

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Pat Lembo

Number 6
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- To salute New Jersey's public school heroes, the Philadelphia Eagles Network and the New Jersey education Association (NJEA) sponsored a student essay contest. The topic for the contest was "My New Jersey Public Hero" and students were asked to write an essay about a school employee that has had a positive impact on them. We are delighted to announce that Truman School third grader, Corie Anne Richardson, was selected as winner of the elementary level (grades kindergarten through 5) for an essay written about her second grade teacher, Mr. Eddie Howard.

Both Corie Anne and Mr. Howard were honored by Eagles player, L.J. Smith #82 – TE, on Tuesday, October 24th at Truman School. He presented both of them with two tickets, Eagles jerseys and VIP Tailgate passes to an Eagles' home game. Corie Anne and Mr. Howard, as well as four guests each, were honored at NJEA and Eagles Radio Hero Recognition Night on November 13, 2006, during American Education Week. In addition, Mr. Howard will be acknowledged for four weeks during the Eagles Radio Post-Game Show.

Three cheers for Corie Anne and Mr. Eddie Howard!!!

- Arleth School welcomed its first group of senior citizen volunteers. The members of the Sayreville Senior Center and our very own Grandparents go to Arleth School to work with small groups of children. What a wonderful addition to the Arleth School!
- A job well done to Arleth School's Mrs. Guiomar's third-grade class who sponsored the 1st Annual Giving Garden Fundraiser. The students sold pins for \$.50 each and a total of \$549.50 was raised by selling over 1,000 pins. This fundraiser will finance the Arleth School "Giving Garden," a plot made available to the students to plant and raise their own vegetables, while learning to care for them from seed to dinner! The produce grown from the garden will be donated to the Sayreville Food Bank to help those in need.
- A very special thank you goes to the students at Arleth School for their participation in Xerox's "Let's Say Thanks" program. Postcards were sent to soldiers to thank them for their bravery.
- The Samsel Upper Elementary community welcomed Sgt. O'Donnell and Officer Grausam of the Sayreville Police at an assembly that was held in their honor on October 20, 2006. Their visit was a culminating activity in a six week long school-wide initiative to collect money in their names for families of police officers killed in the line of duty from New Jersey. The students and faculty read about their "hometown heroes," Lt. Zebrowski, Sgt. O'Donnell and Officer Grausam joined other police officers across the state in completing a 267 mile bicycle ride leaving Ground Zero on September 8th and ending at the Pentagon on September 11th. This incredible journey entitled, "Tour De Force" was a way to commemorate the fifth anniversary of 9-11 and help remember the men and women who keep our communities safe.

Kathy Moskal and Linda Smith took on this endeavor with the help of Mr. Ed Aguiles and the entire school community. With everyone's hard work and commitment to help our heroes in their quest for raising money for the "Tour De Force," \$724.54 was raised and donated to their cause. To make this event even more special, the generous nature of the SUES PTO and the Sayreville Alliance for Family Education (SAFE) came through in a big way. Migdalia Rivera and the Samsel Upper Elementary School PTO sponsored a pizza luncheon with the officers for Jennifer Mahieu's homeroom who collected the most money during the campaign. Elyse Barone, Coordinator for SAFE and the Willabee program helped the SUES Willabees sponsor a bicycle raffle. The winners of the bicycle raffle were Tracy Diaz and Konstantin Mamedov.

An honorable mention goes to Dana Giorgianni and Adele Goldenberg who donated bicycle helmets that were also raffled and helped to promote bicycle safety as well. The true spirit of community by recognizing our "hometown heroes" was a valuable lesson for our students and an inspiration to our school community as a whole.

- Educational, entertaining, new and improved, an ASTRONOMICAL success...that's what the Samsel Upper Elementary School's "Astronomy Across the Curriculum" program was to both the young and old who attended this event. The program was born out of the ideas, organization and work of dedicated SUES teachers. The leadership involved in organizing this event is credited to Mrs. Bonnie Brady. Mrs. Brady orchestrated the "Astronomy Across the Curriculum" program and saw it come to fruition with the professional presentations and assistance of SUES staff members. A very special thank you goes to Mrs. Brady, Mrs. O'Keefe, Mr. Palermo, Mrs. Mazur, Mrs. Ust, Mrs. Pentek, Miss Smith, Miss Shortis, Mrs. Daszkowski, Ms. DeSantis, Mrs. Moskal, Mrs. Clarke, Ms. Duda, Ms. Griffiths, Mr. Lindemann, Mrs. Pfeffer, Mrs. Stratton and Mrs. Zydzik. We would also like to thank the following outside presenters that made this possible. They are: Telescope – Mr. Wisenfelder, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Fedor and Mr. Woznica; Twin Robots Exploring Mars – Dr. Kremer; Solar and Lunar Eclipses – Mr. Britz.
- The Sayreville School District continues to give back to the community by way of the "Dollars for Denim" program that some of our schools have adopted. Thanks to this program, Arleth School raised \$231 which will go to charitable organizations. The Selover School staff raised \$600 last school year and this amount was sent to the American Red Cross to help the victims of the Katrina disaster.
- Sayreville Public Schools won the National 2006-07 Student Data Management Award from Pearson School Systems for how the district manages student data to improve education. It was selected from among 1,600 school districts across the nation for its data management applications which have increased federal/state funding for programs like INFORM. Ms. Sutherland and Mrs. Karen Waranowicz were flown to Anaheim, California as Pearson's guests to accept the award on behalf of the district. Since Mrs. Waranowicz is the district's Student Information Systems Manager, the award is public testimony of the quality of the work she performs on a daily basis, as well as the innovative technological ideas she brings to the district.
- On November 6, 2006, over four hundred members of Sayreville's community and schools came out to the Starland Ballroom to celebrate the extraordinary talents of the students and the teachers of Sayreville War Memorial High School and to honor SWMHS alumnus, Patrick O'Brien. The Espresso Café was conceived of and developed by film and television production teacher, Susan Pellegrini and music teacher, Mr. James Craft in an effort to allow students to "express" themselves in video, music, poetry and comedy. To add an element of professionalism and excitement, the students have also been given the opportunity to perform in a professional venue. For the past two years, Tony Pallagrosi, the owner of the Starland Ballroom, has graciously allowed the teachers and the students to perform at Starland, free of cost. He has also allowed them to set up tables on the floor to create a coffeehouse feel.

Last year's Espresso Café was a tremendous success and this year proved to be even more meaningful as the teachers decided to add a charitable dimension to the show by benefiting Patrick O'Brien, a SWMHS graduate. Mr. O'Brien was in the first class of Ms. Pellegrini's film and television production program and set the standard for the students for years to come. After graduating, he went on to become a successful filmmaker. Unfortunately, in May 2005, he was diagnosed with ALS, an incurable, debilitating and terminal disease. In spite of his illness, Mr. O'Brien is an active filmmaker and is currently working on a documentary about his struggle with ALS. He and his film crew were at the Espresso Café and portions of the event may be included in his documentary.

In order to honor this talented, courageous and inspiring young man and to raise money to discover the cure for ALS, Espresso Café 2006 was performed in honor of Mr. O'Brien. All proceeds from the show, which totaled \$4,380, were donated to the Patrick O'Brien Foundation. This year, not only did the students of SWMHS get the opportunity to express themselves and showcase their talents, but they also got to participate in making a difference.

- The Band Parents Association held its Annual Night Of A Thousand Stars on Saturday, November 4th. Twelve schools, along with our own Marching Unit, performed for the crowd on a rather cold evening. Despite the temperature, a good time was had by all who attended and watched the musicians perform at their finest.

It was a great year overall for our Marching Unit. In our first competition this year, the Unit was awarded a second place finish. After that, the band was named the Number 1 unit in the next four competitions. We definitely had our eyes on the State championship.

At the State Competition, all of the hard work of the students and the instructors paid off as we once again were awarded a second place finish among the bands in our level. Everyone had their sights set on the regional championships, which were held in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 11, 2006. On that evening, the band didn't perform until 10:15 and despite being cold and tired, the band put on a phenomenal performance. We were awarded first place in five different areas and once again captured second place overall in the competition. Although a little disappointed, the students knew that they had just completed a fantastic season.

Congratulations to Director Eric Boehm, Assistant Director Scott Paul, their staff, the parents, but most of all, to our students for having such a great year. With only six seniors graduating, the best is yet to come!

- Congratulations to Mr. Nicholas Cifelli, SWMHS Boys' Soccer coach who was chosen as this year's GMC Boys' Soccer White Division Coach of the Year. Mr. Cifelli and the soccer team have accomplished much this season and deserve tremendous praise. Coach Cifelli, his staff and team represent the Sayreville School District with class and style and will always make us proud!
- I am pleased to announce those bus drivers who have earned the Safe Driver Awards:

1. Drivers who earned a one-year Safe Driver Award and are not present this evening are:

Terilyn Dahl
Alexis Dill
Sharon Hays
Kathleen Kunzman
Joanne Leon
Lena Mele

2. Drivers who earned a three-year Safe Driver Award and are not present this evening are:

Anna Jedrusiak
Barbara Mutilitis
Peter Olkiewicz