

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Pat Lembo

Number 9
February 20, 2007

- On Monday evening, November 20, 2006, the Harlem Wizards professional basketball team played a District-Wide Faculty & Staff Team at the SUES. The objective of this game was to raise funds that would permit us to prepare for the development of a program to strengthen (in some cases, introduce) character traits – RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, TRUSTWORTHINESS, FAIRNESS, CARING AND CITIZENSHIP – to each 4th and 5th grader in the SUES.

The game was “sold out” with over 800 paying attendees enjoying a community evening of entertainment and enabling the SUES to obtain sufficient funds to finance the Character Education Program at the SUES through the end of the year. The Wizards have been scheduled for a “rematch” on Monday, April 30th to accommodate the fans who were turned away. The success of this program was achieved due to our District’s dedicated staff, faculty, PTO and community. We are currently planning Phase III of our Character Education Program for some time in August in which we hope to, yet again, include the Harlem Wizards. Keep your eyes open for when tickets become available for the “rematch” as they have become the “hottest ticket in town!”

- Kindness was contagious at Truman School during January 8 through 22, when the students, staff and parents participated in a “Kindness and Justice Challenge.” During this time, teachers recorded random acts of kindness performed by students in school and parents recorded those at home. The project generated a lot of excitement and support with the students engaged in a total of 3,181 acts of kindness during the two week time period. Integrating this activity into the math curriculum, the students were given data and the task of predicting how many acts of kindness would be completed by Truman School students. Congratulations to third grader, Samantha Buono, who was the winner of the contest with a prediction of 3,300 acts of kindness!

We also want to salute a third-grade student, Amanda Surratt, who performed an amazing act of kindness during our Kindness and Justice Challenge. Amanda helped save the life of an elderly lady in her neighborhood by demonstrating not only kindness and compassion, but excellent decision making. The lady had fallen and was in need of medical care. After hearing her cries for help, Amanda went to a nearby house of someone she knew and they called 911. The story has a happy ending because of Amanda’s actions that truly made a difference in saving the lady’s life who was suffering from cardiac problems. Truman School was very proud of Amanda and she was honored for her heroism. Congratulations to Amanda on a job well done!

Special thanks to the guidance counselor, Phyllis Illions, for planning and coordinating this worthwhile character education project for Truman School.

- March is “Youth Art Month” and in celebration both Middlesex County College and The Trenton State House will be hosting exhibits. Art work created by SUES students has been selected for the shows.

The Fourth Annual Middlesex County College exhibit March 4th - March 9th

Kristen Milligan – 4th grade
Daniela Contreras – 4th grade
Suhani Shah – 5th grade

The Trenton State House Art Exhibit – March 7th – March 13th

Jonathan Colon – 4th grade
Jane Pruszkowski – 5th grade
Brandon Bielak – 5th grade

The SUES is celebrating the month by displaying a different artist everyday and having a “You’ve Been Framed” art exhibit on March 21st from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

- Congratulations to Amy Stueber and Ruth-Anne Sokol, ASI Reading and Math teachers, on an outstanding 100-Day Celebration. The day-long event provided each grade level with four activities appropriate to their grade and level. The gymnasium was set up with four learning stations and the children rotated through each of them. Placing numbered shoes in order, reading a story and developing a list of 100 words learned this year as well as problem solving and writing about math was included in the activities. This was an outstanding event where children were able to apply previously learned concepts to each activity. Well done!
- On January 20, 2007, student musicians from throughout the State of New Jersey competed for placement in the New Jersey All-State Band. For the first part of the audition, students had to demonstrate competency in scales and sight-reading. The next section involved the performance of a professional-level classical solo. Congratulations to SWMHS Junior, Michael Squillace, for his acceptance into this prestigious group. He competed against over 300 other musicians throughout the state to earn his spot. He will be recording a compact disc with this group and will perform at Newark’s NJPAC auditorium in late February.

Michael has been actively involved with the Sayreville music program as a saxophonist and clarinetist since the 7th grade. He was a member of the Sayreville Marching Unit and Jazz Ensemble for four years. He has also been a member of the Sayreville High School Concert Band for the past three years.