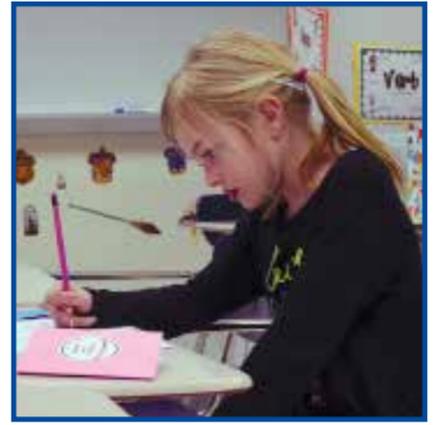




**KENNETT  
CONSOLIDATED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**LEARN. APPLY. ACHIEVE.**



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2019**

## Kennett High School Celebrates National Merit Finalist

Kennett High School is proud to announce that Colin Petersen has been recognized as a finalist in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Colin will attend the University of Pittsburgh, where he will double-major in chemistry and statistical mathematics.

In addition to singing with the choir, Colin is a member of the spring musical, the fall play, the marching band, and the academic team.

“Colin is a phenomenal young man who has worked hard throughout his high school career and has earned this prestigious recognition,” says Kennett High School principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz. “I have been lucky to have served Colin as principal since his 8th grade year, and I am tremendously proud of his accomplishment.”

The 2018–19 school year is the 64th year of this prestigious program, which honors academically talented high school seniors and offers them the opportunity to compete for National Merit Scholarships.

Colin is among approximately 1.6 million juniors who entered the 2019 National Merit Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship



Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screening of program entrants.

To become a National Merit Finalist, students must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn qualifying SAT scores.

## Kennett High School Named One of America’s Best

The Kennett Consolidated School District is proud to announce that U.S. News & World Report has once again named Kennett High School one of America’s best high schools.

In collaboration with North Carolina-based RTI International, a global nonprofit social science research firm, this year’s edition is the largest ranking from U.S. News & World Report. Out of more than 23,000 public high schools evaluated, 17,245 are ranked. In the previous edition, U.S. News ranked about 2,700.

In addition to evaluating more than 23,000 public schools, the “Best High Schools” methodology was revamped for the 2019 rankings in order to:

- rank all eligible public high schools as opposed to previous editions that ranked about 14% of eligible schools,
- make the rankings easier to understand for families evaluating schools in their area, and
- use a more comprehensive approach. Schools are ranked on multiple disparate measures of academic quality. In previous editions, rank order was determined entirely by the proportion of students taking and passing college-level exams.



Placement exams as well as the academic growth of students classified as traditionally underachieving. Our mission is to move every student to higher achievement, and through the efforts of our competent and caring K-12 staff, our hardworking students, and our involved parents, we are a very accomplished school system. Congratulations to all!”

“It’s great for Kennett High School to earn this recognition because it validates the hard work and dedication of our amazing students and phenomenal teachers,” says Kennett High School principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz.

For more information on U.S. News & World Report’s ranking processes and details on Kennett High School’s ranking, please visit [www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools](http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools).

“This award is very meaningful in that it is a comprehensive review of the achievement of our entire student body,” says Kennett Consolidated School District superintendent Dr. Barry Tomasetti. “It recognizes our staff’s and students’ efforts on Advanced

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# STEM Students Bring Engineering Project to Life in Collaboration with Bentley Homes

Each year, Mr. Ronald Phillip's Civil Engineering and Architecture class participates in Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a STEM-based curriculum that invites students to step into the role of engineer and complete a construction project from start to finish. This year, students collaborated with Mr. Tom Bentley, CEO and founder of Bentley Construction, who invited them to tour an active construction site and bring their projects to life.

The partnership between Kennett Consolidated School District and Bentley Homes was the result of a chance meeting between the superintendent, Dr. Barry Tomasetti, and Mr. Bentley. Together they discussed the importance of practical learning experiences and the diverse job opportunities available in the construction field. From there, an idea took root: Mr. Bentley would visit the class several times and help with Project Lead the Way; then students would visit Mr. Bentley's Stonehouse residential development, an active construction site, to see architecture and engineering in real life.

In the fall, students were tasked with designing a house within the Habitat for Humanity guidelines. From preconstruction foundation walls and plumbing systems to calculating stormwater runoff, students had to plan and design each aspect of their home carefully. Students were also paired with a Kennett High School staff member who became their client and explained the wants and needs for the new home. Students also welcomed Mr. Denny Howell and Ms. Amanda Schneider of D.L. Howell Engineering, who discussed zoning laws, site planning, and township approvals. At the end of the project, Mr. Bentley critiqued each floor plan and provided his one-on-one feedback on their projects.

A few months later, students donned hard hats and carried blueprints as they toured Stonehouse, which marked the culmination of the four-month PLTW project.

They toured several houses in various stages of completion, from excavation to framing to finished work. They also observed a drone demonstration.

Students then met with Mr. Bentley for an on-site lunch and time for Q&A.

"I hope this project inspires students to pursue a career in real estate, building, or construction," Mr. Bentley says. "These students were remarkable. The questions and insights they provide are just what the industry needs."



(Above) Kennett High School students see first-hand how drone technology is utilized in the construction industry during recent visit to Bentley Home's Stonehouse residential development.



(At left) Tom Bentley, CEO and founder of Bentley Construction, explains the stone facade process to Kennett High School students.

Among the group of students were seniors Olivia McLaurin and Alex Cresci. Both plan to pursue engineering careers and were excited to see a real-life representation of their projects.

"It was amazing to see what we learned in class in real life," explains Alex. "Seeing different aspects of the site helped provide a clear understanding of our project."

The partnership has flourished into an exceptional

learning opportunity for students. At the end of February, Kennett Consolidated School District curriculum director Dr. Lydia Hallman took Kennett High School's Girls' Engineering Club to Stonehouse residential site to learn about designing to sell from Bentley's marketing and sales team.

The District thanks Mr. Bentley and Bentley Homes for fostering career readiness and providing such unique opportunities.

# Assembly Has Students Dancing in the Hallways

Greenwood Elementary School's most recent assembly had students and teachers dancing their way back to their classrooms. *The Principles of Hip Hop* was presented by Hip Hop Fundamentals and explored the genre's rich cultural history while focusing on youth empowerment, diversity, creativity, and working together.

Hip Hop Fundamentals is an award-winning team of diverse professional breakdancers dedicated to hip hop education. The group's 16 members are certified teaching artists and seasoned performers, and together they form the world's only breakdance education company combining academic and social content with dynamic dance.

"We use hip hop as a method to engage young people," explains co-founder Steve Believe. "Today's assembly is our longest-running show and embodies hip hop's principles of peace, love, unity, and having fun."

In addition to showing the students their own moves, dancers Steve, Rukkus, Ray, and Luffy broke down their dances into single movements so that the students could see how they come together.

*The Principles of Hip Hop* assembly was coordinated by Mrs. Kim Conroy, physical education teacher, and sponsored by the Greenwood Elementary School PTO.



## DISTRICT DIRECTORY

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Raymond Fernandez, Assistant Principal  
Dr. Tomorrow Jenkins, Assistant Principal  
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### Kennett Middle School (grades 6-8)

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Brenna Austin, Assistant Principal  
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### Greenwood Elementary School

420 Greenwood Road  
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Dr. Tracey Marino, Principal

### Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center

409 Center Street  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
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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.

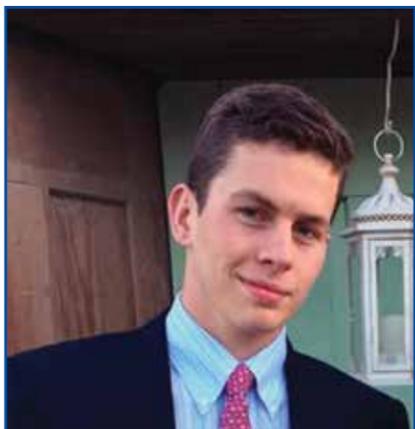
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# Alumni Inspired to Pursue Accounting Careers

A Kennett High School business education teacher has inspired two students to pursue careers in accounting.

Mrs. Colleen Barber is known for her unwavering dedication and contagious enthusiasm. Her engaging classes have earned the admiration and respect of Kennett High School staff and students alike. Now, two Kennett alumni credit Mrs. Barber for igniting their passion for accounting.

Mr. Christopher Kienzle, class of 2014, and Ms. Gaby Senderowicz, class of 2013, recently shared how Mrs. Barber's teaching has led them to pursue careers as accountants.



Mr. Kienzle took his first accounting class as a sophomore. Little did he know that his introductory Accounting I class, taught by Mrs. Barber, would completely shape his college and career path.

Over the next few years, Mr. Kienzle continued to take accounting classes with Mrs. Barber, reaching Accounting III as a senior. For him, accounting just clicked. He credits Mrs. Barber with making each class interesting and informative.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Kienzle was a dedicated student-athlete who enjoyed spending time with his friends. He was a four-year member of the cross country and track and field teams and participated in the one- and two-mile events. Mr. Kienzle was also active in Future Business Leaders of America, Ski Club, Academic Challenge, and Earth Club. Some of his most cherished high school memories include arriving to school early to relax with his friends.

After graduating, Mr. Kienzle attended the College of Charleston, where he majored in accounting and finance. He gained practical experience through three internships: in 2017, as an accounting intern at Solenis; in 2018, as a tax intern at Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP; and in 2019, as an audit intern at Grant Thornton LLP.

As an undergraduate, Mr. Kienzle's extracurricular activities included Sigma Chi Fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, National Society for Collegiate Scholars, Leadership CofC, Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Student Finance Club.

Upon graduation from the College of Charleston in 2018, Mr. Kienzle was accepted into the master's program in accounting at the University of Southern California. He will graduate this summer, then plans to move back to Philadelphia to work for Grant Thornton LLP, where he has been offered a full-time position.

In his free time, Mr. Kienzle enjoys spending time with his family and friends, hiking, snowboarding, and traveling. He recently visited China over spring break.

"If I could share one thing with students, it would be to not get caught up in what everyone else is doing," explains Mr. Kienzle. "Everyone has a different path, but each path can lead to success."

When Ms. Gaby Senderowicz came to Kennett Middle School in eighth grade, she never imagined she would one day be a tax accountant in New York City. Although her path to accounting was unconventional, she wouldn't have had it any other way.



As her senior year approached, Ms. Senderowicz needed to add one more class to her schedule in order to graduate. She signed up for an accounting class with Mrs. Barber. Though it was simply a graduation requirement, it quickly became one of her favorite classes.

"To this day, even after countless accounting professors in college, Mrs. Barber is still my favorite accounting teacher," says Ms. Senderowicz. "Her enthusiasm

and thoroughness helped to grow my passion for accounting."

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Senderowicz was active in the Spanish Club, Latin Club, and National Honor Society. She also played tennis for two years and participated in the senior class play.

After graduating in 2013, Ms. Senderowicz attended Hofstra University in New York. She majored in international relations but eventually realized it was not the path she wanted to follow and decided to pursue a degree in accounting. She then enrolled in a dual-degree program, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in tax accounting. During her time at Hofstra, Ms. Senderowicz was a teaching assistant and a member of the Student Government Association.

Like Mr. Kienzle, Ms. Senderowicz held three internships during college. Her first was in 2015, when she was selected as a Start intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Start is PwC's diversity summer internship program designed for high-performing college sophomores and juniors from traditionally underrepresented minority groups, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities. In 2016, Ms. Senderowicz was selected as a tax intern at PwC. In the summer of 2017, she became an audit intern there.

Most students only intern at PwC for one summer. Ms. Senderowicz's success as an intern resulted in a job offer upon graduation from PwC as a state and local tax associate, and she has never looked back. She completed and passed all three certified accounting exams on her first attempt. Currently, she works for PwC as a personal financial services tax associate, a role that combines accounting and working with clients directly, both of which she loves.

In her free time, Ms. Senderowicz enjoys playing guitar, watching television, and going to the beach. Her favorite shows include *Lost* and *Scrubs*.

To current Kennett students, Ms. Senderowicz says, "Don't let the college you attend define you. Whether you attend community college or an Ivy League school, continue to chase your dreams and anything is possible."

## Teachers Dance to Healthier Lifestyle

This year Kennett Middle School teachers and staff are dancing towards a healthier lifestyle with the Zumba Club.

Zumba is an exercise fitness program that involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue, and mambo.

Squats and lunges are also included, making this fitness program dynamic, fun, and healthy!

Math teachers Mrs. Janell Anderson and Mrs. Joy Brady and Spanish teacher Mrs. Kathleen McKenzie were inspired to create a Zumba Club by school nurse Mrs. Diane Shannon who posed a wellness challenge to staff members back in October. The club kept going strong even after the challenge ended.

Each week Mrs. McKenzie and Mrs. Brady offer free Zumba classes after school to Kennett Middle School staff members. Both are certified Zumba instructors and have taught classes in the community; they were excited to share their passion for Zumba with their colleagues.

The Zumba Club meets every Tuesday and is open to all fitness levels. The club sees between 5 and 12 participants a week. Mrs. Brady and Mrs. McKenzie encourage all staff members to give it a try as Zumba offers a healthy way to relieve stress, have fun, and get to know other staff members.

The District is proud to provide unique opportunities for staff members to pursue a healthy lifestyle.



## Food Drive Provides Opportunity for Service Learning

In late winter, approximately 150 students in Kennett Middle School's Spanish I classes participated in a food drive to benefit the Chester County Food Bank. Students could earn extra credit for donating items or donating their time at lunch to help sort and pack donations. But there was a catch: Students had to be able to identify the donated items in Spanish to earn the extra credit.

"Curriculum-wise, the food drive coincided seamlessly with the Spanish classes' food chapters," Spanish teacher Ms. Kate McKenzie explains.

After the food was sorted and packed, Ms. McKenzie and special education teacher Ms. Jackie Burton delivered the donations directly to the Chester County Food Bank in Exton. Ms. McKenzie also made a monetary donation on behalf of her classes. In total, the students donated a total of 473 pounds of non-perishable food items.

"Overall, the food drive and curriculum tie-in were a success. I'm proud of my students," Ms. McKenzie says. "I am looking forward to making this a yearly event with my classes."



Eighth grade students Clara Morrison (front) and Matthew Wilson (back) sort food donations.

# Mini-THON Exceeds Fundraising Goal

The tradition began in March 2016 when 170 Kennett High School students stayed on their feet from ten o'clock on a Friday night to six o'clock Saturday morning for Kennett High School's First Annual Mini-THON. Together, they raised \$16,644 for the Four Diamonds Fund, benefiting pediatric cancer research.

Three years later, more than 300 students continued that tradition at Kennett High School's Fourth Annual Mini-THON, raising \$42,613—almost tripling their maiden campaign total.

Modeled after Penn State University's Dance Marathon (known as THON), Kennett High School's Mini-THON is an eight-hour event celebrating students' work to fundraise for families whose children are being treated for pediatric cancer. This year's Mini-THON featured dancing, games, music, and food, all with an outer-space theme.

A dedicated team of students, staff, and community members made this event possible. The 24 members of the Mini-THON Executive Student Committee worked tirelessly in the months leading up to the event, hosting raffles, collecting donations and contributions, and organizing smaller fundraising events. The hardworking group was led by senior event chair Jayna Bruno and junior chair Ashley Willey.

"This year's Mini-THON was unforgettable, and one I was thrilled to be part of. Not only did we host an event with the greatest number of participants in our history, we were also overwhelmed by the support of the Kennett community," explains Jayna. "Without the

encouragement from the community, an organization like Mini-THON would never be as successful as it is and would not be able to help nearly as many families that are battling their worst nightmare: pediatric cancer."

Faculty advisors Ms. Lisa Teixeira, librarian and Humanitarian Club moderator, and Mr. Shawn Duffy, social studies teacher and Humanitarian Club assistant moderator, continued their four-year campaign, working tirelessly to make each Mini-THON better than the last. The students were also joined by Kennett High School alumni, Mr. Michael Bellino and Ms. Meredith Mitchell, and numerous teacher chaperones.

"I am so proud of the team, particularly my co-chair, Mr. Duffy, and this year's student leaders, Jayna and Ashley. Our group seeks to not only raise money for Four Diamonds but to provide the community with a framework for unity, inclusiveness, and fun," says Ms. Teixeira. "I am truly overwhelmed by the continued generous support from our community."



The District thanks the 2019 corporate sponsors – Kennett Education Foundation, Sinton Air Conditioning and Heating, Austin and Bednash Construction, High Tech Auto Body, Chatham Financial, Energy Transfer Solutions, and The Perfect Impression – for their generous contributions. In addition, more than 30 local businesses donated food and money to make the night unforgettable.

You can still make a donation! To contribute, please visit the Kennett High School Mini-THON website at [khsminithon.org](http://khsminithon.org) or call the school at 610-444-6617 for more information.

## Kennett Elementary Schools Take on the Great Kindness Challenge

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center and Greenwood Elementary School joined schools nationwide for the Great Kindness Challenge, a weeklong celebration of kindness.

The Greenwood family started off the week with a spirit assembly where they learned about the power of kindness. Students learned how to do a "kindness wave," which they presented to the Greenwood lunch staff. Principal Dr. Tracey Marino read the book *One Smile* to teach students about the domino effect of kindness. To wrap up the assembly, students and staff members sang the song "Count on Me" to celebrate kindness through music.

Throughout the week, students enjoyed special kindness-based activities such as creating thank-you cards and compliment notes to send to friends, family, and teachers. On Wednesday, the morning announcements featured six Greenwood students discussing the theme why it is smart to be kind. On Friday, the Greenwood family was invited to celebrate Crazy for Kindness day by wearing crazy socks and donating socks to Family Promise of Southern Chester County.

"Kindness can be as simple as tying your friend's shoe," says second grade student Sadie.

Her classmate Edie shares, "I learned that I can be kind by helping someone if they get hurt during recess."

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center joined in on the fun, too. Students and staff members took a kindness pledge, promising to be kind in school and at home. "I

pledge to myself, on this very day, to try to be kind in every way. To every person, big or small, I will help them if they fall. When I love myself and others too, that is the best that I can do."

On Tuesday morning, students were greeted by a "kindness tunnel" of Kennett Consolidated School District administrators and staff, starting their day off with positivity and excitement.

Throughout the week, students enjoyed various kindness activities in their classrooms. Students worked with guidance counselor Mrs. Kourtney Phillips to create kindness chains to be displayed in the cafeteria and learned a song about kindness.

Students read the book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud, which explains the impact of kind actions. "You fill a bucket when you show love to someone, when you say or do something kind, or even when you give someone a smile. A bucket filler is a loving, caring person who says or does nice things that make others feel special. When you make someone feel special, you are filling a bucket." Using this framework,



*Greenwood Elementary School students proudly display their thank-you cards.*

students set out to become "bucket fillers." Throughout the week they recognized one another's good deeds by filling out slips with a description of the kind act. Principal Mrs. April Reynolds read the slips over the announcements each morning. Students ended the week with a kindness dance party.

The Kennett Consolidated School District believes in the importance of spreading kindness throughout our schools and creating a culture of kindness in our community.

## Celebrating 100 Days of School

In celebration of the 100th day of school, students at the Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center came to school dressed as though they were 100 years old. From white hair and glasses to sweaters and suspenders, the Mary D. Lang family celebrated in style.

Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of activities that featured the number 100, such as making a necklace out of 100 Fruit Loops and painting the number 100. One of the most thrilling activities was stacking 100 cups without allowing them to topple over. These hands-on activities helped students gain a better understanding of the number 100 and how significant it is.

It was a great day to celebrate being 100 days wiser!



# Ladybugs and Butterflies Come to Life in First Grade Classrooms

This spring, first grade students at Bancroft Elementary School observed the life cycles of ladybugs and butterflies as part of their science unit on plants and animals.

At the end of April, a habitat for each classroom arrived with ladybug larvae and painted lady caterpillars. First grade teacher Mrs. Andrea Rozsits explains that the students observe the larvae and caterpillars for approximately four weeks. After each observation, the students write about and draw what they saw.

“When the habitat arrived, we began talking about invertebrates,” Mrs. Rozsits says. “As they changed into pupae and chrysalises, the students learned the meaning of the word metamorphosis.”

Excitement filled each classroom as the ladybugs and

painted lady butterflies emerged from their pupae and chrysalises. Shortly after they developed, the students released their winged classmates into the great outdoors.

The students were sad to see the butterflies and ladybugs go, but were heartened to know they would have the much-needed freedom to graduate to the next stage of their life cycle.

After learning about invertebrates, the students began a unit on vertebrates. As a complement to their studies, the students took a grade-level field trip to Ashland Nature Center to see tadpoles, frogs, and many other vertebrates!



*Shane Kulp, Iker Davalos Rivera, Priscila Machado Paixao, Amy Castaneda, Rowan Bender, Alan Vega Galarza, Emma Hogan, Bianca Luna Colon, and Noemi Luna Magana pose with their butterflies and ladybugs before releasing them.*

# Raising Brook Trout Provides Hands-on Learning Adventure

For the second year, Mrs. Anne Bailey’s fourth grade class participated in Pennsylvania’s Trout in the Classroom program. This interdisciplinary program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The program teaches students about coldwater conservation by raising brook trout from eggs to fingerlings in a classroom aquarium.

Standing next to the 55-gallon tank in her classroom, Mrs. Bailey explains how the tank replicates a live stream. The water is kept at a constant 55 degrees. Pumps create a riffle along the bottom of the tank, along with a pool area and a run. The riffle and run are also duplicated at the top of the tank.

When the approximately 300 trout eggs arrive, the students count them before placing them in a net nest which is made to replicate the “red,” or nest, where the female trout lays her eggs. The yellow eggs are pea-sized and translucent, so the eyes can be seen.

It takes the eggs two to three weeks to hatch, though not all of them will. During this time, the students work in small groups to monitor the water quality to ensure that bacteria levels are stable. Brook trout are an indicator species—when their habitat is damaged, it is one of the first species to decline.

“Brook trout can only live in clean water,” Mrs. Bailey explains. “Raising trout helps students understand that

‘clean’ doesn’t mean that humans can drink the water, but that it is a healthy environment for aquatic life.”

Raising brook trout not only engages students in a stream-habitat study, it teaches them to appreciate water resources, fosters a conservation ethic, and helps them understand ecosystems.

Once the eggs hatch, the fingerlings move to the top of the tank and the students begin to feed them. They continue to monitor water quality and count the fish. The class even had a two-headed trout this year that lived for two weeks. They named it Wonder.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission tells each class to expect 10 to 12 fish to survive—but Mrs. Bailey’s class released 88 brook trout into White Clay Creek!

“Trout in the Classroom is a wonderful initiative that has been implemented by teachers across the state,” says Dr. Tracey Marino, Greenwood Elementary School principal. “Mrs. Bailey’s success with the program is a testament to her commitment to the trout and her students.”

Locally, Mrs. Bailey’s class partners with the Stroud Water Research Center. Representatives from the



*Mrs. Anne Bailey explains the process of releasing the brook trout as she stands in the White Clay Creek.*

nonprofit join the class for the release, and experts are available should the class encounter problems with the levels in their tank.

“I love the Trout in the Classroom project,” Mrs. Bailey says. “My students have learned that White Clay Creek is extremely clean, which is a testament to this community. They also begin to see how important the environment is to fish and their survival; it truly shows students that big picture.”

# Invention Project Launches Creativity

At some point in our lives, we have all had an idea for an invention that would change life for the better. Second grade students at Bancroft Elementary School were able to make their invention ideas a reality through a recent project.

To kick off the invention project, second grade teachers Mrs. Sheri Donnell, Mrs. Tracy Hopkins, Mrs. Kelly Pin, and Mrs. Amanda Kochersperger read a book on inventions and a biography about a famous inventor to their classes. After hearing the stories, the second grade students were challenged to brainstorm problems at home or at school that they wished to solve. From there, the students thought about ways to solve the problems, chose their three best problem-solving ideas, and surveyed their classmates to see which idea was the most useful.

Problems that the students identified included:

- That the eraser of a pencil is smaller than the pencil and is gone before the pencil is finished.
- That whenever a girl with long hair forgets to wear a hairband, her hair falls in her face.
- That a boy’s dinner gets cold while he is playing videogames and as a result he is late to the table.

*Second grade students at Bancroft Elementary School show off their inventions.*

“I like it when the kids tell each other their ideas and they vote on the idea they like the best,” Mrs. Bowen says with a smile.

With their final invention idea decided, the students had two weeks to work on building three-dimensional models along with a poster explaining what it does and how it solves the problem. The students then presented their models and posters to their classmates.

Charlotte Winn created the Stick Picker-Upper 2000 from Legos. The inspiration for her invention was her aversion to the chore of picking up sticks in the yard.

The students’ creativity blossomed creating their inventions and sharing them with their friends.



# Read Across America

The Kennett Consolidated School District joined thousands of schools across the country in the National Education Association's 22nd Annual Read Across America celebration on March 2, the birthday of author Dr. Seuss.

Read Across America began in 1997 as a day to celebrate reading. Once again, the District's elementary schools joined in for a full week of festivities from February 25 through March 1.

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center students and faculty enjoyed festive spirit days and reading activities throughout the week. In a culminating spirit assembly, students dressed up as their favorite storybook characters including Dr. Seuss's own Cat in the Hat and Harry Potter. At the spirit assembly, Kennett High School students presented a sneak peek of the spring musical, *Seussical: The Musical*.

At New Garden Elementary School, each day of the week was themed after a Dr. Seuss book. On Monday, students channeled *I Am Not Going to Get Up Today!* by wearing their favorite pajamas to school. On Tuesday, students wore stripes to celebrate *On Beyond Zebra*. Wednesday aptly celebrated *Wacky Wednesday*, and children were encouraged to rock their wacky, silly outfits. Thursday was *Fox in Socks* day, and students wore their favorite matching



**Karli MacNamara, second grade, dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, her favorite book character.**

or mismatched socks. Students ended the week one day early due to snow, but celebrated on Monday by dressing up as their favorite characters.

Read Across America is a fun way for students to improve their reading comprehension skills. As Dr. Seuss wrote, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

# Exelon Volunteers Share Love of Reading



New Garden Elementary School's fourth and fifth grade Reading Olympics competitors were in for a treat when volunteers from Exelon visited to share how reading has impacted their lives.

One volunteer told stories of how reading helped him escape to another place in his head and helped to develop his imagination. His colleague compared a library to a candy store where it is easy to find a book to take you anywhere you can dream of going.

When asked why they like to read, one student shared, "It lets me imagine what life was like in old times." Another said, "Reading relaxes me."

Lois Buwalda, vice president of IT Generation, presented the school librarian, Mrs. Kristi Pizzini, with a check to purchase STEM resources for the library.

# Reading Olympics a Rite of Passage at Bancroft Elementary School

For fifth grade students at Bancroft Elementary School, being a member of a Reading Olympics team is a rite of passage according to school librarian Mr. David Livergood. And the victorious teams bringing home blue ribbons has become a part of the school's culture. This year marks the eighth year in a row that the team has brought home blue ribbons!

Reading Olympics is sponsored by the Chester County Intermediate Unit and brings teams from across the county to compete. Teams receive the list of 45 book titles in the fall and have from September to April to read all the books. The books cover different authors and

genres, and, as Mr. Livergood points out, that is the real reason the school participates in Reading Olympics – to encourage students to read books they would not normally pick up.

Mr. Livergood has been coaching Bancroft Elementary School's Reading Olympics teams since the school opened seven years ago. His coaching career began in 2005 at Mary D. Lang, when the school was a kindergarten through sixth grade elementary school. He then worked at New Garden Elementary School before arriving at Bancroft Elementary School.

He credits the success of his teams to

starting early in the year and making it fun. "Many schools don't begin Reading Olympics till after winter break," Mr. Livergood explains. "At Bancroft, we begin in September, and I work hard to inspire the students to read. . . . They have to read the books to be successful at the competition."

Mr. Livergood points out that starting in September has its negatives, but so far it has been a successful strategy. "It is a lot of information to remember for an entire year," he comments. "However, I strive to make our practices fun, and the kids love being together."

Practices include mock competitions and even competing against a team of teachers.

Mr. Livergood has even started a Junior Reading Olympics program for students in grades one through four. Like Reading Olympics, the purpose of this junior level is to introduce students to different types of literature. But for Mr. Livergood, there is an added benefit of helping to prepare students to compete in Reading Olympics once they are in fifth grade.

Greenwood and New Garden Elementary Schools also participate in Reading Olympics.

# Kennett High School Establishes Quinn Flanigan Award

This year the Kennett High School football team introduced the Quinn Flanigan Perseverance Award, a special honor presented to Quinn Flanigan himself, a freshman who never lets his limitations affect his ability to do his best.

In 2018, Kennett High School welcomed its fourth new head football coach in as many years. The team was tough but lacked direction and consistency. When Mr. Lance Frazier took over, he knew this transition would challenge the team's morale. He was determined, however, to make this season the best yet in Kennett football history.

One player in particular was also new to the team: Quinn Flanigan.

Quinn had always wanted to play football. When he entered his freshman year, he could not wait to lace up his cleats and get onto the field. While Quinn may not be the fastest or strongest athlete on the team, his attitude, sportsmanship, and dedication quickly made him a star. Quinn's role on the team would turn out to be much more: he became the glue that brought a struggling team together.

After a rough start to the season, the team was 0-4. Coach Frazier told the

players that this was a make-or-break point in the season. "The team was in a tough place," he explains. "They could have quit, but instead they rallied together, and one of the driving factors behind that was Quinn."

Quinn's dedication to the team was infectious. No matter the drill or how many sprints they had, Quinn never complained. His laughter was a spark that ignited the team, and while he worked hard on his own skills, he never stopped motivating his teammates to give their all.

"I have seen him knock down every obstacle day after day," says Coach Frazier. "From the first practice of the season to the last, Quinn's growth was amazing and inspiring."

Together the team made it to the playoffs and set several records. After each junior varsity game, Quinn had the opportunity to run a touchdown.

"Football is a tool for transitioning after high school," says Coach Frazier, "No matter how different of a skill set or background you have, being on a team makes you learn to work together toward a common goal."

Mr. Harry Chaykun, a PIAA Football Official, refereed a game between Kennett and Rustin where it was arranged that Quinn would be given the opportunity to run a play late in the game.

"When the time came, the young man ran 30 yards around end for a touchdown, with one Rustin player making it look like the young man made a move that made the Rustin player miss his tackle attempt." Mr. Chaykun recalls. "Everyone in the stands was cheering loudly and I'll admit that it was hard for me to run up the field to cover the play without grabbing a tissue to dab at my eyes."

Instead of calling back the play, Mr. Chaykun says that everyone agreed that in no way could the touchdown be taken away and that Quinn should stay in to run for the extra points.

"In all my years of officiating, I have never been involved in anything that helped me realize that whoever said many years ago that athletics is the other half of education was so correct," he comments.

At the end-of-the-year banquet, Quinn was presented with the first annual Quinn Flanigan Perseverance Award. Coach



Frazier explained that each year from now on, a dedicated athlete like Quinn will receive this honor.

As for Quinn's future on the football team, Coach Frazier says the sky's the limit. "If Quinn keeps working like he has been, he will be out there on his own running plays with his team."

# Greenwood Elementary School Welcomes Therapy Dog

This year Greenwood Elementary School welcomed a new four-legged friend, Jem the therapy dog.

Jem, a three-year-old mixed-breed dog, is owned by Greenwood Elementary School principal Dr. Tracey Marino. Over the last year, Dr. Marino and Jem have been training as a therapy dog team. Together they have completed extensive visits and evaluations, earning Jem the title of registered therapy dog.

Research indicates that spending time with a dog has many benefits for students, including social and emotional support. Therapy dogs can teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills, help develop social skills, soothe students who are anxious or distressed, increase school attendance, decrease learner anxiety behaviors, and create positive motivation.

Jem visits Greenwood Elementary School every Monday and Friday. On her visiting days, specific students are scheduled to spend short periods of time with Jem, providing an activity they can eagerly anticipate. Spending time with Jem is not a reward for students but rather an ongoing intervention. Jem is also made available to comfort students who experience unanticipated distress, such as separation anxiety or injury.

During the day, Jem spends most of her time in the office suite. Some students visit and read to her, increasing their literary skills and confidence. Recently, Mrs. Lisa English's first grade class wrote letters to Jem. This February, she even received some valentines.

"She absolutely loves the students, and they love her," says Dr. Marino. "Jem

gives students a reason to smile. She is sensitive, sweet, and a good friend."

The Kennett Consolidated School District is proud to offer unique and special services for our students that foster a love of learning and create a positive school environment.



*Jem the therapy dog poses with her owner, Dr. Tracey Marino, and Quinlan Williams, fifth grade.*

# New Garden Elementary Students Participate in PMEA Chorus Festival

This year four New Garden Elementary School students were selected to participate in the prestigious District 12 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Chorus Festival.

On February 14, fifth grade students Brooks Parlier, Ryan Hunter, Claire Cofran, and Sarah Myers, along with music teacher Mr. Ryan Battin, traveled to Downingtown East High School to join 150 fourth and fifth grade students from Chester County to Philadelphia County for a full day of singing under the tutelage of concert director Dr. Elizabeth Parker of Temple University. The choristers began their day working with Dr. Parker, rehearsing and perfecting multiple songs they would later perform at a concert for their family and friends. After a full day of rehearsing, they gathered for a pasta dinner before their big evening concert.



While the students' individual preparations began at the beginning of the school year, they only had one day to rehearse all together. All four New Garden Elementary School students greatly enjoyed this exciting and challenging aspect of the festival.

"The experience of learning things quickly and learning how to adapt will help me in the future both in and out of music class," says Claire.

The concert program included a wide range of songs, from classical pieces by Handel to popular arrangements by the Beatles, spirituals, and folk songs from Sweden, Mexico, and Estonia. The diverse program highlighted how cultures can be united through music—much like how 150 students from different schools can work together in harmony.

Classmate Ryan loved bonding with people, not only from New Garden Elementary School, but from other schools as well.

"My favorite part was being in such a large group of talented people all working toward the same goal," said Sarah.

Starting in preschool and going all the way to college, the PMEA Festivals offer multiple opportunities for students to pursue music. At the secondary level, students must audition for a spot in the concert. However, at the elementary level, students are selected by their music teachers.

"I selected Brooks, Claire, Ryan, and Sarah based not only on their musicianship but also on their character and work ethic," says Mr. Battin. "I am extremely proud of each student. I would like to thank Mrs. Susan McArdle, our building principal, who was incredibly generous in funding the registration fees and transportation costs for the students. Her support of the students makes a huge difference."

"I can see myself doing something with music as a future career, and this entire day was inspiring. I like music even more now," Brooks says.

The District congratulates Brooks, Claire, Ryan, Sarah, and Mr. Battin on this wonderful accomplishment.

# Kennett High School Artists Exhibit Work

In early May, Kennett High School artists displayed their talents for their fellow students, teachers, staff, and parents. The annual art show was held in the school's auxiliary gym.

The show included works from all visual arts classes within the Fine Arts Department. Teachers Ms. Jodi Davidson, Mr. Tom Hironimus, and Mrs. Kathy Caputo Nelms guided their students through the creation and exhibition of their artwork; all three teachers are undeniably impressed by their students.

Mrs. Caputo Nelms says, "The KHS Art Show was an exhibit of work by students from grades 9 through 12 featuring drawings, paintings, ceramics, digital photographs, and graphic designs. Congratulations to the students in the Visual Arts Department on their excellent work this year."



"It's a special day for Kennett High School art students as well as teachers. Students get to show off their incredible talents and achievements. Teachers get to brag about how talented and special their students are. It's their day. It's an opportunity for them to be celebrated for all of the hard work that they do throughout the course for the year. They absolutely deserve every bit of it," adds Mr. Hironimus.

"The Kennett High School students in our ceramics classroom constantly amaze me with their dedication, creativity, and willingness to explore new techniques and challenge themselves daily. I love working with the kids here at KHS, and each day is a new opportunity for everyone to continue to learn and grow as a student of life," says Ms. Davidson. Her students demonstrated their skills throughout the day as they took turns throwing pieces on a pottery wheel.

Mrs. Kim Ferranto, a Kennett alumna and parent of Peter (Class of 2014), Nick (Class of 2016), and Bella (Class of 2021), has been attending the art show for the last eight years. She enthusiastically comments, "Every year the works created by the high school artists blow me away, this year being no exception. The quality of work produced by our high schoolers in all forms—fine art, digital art, and ceramics—could rival any college. Our art teachers are obviously amazingly talented and teach our children how to tap into their creative minds to create beautiful works of art."

By all accounts, the show was a tremendous success.



# Time to Spring into Literacy

The Kennett Consolidated School District's first-ever Spring into Literacy family event was held at Kennett Middle School on April 10. With literacy activities designed for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, the event wowed both children and their parents.

Families were able to select from dozens of different workshops. Second grade students Taryn Morett, from New Garden Elementary School, and Katie Drago, from Greenwood Elementary School, became fast friends while participating in Poetry: Word by Word. Meanwhile, kindergarten student Piper Etherington (at right) "tasted" books at the Book Tasting, which put students at tables with checkered tablecloths and a "menu" to help them record their likes and dislikes about the book they "tasted."

Other activities included Stories by Moonlight, which featured books with glow-in-the-dark features, and Kazam!, a workshop in which students were able to create their own comic books. In another session, parents were introduced to The Reading Promise, the story of fourth-grade student Alice Ozma, whose father endeavored to read aloud to her for 100 consecutive nights. After 100 nights, both Alice and her father decided they wanted to continue the streak, and Alice's father ended up reading aloud every night until the day she left for college. Parents were in turn encouraged to make their own reading promise with their children.

Mrs. Estelle Tracy and her husband brought their elementary-aged daughters to the event. "It's a fun event that makes reading even more exciting," she says. "We will be stealing some of the activities to use at home."

A highlight of the evening was local author and educator Mr. Frank Murphy's talk on his book, *Brave Clara Barton*. Mr. Murphy explained that he had always wanted to write books about strong women in history and that *Brave Clara Barton* is his first book about a woman. With the book projected onto a screen, he read to the audience, pausing to interject interesting tidbits about the writing and publishing process. School Board member Mrs. Aline Frank enjoyed Mr. Murphy's presentation saying, "I found it very interesting to hear Mr. Murphy describe the process he goes through when combining text and illustration in his books."

Nathalie Abreu and her son, a student at Bancroft Elementary School, enjoyed the event. "This event is important because it is helpful for their education," she comments.

Thanks to donations from the District and from Partners for Outreach, a local non-profit agency, each child was allowed to select a free book to take home.



Spring into Literacy was the result of a yearlong plan to celebrate reading and writing together. "We were thrilled by the turn out and the enthusiastic response from students and their families to the many activities teachers ran as well as to our guest children's author, Frank Murphy," according to English Language Arts curriculum supervisor, Judy Jester. Next year's event is already scheduled for Thursday, April 16.

# Multicultural & Diversity Conference Challenges Students to Learn from One Another

*Diversity really means becoming complete as human beings – all of us. We learn from each other. If you're missing on that stage, we learn less. We all need to be on that stage.* ~ Juan Felipe Herrera, American Poet

On Saturday, April 13, Kennett High School welcomed high school students, teachers, and school personnel to the 18th Annual Multicultural and Diversity Awareness Conference. The day was full of stimulating workshops organized by a student committee and led by students, educators, and adults, each bringing a different perspective for the attendees to consider.

The event was kicked off by Mr. Ray Fernandez, the program coordinator and assistant principal of Kennett High School. Mr. Fernandez shared that the conference is the highlight of the school year for him. "This is the eighteenth year for our event," he began. "And each year is more rewarding than the next. Not only for our Kennett students and Kennett community, but also for so many other students from other schools and communities."

He continued by advising the students to get involved in discussions throughout the day. "These programs focus on critical topics in our society, they encourage important dialogue and provide networking for each of you."

Next, the superintendent of the Kennett Consolidated School District, Dr. Barry Tomasetti, took the opportunity to welcome attendees and to applaud Mr. Fernandez's commitment to making the conference a highly anticipated event for the District for the past 18 years.

Next to the podium was Kennett High School student and UNIDAD Club president Jorge Tapia Becerril, who

introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Alexander Gabbin, an accounting professor from James Madison University. Dr. Gabbin cautioned that others' preconceived biases could inhibit their success and encouraged students to work tirelessly to rise above them.

The day included a variety of thought-provoking workshops and a lunch buffet featuring international options that reflected the diverse backgrounds of the students. Following the afternoon workshops, the day concluded with a student talent show.

Kennett High School freshman Samantha Mandragon's favorite workshop was "Gender: Power and Struggle in Modern Society" presented by Norristown High School. "The gender walk exercise showed me that gender does make a difference," she commented.

Freshman America Cortes found the workshop "Religion and Politics" led by Pastor Andy Salgado most interesting. "This workshop thoroughly explained how the two played a big role in America," she said. "The amazing part was how it also showed how they can bring us together."

Senior Refugio Lara, who volunteered at the conference with his friends, sees the conference a leadership opportunity that "opens up people's eyes to what is going on in the world and how to change it."

Students from nine different schools, all sharing an appreciation for their diverse cultural backgrounds, attended the conference. "The feedback that we continue to receive is that events and opportunities like



*Jasmine Morefield, Aalana Vasquez, Johnnette Boddy, Keyanna Phipps, and Freddy Aquilant welcome guests to Kennett High School and the Diversity and Multicultural Conference.*

this are so important to our students' overall educational experience," concluded Mr. Fernandez. "I am proud that once again our Kennett students came through in making a difference in our school and in many communities."

"Being a freshman in Kennett High School and being a part of UNIDAD Club has shown me how we as a community can come together," America says. "No matter the race, color, sex, etc., we can come together and make a change. Activities like the Multicultural Conference really shows our dedication to making a change as young people of color."

# MDL Kindergarten Center Hosts Career Day

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Often an entertaining question for young children to ponder, it later influences the classes they take, the colleges they apply to, and ultimately, the career paths they choose. While the answer to that question can change over time, Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center has created career-readiness initiatives to help students learn about their options. This year Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center partnered with Chester County Technical College (CCTC) High School to host their first annual Career Day.

Students from CCTC visited Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center and presented five careers at five different stations: engineering and robotics, health sciences, animal science, culinary arts, and cosmetology. Kindergarten students rotated through each station for ten minutes each to learn all about the various careers.

At the animal science station, kindergarteners met live guinea pigs. At the cosmetology station, they had their thumbnails painted. They participated in experiments

and learned about germs and how to put on rubber gloves at the health sciences station. They piped icing flowers at the culinary station and explored machines at the engineering and robotics station. The kindergarteners enjoyed working with older students to learn new skills and concepts.

"Students from CCTC did an excellent job," comments guidance counselor Mrs. Kourtney Phillips. "The entire Mary D. Lang family loved Career Day, and we can't wait to do it again."

Mrs. Phillips, who organized the event, explains, "It is never too early to inspire children and expose them to multiple career options. This event helps students understand from a young age why learning is important. Students can now connect what they learned at Career Day to what they want to do when they get older, fostering career-readiness skills from a young age."



*Kindergarten students watch with great interest as a culinary arts student teaches them how to make cake icing.*