has been presented by Kennett High School principal, Dr. Jeremy Hritz, to these scholastically talented seniors.

"We are so proud of these outstanding students, not only for their exceptional performance on standardized tests, but also for all the other ways in which they enrich the Kennett Square community," Dr. Hritz stated.

Although these students do not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarships, they placed among the top 5% of the 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 Merit Scholarship competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The Kennett Consolidated School District congratulates Kerry, Austin, Kate, Olivia, Lydia, Victoria, Molly, Delaney, and Charles on this outstanding accomplishment



KCSD Elementary Schools Celebrate National Farm to School Month

With help from Chartwells, the Kennett Consolidated School District's dining services provider, and Phillips Mushroom Farms, students at Bancroft, Greenwood, and New Garden Elementary Schools and the Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center celebrated National Farm to School Month by exploring a local delicacy—the mushroom!

In 2010, Congress declared October National Farm to School Month, recognizing the important role farms play in promoting well-being among children and strong local economies.

Dr. Hilary Fox, a spawn lab manager at Phillips Mushroom Farms, brought a variety of mushrooms growing on substrate for the children to see. The students were curious about the smell and feel of the different varieties of mushrooms, which included button, oyster, and pom-pom mushrooms, as well as their shapes, sizes, and colors.

Phillips Mushroom Farms donated button mushrooms that the cafeteria staff added to flatbread pizza for the students to sample. First grade student Ethan Schurr tried a slice of a raw button mushroom with some ranch dressing and admitted that he was unsure about the taste.

"I had a wonderful time sharing my love of mushrooms with the students and teachers," Dr. Fox commented. "The students were polite and curious and asked great questions." The students also received a mushroom-themed word search puzzle and recipe booklets for their parents.

"Chartwells is thrilled to be a part of the District's first Farm to School event," said Chartwells District Manager Mr. Norman Horn. "Eating local is so important, and events such as this help kids make the connection of where their food comes from."

Over the past decade, the farm to school movement has exploded across the United States, reaching millions of students in all 50 states and Washington, DC. From school gardens and farm field trips to local food on cafeteria trays, farm to school practices help children learn about where food comes from and make healthier choices while also creating new markets for local and regional farmers.

"Our first Farm to School event was a great success," said Mr. Viet Hoang, Director of Dining Services. "Staff at all of the schools thought the presentations were a great hands-on learning experience for the students. We plan on incorporating mushrooms into our monthly menus."



Ethan Schurr, a first grade student at Bancroft Elementary School proudly holds a piece of mushroom before taking a bite

KHS Celebrates National Merit Semifinalist

Kennett High School is proud to announce that Senior Zachary Hrenko has been recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Zachary was among approximately 1.6 million juniors who entered the 2017 National Merit Program by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that served as an initial screen of program entrants.

"We are tremendously proud of Zachary for his accomplishment," said Kennett High School Principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz. "He is an outstanding student and one that we believe represents everything that is great about Kennett High School."

The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than one percent of high school seniors and includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

These students are eligible to continue in the program competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarship awards worth more than \$33 million to be offered in the spring. To advance to the finalist level and to be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several additional requirements. These include an outstanding academic record, endorsement by the principal, and SAT scores that confirm the preliminary results. The semifinalist and his or her counselor must submit a detailed scholarship application that includes the student's essay and information about the student's participation and leadership in school and community activities.



KCSD Recognized for Innovation in Technology

This summer, Kennett Consolidated School District was recognized for its excellence and innovation in technology by a leading resource for technology education in the nation, the magazine Tech & Learning.

The District was featured in Tech & Learning's three-part series, "Digital Equity: A Moral Imperative," which recognized school districts that, through the thoughtful and creative allocation of limited resources, developed innovative ways to help bridge the digital divide and provide technology access for all students. The series specifically covered the District's Loaner Laptop Program, describing it as a benefit to all students.

The Loaner Laptop Program was developed two years ago as a way to address the need that all students require targeted, personalized learning goals as well as increased access to technology. The District now operates the program in all of its schools and has worked with the local community to set up an informal network of hotspots offering free Wi-Fi access to students.

The District continuously works with both students and parents to provide training and set learning objectives. It also hosts regular community workshops addressing topics raised by parents or students. This innovative

program allows teachers to monitor students' progress when they use programs like Accelerated Reading and Study Island on their borrowed devices.

"Our Loaner Laptop Program stems from the District's commitment to meeting the needs of each of our 4,400 students" Mr. Dan Maguire, Kennett Consolidated School District Supervisor of Technology Services, said. "Everything the technology department does is built upon the foundation of this commitment. Our approach is organic and strategic - growing the technology program to stay just ahead of student demand while maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the community."

Mr. Maguire was recently asked to speak at Tech & Learning's invitation-only School CIO Leadership Summit, a gathering of the nation's top school technology leaders. While there, he not only spoke about digital equity, but he also collaborated with other industry

leaders to brainstorm new ways to help grow Kennett Consolidated School District's technology department.

"Although no one can predict the future, what lies ahead for the Kennett Consolidated School District is much clearer and brighter than ever. Deliberate implementation of strategies to achieve our goals, accompanied with calculated planning, creative integration, and continuous refinement while consistently maintaining focus on instruction and student achievement, has pushed our District even further towards realizing its vision."



School Collaboration Fosters New Program Focusing on Girl Power

This year the Kennett Consolidated School District is proud to introduce Big Sisters at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center, a new after-school mentoring program designed to help every girl recognize her inner strength and reach her greatest potential.

Led by Kennett High School juniors Julianna Claricuzio and Anneliese Werner, the new program invites students from Kennett High School and Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center to stay after school once a month and participate in activities that encourage positive emotional, social, and mental development. Throughout the year, the Big Sisters spend time with, develop friendships with, and offer guidance to their Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center Little Sisters. The time Big and Little Sisters spend together inspires the young girls to follow their dreams and reach their limitless potential.

In addition to founding the Big Sisters program at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center, both Julianna and Anneliese are honor roll students who are active within the Kennett High School community. Julianna is the vice president of the student council and a member of the Interact Club, and she dances at Longwood Performing Arts Center. Anneliese is also a student council and Interact Club member and plays on the girls' lacrosse and field hockey teams.

At each meeting the Sisters participate in fun and positive activities, such as coloring and dancing, and sing "Who Said" by Hannah Montana, a song that promotes girl power and self-confidence. At the end of each meeting, students share "Positives of the Week," recognizing positive moments they have recently experienced and how they made them feel.

Big Sisters at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center is an

extension of the District's All In initiative. This unique program connects the District's youngest and oldest students.

"The Big Sisters program is a great opportunity for Kennett High School and Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center to establish a partnership to benefit students," says Kennett High School Principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz. "We are excited for this opportunity to collaborate and hope to find more ways to work together."

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center Principal Mrs. April Reynolds reflects on the wonderful program: "To see the bond that the Little Sisters and Big Sisters have already established is so heartwarming. It is an experience that both will cherish forever. I am honored to witness them working together each month."

Although the program is still young, it has proven to be a huge success in the eyes of Big Sisters and Little Sisters alike.

Kindergarten student Ella Lewis enjoys spending time with her Big Sister, Kennett High School senior Chloe Clark. "It is so much fun to do all of the different activities with Chloe," Ella explained. "We like singing together!"

"I am the youngest in my family, and I have always looked up to my older sister," explained Chloe. "The Big Sisters program has given me the opportunity to be a Big Sister and inspire younger girls like my older sister did for me."

Kennett High School sophomore Millie Villicana and



Kennett High School junior, Katherine Clarke and her little sister, Elise Pham, worked together to make bracelets during a recent Big Sisters gathering at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center.

kindergarten student Valeria Zavala also enjoy their time together.

"I like spending time with my Big Sister, Millie, who speaks Spanish just like me," said Valeria.

Millie smiling said, "Spending time with our Little Sisters is rewarding in many ways. I just want to be someone Valeria can look up to."

The Little Sisters can truly look up to their Kennett High School Big Sisters. Through their dedication, these young women plan to continue the program throughout the 2016-2017 school year.

Senior Attends Summit at White House

Continued from page 1

United States to having the world's highest proportion of college graduates.

In 2015, the Initiative published a report, Fulfilling America's Future: Latinas in the U.S., to highlight the condition of Hispanic girls and women in this country and their participation in areas such as education, health, labor, housing, and politics. In October, the Initiative hosted the Fulfilling America's Future Summit at the White House.

Leslie Zurita, Kennett High School senior and president of the high school's Hermanitas chapter, was invited to

accompany Amy L. Hinojosa, national president and CEO of Hermanitas, to the summit. Leslie was one of the youngest summit attendees.

The summit featured panels of Latina women addressing education, workforce, nontraditional careers, and entrepreneurship. Panelist included Diana Trujillo, NASA Mission Lead for Mars Curiosity Rover; Vanessa Casillas, journeyman bricklayer and board member of Chicago Women in Trade; Silvia Cardenas Olivas, head writer and co-producer of Disney's Elena of Avalor; Luisa Santos, founder of Lulu's Ice Cream; and Vanessa Vasquez, Emmy-nominated actress and national spokesperson for IGNITE.

Leslie is looking forward to attending college after graduation, where she will pursue a career in medicine.

"It was an amazing experience," Leslie said with a smile. "Ever since I was a little girl I noticed the suffering and problems that communities of low socio-economic status struggle with. I have always wanted to find a way to be there for them, to give them a helping hand. This passion combined with my love for the sciences and functions of the human body have helped me decide that I want to be a doctor. I want to use my skills in underdeveloped communities."



Kennett High School senior, Leslie Zurita, poses with Vanessa Vasquez, Vocalist, Soprano (at left) and White House Deputy Director, Jaqueline Cortez-Wang (at right).

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