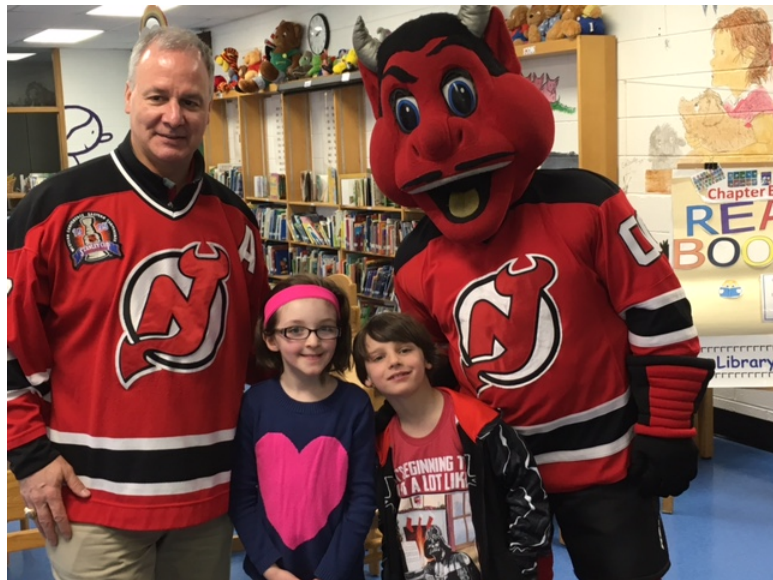


**MARY KAY MC MILLIN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

The Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center was busier than usual during the month of March!

Beginning on March 1st, the ECC was inundated with visitors to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss' and the month-long observance of Read Across America.

Each year, we invite local celebrities like Mrs. Judith Rattner, Berkeley Heights Superintendent of Schools, Berkeley Heights Chief of Police John DiPasquale, and Congressman Leonard Lance - to name a few - to visit our school and to share their love of reading with our students.



A highlight of this year's celebration was the visit of former New Jersey Devils star Bruce Driver (pictured, left) and the Devils team mascot, both of whom had great fun reading to our students.

**THOMAS P. HUGHES SCHOOL**

**Thomas P. Hughes School has a longstanding tradition of celebrating our Fifth Graders in various ways as they close out their elementary school years.**

**One of the favorite traditions is the annual Drama Dragons production. Every Grade 5 student is encouraged to participate in the play in some form. Most students choose to accept a role on the stage (some even sing and dance), while others prefer to work with the stage crew or “behind the scenes.”**



**stage crew or “behind the scenes.”**

**This year’s Drama Dragons production, “Books Alive!” was written by parents of Hughes School students. It was a clever story of Hughes students reflecting on their time in**

**elementary school. The scenes were modeled after books that were popular among the students, such as Harry Potter, Dork Diaries, Magic Tree House, and others.**

**The students performed the show to a packed house during the month of March and they truly enjoyed the experience. New friendships were formed throughout this process and students worked cohesively as a team throughout rehearsals and the performance. As a school community, we are proud of our students and greatly appreciative of the support of their parents.**

**MOUNTAIN PARK SCHOOL**

**Mrs. Kathleen DeAngelo, parent of a Mountain Park School Third Grader, recently organized a special presentation called “The Green Machine” for students at the school.**



**This program was generously funded by the Mountain Park PTO Cultural Arts Committee. The presentation began with a discussion and an experiment with hydrogen. Then, while in groups, students made compost and a "green" cleaner. Students learned about renewable energy sources. They recognized how important it is to do their best to avoid harsh chemicals and keep our Earth clean and green!**

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**Is that Amelia Earhart or a Mountain Park School Third Grader? In reading and writing, Mountain Park Grade 3 students explored biographies. They learned the elements of biographies, including setting, characterization, theme, accuracy, structure, illustrations, graphic features, structural patterns, and organizational features. Students chose a person of interest, read their biography, and conducted research. They took notes on their subject's birth, family, early years, interests and talents, education, career, marriage and children, later years, and special accomplishments and achievements. Students drafted, revised, edited, and published their pieces. Then, they practiced their speeches.**



**Later, students posed as statues of the individuals they researched and presented their biographical information to their parents and relatives. In order to get the statues to speak, parents gave spare change. It was amazing to see these famous people come to life! A total of \$386.66 was donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through this program.**

**WILLIAM WOODRUFF SCHOOL**

**The *Operation We Remember* Assembly at William Woodruff School was a great success as 15 veterans and soldiers were honored for their service to the United States of America.**



**This special assembly was the culminating activity for the Quest program students at Thomas P. Hughes, Mountain Park, and William Woodruff Schools.**

**The students' recognition of the United States military began with an impact study that was focused on raising awareness of the ongoing reconstruction efforts at Memorial Park in Berkeley Heights while providing honor and respect to the veterans/current service persons who have given of themselves for our great country.**

**As part of their study, the Quest students researched the branches of the military service and appropriate recognition of servicemen/women. The students took a virtual tour of Washington, DC, to learn about why monuments are built and the significance of each one. The students then put their interviewing and writing skills to work as they interviewed veterans and active-duty servicemen/women before constructing stories as a PowerPoint presentation. These stories will also be included in a book published through a grant from the Berkeley Heights Education Foundation.**

**During the assembly at Woodruff School, each veteran and active-duty serviceman/woman had their stories told via a PowerPoint presentation. Songs were sung by each of the grade levels and a military-themed musical piece was performed by the Grade 5 Band. The Quest students at each school also created a fundraiser to financially support the Berkeley Heights Township Memorial Park project.**

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**William Woodruff School's recent EXPO program – which featured work by students from all grade levels in all subject areas – was a great success.**

**The outstanding work that was displayed included research projects, creative writing pieces, character education-themed writing, art displays, social studies projects, and science experiments. Examples of student work were supplied by classroom and related arts teachers.**



**WILLIAM WOODRUFF SCHOOL (continued)**



**William Woodruff School Grade 5 students recently depicted the lives of famous people as they performed *The Living Museum*.**

**Mrs. JoAnne Barton's students researched individuals who have changed the world in fields such as art, music, business, sports, and education. The students then wrote scripts based on their extensive research and recited what they wrote while dressed as the famous**

**person they were portraying. The individuals came to life with the touch of a button as they shared information about their fascinating lives with the attentive audiences. The program was beautifully designed and performed and was an ideal way to teach research and oral presentation skills.**

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**Sergeant Thomas Rich recently spoke with Grade 4 and 5 students at Woodruff School about Cyberbullying. The focus of his presentation was on making good choices when using technology to communicate with others. He explained how information sent via cell phones or computers can go out and easily get into the wrong hands if certain safeguards are not put in place. During his hour-long talk, Sgt. Rich discussed various apps and how each one can be used safely. He explained that the word "delete" doesn't exist in cyberspace, so students need to make good choices about what and with whom they communicate before hitting the "send" button. The Woodruff students were extremely receptive to this presentation.**

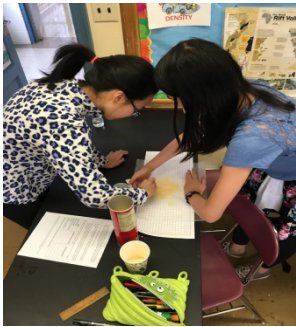
**COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**The Teen Women Interested in Science and Technology (TWIST) group at Columbia Middle School recently experimented with potato chips. The question they posed was: Is what's good tasting actually good for you?**

**The process included first smashing a portion of chips onto graph paper and letting the oils seep in. Then, after waiting a few minutes, the students used that graph paper to determine the area of the oil stain.**

**Students are shown here conducting their experiments. The results were fairly consistent, with at least one student concluding: "My mom was right. What she says is healthy seems to have much less oil."**



**Mr. Frank Geiger, Principal of Columbia Middle School, came to the following conclusion stating, "According to my research, the most oily chip seemed to be the best tasting."**



**Mrs. Kimberly Tota is the faculty advisor to the TWIST organization at CMS.**

**COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL (continued)**

**Columbia Middle School students and staff members celebrated their second Week of Respect, also known as STRIPES Week, during the month of March.**

**The theme for the week was Mindfulness. Students were shown a brief video explaining what Mindfulness is: the ability to be present in the moment and aware of your thoughts. Posters around the school also reminded students to be “present.” Each day was started with our Mindful Minute breathing exercise and ended with a five-minute guided relaxation. Other activities included two sessions of yoga as well as a coloring activity.**



**Dr. Peter Sempepos, School Psychologist at CMS, ran a relaxation group for students who wanted to learn some additional Mindfulness techniques. In addition, English/Language Arts teachers conducted a listening and writing activity for their students which focused on Mindfulness.**

**Students and teachers alike enjoyed the chance to stop and stretch or take a breath. Due to the positive feedback we received, we are hoping to incorporate more activities like these throughout the school year.**

**GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL**



**Competing in a pool of 1,084 submissions, the Governor Livingston High School team comprised of Anna Song, Gianna Miggins, Michael Wu, Alexander Ju and Niyant Narang was recently named as one of the Top 6 Teams in the Nation in the 2016 Moody's Mega Math Challenge!**

**The Moody's Mega Math Challenge is an annual Applied Math contest in which high school students use mathematical modeling to devise solutions to relevant everyday issues. The Challenge gives students the opportunity to answer questions by applying Mathematics while encouraging them to study and pursue careers in Math and Science. The focus of the 2016 Moody's Mega Math Challenge is "the rapidly-changing landscape of the automotive industry, in which automakers are transforming themselves from car builders into 'mobility companies'"**

**This team of Governor Livingston students will travel to Manhattan on Monday, April 25th, where they will present their findings from this competition to a panel of professional Mathematicians. Mr. Steven Hess, Teacher of Mathematics at GLHS, is the team's faculty advisor. Good luck to the GL team!**

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**Governor Livingston High School recently hosted its Fourth Annual St. Baldrick's Foundation event to help raise money in support of finding cures for childhood cancers.**

**Teachers, administrators, students, and community members came together in support of this amazing cause. As a result of this group effort, Governor Livingston surpassed its four-year goal of raising \$100,000 to fund pediatric cancer**

**research. This is a tremendous accomplishment which will go a long way toward conquering childhood cancers!!**

**Thank you to Mrs. Kimberly Fleming, Mrs. Jeanette Gates and Ms. Staci Toporek of the Governor Livingston faculty, who worked hard to make this event a great success. A big thanks also goes out to those individuals who made monetary donations and actively participated in this fundraiser!**



**DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES**

**Spring is here! And with Spring comes Brain Injury Awareness Month (March), Autism Awareness Month (April) and Worldwide Autism Awareness Day (April 2nd). Our district's Special Education staff members planned a variety of activities to promote acceptance and understanding toward individuals with disabilities.**

**The last meeting of the Berkeley Heights Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) will be on April 20, 2016, at 1:00 pm in the large second floor conference room of the Clausen Administration Building. During this meeting we will watch Rick Lavoie's *When the Chips Are Down*, which provides guidelines for disciplining children with disabilities. We will also plan topics and speakers for the 2016-2017 school year.**