

# GARRETTFORD GOOD NEWS

MARCH, 2020



## FAMILY LITERACY AND BLACK HISTORY NIGHT A SUCCESS

Our Literacy Night and celebration of Black History Month was February 27, 2020. The literacy theme was to raise our families' understanding of Phonemic Awareness and its importance in learning to read. We used songs, poems and lyrics by African American Artists to engage families in activities that build phonemic awareness. Upon arrival, families listened to a playlist of great songs by Black artists while touring the school to see the doors each classroom created of famous African Americans. Then the families were directed to begin the rotation through the 3 activities.

Families were given a rotation schedule when they entered, which also was their raffle ticket at the end of the night for a chance to win a door prize. In the first station, families listened to music and poetry and sang along with our 5th grade chorus and Mr. Hyde. In our Library, they enjoyed videos, books, poems and song lyrics to read together and find the rhyming patterns, repetitions, and rhythm of the text. In the third station, families wrote a “We Are” poem together.

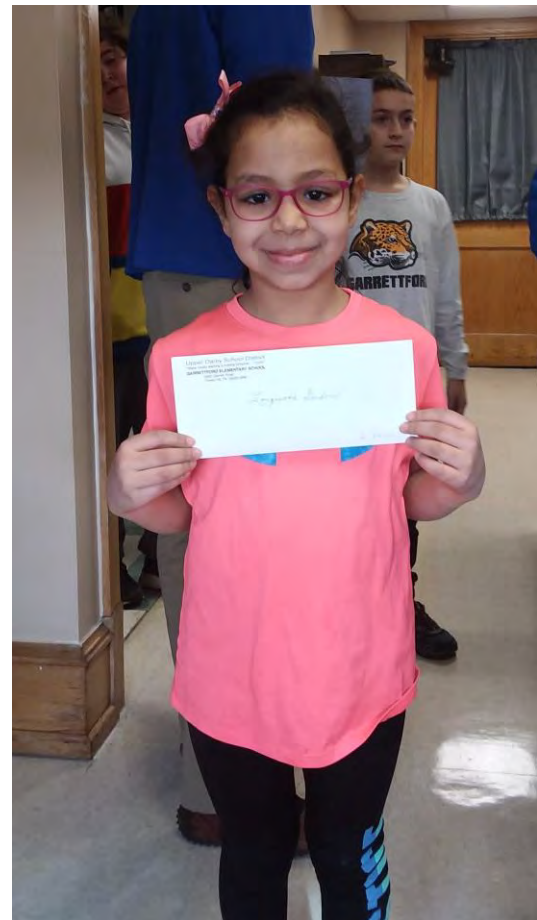
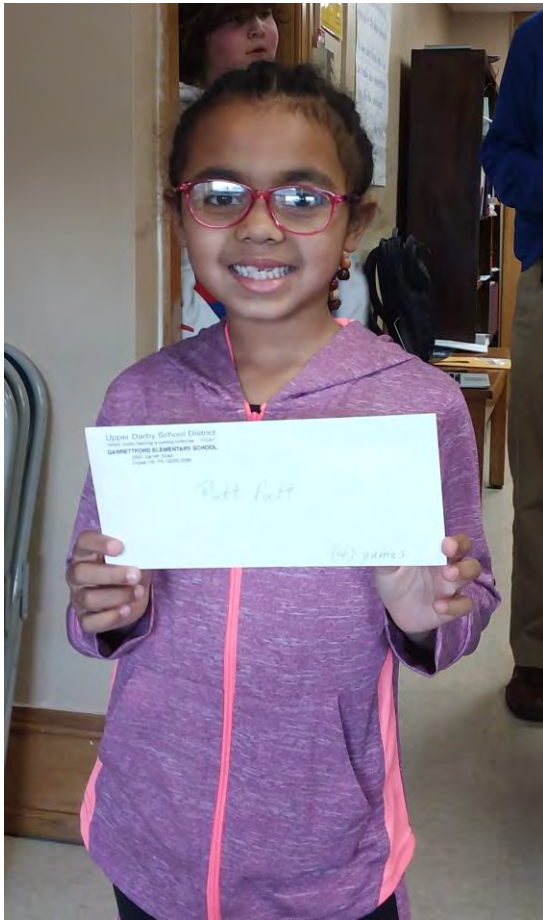
Our Literacy Coaches were here and families stopped in to see HMH materials and ask questions about our new Reading program. At the end of the night, families returned to the main lobby to do the Limbo to Limbo Rock by Chubby Checker, receive a bookmark with a poem by Nikki Giovanni, *The Reason I like Chocolate*, (and of course, a snack size Hershey's bar,) and drop off their raffle ticket. It was a successful night!





The next day, door prize winners were announced! We had some happy students! Special thanks to all the community businesses who contributed prizes.





**THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS**

**Putt Putt**  
**Brandywine River Museum**  
**Media Theatre**  
**Longwood Gardens**  
**Hedgerow Theatre**  
**Garrettford Home & School**  
**Garrettford School Staff**



Congratulations to our Reading Team and all the staff that supported this program. We have received nothing but positive feedback about how worthwhile the evening was for everyone.



# GARRETTFORD CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY



Garrettford had a period of sustained silent reading to celebrate Read Across America Day, but teachers and students found other creative ways to celebrate the day. We had Upper Darby firemen come to read to our first graders, and of course, many students and teachers donned Cat in the Hat and other Seuss themed outfits.



## GREETINGS FROM THE ART ROOM!

Currently the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Art Club students are working on and finishing their “Ugly Dolls.” Students were self-guided when designing and putting together their creations. Students even tried sewing for the first time and even surprised themselves with how easy it was to attach their pieces together. Mr. Carey feels very lucky and grateful to have such great students that are a part of Art Club. Every class he is more impressed by their thinking and creating and even giving constructive criticism during the process. We all look forward to seeing their finished products but Mr. Carey mostly enjoys the process along the way.



## STUDENT ADMINISTRATORS ARE SHOWN THE ROPES

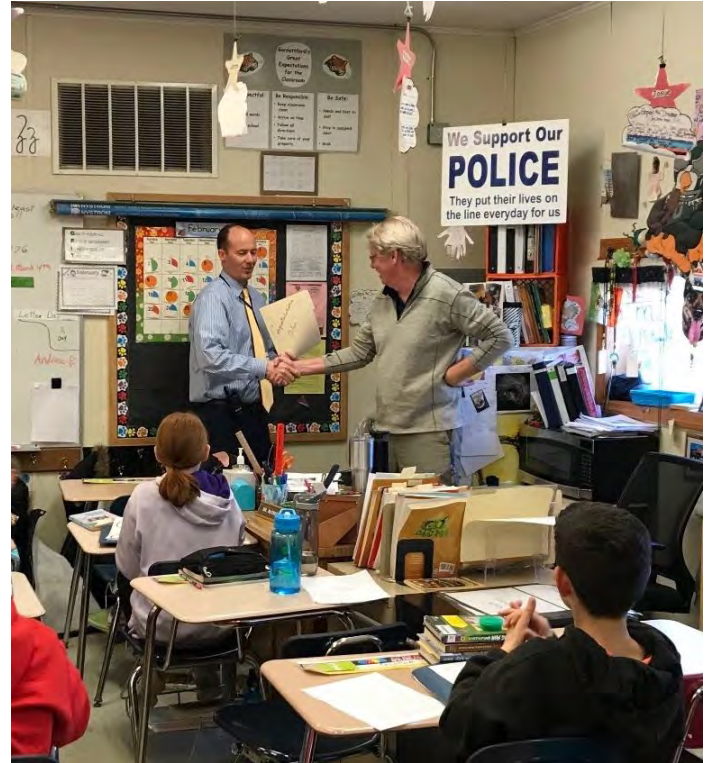


Congratulations to Garrettford’s two Student Administrators, Brennan Nolan (5-35) and Lina Bouzid (5-31). The students were selected based on essays they wrote which explained their qualifications for the job and what they hoped to accomplish. They spent the day with Mr. Brydges doing announcements, learning walks and other work. They helped out in first grade, too. In the afternoon they went to Drexelbrook for lunch. Chicken nuggets were everyone’s favorite...even Mr. Brydges! They were also honored with all the other District Student Administrators at the luncheon. One of the favorite activities of the day was to go to see the attic with Mr. Brydges. Mr. Brydges said Lina and Brennan were a big help and quick learners.





Teaching Award. He will be honored at a banquet in April and both he and Garrettford will be awarded \$1,000 to use for school initiatives. We are very proud of Mr. McKnight!



## **THREE GARRETFORD STUDENTS HONORED**

The Garrettford community is proud to share that three of our students were honored this past month. David Jones (4-206) presented information at the Delaware County Council meeting about how the Garrettford community celebrated Black History Month. Council Vice-Chair, Dr. Monica Taylor, said “We are proud to honor individuals and organizations who work to celebrate and keep African American history alive in our community.”

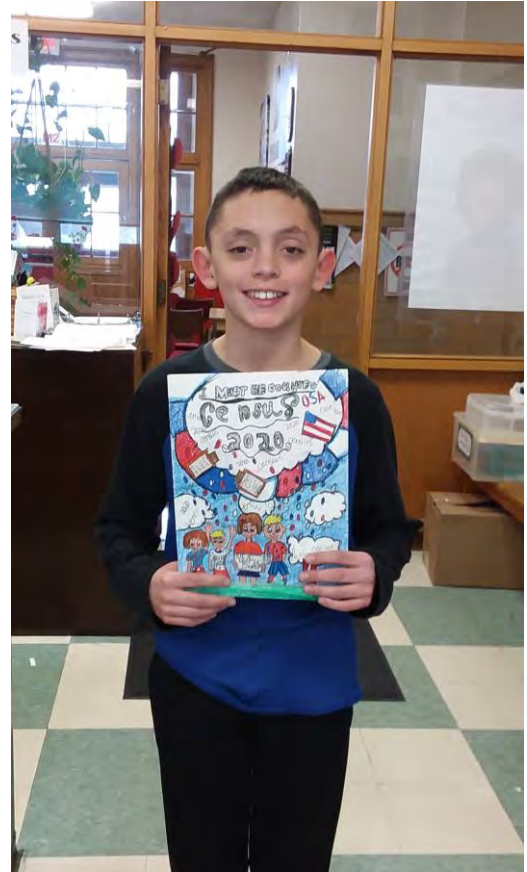
## **MR. MCKNIGHT NAMED UPPER DARBY WINNER OF FMFCU EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

We were recently notified that Mr. McKnight had been selected as the UDSD winner of the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Excellence in

Specific recognition was given to the Garrettford Black History Night Celebration. David was accompanied by Adam Balagon (2-121). Great job, boys!



Poster Contest. Ryan's poster was bright and colorful and very well done. Congratulations, Ryan!



Ryan D'Urso (5-P2) was recognized at the Upper Darby School Board meeting as Garrettford's winner of the Census

We are very proud of our fine students at Garrettford!

