



Panther Pride NEWSLETTER

Congratulations Class of 2017!

On behalf of the Board of Education, and the communities of Middle Township, Stone Harbor, Avalon, Dennis Township and Woodbine, congratulations to the Class of 2017!

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Dear Graduating Seniors

Graduates, you have successfully completed some of the most challenging requirements for graduation in the State of New Jersey. I share in your personal joy and deep sense of accomplishment. Your individual and collective achievements give meaning to my work in this School District. I am sure you realize that graduation is a team effort and that you are here today thanks in part to the dedication of your family, friends, teachers, counselors, coaches and administrators who stood by you, encouraged you, supported you and believed in you.

Thirty years ago, after my high school graduation, I received a card from a friend; this card had a poem attached with a handwritten note that read "never cheat the man in the glass". What does that mean - not cheating the man - or woman - in the glass? I think you will better understand if you read the poem I received (see right).

Graduates, Wimbrow was telling us do not let yourself get in the way of fulfilling your dreams. Filter out those things that may derail you from achieving your goals. Go out and make an investment in yourself because the man - or woman - in the glass is depending on you.

Graduates, the Board of Education, administrators, teachers and staff wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Dr. David Salvo
Superintendent of Schools

The Guy in the Glass

by Peter Dale Wimbrow Sr.

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father, or mother, or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please - never mind all the rest
For he's with you, clear to the end
And you've passed your most difficult, dangerous test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.





School 2 Gives Police a Special Send-Off

Elementary School 2 students lined the sidewalk of their school and cheered loudly as officers from the Middle Township Police Department whizzed by them on their bicycles. The officers collected high fives and words of encouragement from the young students as they began their journey to Washington, D.C. on May 10 for the Police Unity Tour.

Many of the School 2 students wore blue in support of the police, and some classes made signs and banners.

"Our Middle Township Police Department is supportive of our school and entire district, and so we wanted to reciprocate that support," said Melanie Lisitski, vice principal. "Many of the officers are familiar faces within our school and highly regarded by our students. It was not hard to encourage both our students and staff to line our road to support the cyclists."

Business is Booming at the School 1 Lemonade Stand

Starting well before the bell rings, a line begins to form at the parent pickup location at School 1. It runs alongside Mrs. Andrea Davis' self-contained special education classroom and wraps around the building.

Davis noticed her students' eyes wandering out the window each day to check on the growing line. However, instead of chalking this up as an unavoidable distraction, she turned it into a learning opportunity for her students and those in the other two self-contained classrooms led by Elizabeth VanTrieste and Rebecca Hannings. Together, they developed and launched a small business selling lemonade to the parents on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 to 3:10 p.m.

"Our students have gone through all of the steps of running a business," said Davis. "They helped make posters to advertise it, they regularly make the lemonade and learn measurement in the process, they sell the lemonade and they collect and count the money before depositing it."

The lemonade is given to parents in exchange for a free will cash donation. All proceeds go toward the John O'Dea Special Education Fund, which helps support field trips and any special needs that arise throughout the school year.

"We have more than 90 students who are picked up each day from our school, so all of the parents who come to get their children now have the opportunity to learn more about our special education programs and students," said Principal Christian Paskalides. "For the students selling the lemonade, they get a unique learning experience."

"Most of the students selling the lemonade have communication delays, but they find a way to communicate with the parents," said Davis. "They are practicing giving eye contact; they are doing a good amount of talking."

The stand will operate through the last full day of school, and Davis hopes to reopen for business in September.



School 1 Principal Christian Paskalides visits the lemonade stand.





A Celebrity Encounter at MTMS

Middle School students annually vote on a "Book of the Year," and this year, the title "Masterminds" came out on top. The students recently had the opportunity of a lifetime to discuss their favorite book with the author himself, Gordon Korman. Korman visited the school on May 12 to speak with sixth, seventh and eighth grades about his titles and writing process.

Each grade read one of Korman's books in class and performed related writing exercises. The sixth grade read "Chasing the Falconers", the seventh grade read the "Hypnotist" and the eighth grade read "Pop".

"The idea was to connect the writing process to the reading process and to get all of the students and teachers involved," said Connie Chabok, instructional supervisor. "The students were energized about reading the books, especially knowing they would meet Korman."

Librarian Heather Chew initially reached out to Korman to invite him to MTMS. She said the school saved up money from its book fairs to bring in an author who is preferred among the students.

"The teachers here are fabulous," said Principal Toni Lehman. "They are always coming up with great ideas."

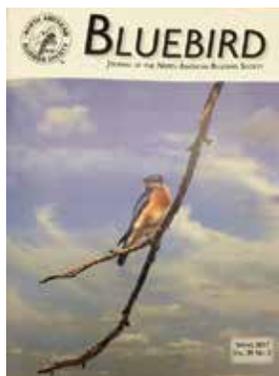
Korman's visit was a hit with the students, who fired questions at him and repeatedly told him that "Masterminds" had been the



Student Maddyn McAnaney has lunch with author Gordon Korman, who recently visited Middle Township Middle School.

school's "Book of the Year." A select group of students had additional time to talk with Korman over lunch. "This experience is so cool," said sixth-grade student **Aiden Andre**. "I am inspired that he started writing when he was just 14."

Korman left the students with some words of wisdom: "Read a lot and write a lot. Make writing a part of your life."



in the Spring 2017 edition of "Bluebird", the Journal of the North American Bluebird Society. As part

Building Homes for New Jersey's Bluebirds

The work of our Middle Township eighth-grade students is featured

of the Eighth-Grade Woodshop Project, the students, coordinated by teacher Dave Moyer, constructed more than 40 bluebird boxes, which will hang in Batsto State Forest.

This is an ongoing service project, with Middle School students producing more than 400 bluebird boxes to date.

Upcoming Events:

June 9

High School Senior Awards @ PAC, 8am

June 12 - 16

All Schools Early Dismissal

June 13

Baccalaureate @ PAC, 7:30pm

June 15

Middle School Graduation @ PAC, 4pm

June 16

High School Graduation @ Memorial Field, 4pm

June 16

Last Day of School

June 22

BOE Meeting @ 7pm





PantherPride NEWS



Referendum Update

As we count the days to the end of the school year, Middle Township School District is ramping up for a busy summer of construction on projects approved in last year's referendum. The district will be

buzzing with activity so that we can welcome you back to new and renovated facilities in the fall.

Here's an update!

- Construction of Phase 1 is on schedule as the new gymnasium, Pre-K courtyard, nurse's suite and OT/PT room begin to literally take shape with walls going up in May. Brick work will begin soon!
- Preparations are being made to move the nurse to an alternate space so that on September 1, the new space will be available.
- Planning continues for renovations at School 1, which we aim to complete over the summer so that

we can debut them on the first day of school.

- Permits have been issued to start work at the new fields, which we know our student-athletes are excited about.
- Preparations are being made to begin work at the high school and middle school immediately following June graduations.
- And last, but not least, the contracts for the renovation of the School 2 façade and the new transportation building were approved at the end of April. The contractor is ready to begin work on that project as soon as this school year is finished.

Student-Athletes in the Spotlight

Two Middle Township High School athletes recently garnered media attention for actions unrelated to their athletic ability. Instead, the focus was on how they have taken steps to better our community.



Senior tennis standout **Khushbu Patel** was showcased in the Press of Atlantic City as one of only 25 high school

seniors from South Jersey honored by the paper during its second annual Young Leaders award ceremony. A panel reviewed more

than 100 nominations and made selections based on the applicants' records of community involvement and volunteerism.

Khushbu completed the requirements to earn the U.S. Congress' Congressional Award Gold Medal in her junior year, which included at least 400 hours of community service. In school, she has participated in Key Club, the Go Green Club, the Red Cross Club and Relay for Life. Outside of school, she has volunteered at the library and hospital to fulfill various needs.

"I believe it's important to make service a part of your life early on so that you continue to give back when you are older," said Khushbu.

Junior **Bryce Elsey**, a football player and track team member, who

joined the tennis team this year, also recently received attention for a selfless act. Fox 29 news featured Bryce for asking a local girl with cerebral palsy to her sweetheart dance. Bryce's mom serves as the girl's nurse and told Bryce about the dance, and then asked if he would be interested in attending. Bryce immediately said yes and created a poster inviting the girl to the dance.

"I like being able to be someone else's blessing," said Bryce. "We can all do little things within our community that can make a big difference."

