



**KENNETT
CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

LEARN. APPLY. ACHIEVE.



Celebrating the Class of 2018

During the 126th commencement ceremony held Friday, June 8, 2018, 301 graduates walked down Kennett High School's iconic front steps to receive their diplomas. Student speakers included class president Delaney Joyce, Ryley Harris, Allison Taylor, Meghann LaCosta, and Benjamin Gaver. The invocation was presented by Eliane Esparza.

Eliane, president of the Class of 2018, welcomed her fellow graduates, family, and friends. On behalf of her classmates, she thanked the teachers, administrators, and staff who supported them through high school, saying, "Although at times we were not the best students, you helped us, day by day, to ensure that we worked to our potential. You even became our friends and allowed us to grow as individuals."

Eliane told her fellow graduates, "I believe we are also the generation of golden hearts, a generation with a strong sense of self and a unquestionable acceptance of differences. We are the generation with our own voice. We are outspoken, freedom-seeking, and overachieving. We will create the future in which we want to live and for the generations to come."

Benjamin Gaver spoke about resilience and reminded his peers, "Now that we are all going our separate ways, it is important that we perpetuate what our peers and community have taught us. It is important that we know the path we take isn't always going to be what we envision, that hardship plays a role in everyone's life, and that the struggles we face along our journey are just as important as the destination. It is important that we realize that our community will support us, no matter the path we take and hardships we face."

Meghann LaCosta compared the last 12 years of school to the creation of a painting. "When we started kindergarten, we started with a blank canvas. As we learned to read, write, and do math, we acquired our primary colors. As we progressed through our schooling, we had the opportunity to collect many tools to enhance our paintings. With every experience, we acquired new colors." Grateful for her Kennett experience, Meghann concluded, "Graduating from Kennett will allow my peers and me to paint the most beautiful and realistic picture of this world. Now it's time for all of us to take action, to



wash our brushes off, and start again with a wonderful new canvas and all of our colors."

Allison Taylor recalled looking up nervously at the front steps on her very first day of high school. "In that moment, we had the opportunity to create our high school experience: to set goals, to define what we wanted our high school years to be, and to place those aspirations at the top of these steps." She encouraged her peers to take that next first step bravely and to start their climb.

Ryan Harris spoke about how driven he and his classmates were through their high school years. "Some people may think that because we are so driven, we cannot accept failure, but that is not the truth. We have all experienced failure. We know that failure is a natural consequence of being driven because in order to be great, you have to be willing to face challenges. We confronted obstacles, knowing that we might get knocked down. We never backed down because we are driven."

Ryan continued, "Our drive, too, was supported by our parents, mentors, friends, teachers, coaches, and administrators. The Kennett community believed in us and gave us a safe space to develop as students and young men and women. You have all inspired us and given us the resources we need to strive to inspire others and to make the world a better place. Kennett High School Class of 2018, we are here for a reason. We are here because of our drive, and we will never give up that drive."

For more on the Class of 2018, see pages 2, 3, and 8.

2018-2019 KCSD Academic Calendar

The 2018-2019 student school year will begin on Monday, August 27, 2018, and is tentatively set to end on Thursday, June 6, 2019, pending make-up days. The winter holiday will run from Monday, December 24, 2018, through Tuesday, January 1, 2019, with school resuming on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Spring break will be Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19, 2019. Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2019.

Inclement weather make-up days will be added to the end of the school year. There are five days designated as "local holidays" in accordance with the ruling of the Department of Education. The designated local holidays are Monday, January 21, 2019 (Martin Luther King holiday); Monday, February 18, 2019 (President's Day holiday); and Monday, April 15 through Wednesday, April 17, 2019 (spring break).



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A Look at the Class of 2018

Kennett High School graduates are a diverse group who have left their mark on the school and the community. To give you a glimpse into the lives of our graduates and the paths they will take after graduation, we would like to introduce you to the following students, who represent this year's graduating class.



James Tuley is an outstanding student athlete; he received both a Presidential Nomination from Vice President Pence to West Point and a Congressional Nomination to the United States Naval Academy. After careful consideration, James decided to attend the United States Naval Academy, where he has committed to play soccer.

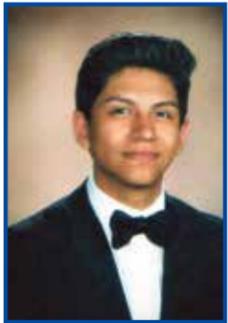
At Kennett High School, James played varsity soccer (serving as captain during his junior and senior years) and football and was a member of the varsity indoor/outdoor track teams as well as the swim team. James also played club soccer for Delaware Football Club and participated in the Olympic Development Soccer Program.

James served as the president of the National Honor Society and is a leader for a boys group at Willowdale Chapel.

James states that his guidance counselor, Mr. Francis Ryan, made a significant impact on him throughout high school. "He was always encouraging me and pushing me to pursue my goals. He provided wisdom and support during the college application process. I wouldn't have gotten here without him."

James is proud to be attending the U.S. Naval Academy. "I see the military as a way to give back and to provide all the great things this country has allowed me to do and have."

James has committed to serving for five years after graduation. His goal is to become either a part of the Special Forces or a Marine Corps officer.



To his friends, **Carlos Nunez** is known as "the go-to guy for science." Not only does Carlos help friends with their classes, but he has also tutored with Math in Motion for the last two summers.

In addition, Carlos volunteers at the St. Rocco Parish and with the Mushroom Festival, and he was an active volunteer during the last presidential election.

Looking back on his high school career, Carlos reflects that he is not the person he used to be. "I didn't use to be serious about school, and I didn't have a good relationship with my parents," he admits.

Carlos is grateful to Mr. Joseph O'Sullivan for being one of his biggest inspirations and a tremendous motivator and for helping him to improve his relationships and his work ethic.

Carlos will attend West Chester University in the fall. He has been accepted into the school's physics-engineering dual degree program. He will attend West Chester University for three years, a partner university for two years, and then graduate with two bachelor's degrees.



Torianna LaBare has grown up around horses and has always dreamed of helping animals as a veterinarian. To give herself the best foundation for reaching that goal, she attended Chester County Technical College High School's veterinary science program for three years.

Academically, Torianna was named student of the quarter multiple times at both Kennett High School and Chester County Technical College High School. She also made distinguished honor roll at both schools the past three years.

Her extracurricular involvement includes being a member of Future Farmers of America (serving as an officer in her junior year), SkillsUSA, and the Gay/Straight Alliance at Technical College High School. At Kennett High School, she was a KTV crew member during her senior year.

Torianna took first place in the county in the Future Farmers of America Wildlife Competition in 2018. She also placed first at the local and district levels in the SkillsUSA Medical Math Competition in 2018. She was named WPVI-TV Channel 6 Best of Class.

Torianna is grateful to her veterinary science teacher, who taught her the value of hard work and motivated her to do her best in everything that she does. She will major in animal science at Delaware Valley University. Her goal is to attend veterinary school and major in equine science.



Citlalli Ramirez is making her family proud through her achievements. Although her parents did not attend college, they have a love for learning.

"I am expected to put college first," Citlalli said. "My sister started the trend by being the first in the family to go to college."

At Kennett High School, Citlalli was involved in UNIDAD Latino Leadership Club. She served as its vice president starting in her sophomore year. She was also a member of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club for three years and served as treasurer of the Feminist Club for two years.

Citlalli's proudest achievement was being selected as the winner of the Princeton Peace Prize for UNIDAD.

Citlalli cites her teachers, Mr. O'Sullivan, Ms. Smith, Ms. Texiera, and her guidance counselor, Mr. Ryan, as having made a big impact on her school career.

Citlalli's plans to attend Temple University and enroll in Tyler School of Art.

"I want to major in art education and minor or double major in history," she said.

Citlalli is also hoping to get her master's in art education to teach at the high school level and possibly her doctorate so she can teach at the college level.

"I think I have always wanted to be a teacher in a way," Citlalli said. "I have always loved art."



A well-rounded student, **Katie Schuetz** has been named an AP Scholar with Distinction, a National Merit Scholar, and has received several Demon Robotics awards.

Katie was a member of Demon Robotics for four years and served as president her senior year. She also played soccer, softball, and participated in the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club.

She plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) to major in electrical engineering and minor in computer science.

"Both my parents studied at Georgia Tech, with my father having a Ph.D. in electrical engineering," Katie said. "I love math, science, and computers, and I've been a part of robotics."

Katie is thankful to her teachers and her father for helping her accomplish many goals. "My teachers created a stress-free environment, and my father taught me to love math and science and was a great role model for me."

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Continued on next page

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

KENNETT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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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

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Kennett Consolidated School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Kennett Consolidated School District students and parents who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact the Superintendent's Office at 300 East South Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348, (610) 444-6600.

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

Katie will attend the honors program at Georgia Tech and will be involved in the robotics program.



Austin Eveland will be attending West Chester University on a Board of Governor's Scholarship, which provides four years of full tuition.

Austin participated in Future Business Leaders of America, Student Athletic Council, and varsity soccer throughout high school. He also was a member of the Penn Fusion Soccer Academy 99 Elite Team since

seventh grade.

"My biggest accomplishment in my senior year was being the first team in Kennett soccer history to make it to states," Austin said. "It was an unbelievable journey, and I'm so glad I was able to accomplish that with my teammates."

He describes it as so special to be able to play with his friends for four years and have success while doing so.

Austin also found success in the academic field. He formed a team that placed second during the Code for Good Challenge, a program run by JPMorgan Chase that asks young people to code applications that offer solutions for nonprofits.

"I formed a group with students from different schools from Delaware and Pennsylvania and developed a wireframe for Goodwill," Austin said. "Although our team placed second, it was a tremendous experience."

Outside of school, Austin started a soccer camp for neighborhood kids, family, and friends. He also volunteers at camps that his soccer coach, Mike Barr, runs during the summer.

Austin chose West Chester University because he wanted to study business and continue to play soccer. The school also has a brand-new business building, which offers every type of business major in which Austin is interested.

"I found West Chester to be a good fit in terms of size and location, and I really enjoyed the campus as well," he said.

Austin credits his parents as being a huge influence. "They have always been very supportive and pushed me to reach my academic potential," he said. "From a young age, they have instilled good habits in me that have and will continue to benefit me—such as my study habits, work rate, and more."



With a passion for medicine and caring for people, **Pathompon (Pam) Moonthiangam** will be attending Temple University to major in neuroscience.

Pathompon was inspired to enter the medical profession by stories of people who struggle to get good medical care.

"I chose to major in neuroscience because it covers two kinds of pre-requirements for medical school," she said.

Pam states that her teachers in high school and middle school have impacted her greatly, helping her decide that science and biology are her passions.

A distinguished honor roll student for all four years at Kennett, Pathompon was also student of the quarter in her junior year, a member of Model UN in her sophomore year, and a member of National Honor Society as a senior. She also participated in several Advanced Placement (AP) classes, including psychology, biology, English language and composition, and calculus AB, earning the AP Scholar Award from the College Board.

Pathompon attended the Chester County Technical College High School's allied health program. The program provided her with clinical practice and gave her the opportunity to shadow health-care professionals both in and out of the hospital setting. Through the experience, she says, she gained knowledge surrounding effective communication, medical ethics, policies, and medical terminology.

While studying at Temple, Pam plans to volunteer at the hospital and join various clubs.



Eric "Ben" Graver is an energetic student athlete who plans to attend Georgetown University to double major in German and government.

Ben was active in both sports and clubs during his time at Kennett High School. He played lacrosse and golf all four years and was golf team captain during his junior and senior years. He participated in Future

Business Leaders of America (FBLA), mock trial, German Club, and was a member of the National Honor Society during his junior and senior years.

Last summer, he was awarded the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst Scholarship, which allowed him to travel to Germany for four weeks at no cost.

"I decided to attend Georgetown University because it is a great location for the political atmosphere that I am interested in," Ben said.

After Georgetown, Ben plans to attend law school to study international law.

He is grateful to his teacher Mr. Duane Kotz. "Mr. Kotz taught me to love languages and other cultures," Ben said. "He taught me that you can be a funny person who also loves learning."

While attending Georgetown, Ben plans to be involved in club golf, the school newspaper, the German club, and possibly mock trial.



Marina Velazquez aims to become an insurance agent to secure a better future not only for herself, but also for her son, Daniel.

"My son motivated me every morning to get up and do this for him for a better future for the both of us," Marina said.

Marina achieved honor roll throughout her years at Kennett High School. Her

guidance counselor, Mr. Fran Ryan, helped her decide on a profession.

She is currently studying to become a licensed agent by taking core classes in the morning and working in the afternoon to support herself and Daniel.



Caroline Maroko was a member of the marching band for three years and the color guard for one year. She served as the secretary of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance for four years and was a member of National Honor Society during her junior and senior years. She is also a dedicated equestrian who has won many horseback riding awards.

Caroline believes that one of her greatest achievements was coming out while in high school. She credits Mr. Ron

Phillips for helping her through this difficult time in her life.

"He helped me through the most challenging part of last year and continued to believe in me even when I lost faith," she said.

Caroline plans to attend Temple University to major in animation.

"I really like art," she said. "I want to be able to impact the younger generation with positive messages in a way they understand."

At Temple, she plans on being a part of the school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance and will continue riding horseback.



Victoria Gonzalez will be attending the College of William and Mary to major in global studies.

"I like languages [she speaks Spanish and French], the world, other cultures, people...and want to travel," she said.

At Kennett High School, Victoria was active in marching band, orchestra, the musical, and chorale.

"An accomplishment would be being a part of District and Regional Band in my junior and senior years," Victoria said.

Teacher Mr. Shawn Duffy made a substantial impact on her during high school. "He did a really good job of incorporating real-life lessons in the material he taught," she said.

While attending William and Mary, Victoria plans to be part of pep band, wind ensemble, club gymnastics, and ice skating club. After college, Victoria hopes to find work at the U.S. State Department, a non-governmental organization, or the United Nations.



Juan C. Gonzalez participated in orchestra, robotics club, UNIDAD Latino Leadership Club, the Walk in Knowledge program, and community service.

He believes his greatest accomplishments were being involved in an anti-discrimination ordinance and helping the Kennett Area Democrats turn Chester County blue.

Juan plans on going to college to get a degree majoring in both accounting and finance and would like to secure a job at a "Big Four" accounting firm.

"I don't want my parents to have to continue to work hard, and if I decided to not pursue a higher education and not be successful, I feel like they would have wasted their time on me," Juan said.

Juan is grateful to Ms. Loreta Perna, the director of the Walk in Knowledge program, for encouraging him during high school. "She changed my perspective on going to college and has assisted me with everything throughout high school," he said.



Multicultural Conference Challenges Students to Change the World

On Saturday, April 21, Kennett High School welcomed high school students, teachers, and school personnel to the 17th Annual Multicultural and Diversity Awareness Conference. The day was full of thought-provoking workshops organized by a student committee and led by students, educators, and adults all well-versed in multicultural affairs.

Mr. Raymond Fernandez, program coordinator and assistant principal of Kennett High School, kicked off the event by sharing that the conference is the highlight of the school year for him. "Every year," he said, "I look forward to this special event because it's an awesome opportunity for all of us to not only learn, but to participate and receive a positive and rewarding experience."

He continued by advising the students to be involved in the discussions throughout the day. "We want you to be an active participant, not a passive listener," he said. "Listen, but also speak and ask questions as well. Offer your thoughts and opinions."

Next, the superintendent of the Kennett Consolidated School District, Dr. Barry Tomasetti, took the opportunity to say a few words and to applaud Mr. Fernandez's diligent work in making the Multicultural and Diversity Conference a highly anticipated event for the District for 17 years.

Next to the podium was Kennett High School freshman Johnette Boddy in her first-ever public speech. Johnette eloquently introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. John Suggs, influential community activist and executive director of CF Charities in Philadelphia.

Mr. Suggs's key takeaway was that "action has no season," meaning that there is no right time to stand up and make a change in the world. Mr. Suggs shared the story of Michael Brown and offered his personal perspective. He concluded his address by charging the students with needing three things in order to change the world: passion, a plan, and courage.

The day included two workshop sessions, a lunch buffet full of options that reflected the diverse backgrounds of the students, and a presentation by Emmy Award-winning HBO associate producer and editor, Courtland Bragg. Following the afternoon workshops, the day concluded with a student talent show.

Kennett High School junior Keyanna Phipps has volunteered at the conference since her freshman year. She is a member of UNIDAD and Ujima, student groups that focus on Latino and African-American student leadership.

"I enjoy the Multicultural Conference because it enables me to step out of my comfort zone," Keyanna says. "I get to meet new people and share ideas."

Tania Ramos Oton from Esperanza Academy in Philadelphia has been bringing students to the Multicultural and Diversity Awareness Conference for years. She welcomes the opportunity to expose her students from North Philadelphia to a youth conference highlighting diversity. Two of her students, sophomore Wily Lopez and freshman Andrick Medrano, were looking forward to their workshops because the topics held the potential to help them in their daily lives.



Kennett High School sophomores (from left) Katia Castano and Magali Ortiz enjoyed volunteering at their first diversity conference.

Students from 16 different schools all sharing an appreciation for their diverse cultural backgrounds attended the conference. "We are all unique, but we share the same dreams, struggles, and fears. It is this joining together and the safe space we provide at this conference that helps students realize that although we may be slightly different on the outside, we are all the same on the inside," concluded Mr. Fernandez.

Kennett High School Teacher Wins Chester County Art Association Award

Kennett High School art teacher Mr. Tom Hironimus recently received the inaugural Excellence in Teaching award given by the Chester County Art Association (CCAA). Mr. Hironimus was presented with the award at the 44th Annual Chester County High School Art Festival banquet in April.

Mr. Hironimus began his career with the District at New Garden Elementary in 2001, and moved to the high school in 2002.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Millersville University and his master's degree from Wilkes University.

Chester County Art Association staff determined the

winner for the Excellence in Teaching award. Ms. Wendy Kershner, executive director of CCAA, stated, "It is so inspiring to everyone at CCAA to see such consistent excellence in his students' drawings—not only again this year but in every show over the past 16 years. Recognizing Mr. Hironimus's achievements highlights one of CCAA's core beliefs—promoting art education and creative thinking at all levels for everyone."

The Chester County Art Association's Board of Directors sponsored the award presented to Mr. Hironimus as well as the majority of the 20 excellence awards given out at the reception. Because CCAA is a non-profit organization, members of the Board of Directors generously reach into their own pockets to fund the prizes.

Mr. Hironimus's comments on his award turned the focus back to his students.

"Kennett High School students are extraordinary in every way. It is a genuine pleasure to work with students who strive to be their best on a daily basis. It is also truly a gift to work in a community that fully supports the arts the way the Kennett community and the Chester County Art Association do. I consider myself extremely fortunate to be part of their learning community," he said.

This year's Best of Show recipient is one of Mr. Hironimus's students. Alexandra Cresci, a junior at Kennett High School, won the award for her mixed media portrait. See page six for her story.

WPVI Showcases Best of Class

Torianna LaBare, a Kennett High School and Technical College High School (TCHS) – Pennock's Bridge senior, was recognized as WPVI 6abc's 2018 Best of Class. She received her award at a workshop and ceremony on Monday, May 21.

Tori was nominated for the award by her TCHS teacher, Ms. Joan Farwell. Ms. Farwell has been Tori's instructor in the veterinary science program for the last two years.

Ms. Farwell said, "Tori is a wonderful student and a delight to have in class. Tori has embraced everything that TCHS-PB has to offer. She has competed in both SkillsUSA and FFA competitions and leadership activities; she attended Link and then became a student leader for Link; she is one of the student members on our Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC). Tori took a dual-enrollment math class, maintained a 4.0 GPA while mastering all three years of competencies in just two years and was inducted into the NTHS."

"No one has ever deserved to be awarded Best of the Class more than she did. I am so very proud of her, and she will be the benchmark of program success for other students in the veterinary science program to strive for. I anticipate some great things coming from her as she goes off to college and then enters the workforce. It has been an honor to be her teacher," added Ms. Farwell.

When discussing her experience at TCHS, Tori said, "Ms. Farwell scared me at the beginning. She gives off this air of complete honesty. She told me that I would have to give it my all in her class. She taught me the value of working hard. She taught me to never give up, to always keep trying, even when the work is difficult."

Tori will be attending Delaware Valley University in the fall to pursue a four-year, pre-professional degree in animal science with the eventual goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian.

"I've always loved horses. I've been around horses my whole life. I feel a connection with them and want to specialize in large animals so that I can work with them," Tori explained.

According to their website, 6abc has coordinated the Best of Class award for more than 30 years. Winners attend a free daylong celebration that highlights the academic achievements of outstanding high school students from Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Northern



Delaware. The 2018 Best of Class Event taping took place at the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey.

Kennett High School Seniors Participate in Annual Senior Stroll

On Thursday, May 31, more than 300 members of Kennett High School's Class of 2018 participated in the Third Annual Senior Stroll. The Senior Stroll is an opportunity for graduating seniors to say farewell and thank you to all of their former teachers and to inspire younger students to see the payoff of studying hard. More seniors participated this year than in any previous year.

The class of 2018, clad in cap and gown, visited Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center, New Garden Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Bancroft Elementary, and Kennett Middle School. The hallways of the buildings were lined with teachers and students cheering on and wishing good luck to the soon-to-be graduates. This year for the first time, the graduating seniors wore color-coded nametags that designated the elementary school they attended so former students could be easily identified as they entered their old school buildings.

Dr. Jeremy Hritz instituted the Senior Stroll in his first year as Kennett High School principal. "The idea actually came from Mrs. Christina Gorman, mother of Aodhan (class of 2016) and Ronan (class of 2020), so I can't take the credit for it. But it's a great idea. The kids are really enthusiastic about it."

Senior Katherine Clarke said, "I'm really excited. I haven't been back to see any of my elementary school teachers since I left for middle school."

Katherine, like many of her classmates, attended Kennett schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. "We all transitioned from elementary school to middle school and then middle school to high school, but this is like one final goodbye to everyone," she added.



(Above) Gerhardt Reiter high-fives students at New Garden Elementary School during the 2018 Senior Stroll.

(Left) Mia Wynn, Liam Gately, and Theresa Nicholas display the sign they made to celebrate members of the Class of 2018 who were in Mr. Troy Harris' class at Mary D. Lang Elementary School.

Reading Olympics Team Brings Home Red Ribbon

Eight Kennett High School students led by their captain, senior Cindy Zern, brought home a red ribbon from the Chester County Intermediate Unit Reading Olympics in Downingtown. Several teams from around the county participated in the competition.

Reading Olympics teams received the list of 45 titles in the fall and had from September to April to read all of the books. Kennett's team decided to divide the list; each member read at least four books, though some members read nearly all of them. On the day of the competition,

teams were asked questions about every book and were awarded one point for each correct answer. To earn the red ribbon, Kennett had to answer at least 40 questions correctly.

"The kids always say it's really fun," says Ms. Lisa Teixeira, Kennett High School librarian and Reading Olympics team advisor. "Despite last-minute scheduling conflicts for several team members, the remaining members truly stepped up. It's such a positive experience for students who enjoy reading and competing."

Cindy adds, "We had a very cohesive and productive team with many returning members, which allowed us to work well together. Although we were a small group, we worked hard and most importantly shared a common love for reading, and it paid off during the competition!"

The team also included Emely Camacho, Daniela Carmona, Hailey Chandlee, Lily Ehren, James Hanby, Lauren Sugar, Angele Vazquez, and Jennifer Zavala.

Kennett High School Student Recognized by Princeton Peace Prize Committee

Kennett High School senior Citlalli Ramirez (pictured right with her parents) has been awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment by the Princeton Peace Prize in Race Relations. The awards were established by Princeton University in order "to promote harmony, respect, and understanding among people of different races by identifying and recognizing high school age students whose efforts have had a significant positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities."

Citlalli and her family were invited to a reception at St. Joseph's University that recognized Philadelphia region Peace Prize winners and Certificate of Accomplishment recipients. Citlalli was nominated by Ms. Lisa Teixeira, Kennett High School's library media specialist.

The town of Kennett Square, where the Latino immigrant population has been increasing, experienced tension and anxiety on both sides of the racial divide leading up to and following the 2016 presidential election. On November 11, 2016, three days after the election,

Citlalli organized and led 300 students and community members in a peace march.

"My goal was to unify the community, be a positive force, and show that everyone is respected," Citlalli said.

The march eased tensions and helped maintain peace and tolerance in the town.

Citlalli, a member of Kennett High School's Class of 2018, is a recognized leader within the community. She is known for being a calm and focused advocate for racial harmony and specializes in using assertive, respectful, and non-confrontational methods in dealing with race relations. Citlalli has committed herself long term to serving her community and helping to educate others about race and differences.

While a student at Kennett High School, she was a student leader in UNIDAD, participated in the school's Diversity and Multicultural Awareness Conference, was a member of the Feminist Club and the Gay Straight



Alliance Club, and was active with Girl Scouts, where she mentored Latina girls. In addition, she promoted Latino civil rights through her artwork.

Juniors Win at States, Take Third at Nationals

Kennett High School is excited to recognize juniors Ryan Erisman and Marilyn Villafuerte Vega, who took home a gold medal at the 2018 SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl state competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In June, they then joined two other Pennsylvania students to advance to the national competition, where they placed third.

The Health Knowledge Bowl tests teams of four students on their collective knowledge of health occupations. The

teams are judged on speed and accuracy in answering questions from nine categories of relevant information: academic foundations, communication, systems, employability skills, legal responsibility, ethics, safety practices, teamwork, and health maintenance.

Ryan and Marilyn are in their second year of the Health Career Pathways program at Chester County Technical College High School at Pennocks Bridge. Ryan plans to major in biology at the University of the Sciences after

graduation. He would also like to join the Navy and become a Navy physician. Marilyn hopes to attend Penn State or the University of Pittsburgh, and she plans to practice emergency medicine.

High School Artist Takes Top Prize at Chester County Show

Kennett High School junior Alexandra Cresci was recognized for her exceptional talent at the 44th Annual Chester County High School Art Festival & Congressional Art Show. Alex's untitled mixed media piece won Best of Show, the event's highest award.

When explaining how she selected the photograph on which she based her drawing, Alexandra said, "I liked the contrast between the darkness of her skin and the green of the field. And I chose the mixed media of oil pastel and colored pencil to add complexity and depth."

"Art allows me to really create. It's my own. I work hard at athletics and at academics, but art is from scratch," Alexandra added.

Alexandra has studied under Kennett High School art teacher Mr. Thomas Hironimus for three years. She

started with Basic Fine Arts as a freshman before moving on to Advanced Fine Arts as a sophomore. She was enrolled in Advanced Fine Arts II this past academic year.

"Alex is an amazingly talented young woman who truly deserves this award," said Mr. Hironimus.

The non-juried exhibition was held from Saturday, April 21, through Saturday, April 28, at the Chester County Art Association (CCAA) in West Chester. CCAA's Board of Directors sponsored the majority of the 20 excellence awards given out at the awards reception on Monday, April 23. From drawing and painting to computer-generated art, from found object sculpture to ceramics and jewelry, the show featured over 500 pieces of art from 18 Chester County high schools, including 25 works by Kennett High School artists.



Senior Receives Regional Recognition from Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer

Kennett High School senior Claire Dawyot was awarded the 2018 Charlotte Moran Memorial Scholarship by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer. The scholarship, named for the former executive director of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer hall of famer, is awarded to a female player who exhibits academic excellence, community service, and leadership qualities on the field and in the classroom. It is one of four scholarships awarded by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer, which is worth \$1,000 a year and renewable for up to four years.

The recipients were chosen by the Eastern Pennsylvania

Youth Soccer Scholarship Committee from more than 50 applicants. The 2018 class will join the more than 100 students who have received scholarships since Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer established the program. Seniors associated with Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer as players, coaches, volunteers, or referees were eligible for the scholarships.

"We were thoroughly impressed with all of the applicants' success in the classroom and on the soccer field," said Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer President Jim Kuntz. "Claire stood out from a talented group. We look forward to following her career in college and beyond and thank her for being a terrific role model in

the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer community."

Bound for the University of Notre Dame to study chemical engineering, Claire has filled her schedule with athletics, academics, music, and philanthropy.

As a soccer player, she has played for both Southern Chester County Soccer Association and 1776 United. She also volunteers as a coach for the under-fours team and serves as a recreational referee. In addition to being first violin in the high school's string ensemble, Claire was the track and field captain, National Honor Society treasurer, Mini-THON chair, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes president.

STEM Family Night Features Hands-on Learning

Students and their families agree that the Kennett Consolidated School District's Third Annual STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Family Night was an overwhelming success. The evening was designed to encourage dynamic interactions among family members and to increase awareness of the District's STEM opportunities. Attendees participated in activities that focused on STEM principles by encouraging students and their families to build, create, and learn together.

KCSD staff, students, and volunteers helped to operate 27 STEM activity stations. The activities introduced students to particular aspects of the District's STEM program. Attendees had the opportunity to explore 3-D printing, create slime, conduct chemistry experiments, learn about the Blue Demon Robotics program, construct a pom-pom popper, play math games, and explore chromatography.

The stations were designed to intrigue children of various ages—from kindergarten to eighth grade. A popular station with younger students was the Three Little Pigs engineering activity. At this station, students got to build a house from toothpicks and mini marshmallows that could withstand the huffing and puffing of a big, bad wolf (a hair dryer).

Mr. Taylor Watkins decided to join in on the fun of building a marshmallow house while his daughters, Elyse and Juliet, tackled the project on their own.

"The event is a lot of fun," Mr. Watkins said. "My girls are very interested in STEM-related activities, and I appreciate the hands-on nature of this event."

Gavin Caracio, a second grade student at Greenwood Elementary School, enjoyed building a structure from marshmallows and toothpicks. His mother, Mrs. Shannon Caracio, says that Gavin loves the Family STEM Night event and that he is looking forward to participating in the afterschool STEM program in the fall. Gavin hopes to be a chemist when he grows up.



(Top left) Kindergarteners Cassidy Raybum and Julianne Holveck proudly hold their chromatography butterflies.



(Above) Gavin Caracio, a second grade student at Greenwood Elementary School, works on a stable structure using marshmallows and toothpicks.



(Left) Third grade student at New Garden Elementary School, Kyle Bilon, carefully measures ingredients to make slime.

"STEM Family Night is a great event for the entire family," Kennett Middle School Principal Mr. Lorenzo

DeAngelis said. "Parents have the opportunity to learn about the District's STEM program, and students have the freedom to explore through age-appropriate activities."

Maggie Kelly, a third grade student at Greenwood Elementary School, attended the event with her father, Mr. Dan Kelly. One of Maggie's favorite activities was the ever-popular slime-making station.

"We love this event, especially the science side. It is awesome that kids can be engaged in STEM-based activities without realizing that they are learning," Mr. Kelly said as he watched his daughter and her friend make slime.

For more information regarding the District's STEM program, please contact the District's math and science curriculum specialist, Dr. Lydia Hallman, at lhallman@kcsd.org.

Second Grade Author Study Project Turns Students into Authors

Bancroft Elementary School's five second grade teachers were thrilled to receive notification from the Kennett Education Foundation that their grant request for the author study project was approved. The author study is designed to give second grade classes the opportunity to delve deeply into various authors' lives and works.

"With the grant approved, we could take our author study to the next level," Mrs. Sherri Donnell explains. "The grant covered the purchase of blank hardcover books that our students would use to write their own stories."

After careful consideration, the teachers chose *Mr. Putter and Tabby* by Cynthia Rylant and *Dogzilla* by Dav Pilkey as the books the students would focus on and then use as inspiration for writing their own stories.

After reading *Dogzilla* and *Mr. Putter and Tabby*, the classes discussed the various story elements the authors used, including dialogue, flashbacks, and a satisfying ending. As the students learned about story elements, they also began writing their own books. Simultaneously, the teachers engaged in their own professional development by reading and discussing *Writing Essentials: Raising Expectations and Results While Simplifying Teaching* by Regie Routman and applying its advice.

"One of Routman's recommendations is to take the

writing journey with your students," Mrs. Amanda Kochersperger explains. "To do this, we decided as a group that we would write a book alongside of our students."

The teachers not only informed their students that they, too, were writing their own books, but they also revealed their own struggles with dialogue, the plot, or the ending, reinforcing that struggles are a part of the process.

"For many of our students, it was comforting for them to see that it was okay to struggle, and if they were struggling, it wasn't because they weren't smart," Mrs. Katie Bowen explained.

"We spoke about plots a lot," Mrs. Tracy Hopkins said. "It was difficult for the students to generate their own plots along with an ending."

Mrs. Kelly Pin was surprised that some of her students enjoyed writing their books more than illustrating them.

The students read one another's books and wrote reviews. Before doing this, the teachers spoke with their classes about what makes a good book review and how important it is to write in complete sentences when providing feedback.

This unit of study concluded with an author tea. Parents and other Bancroft Elementary School students



Mrs. Tracy Hopkins assists a student as he writes a review of a classmate's book.

were invited to visit the second grade pod to enjoy refreshments and read the books that the young authors had worked hard to complete. Finally, the students were asked to contribute one of their books to their classroom library. The second grade teachers are considering returning these books to the young authors at the end of their fifth grade year when they are about to move on to Kennett Middle School.

A "Crime Scene" at New Garden Elementary School

Miss Erika Smith's student teacher from West Chester University, Miss Taylor Mackowsky, planned an engaging lesson for Miss Smith's third grade class to help students review for the PSSAs. The lesson was inspired by Hope and Wade King's teaching philosophy as set out in their book *Set the Stage to Engage*.

It began when the students came back from music class and found Miss Mackowsky dressed like an FBI agent and armed with a fingerprint scanner. Agent Mackowsky welcomed the students to FBI Headquarters. With the walls and windows covered in black paper, the classroom was transformed into a secret detective center lit only by black-light bulbs.

The crime scene immediately intrigued the class. The scene revealed that Miss Smith's birthday necklace had been stolen! Special Agent Zac Efron needed

the students' help to find out who stole it and where the thief had hidden the necklace.

To solve the mystery, students worked through math activity worksheets and received a clue from each completed worksheet. There were three clue stations that corresponded to the three worksheets, and at each clue station, there was a locked iPad that required a number to unlock it. To crack the code, the students needed to answer questions relating to the worksheet they had just completed. The correct answer unlocked the iPad.

At the last clue station after unlocking the final iPad, the students read a secret message on a piece of paper that was only revealed under a black light. The last clue was, "The suspect is not human, but he/she does have thumbs." The students immediately knew the culprit was Miss

Mackowsky's black cat!

After finding out who stole the necklace, the next task was to find out where the necklace was hidden. After lunch, the students solved more clues using reading worksheets. The clues helped them locate the necklace, which was found on top of a birthday cake for Miss Smith. These super sleuths had solved the case, and a celebration was in order—the students had mastered their skills and were ready for the PSSAs!

Alp Urfali, Maria Zavala, and Hirut Regouski work as a team to solve a clue.



Second Grade Tackles Biography Projects

As part of the second grade reading curriculum, students learn about the biography genre. At Bancroft Elementary School, Mrs. Katie Bowen's class completed an exciting project to showcase what they learned.

To begin, students read four biographies of lesser-known people, such as astronaut Chris Hadfield and explorer Matthew Henson. From these four biographies, each student chose one to focus on for his or her project.

Students were then asked to create a 3-D poster outlining a few facts about their particular person's life and accomplishments. The students first focused on their writing and then worked to illustrate their 3-D posters.

"This is a favorite project for my students every year," Mrs. Bowen says. "I like spending the extra time on this unit of study so that we can dive deeper into the biography genre."

(From left) Max Johnson, Aaron Rivero, Ava Edwards, and Daysha Diokno proudly display their 3-D posters.



Congratulations Class of 2018

Spot LIGHT

