

# UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Royal Scroll

“Honoring A Diverse Community Where All Students Achieve”



## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Daniel McGarry

As per the School Code of 1949, Section 401, our school board held its annual reorganization meeting in December. I would like to congratulate Rachel Mitchell and Edward Brown who were elected as the President and Vice-President for the upcoming school year. The dates and times for the regular board meetings and committee meetings are posted to the district website. The appointment of liaison representatives and committee co-chairs are also posted to the website.

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## UDHS Sophmore Dylan Ford is Making A Difference

Upper Darby High School's 10th grader Dylan Ford is a very unique, energetic outgoing student who has a great attitude and has been a great inspiration to his peers. He has been involved in all the clubs and musicals and he was in the 6th grade concert band. He loves music and was recently asked to be drum master, to him it was a fun experience. Dylan is a definite leader and loves to be challenged. He also gets involved in trying to make a difference in the community. If there is something he doesn't understand he will always ask or reach out with an email. He likes to help people and always stands up for what is right and believes most importantly in getting things done.

## UDHS's National English Honor Society



On November 20th the Royal Oak Chapter of the National English Honor society inducted 76 new members, and honored 55 senior members. Students in Accelerated and Honors/AP English courses are invited to apply for membership each spring. Accepted students must maintain a 85% average in all courses, with a 90% average in all English courses, and complete at

least three service projects. NEHS students volunteer in the UDSD community. Within the high school, NEHS students run the Writing Lab during all lunches, where they help their peers with writing assignments. The chapter is also involved in a Community Reading program at the Municipal Library of Upper Darby and holds an annual book drive each spring in cooperation with CHOP Reach Out and Read program. Congratulations to all of the inductees!



# KINDERGARTEN CENTER

## Spotlight on Yoga Day

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Students and teachers enjoyed the day doing yoga and eating a healthy snack!!!



Kindergarten teacher, Lauren Marturano, leads students in learning a new yoga pose while watching a Very Hungry Caterpillar yoga video!!

## Theme 5 "Whatever the Weather"



Students at the K-Center began their new ELA theme, Whatever the Weather. They will learn about different types of weather in different places, as well as the new sight words: me, for, where, do, you, look.

### ✓ CHECK IT OUT → UDHS ROYAL BLOG

If you have not already, please be sure to check out the blog that some of our students have started to get the good news out about UDHS. They are working hard at this and would love to see some of us adding comments. They have already had thousands of views! <http://voicesofupperdarby.blogspot.com/>

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# Aronimink's Message from the Principal



Josh Rehak

It is hard to believe that December is in full force and the cold winter lies ahead. December not only brings the excitement of the holiday season, but reminds us all of the great events and activities that make **Aronimink Elementary** an amazing place for our children. In addition to all the wonderful activities that are happening in our classrooms each day, November and December are jam-packed with events that are a testament to the strength of our Aronimink community. In November, the Home and School Association and numerous parent volunteers were determined to pull off another successful



Harvest Festival. Despite the numerous cancellations due to Mother Nature's uncooperativeness, Harvest Fest was a success that brought many families together for a great evening full of fun.

## Physical Education News



**TURKEY  
TROT  
2018**

**Thank you,  
Mr. Dunn!**



## Garrettford Celebrates American Education Week



**A** lot of fun and learning took place while parents visited our school during American Education Week. The students always enjoy sharing what they do at school with their parents.

We had many

visitors and it was evident that parents at **Garrettford** take an active role in their children's education.

## ***GARRETTFORD'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS A HUGE SUCCESS***



**S**tudents had a wonderful opportunity to shop for a new book during the Scholastic Book Fair. Parents also had the chance to come in and shop for the holidays on Election Day. The funds earned will be used to expand the selections in the library.



Families were surprised and excited to see Clifford the Big Red Dog show up, too!

# Highland Park's ELL News



The 2nd grade ELL students visited Dunwoody Village on November 21st. The students and residents completed Thanksgiving activities, including creating a "Thankful Quilt."



## 4th Grade News



4th grade will soon be studying about our state. In preparation for this unit, the students visited Lincoln Financial Field. "The Linc" is home to the reigning Super Bowl Champs, the Philadelphia Eagles. Students visited the locker room where they saw the Lombardi Trophy, went to the press box, a suite, the home interview room, and ran out of the tunnel onto the field. Pictured are future Eagle's stars Jaiden K. and Najid S. doing their post game press conference.

## Primos's Hari Celebrates First Halloween



Hari Sajeesh is a third grader who came to our school from India last June. He did not speak a word of English when he arrived in our country. Hari really enjoyed his first Halloween in the United States. He explained that he got to dress up as a crab and Ms. Hennessy was a lobster. He and Ms. Hennessy led his class through the parade, dancing all the way around the loop! Hari really enjoyed dancing! Hari remembers seeing, so many costumes and seeing all the audience taking tons of pictures. He said he got to eat a lot of chocolate and treats, but not too much because he didn't want a sugar rush! After school Hari went Trick-or-Treating for the first time with his neighbor Isiah. Hari has so many fun memories of his first Halloween!

## Primos's Fourth Graders



Fourth grader, Gwen Spencer, reads to second graders just like a pro!

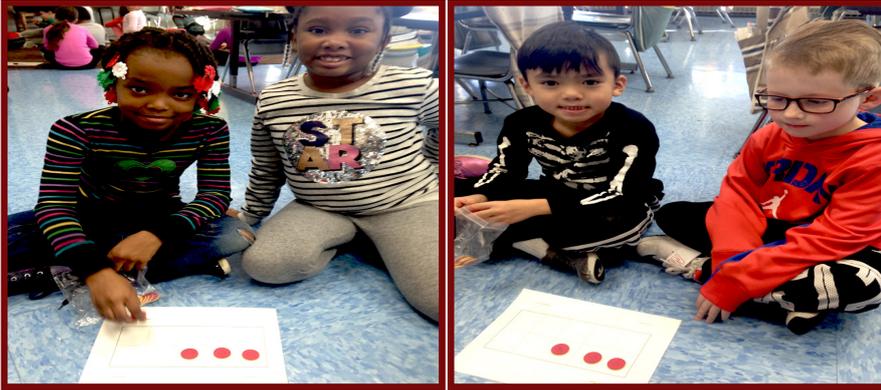


Fourth graders: Timir, William, Nijgere

### Celebrating Together

Clifton Heights Rams Football 80 lbs. division We were excited to follow you throughout the season and the playoffs.

## WESTBROOK PARK'S FIRST GRADERS



**F**irst grade is busy working on our subtraction skills. We are making ten frames to subtract and using our strong addition skills to help check our answers.

## FABULOUS FIFTH GRADERS



**F**ifth graders took a trip to the Philadelphia Art Museum to observe art from different time periods around the world.

## Hillcrest Fourth Grade News



### 4th Grade is Growing Through Group Work!

**O**ur fourth graders have been working diligently during math MTSS to become master mathematicians! Working in small groups, each classroom has a set focus on increasing fact fluency and number sense. How are we doing it? We are growing our skill sets by working with our peers as we gather in groups to practice fact fluency through Sumdog, games, and teacher centered work areas. Each classroom is rotating groups to make the most of a very short period of time. And the students' hard work is paying off!

## Library News from Ms. Steck



**A** special thanks to our Amazing Hillcrest Moms - Evelyn Attas, Dena Gardner, Marianne Gentile, Jacqueline Quagliarello, Jennifer Rule, and Jacqueline Park - for all their help with setting up the Enchanted Forest Book Fair for our students! The fair was a HUGE success with over \$4,100 coming back to our school in the form of books

for Hillcrest Elementary students! Thanks to all who helped make it a success. Your kindness and generosity comes directly back to your students!



# UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



**M**r. Thomas Nee, our Supervisor of Street Safety, is currently looking to hire more Crossing Guards and Substitute Crossing Guards. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact him at: 610-259-2675.

The Department of Public Safety would like to wish all of the Upper Darby School District community a safe, healthy, and happy New Year. With 2019 fast approaching, we wanted to take this time to thank everyone for helping to keep our schools and students safe. Also, with the cold weather season coming, please use caution while driving or walking. Slip and falls are a real concern. Alert the school if you should see any unsafe conditions. Our Safety Officers and department are there to assist in any way they can. As always, a safe school is all of our responsibilities. Have a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.



## Facilities Department News



**D**id you know this fun fact from the Facilities Department? The flagpole that sits outside of Westbrook Park Elementary was actually re-purposed and brought over from the now-closed Cardington-Stonehurst Elementary School?

Brought over via school bus in the early 1980s, the flagpole was buried deep into the fresh concrete at the front of Westbrook Park. The original pole at Westbrook Park was attached to the building and required getting out on the roof to raise and lower, so the “new” flagpole was a welcome addition to the school!

The Facilities Department wishes to congratulate our own Don Strunk, this year’s recipient of the District’s unsung hero award! His story is on the district website – check it out!



## TECHNOLOGY NEWS



**T**he Tech Services department completed the first phase of the transitioning of employee email from First Class to Gmail. All new emails are coming in through our Gmail accounts now, though the employee email addresses themselves have remained the same. The next phase is to convert the old First Class emails into Gmail for our employees. Please be patient as it will take a little time for any emails received before the evening of December 13th to appear in the employees’ new Gmail accounts. Emails will now be kept on the Gmail system for only 90 days before they are automatically deleted.

The Tech Services Department wants to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. We look forward to serving our students and staff in 2019.

## CENTRAL REGISTRATION/ATTENDANCE SERVICES



**K**indergarten Registration for the 2018-19 School Year began in January 2018. Please visit the district website for the link to our online registration system and the number for our Central Registration office. While initial registration must be done online, a visit to the Central Registration office is required to verify required paperwork and finalize the process. Thank you for your cooperation.

# BEVERLY HILLS STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Jillian Tobin

This is my fourth year teaching and here at **BHMS**. I graduated from West Chester University with certifications in Special Education and Regular Education Pre-K-4. I graduated from Cabrini University in August of 2018 with a Master's Degree of Education. I love my job because I am able to help my students grow, improve, and become successful academically and socially. **BHMS** is a great place to work because of the supportive staff members that help me everyday.



Jon McGarry

I have been in the District since 2002. I coached Basketball and Golf at the High School. I taught Social Studies and ran the RY program at the High School till 2014. I came to BH in the 2014/2015 school year. I am currently the lead teacher for 6th grade. I have 2 sons that take up all of my free time coaching their sports and attending their events.

## BHMS's Veterans Day Essay



**“Freedom. It’s a very powerful word, but not everyone has freedom,”** writes **Beverly Hills Middle School** sixth grader Madison Luther in her award winning Veterans Day essay. Her essay goes on to express that veterans bravely serve to protect the freedoms cherished by Americans and to keep the world safe. Her Grandfather was one of those Veterans and she writes to honor him and to specifically remember World War I Veterans since this year marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of WWI.

## DHMS's News from the ELL Department



International Food Day was celebrated at **DHMS** on December 7. ELL students from over 15 countries celebrated by sharing their favorite dishes with their peers. Everything was delicious, some of the foods included: Couscous from Morocco, Basbousa from Saudi Arabia, Beef and Cassava from Liberia, Dumplings from China, and lots of yummy desserts from many different countries. It's always our favorite day in ELL, when we get to share food, culture, and stories with each other.

## DHMS Celebrates the Season for Giving



**D**rexel Hill Middle School held its annual Canned Food Drive to benefit the Upper Darby Food Bank. From all the donations collected we were able to fill 14 large boxes with canned foods. Pictured are some of the eighth graders that assisted Mrs. Livoy in counting and boxing up the donations.

# UDHS College-Bound!



**C**abrini University visited Upper Darby High School on December 9th for an Instant Decision Day. Students met with admission representatives from Cabrini and 11 seniors were accepted into the university on the spot! Congratulations!

# UDHS World Affairs Council



**U**pper Darby Students participated in the 2018 World Affairs Council — International Student Summit at Temple University Fox School of Business on 12/11/18. Left to Right: Vik Russell, Michael Solomou, Luke Finley, Danny McBride, Carlo Constantine, Ummayh Siddiqua.

# Rotary Students of the Month



**C**ongratulations to Jude Mathew and Moselle James who were honored for their service to their school and community at this month's Rotary Club Meeting. Pictured are November's honorees, Tom Geiger and Sumaya Ahmed.

# UDHS Athletics *Royals*

## UDHS 2018 Wrestling Team



**W**restling opened with a win at the Haverford Duals. The team went 5-0 with a young team and brought home the first place trophy!

## Cheerleaders get bid to Nationals



**C**ongratulations to the Varsity cheerleaders who recently won regionals and are once again headed to Walt Disney World to compete for the coveted white jackets at Nationals in February. The JV team also received their bid. Best of luck!

# SENKOW'S WINTER CONCERT



Under the direction of music teacher, Mr. Labonde, the Senkow band, orchestra, and chorus put on an entertaining winter concert. The students have been practicing very hard to showcase their musical talents.



## Senkow's Reading Olympics Update



Nearly 40 of Senkow's 4th and 5th graders are getting excited for the Reading Olympics competition that will take place at the beginning of April at Northley Middle School in Aston, PA. They are trying to read as many books as they can from a list of 45 titles. As of mid-December, these students have read a total of 143 books and will be competing on one of two teams: the "Reading Rivals" and the "Legendary Olympians." So far, the teams

have had a total of two practice rounds in the library. Students on these teams have answered correctly 39 out of 40 questions about the books, which is OUTSTANDING progress.

## BYWOOD'S PRINCIPAL CORNER



December has been a busy month filled with many great events for our students and families. Thank you to all of the families who attended our events this month, including our annual Winter Concert and Breakfast with Santa. With the help of our staff and parents all of these events were a huge success! As our winter break approaches, and we prepare for the New Year, please take some time to read at home with your children in preparation for our Winter DIBELS Reading Assessment, which will take place as soon as we return from Winter Break, beginning the week of January 2nd. Please also take the time to rest and enjoy the time off with your families.

## Bywood's Winter Concert



A very special thank you to all of the staff, students, and families who participated in our annual Winter Concert! Students have been practicing for months in preparation for this amazing show, and all of their hard work paid off! During the concert we enjoyed music from our band and orchestra, singing ensemble, and of course, the **Bywood Buddies!**

# STONEHURST THIRD GRADE



Third grade had dynamite experiences in November relating to our Storytown stories. We recently had a memorable experience with Officer Colella, and Officer Russo with his K9 dog Nick. In third grade, we read a story called Officer Mike and Aero. Ms. Lydon

correlated with Officer Colella to have Officer Russo come to Stonehurst with his K9 dog, Nick.

## Spotlight on Fourth Grade



Fourth grade enjoyed a great field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo!

We are also in our Second class switch for science. We are learning so much to help show success with the science PSSA coming up in the Spring!

## Charles Kelly's Principal Award Winner Zoe Brown



Student of the Month Assembly For Citizenship Zoe Brown is awarded the Principal's Award. Dr. McCarthy chooses a student who exhibits all the character traits of fairness, trustworthiness, caring, respect and citizenship. Congratulations Zoe who in Student Council, plays the violin and exemplifies what a **Charles Kelly** scholar is.

## ELL and Learning Support Students Field Trip to Philadelphia



ELL and Learning Support students took a field trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences. There they viewed gigantic bugs, life size animals, and some of us including Mrs. Schlimm, touched a REAL snake for the first time. They walked amongst the butterflies in the middle of a cold day, and they learned interesting facts from the ranger. They had so much fun!

# Superintendent's Corner

Continued from page 1



Daniel McGarry

I am happy to provide a brief update on the efforts of our District Comprehensive Plan. Our equity plan is in full motion. We are continuing our work on trauma informed care. We are working to increase our security systems at Upper Darby High School and continuing to seek grant funding to enhance our systems throughout the District. We have shared the implementation and reports of MAP testing and reworked our high school schedule in order to identify and provide new and meaningful paths toward college/career planning. We have hired an architect to cost out a new middle school, have made recommendations for capital improvements, and have started internal budget discussions for the 2019-2020 budget adoption. We have started a process to improve and enhance our elementary curriculums in the areas of English and Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics. We have also introduced new and exciting elective educational opportunities for our students. We will be reviewing phase II of the rebranding process later this month, and we will review our recent student achievement data and school level improvement plans as we continue to investigate ways to provide meaningful and long-lasting educational improvements to the students we serve. During the November committee meetings, the Board and the public were provided an update on the financial health of the district. All of the aforementioned projects I mentioned come from the collective efforts of this community and the staff here in this District. I am blessed to work with such dedicated people in this district, and I am blessed to serve this community as your acting superintendent. But it is important to note that we are asking people to perform serious work, often without the proper support. We need a fair funding formula, and we need it now. Over the last 8-9 years, public education has continued to be an overlooked, underfunded, and devalued national service. Tonight, you will be hearing the results of our financial audit. You will hear, though, that the work of this Board, the administration, the community, the staff, and our students continues to move forward, despite the financial stresses we face.

I wish to recognize our Upper Darby Marching Royals for earning first place at the Cavalcade of Bands championship in Hershey on November 11th. The Upper Darby Marching Royals first place score of 90.8 earned them the award for high music and high overall effect. I would also like to take a moment to highlight superstar running back, Kareem McAdams. Kareem has rushed for over 1,377 yards and 19 TDs this past year. Check out his Royal Athlete video on the district website this month. And finally, I'd like to congratulate Don Strunk of the District's Grounds Crew for being named the District's Unsung Hero by our board of school directors. Don's story is on the district website, and it is worth a read.

In closing, I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break, and I thank you for giving me the chance to serve as your Acting Superintendent of Schools.



## The UD Arts & Education Foundation Service Club:

Showing the Spirit of Giving – ALL YEAR LONG!

The UD Arts and Education Foundation Service Club consists of students from 9th to 12th grade who are dedicated to providing service to the Upper Darby community. In addition the Club's goal is to raise money for the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation and promote unity.



The **UDAEF** sends **CHEERS** and **THANKS** to the warm-hearted, giving UDHS students who have been working hard in the UD Arts & Education Service Club! Since September these pro-active, 9th-12th grade students have volunteered at the Villanova Special Olympics, UD/Lansdowne Rotary Harvest Hustle, Philadelphia Marathon, UD Community Day, Lansdowne Park & Recreation Day, Alex's Lemonade Stand, and Philadelphia Marathon, Upper Darby International Festival, Lansdowne Arts Festival, Our Closet, and MANY others! These kids don't sit still for long and have huge hearts! Special recognition and thanks to Senior Student Leaders, Sumaya Islam, Vince Tran, Lisa and Nina Yang, Junior Student Leader, Tanzeela Riaz, and Sophomore Student Leader, Taherin Chowdhury for their strong leadership and organizational skills!

The **UD Arts & Education** Service Club truly puts **ROYAL PRIDE** into the Upper Darby community! [www.udfoundation.org](http://www.udfoundation.org)