



**KENNETT
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After-The-Bell Celebrates 20 Years

In 1998, three members of the Kennett Square Episcopal Church of the Advent approached Superintendent Larry Bosley with a plan to address concerns about adolescents who were home alone after school. John and Denise Wood, along with their friend Marshall Newton, offered an after-school program for middle school students at no cost to students OR to District taxpayers. They believed that the compassionate and dedicated residents and businesses of the Kennett area would support such a program through volunteerism and financial assistance. The only thing they asked of the District was the use of Kennett Middle School.

Dr. Bosley immediately recognized the benefits this program could provide and became a strong supporter.

The success of After-the-Bell has been extraordinary, and the program is now stronger than ever. Since it opened its doors on January 19, 1999, it has welcomed more than 6,000 students. Perhaps even more amazing is that more than 1,000 members of the Kennett community have donated their time and expertise.

Because of their dedication, After-the-Bell has offered hundreds of varied opportunities. Over the years, students have learned to cook everything from United Way Chocolate Festival award-winning brownies to Irish stew and Greek souvlaki. They have traipsed through fields and streams to commune with nature and to learn about the importance of protecting our natural resources. They have painted portraits worth framing and created exquisite ceramic sculptures. They have sung and danced and competed in dozens of different sports. They have



With sessions like Awesome Autos, After-the-Bell has something to appeal to every middle school student.

cared for a wide variety of cuddly (and slimy) creatures. They've even learned how to fly airplanes.

These off-site activities have been provided by community partners, including the Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County, the Kennett YMCA, New Garden Airfield/Future Aviators, Longwood Gardens, Stroud Water Research Center, Kids First Swim School, Everyday Artists, Kennett Design, 4-H Pony Partners, the Kennett Library, Anchor Fitness, and many more.

Director Dawn Doherty Kohl joined the After-the-Bell family in 2014 as a parent of student participants. She appreciated the program so much that she stepped up to volunteer—she ran an activity called Movie and

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Kennett High School Seniors Named National Merit Students

Kennett High School is proud to announce that senior Colin Petersen has been recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Additionally, seniors Amanda Bell, Jonathan Bell, Emma Giancola, Molly Hohner, Rachel Hyzny, Peter Magasiny, Caleb Peibly, and Davis Piercy have been named Commended Students.

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.

Colin is a member of the spring musical and the academic team.

“We are tremendously proud of Colin for his accomplishments,” said Kennett High School principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz. “He is an outstanding student who represents everything that is great about Kennett High School.”

The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than 1 percent of high-school seniors and includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in each state is proportional to



the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

The eight students who were named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program represent diverse academic and extracurricular interests:

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KCSD Community Spreads Holiday Cheer

This year students, faculty, and staff in the Kennett Consolidated School District came together to give back and spread cheer in the community. The following is a roundup of community-service projects held during last year's holiday season.

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center celebrated the holiday season by donating nonperishable items to the Kennett Food Cupboard and the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. To kick off the spirit of giving, students were asked to "lend a hand and bring a can!" during a Spirit Assembly in November. In December, students and staff not only met their goal but surpassed it, collecting more than 1,000 items for those in need!

The Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center's staff also held their annual Adopt-a-Family Campaign. A "Tree of Giving" in the staff lounge was decorated with paper ornaments, each with an item the adopted families had requested. Children received a new outfit, coat, pair of shoes, and a toy they had requested. In addition to the Adopt-a-Family Campaign, the money collected from the "Friday Jeans Jar" went to purchase Giant gift cards for families in need.

As principal Mrs. April Reynolds said, "It is truly better to give than to receive."

Bancroft Elementary School

Bancroft Elementary School held a canned-food drive to benefit the Kennett Food Cupboard. Students donated more than 300 nonperishable foods items and participated in an assembly to learn about the Kennett Food Cupboard.

It wouldn't be the holiday season with the annual Bancroft Elementary School Pajama Drive. For the eighth year, the school's goal was to collect 200 pairs of new pajamas. The goal was surpassed, and the Bancroft family donated 240 pairs of pajamas!

New Garden Elementary School

New Garden Elementary School embraced the holiday spirit with three service activities. The Children's Pajama Christmas Event invited the school community to collect and donate pajamas for children. All pajamas were donated to Family Promise of Southern Chester County, which then distributed them to Chester County shelters.

The school community also participated in the Help Fill the Shelves Food Drive, collecting food items for the Kennett Area Community Service Food Drive (KACS) to help families in need.

Finally, New Garden hosted a Toys for Tots Toy Drive. This annual event distributes toys throughout Kennett Square and the surrounding area.

"Together we collected toys to bring a message of hope to needy children," explains principal Mrs. Susan McArdle. "By giving, we can motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders."

Greenwood Elementary School

Greenwood Elementary School was abuzz with holiday cheer as students were invited to donate toys for the Toys for Tots Toy Drive.

Students also were invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive, which collected nonperishable food items for families in need through the Chester County Food Bank.

In addition, Greenwood Elementary School students participated in the Empty Bowls Giving Project, an international project to help fight hunger. Led by art teacher Mrs. Meghan Bergman, students worked collaboratively to decorate clay bowls, which they donated to the Kennett Food Cupboard for its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

"Working in teams helps students know they are part of a community benefiting those in need," explained Mrs. Bergman. "No one child finishes a bowl. Students work together to make, paint, and finish the bowl in this social collaborative initiative."

Kennett Middle School

Kennett Middle School celebrated the holiday season with three special service projects.

First was the Thank You Project, a gratitude project started by a Kennett Square artist and District grandparent, Ms. Roberta Little. Students arrange socks, candy, paper clips, pretzels, and other unique materials to spell the words "Thank You." Ms. Little posts a new photo each day of their work. The project encourages students to find ways to show their appreciation with actions rather than words and inspires them to create.

For the Selfies with Santa Food Drive, students donated nonperishable food items to the Kennett Food Cupboard. If they met their goal, teacher Mrs. Tamara Jenkins agreed to dress up in a Santa Claus costume and take selfies with her students. Students exceeded their goal and took some memorable photos with Mrs. Jenkins.



(Above, from left) SADD members Karlese Stevens, Meredith Brown, and Cole Kramer helped collect coats this past holiday season.



(Left, from left) Mea Carter and Jaslynn Vega enjoyed painting bowls which were donated to the Empty Bowls fundraiser.

During the week of parent conferences, students were asked to nominate a teacher for the Citadel Heart of Learning Award. Students learned the valuable lesson of being thankful for their educators, which goes hand in hand with giving thanks during the holiday season.

Kennett High School

Kennett High School kicked off the holiday season with the Interact Club Toy Drive. Students collected educational toys, such as LEGO sets, puzzles, Play-Doh, board games, coloring books, pencils and crayons, and books. They collected more than 50 items to donate to Tick Tock Early Learning Center in Kennett Square. Interact Club president Zuzu du Toit and vice president Ellie Conlin-Day were instrumental in making this event a success.

The Humanitarian Club held a holiday food drive. In combination with their annual Haunted Walk and donations, the club raised \$671.48, plus 3,646 pounds of food which was donated to the Kennett Food Cupboard.

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club held its second annual Coat Drive. Students, teachers, and support staff donated 225 gently used coats (100 more than last year) to Saint Rocco's Parish in Avondale.

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 Austin, Assistant Principal
Jacob Moore, Assistant Principal

Bancroft Elementary School

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

Greenwood Elementary School

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

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center

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

New Garden Elementary School

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

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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

Alumni Spotlight on Marc David

Troy University's track and field and cross-country programs have excelled in recent years under the direction of Kennett High School alumnus Mr. Marc Davis. When he was hired at the Alabama university in July of 2014, he immediately began rebuilding its men's and women's rosters. Mr. Davis is entering his fourth season as the university's director of the track and field and cross-country program. Under his direction, the program has set new school records and has had student-athletes named to the All-America team.

While at Troy, Mr. Davis has led the women's team to its best Sun Belt Conference indoor finish. Team athlete Corina Cox received All-America honors in the discus throw in 2015. The men's team saw shot-putter Zach Douglas named the Sun Belt Field Athlete of the Year in 2017.

Troy University athletes have also succeeded at the international level during Mr. Davis' tenure. Sprinter Hakim Montgomery competed at the USA Indoor Championships in the spring of 2017 and won the gold medal for Team USA.

"As the director of [the] track and field and cross-country programs, I wear many hats," Mr. Davis said. "I manage a staff of 8 to 10 coaches and a managerial staff in order to make sure things run smoothly for our student-athletes."

The university has a program roster of between 95 and 100 men and women. Mr. Davis organizes his coaching staff according to athletic events for about 40 athletes. He himself oversees sprints, jumps, hurdles, and multis (pentathlon, heptathlon, and decathlon).

"It's a tall order to manage such a large group, but when work consists of being around a sport every day, all day, and working with college kids, it's never work," Mr. Davis says.

Mr. Davis came to Troy University after 15 seasons with Yale University's track and field program, where he served as the men's head coach starting in 2011. Prior to that, he served as an assistant coach beginning in 2000. While at Yale, he coached Ivy League champions

in several sprinting events and saw many school records broken.

In the fall of 1995, he began his coaching career at his alma mater, Lafayette College, where he was a volunteer coaching assistant, coaching sprints and hurdles. Mr. Davis left Lafayette to become a graduate assistant at Millersville University in January 1997. While at Millersville, he helped guide student-athletes to the NCAA Division II National Championships and to All-East performances as the sprints, hurdles, and jumps coach.

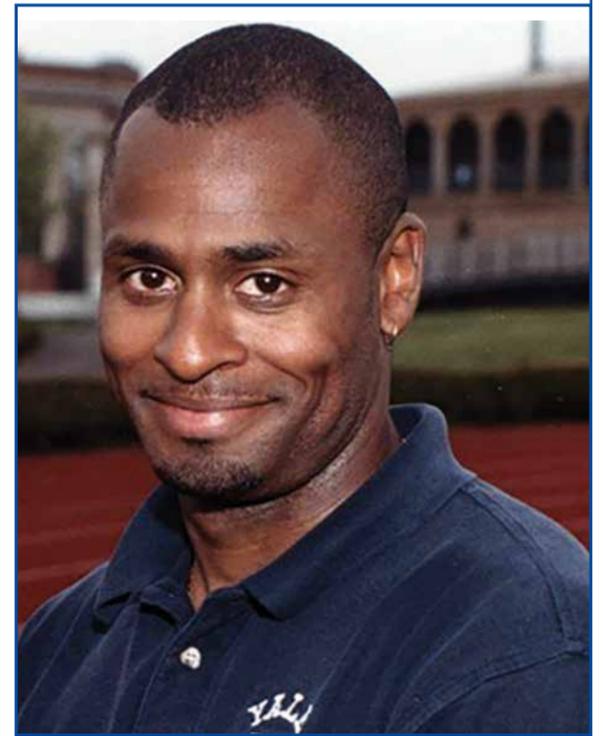
A member of Kennett High School's Class of 1991, Mr. Davis was active in KHS athletic and music programs.

"I will always be indebted to my coaches (Mr. Bob Anthony and Mr. John Ferraro), who put the passion for track and field in my heart," Mr. Davis said. "If it wasn't for them believing in my abilities in November of 1987 during our first indoor track practice, I am not sure I would be making a living at this now."

He credits Mr. Anthony as a driving force for success because he made Mr. Davis and his teammates believe in themselves and understand that great things are possible. "Mr. Ferraro was another who helped guide and expose me to the sport. He allowed us to go out and "recruit" within our school and get more athletes. His willingness to listen to 16-year-old kids allowed us to be champions," Mr. Davis said.

While at Kennett, Mr. Davis was equally invested in music as he was in track and field. Mr. Davis was drum major in the marching band his senior year and was a soloist at graduation in 1991.

Mr. Davis credits his Kennett experience for shaping his character. "Kennett really shaped who I am based on the diversity and inclusiveness it offers," he said. "Looking back, it is amazing how far ahead we were. College is about learning outside the classroom and getting to meet different types of people. Kennett provided those experiences to me, and I didn't realize it until I got to college and beyond."



Another tremendous source of inspiration for Mr. Davis is his family. "They are always there for me and support me," he said. "No matter how much I doubt myself, they let me know I am doing the right thing. For that, I will always be grateful."

Outside of his job, Mr. Davis spends most of his time with his wife, Michelle, who happens to also be his assistant coach, and his two-year-old daughter, Madi.

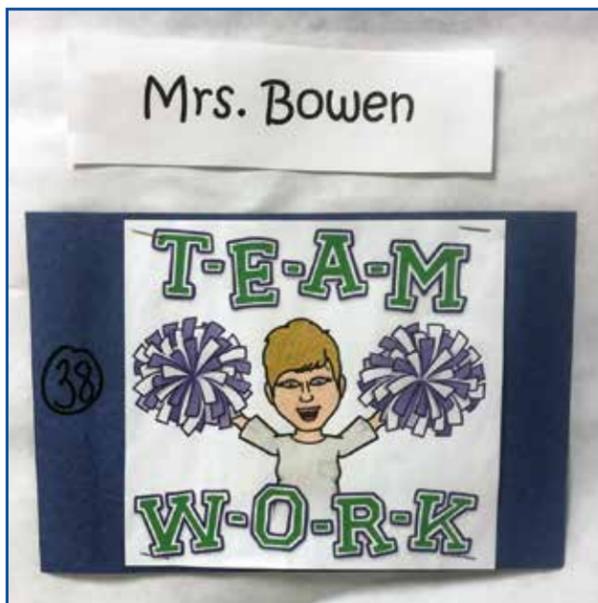
Mr. Davis is a huge fan of motorcycles and has two Harley Davidsons that he enjoys riding. "I use them to clear my head and focus—even if it is only a 10-minute joyride," he said.

Although Mr. Davis now resides in Alabama, he remains true to the Philadelphia Eagles. "I proudly fly an Eagles flag in my front yard and during the Super Bowl had a green spotlight shining on my house," he quips.

Teachers Become Bitmojis

This year, Bancroft Elementary School staff members created their own Bitmojis in an effort to promote team-building among staff and to create a stronger bond between staff and students.

Bitmoji is an online application that allows users to create a surprisingly accurate cartoon version of themselves. Users select their hair style, eye color, face shape, and even favorite outfit to create a unique cartoon that reflects their personal style and appearance.



Fifty-one staff members created their own Bitmojis. Second-grade teachers Mrs. Katie Bowen and Mrs. Tracey Hopkins then displayed them on a bulletin board in the main hallway. Each Bitmoji was numbered, and students had to guess which Bitmoji represented which staff member. A few days later, Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Hopkins revealed the staff members' names, and students had a great time checking their guesses.

"The Bitmoji Guess Who Game was a wonderful activity for both students and staff members," explained Mrs. Bowen. "Students learned interesting facts about their teachers, and the staff as a whole enjoyed the team- and morale-building activity."

Bancroft Elementary School is proud to develop unique learning activities for both students and staff members.

Kennett High School
100 East South Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348

KHS Spring CRAFT FAIR

VENDORS WANTED

Saturday, April 6th
10am - 2pm
Vendor Setup starts at 9am

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KHS Students Embrace Summer Learning Opportunities

This summer while others were working summer jobs or enjoying time by the pool or at the shore, 17 Kennett High School students participated in academically challenging university summer programs. The following is a look at a few of their experiences.

Magali Ortiz Ayllon, Penn State University's S.C.O.P.E.

Magali Ortiz Ayllon, a junior, participated in the Summer College Opportunity Program in Education (S.C.O.P.E.) at Penn State.

S.C.O.P.E. is a four-week academic program for high school sophomores from multicultural backgrounds who are interested in careers in teaching, counseling, special education, rehabilitation, or educational administration.

During the program, Magali lived on Penn State's main campus in University Park, took college courses, prepared for the SAT, and learned time management and other study skills. On the weekends, she and her peers explored the campus and participated in team-building activities such as ropes courses and ziplining.

"My favorite part of the program was having the opportunity to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people," Magali says.

Refugio Lara, University of Pittsburgh's Health Career Scholars Academy

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

During the week, Refugio and his peers attended lectures, took part in small discussion groups and hands-on labs, and attended classes. One experience that stood out for Refugio was shadowing a lab technician, who showed him how to screen bodily fluids for diseases.

Refugio is interested in becoming a pediatrician or a family doctor. He hopes to work in underserved communities because he believes that everyone deserves equal access to health care.

His favorite part of the program was exploring various health fields such as dentistry and ophthalmology with which he was previously unfamiliar.

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

Anis Estrada Aguilar, Penn State University's Infection Summer Program

This past summer, Anis Estrada Aguilar, a junior, attended Penn State University's Infection Summer Program. During this five-day program, Anis and her peers participated in hands-on activities, simulations, and visits to real research labs and field sites to get a whirlwind introduction to what we know—and don't know—about infectious diseases.

Every night Anis and the other students were assigned diseases to research. They then looked at the diseases on a timeline through history. By the end of the week, the students were challenged to put their new knowledge to the test by investigating a mysterious disease outbreak.

Regarding her future career, Anis is still deciding between health care and law. She found this summer program to be engaging and memorable.

Kevin D. Lemus Moreno, Veterinary Medicine: Small Animal Practice at Cornell University

Kevin D. Lemus Moreno, a senior who has always wanted to help animals, was very excited to be accepted to the Veterinary Medicine: Small Animal Practice program at Cornell University, one of the top veterinary schools in the nation. The three-week program introduced Kevin to the anatomy and physiology of cats, dogs, and other domestic animals, as well as the basics of how these subjects apply to small animal veterinary practice.

Through this program, Kevin was enrolled in the three-credit course Veterinary Medicine: Science and Practice. He attended lectures in the morning and hands-on labs in the afternoon, where he focused on

practicing skills and utilizing equipment.

"It was a new experience for me," Kevin explains. "Every class assigned homework and gave quizzes. It was very stressful and there was so much to learn, but I remained focused because I want to become a vet, and Cornell is one of my top choices to attend after graduation."

Kevin's favorite part of the program were the labs. "I enjoyed seeing the muscles and bones as well as dissecting a heart and studying the gastrointestinal tract."

Jorge Tapia, Estefani Sanchez, Nancy Avalos Rodriguez, and Jhoana Aguilera, National Hispanic Institute at Cabrini College

Seniors Jorge Tapia, Estefani Sanchez, Nancy Avalos Rodriguez, and Jhoana Aguilera attended the weeklong Collegiate World Series hosted by the National Hispanic Institute at Cabrini College. This is the third in a series of three programs offered by the National Hispanic Institute.

Estefani had attended the previous two programs, and while she was excited to see friends from the past two programs, she looked forward to making new friends.

The Collegiate World Series prepares students for the emotional ups and downs of adapting to life away from their parents, managing time effectively, understanding various cultures and lifestyles different from their own, and making critical decisions that eventually chart the course of their lives.

The students were assigned to different working groups. "I was working with people I didn't know," Nancy comments. "It was so different than how it is when working in groups in high school ... Everyone did their fair share of the work."

Jorge added that because he didn't know anyone in his group, he needed to step out of his comfort zone and have confidence in himself.

Overall, the four friends left the one-week program feeling confident as they navigate their senior year of high school and prepare for life after graduation.

Angy Esparza, Veterinary Science Camp at Penn State University, Berks Campus

Angy, a sophomore, attended the Veterinary Science Camp, a program that incorporates hands-on experiences with live animals with introducing and reviewing the scientific principles of biology, chemistry, and anatomy. Angy and her peers took on the roles of veterinary assistants under the watchful eye of a veterinarian.

Activities in the biology lab included running urine and fecal tests and dissecting a pig heart. The students also learned about various diseases.

"We took in a lot of information in just one week," Angy said.

During the program, Angy explored different veterinary science career possibilities by visiting a small animal veterinary hospital, a horse farm, an alpaca farm, and a veterinary emergency hospital. Visiting the farms was her favorite part of the program.

In the end, Angy decided that she is not equipped to handle surgery or the end-of-life aspects of being a veterinarian, and so she is looking for a career in which she can avoid those areas.

Berenize Castano, Briza Zavala, and Jaquelin Hernandez Martinez, Forensics Science Camp at Penn State University

Sophomores Berenize, Briza, and Jaquelin were introduced to the world of forensic science and took a behind-the-scenes look at crime investigations during a weeklong Forensics Science Camp.

After four days of learning current forensic techniques and interacting



Seniors Estefani Sanchez, Nancy Avalos Rodriguez, Jhoana Aguilera, and Jorge Tapia spent a week at the National Hispanic Institute at Cabrini College.

with scientists and investigators, the students spent the last day using molecular biology to examine DNA left behind at a staged crime scene. The students learned how to collect, photograph, and log evidence and how to "read" blood spatter patterns. They also learned about DNA using frozen strawberries.

The girls were quick to point out that real-life forensics is nothing like the shows. "Our instructor would say, 'It's shown like this on TV, but we don't do that,'" Berenize comments. "In real life, the crime scene investigators don't take the murders personally like they do on the TV shows."

Marlen Cordova, Summer Science Camp at Penn State University

With an interest in pursuing a science-based career, Marlen, a sophomore, decided to attend Penn State University's Summer Science Camp. During the weeklong program, Marlen and his peers visited several labs, were introduced to different theories, and were immersed in forensic science.

In addition to the class and lab work, Marlen met new people from various places and was exposed to college life. He is looking forward to attending another summer program next year.

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Writing Immersion Program: Teachers' Summer Vacation

Kennett Middle School teachers Mrs. Gina Bevan, Mrs. Melissa Keer, and Mrs. Karen DiMascola spent part of their summer vacation participating in the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project's Invitational Institute in the Teaching of Writing. This five-week program held at West Chester University is an offshoot of the National Writing Project.

As program director Mrs. Pauline Schmidt notes, the goal of the program is to ensure that more teachers can support student growth in reading and writing with a specific emphasis on writing arguments based on nonfiction texts.

The middle school teachers join other National Writing Project teacher-consultants in the District. At Kennett Middle School, these are teachers Mrs. Karen MacNamara and Mrs. Virginia McGarvey. At Kennett High School, they include teachers Ms. Kelly Virgin, Mr.

Joe Hutcheson, and Ms. Cheryl Lamoreux, as well as Mrs. Judy Jester, Curriculum Supervisor for Language Arts and Social Studies.

During the first three weeks of the program, Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Keer, and Mrs. DiMascola joined other experienced teachers to examine their classroom practices and to study the latest research about writing and the teaching of writing. They also engaged in writing workshops, working with diverse genres and modes.

Each day began with the "quick write," which required everyone to write for a predetermined period using a quote or a book chapter as a springboard. The time allotted for this exercise increased from 12 to 30 minutes over the program's three weeks.

Another part of the program required the participants to choose an aspect of writing in which they wanted

to become an expert. They researched that topic and developed a 90-minute presentation with activities that could be brought back to the classroom.

"In order to be an effective teacher of writing, you must be a writer," explains Mrs. Jester.

After the three-week on-campus experience, Mrs. Gehman and her peers were challenged with creating a multigenre project based on Tom Romano's book *Fearless Writing: Multigenre to Motivate and Inspire*. Teachers were given two weeks to complete this last project.

"This program is the single most important professional development I have been involved with," Mrs. Jester says. "It supports writing across content areas in a way I have not seen in other areas."

Butterflies Find Home in First Grade Classroom

Every year at New Garden Elementary School, younger classes are buddied up with older classes. Thanks to a generous fourth grade student, the pairing of Miss Erika Smith's first grade class and Mrs. Heather Jernegan's fourth grade class was treated to a special lesson this fall.

The fourth grade student and her family found 25 caterpillars and brought them in to share with Miss Smith's classroom. The students each got their own caterpillar, named it, and kept it on their desk in a plastic cup.

"It was an amazing opportunity," Miss Smith says. "We

don't typically teach the life cycle till the end of the year, but watching our caterpillars go through their life cycle was a wonderful gift."

The students were excited to watch their caterpillars form chrysalises one by one. When they emerged as monarch and swallowtail butterflies, the first grade students along with their fourth grade buddies went outside to set them free.

"The students always enjoy the time we spend with their older buddies. The caterpillars provided us a wonderful community-builder for our classes," says Miss Smith.

Teaching with Creativity and Flexibility

Think back to your middle school classroom. Usually, the visual layout is predictable: a few rows of desks, all the same size and color, facing the front of the room. At Kennett Middle School, Mrs. Kate Madigan's eighth grade classroom is different. After receiving a mini-grant from the Kennett Education Foundation, Mrs. Madigan introduced flexible seating into her classroom. With trapezoid tables, dining-room tables, wobble stools, and standing tables to choose from, students can match their unique learning style with an innovative learning station.

"Students need to be able to move, especially when working in block classes that last 84 minutes," says Mrs. Madigan. "In my classroom, students have the option of choosing a learning station that best suits their learning style."

Flex seating can look different in each classroom. From comfy couches and beanbag chairs to dining-room tables and traditional desks, flex seating is meant to be as unique as the students who use it. Having options challenges them to think critically about how they learn. It also fosters communication and collaboration among students.

Sixth grade student Aidan Taylor enjoys the wobble chairs because "when you're working it is better to move than staying still" in order to be alert and engaged.

Aidan's classmate Peyton Mangine enjoys the standing desks: "It's nice to stretch my legs instead of sitting all day."

"Kennett Middle School recognizes and celebrates that we have a beautifully diverse group of students," Mrs. Madigan adds. "We do our best to meet all of their needs."



(Above, from right) Ryan King, Michelle Lopez Lopez, and Grace Bailiff work at the standing tables, while Francisco Cortez (at right) is most comfortable sitting on a wobble stool.



Kindergarten Registration To Open March 1

All rising kindergarteners (must attain age 5 by September 30, 2019) need to register beginning March 1 through March 29. New for the 2019-2020 school year, the District is offering an online registration system (Registration Gateway). This program allows parents and guardians to more quickly and easily input information online. This system will be accessible beginning at the end of February on www.kcsd.org. Traditional paper registration packets will also be available at the Mary D. Lang main office.

Please note that whether you register online or on paper, you must make an appointment to finalize the registration process with the registrar. Once you have completed your online registration or paper packet, please contact the Student Registration Office at (610) 444-4235 to schedule an appointment.

Middle School Teacher Publishes First Book

Eight years ago, Kennett Middle School teacher Mrs. Sue Matthias was tasked with writing a children's book for a professional development course. It was during that course that the idea for Spell-Bound Puddles was born. Mrs. Matthias has developed the book each summer since then and was determined to complete it this year.

Spell-Bound Puddles' title character is a penguin with a speech impediment who is teased by the other penguins at school. During recess no one wants to play with Puddles, so he sits alone and reads the dictionary. But after the principal, Mr. Chill, asks Puddles to represent the school in the Glacier-Wide Spelling Bee, everything changes for Puddles.

Spell-Bound Puddles is designed to be a read-aloud book and includes discussion questions to encourage conversation among young readers. "It is a book about friendship and understanding. It teaches and reinforces tolerance, inclusion, diversity, and acceptance," Mrs. Matthias says.



Mrs. Matthias proudly acknowledges that finishing her book was a "bucket-list item." Spell-Bound Puddles is illustrated by Mrs. Matthias's sister-in-law, Nancy J. Pinson, and is available on Amazon for \$8.99.

First Grade Learns About Fire Safety

Avondale Fire Dept 23 visited New Garden Elementary School's first grade to teach the students about fire safety during their unit on Community Helpers and Fire Safety and Prevention. The students learned the importance of calling 9-1-1 during an emergency, having safe spots outside of the house during an emergency, and having at least two exits to get out during a fire. The students also learned what firemen wear so they know whom to look for in an emergency.

After the inside portion of the assembly, the students went outside, and everyone had the opportunity to climb aboard a fire truck and ambulance to get a look inside.

New Garden Elementary School is thankful to have such amazing heroes and community helpers right down the road whenever they may be needed!



Kindergarten Student Sees the News in Action

Have you ever dreamed of being on television? Did you dream of becoming a newscaster or to sit at a news desk with your favorite reporter? Have you ever wanted to predict the weather or find out where all the traffic jams were before everyone else? Well, one kindergarten student from Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center got to do just that.

Brady Hughes, a student in Mrs. MaryJo Gorcyca's kindergarten class, has become extremely interested in learning about the weather. He also enjoys geography and learning about

how the weather is different across the United States. Brady loves reading about hurricanes and thunderstorms.

Brady and his mom, Mrs. Laurie Hughes, were watching meteorologist Cecily Tynan back in mid-September on her Facebook Live. Mrs. Hughes commented that they were watching together and that Brady wants to be a meteorologist when he grows up. It was at that point that Ms. Tynan invited Brady to the studio for a tour!

He had the opportunity to see the newsroom where the reporters, editors, and

producers work to gather the news. He had the chance to meet Ms. Tynan, play on the AccuWeather board, and sit at the news desk. Brady also enjoyed seeing the production room. He was there when the 4 o'clock news went live, and he had the opportunity to see the job of the producers.

He shook hands with anchor Jim Gardener, fist bumped anchor Rick Williams, and watched the magic that becomes a news broadcast. Surely this will be a trip Brady remembers for a long time.



K-9 Unit Brings Nonfiction Text to Life at Bancroft Elementary School

On Tuesday, November 13, Bancroft Elementary School welcomed Deputy Dave Barbone and Deputy Marian Inderelst of the Chester County Sheriff's Office and their K-9 partners Dexter (a Belgian Malinois) and Terrence (an English Labrador).

As part of the third grade reading curriculum, students read *Aero and Officer Mike* by Joan Plummer, a story that portrays a day in the lives of a police officer and his K-9 partner.

Pairing the reading with a real-life experience generates an even greater impact on students. Deputy Barbone and Deputy Inderelst taught students the importance of safety and about the different types of police dogs, and opened up the floor for questions. When they brought in their K-9 partners, students were on the edge of their seats completely immersed in the experience. Students even enjoyed

some demonstrations from the K-9 stars themselves, as Dexter and Terrence performed commands.

"Having real deputies and their K-9 partners come in is an amazing experience," says third grade teacher Mrs. Wendy Clendening. "It truly brings the nonfiction text to life for our students."

Third grade student Marlis Kotz, who wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up, enjoyed learning about police dogs. She says, "I liked seeing the dogs and learning about the different kinds of police dogs."

Marlis' classmate Audrey Shortlidge also enjoyed the day. "It was great!" she says with a smile.

The District thanks the Chester County Sheriff's Office for their dedication to our community.



Deputy Inderelst and her partner, Terrence, demonstrate commands for the third grade students at Bancroft Elementary School.

New Garden Elementary School Raises \$14,000 at First Walk-A-Thon

New Garden Elementary School students and staff helped to raise over \$14,000 for new sports equipment and playground activities at the First Annual New Garden Walk-A-Thon.

Organized by the New Garden Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and teaching staff, the Walk-A-Thon was a multiday fundraising effort to encourage healthy lifestyles among students, support academic enrichment programs, and promote school spirit.

Students were invited to help raise funds to enhance the school's playgrounds with new sports equipment and to add new features to the blacktops. Students who raised the most money enjoyed special prizes, a free water bottle, and a chance to give their teacher a pie in the face. Students were so motivated that more than 70 students raised \$100 each! To reward their hard work, the entire fourth grade earned a pizza-and-ice-cream party with Mrs. McArdle.

While fundraising was optional, all students participated in the Walk-A-Thon, which was held Friday, October 12. All students and participating staff members enjoyed an hourlong walk across the New Garden Elementary School grounds.

Afterward an in-school assembly was held to reveal the total amount raised. This assembly also featured the much-anticipated Pie Your Teacher raffle. Students who

raised \$30 or more were entered into a raffle. The winning students got to go on stage and pie their teacher!

Students are still raving about the fun and asking their teachers if they can do a Walk-A-Thon every day. The New Garden Elementary School family is excited to continue the new tradition next year.

"The First Annual Walk-A-Thon completely surpassed our initial expectations," explained first grade teacher Ms. Erika Smith. "We are very fortunate to have a dedicated PTO and staff to support our students. I am beyond excited for next year's Walk-A-Thon, and I know the students are too!"

The District would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved for a job well done.



Recognizing Our Board of School Directors

Pennsylvania's public schools educate nearly 2 million students, and more than 4,000 of them are in Kennett Consolidated School District. Each of those students has an individual story and is taking a different path into adulthood. The roads to success are as varied as the students, but our children are not traveling this path alone. Parents, teachers, administrators, school-bus drivers, and cafeteria aides all play a vital role in their success.

In January, we pause to salute another group of individuals who spend countless hours each month voluntarily leading our schools. They are the School Board Directors who lay the foundation for a strong education system in our area. The nine members of your local school board are an important part of this team, making informed decisions that chart the course of our public schools.

The Kennett Consolidated School District School Board members are: President Joseph Meola; Vice President Dominic F. Perigo; Treasurer Michael H. Finnegan; and Board members Rudy Alfonso, Steven Ciprani, William Brown, Aline Frank, Dr. Victoria Gehrt, and Paola Rosas-Weed.

These elected officials spend countless hours assessing budgets, approving curriculum and textbook choices, reviewing hiring decisions, adopting policy, and evaluating the academic and operational results of the District. These dedicated volunteers live in our community. They are our neighbors, friends, and community leaders, and they are working for the benefit of our children.

As we continue to celebrate the success stories in our schools, let's not forget our elected School Board Directors, who play a significant role in creating the environment where those successes happen. During this month of recognition, we ask you to show your appreciation for their time, effort, and dedication to the advancement of public education. Thank them for advocating on behalf of our collective interests, for making the difficult decisions, and for making our students' success their priority.

Greenwood: A Title 1 Distinguished School

Greenwood Elementary School has been named a Title I Distinguished School, earning the high-progress reward designation. A high-progress school is the highest 5% of Title I Schools based on ELA and math growth as measured by the state assessment, the PSSA. In addition, Greenwood Elementary School met all four annual measurable objectives as set by the PA Department of Education:

- Test Participation in Mathematics and Reading PSSA
- Attendance
- Closing the Achievement Gap in Mathematics and Reading PSSA, looking at all students
- Closing the Achievement Gap in Mathematics and Reading PSSA, looking at historically under-performing students

Congratulations to our teachers, students, staff, and parents on this amazing accomplishment!

Senior to Continue Athletic Career at 'Nova

Kennett High School senior Claire Borman has signed her National Letter of Intent to play Division I field hockey at Villanova University.

Claire (sitting, middle) was surrounded by her father Jeff Borman (sitting, right), Coach Meghan Shumway (sitting, left), principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz (standing, left) and athletic director Sean Harvey (standing, right).

A dedicated student-athlete, Claire has more than 12 years of experience playing field hockey. In addition to being a standout player on Kennett High School's girls' field-hockey team, Claire has played for multiple club teams including the Delaware County Sharks, X-Calibur, and URA. Claire also has played lacrosse for 11 years on club teams and on Kennett High School's girls' lacrosse team.

Off the field, Claire is a member of Model UN, a violinist in the Kennett High School

String Ensemble, and a volunteer at La Mancha Animal Rescue.

Claire is currently undecided on what she will study, but she is certain she has found the perfect school to continue her academic and athletic career. Congratulations, Claire!



After-The-Bell Celebrates 20 Years Continued from page 1

Smoothie. Over time, she was asked to join the staff as assistant program director, was later promoted to program director, and in 2018 became the leader of After-the-Bell.

“It is such an honor to serve as director of After-the-Bell as this incredible organization celebrates its 20th anniversary,” Mrs. Doherty Kohl says. “Each month when I submit my report to our Board of Directors, I always end it with the line, ‘I still love it!’ And I really do. Seeing those smiling, curious, and always adorable kids every day and being able to offer them wonderful and diverse activities is truly a dream job!”

After-the-Bell is under the authority of the Kennett After-School Association Board of Directors and board president Dr. Rudy Karkosak, who is also a former KCSD superintendent. The 14-member volunteer board is committed to carrying on the vision of the founders: that the program will always be offered to all middle school students who reside in the school district at no cost to any family, and that it will welcome students of all abilities. A significant number of student participants face special challenges: for example, approximately half are from low-income families, half are from immigrant families, and 20 percent have special needs.

“As After-the-Bell has grown in enrollment, particularly in the last few years, our board has renewed the promise to make sure that every middle school student

has access to the unique opportunities we provide,” Dr. Karkosak says. “During the last 20 years, After-the-Bell has become part of the fabric of the Kennett community. Working together with the District, local businesses and foundations, and the hundreds of people who volunteer and donate each year, we are looking forward to the next 20 years!”

After-the-Bell is always in need of new financial supporters and volunteers. If you’d like to get involved, please go to their website at www.afterthebell.org or contact Director Kohl at afterthebell@kcsd.org.



With sessions like Lollipop Factory (above) and Amazing Animals (left) After-the-Bell has something to appeal to every middle school student.

Kennett High School Seniors Named National Merit Students Continued from page 1

- Amanda Bell is a member of the track and cross country teams as well as Earth Club. She is also active with the high school’s musicals.
- Jonathan Bell is a member of the tennis team, Future Business Leaders of America, and marching band.
- Emma Giancola is a member of the marching band and is involved with Farrago and the fall play.
- Molly Hohner plays the violin and is a member of the Demon Robotics team, the Society of Women Engineers, and the tennis team.
- Rachel Hyzny is a member of the Society of Women

Engineers, the Special Friends Club, and the cross country and track teams.

- Peter Magasiny plays football and Ultimate Frisbee and is involved with the high school’s musicals.
- Caleb Peibly plays Ultimate Frisbee, is a member of the varsity academic team, and plays in the jazz band.
- Davis Piercy is a member of the track and tennis teams and Future Business Leaders of America.

“We are so proud of these outstanding students—not only for their exceptional performance on standardized tests, but also for all the other ways they enrich the

Kennett Square community,” Dr. Hritz says.

Letter of Commendations from Kennett High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, have been presented by Dr. Hritz to these scholastically talented seniors.

Although these students do not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarships, Commended Students place among the top 50,000 of the 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 Merit Scholarship competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The Kennett Consolidated School District congratulates Colin, Amanda, Johnathan, Emma, Molly, Rachel, Peter, Caleb, and Davis on this outstanding accomplishment.

Kennett High School Hosts Annual We Are Kennett Night

This year, 180 students and their families enjoyed Kennett High School’s fourth annual We Are Kennett Night, an event that invites students from across the district and their families to learn about the many academic, athletic, and club opportunities available at the high school.

“We Are Kennett Night is a unique opportunity for younger students to start thinking about their high-school careers,” explains principal Dr. Jeremy Hritz. “By introducing students to the various opportunities they have as a freshman and above, we can ensure they are better acclimated as they transition from middle school to high school.”

The event encouraged students to begin considering their educational futures. They toured the building and met with principals, teachers, counselors, and coaches. Current high school students led presentations and answered questions.

“The greatest aspect of We Are Kennett Night is student involvement,” says Dr. Hritz. “It’s amazing to see how involved our current students are. They truly want to give back to the younger students.”

Current high school students are a major part of We Are Kennett Night. From speaking to leading tours, they are truly dedicated to their younger peers.

Senior Victoria Freire was one of the keynote speakers, presenting on academic excellence.

“The best part of the event was seeing how hardworking my classmates are,” explains Victoria. “I hope that our incoming students get involved with school. Kennett High School offers so many opportunities to make connections, even beyond the traditional classroom setting.”

It was a grand night for all in attendance.

