

TREDYFFRIN/EASTTOWN

School District News

Beaumont Traditions Continue with a Social-Distancing Twist

The Beaumont school family is discovering ways to enjoy each other's company and show school support by bringing back some of the activities they have grown to expect and love. Beaumont kicked-off the school year with its Ice Cream Social. This year, the school traded large tubs of ice cream and various toppings for individual cups of ice cream. The Ice Cream Social is a long running tradition that reunites old friends while allowing new students to meet the Beaumont community in a relaxed environment. As always, the Beaumont Bear was there to share in the celebration of the start of a new school year.

In previous years, Beaumont has celebrated International Peace Day school wide. This year, the entire school was encouraged to wear red to show their support for peace. Instead of traveling from class to class participating in Peace Day activities, each class celebrated individually. The meaning of peace was discussed, books were read and ideas and actionable steps toward world peace were created. While Peace Day was celebrated on a smaller scale this year, the seeds of peace were planted in the hearts and minds of the Beaumont students.

The traditions continued with the return of the school's in-person book fair. To ensure that each student had adequate space to social distance while perusing the books at the fair, each class was scheduled a time to visit and make purchases. The family night at the book fair was held outside, which allowed Beaumont families to shop and socialize. Families were encouraged to bring blankets and towels so they could sit and enjoy stories being read by Beaumont teachers.



▲ Riley Donnelly at the Ice Cream Social with Beaumont bear.

While many things have changed over the last 2 years, the Beaumont community is determined to bring normalcy to the school community by finding new ways to enjoy old traditions. As the school year progresses, Beaumont's dedicated parents and teachers will continue to find creative ways to combine the traditions of the past and the climate of today to bring the school community together safely.

School District Honors Retirees

The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District honored 43 retiring staff members from the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years at a reception on June 14, 2021. The employees were recognized for their years of service to the young people of the T/E community: Constance Bourque, 19 years; Shari Capriola, 31 years; Josephine Goodman, 20 years; Elizabeth Greenwood, 11 years; Charlemagne Jackson, 25 years; Marlene Jefferis, 12 years; Joan King, 22 years; Laurel Light, 14 years; Marcia Mariani, 35 years; Jean Mihelcic, 21 years; Susan O'Keeffe, 23 years; Kathryn Pokalo, 21 years; Kimberley Thomsen, 26 years; Patty McCarrin, 14 years; Maryann Walsh, 32 years; Julia Sponseller, 21 years; Harold "Rod" Kreis, 23 years; Denise Basquill, 5 years; Jeffrey Bradley, 24 years; Gina Moore, 17 years; Nancy Adams, 28 years; Amy Benner, 41 years; Debbie Donato, 27 years; Jo Anne Hilly, 20 years; Michele Murphy, 31 years; Lynn Peckjian, 12 years; Kathleen Apgar, 27 years; Susan Denisevicz, 21 years; Lori Henry-Watson, 32 years; Mary Katherine Kamfonas, 28 years; Louise Menna, 4 years; William Turley, 26 years; Susan Guy, 22

years; Ivy Kirsh, 22 years; Jan Sachs, 20 years; Joanne Barba, 18 years; Linda Carlisle, 32 years; Dawn Evans, 33 years; Marie Martorano, 24 years; Ginger Perry, 20 years; Diane Robb, 19 years; Christine Shaftic, 14 years; and Philip Taffe, 35 years.

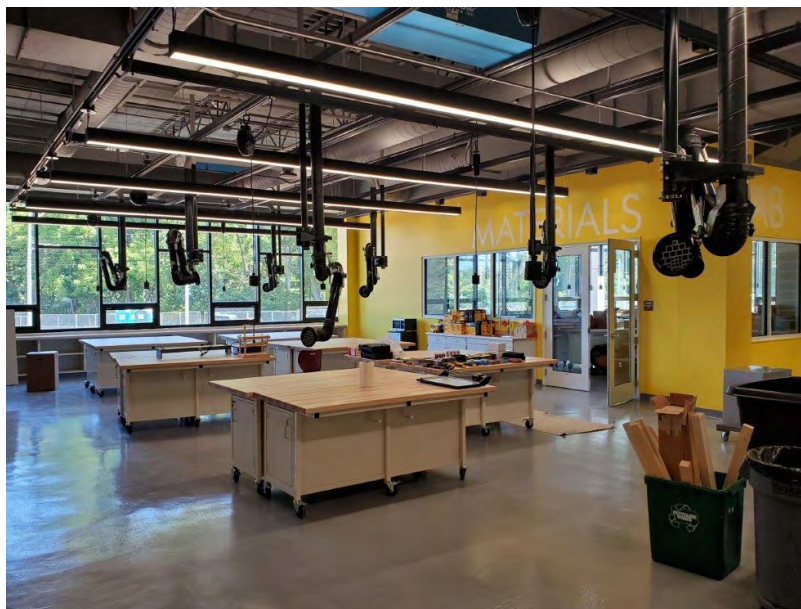
Congratulations to these dedicated staff members for their service to the school community.



Conestoga High School Shares New Facilities at Community Open House

On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, Conestoga High School hosted a community open house and ribbon cutting ceremony to share the opening of the school's renovation and expansion project. Conestoga's student peer mediators led tours of the new facilities prior to remarks from School Board President Michele Burger, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard Gusick and Conestoga High School Principal Dr. Amy Meisinger. In addition to the new atrium, the new addition contains over 20 instructional spaces and countless collaborative spaces for students to work together or individually. The instructional spaces include regular educational classrooms, science labs, specially designed classrooms, and a new fabrication laboratory to meet the increased needs of students through technology, creativity and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). In addition, portions of the existing building were renovated including additional instructional spaces, expanded administrative/counselor offices, expanded cafeteria space, additional specialized instructional spaces, expanded library space, and a new parking lot for increased parking access to students.

The District's construction partners were able to complete the addition and renovations in time for the school year to begin. Classrooms were detailed, meeting spaces were finalized, renovated spaces in the Conestoga footprint were finished, and the atrium received final touches. On August 31st, Conestoga welcomed 2,300 students to their first day of school and introduced the student body to the new addition and renovated spaces. While there are some aspects of the project that are still in



▲ The new fabrication laboratory provides a materials lab, robotics lab, graphic arts/design lab and a mechanical lab.

progress, by completing significant components of the projects, Conestoga was permitted to use the addition in time for the first day of school.

The new fabrication laboratory assists in expanding Conestoga's curriculum to meet the additional needs of students through a materials lab, robotics lab, graphic arts/design lab and a mechanical lab. These components of the fabrication laboratory allow a new and expanded way of meeting those needs.

The desks and instructional furniture in the addition and renovated spaces were designed to support students in achieving a more relaxed and comfortable approach to their learning methodology. The classrooms associated with this project have been furnished with mobile chairs that allow students to determine their own comfort level each period and expandable desktops that permit students to find comfortable ways to stand or sit while learning. Other areas within the school have been designed using the same parameters as the classrooms. The library, cafeteria collaborative spaces, meeting spaces and offices have been furnished with items that create a comfortable, collaborative and exciting learning environment for all students.

Although there are smaller portions of this project that still need to be completed, students are efficiently and effectively using the spaces as expected and designed. TESD is excited and grateful to the T/E Board of School Directors for their support of this project and for their support of the students within Conestoga High School and the students who will attend in the future.



▲ Conestoga High School senior class officers (left to right) Matthew Loftus, Molly Ryle, Johnny Papadopoulos, Maris Susas, Linc Zdancewicz and Brinina Altamirano participated in the Community Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 27, 2021.

Students as “Upstanders” at Devon Elementary

In mid-October, Devon Elementary students and staff arrived at school in pairs of mismatched socks. Unlike other “Silly Sock Days” that spread school spirit, this sock day fell on National Stop Bullying Day and served as a reminder to practice acceptance of all our unique differences. Students and staff had fun detailing their mismatched sock choices, drawing attention to our individual interests, personalities, and experiences.

During lunch periods on National Stop Bullying Day, Devon Elementary principal Todd Parker and school counselor Tami Noel delivered special presentations to help define bullying for students and brainstorm ways to keep Devon Elementary a “bully free zone.” Students learned what it means to serve as an observer, or “bystander,” to bullying and how to, instead, act as an “upstander” and take action against injustice. Students learned that upstanders speak up for others, include others that are excluded, and tell an adult about any observed bullying situations.

Each classroom at Devon Elementary is adorned with a “Bully Free School” poster outlining this familiar framework. Staff members help guide students to be upstanders and navigate any possible bullying situations. Though National Stop Bullying Day and “Mismatched Sock Day” come only once a year, everyday serves as a chance to be an upstander at Devon Elementary School.



A New Eagle Promise

New Eagle Elementary School’s character-building program kicked off this year with an outdoor pep rally on October 1st. Teachers and staff happily planned the pep rally to kick off the school’s character-building program. Dr. Gately, New Eagle Elementary principal, previously shared the book, *I Promise*, written by LeBron James. The book encourages readers to try their best at everything they do.

New Eagle teachers put on a basketball themed skit with the focus on teamwork. The teachers demonstrated four ideas: showing respect, having self-control, trying your best and having fun, while pretending to be part of two basketball teams. All New Eagle pep rallies include the school mascot, Swoop, greeting students as they enter the assembly area. Students and staff wear school colors, blue and gold. The theme of the year-long character-building program is planned by a committee of New Eagle core classroom and special area teachers. To encourage teamwork, students will receive a paper basketball when a staff member notices them doing one of the four ideas. Individual classrooms and the entire school earn the opportunity for rewards and spirit days throughout the year.

New Eagle’s school-wide character-building activities are a wonderful initiative for students. “The character-building activities connect seamlessly to our regular class meetings,” shared Alison Troy, a New Eagle kindergarten teacher. Troy believes the combination of teacher modeling, read aloud books, student role playing, and problem solving successfully helps build character in students at New Eagle. The goal of character-building is to support positive behavior and caring among New Eagle students within the school and home communities.



▲ New Eagle teachers take part in the school’s teamwork pep rally!

Conestoga High School Leads PA with 39 National Merit Semifinalists

Conestoga High School has again reported the most National Merit Semifinalists in all of Pennsylvania with thirty-nine this year. This recognition is based on the students' performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

National Merit Semifinalist recognition places students among the top 16,000 test takers which represent less than 1% of students nationwide. These academically talented high school seniors will go on to compete for over 7,600 scholarships through the National Merit Corporation or its sponsoring organizations. Congratulations to all of Conestoga's scholars!

Conestoga High School 2022 National Merit Semifinalists

Arjun Arasappan	Stella Lei	Shresht Sitaram
Michael Bagby	Joshua Li	Audrey Solomon
Dermott Breault	Daniel Marshall	Annie Sun
Shayl Chetty	Athira Menezes	Jeffrey Tan
Jacob Cho	Paige Munroe	Reese Wang
Michael Dobson	Sean Nissenbaum	Julia Wei
Daniel Gergeus	Sophia Pan	Chloe Williams
Hita Gupta	Rachael Pei	Charity Xu
Unnati Gupta	Nicholas Rinderle	Claire Youngblood
Emma Hopkins	Ramadhan Russell	Yiyang Yu
Rachel Jin	Umar Samdani	Wyatt Zantua
Adam Khalil	John Semmer	Ashley Zhang
Hyunkyung Lee	Aditya Sirohi	Hannah Zhang



National Bullying Prevention Month at VFES

To raise awareness on the important subject of bullying, Valley Forge Elementary School students and staff recognized National Bullying Prevention month in October through various building-wide activities. Carolyn Swetkowski, school counselor at VFES, kicked off National Bullying Prevention month by creating a video explaining how to identify bullying. Bullying



can take on many forms, and it is important for students to understand and be able to identify it. Mrs. Swetkowski read a story for each classroom to enjoy and discuss. In addition, The VFES School Climate Committee worked together to identify children's literature on the topic of bullying. The Committee created a read aloud menu that features different books on the subject. Each member of School Climate Committee chose a story to read and shared it with each classroom. Some of the selections included: *The Recess Queen*, *The Juice Box Bully*, and *Llama Llama and the Bully Goat*. These activities were a follow-up to our annual Olweus Bully-Prevention lesson that was completed in September. The Olweus program is designed to improve peer relations and make school a positive place for students to learn and develop. Goals of the program include reducing bullying problems among students, preventing the development of new problems and achieving positive peer relations at school. Students enjoyed the variety of literature throughout the month of October and learned the Kindness Pledge:

1. **We will not bully others.**
2. **We will try to help students who are bullied.**
3. **We will try to include students who are left out.**
4. **If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.**

Valley Forge Middle School Earns Designation from League of American Bicyclists

Valley Forge Middle School is excited to announce that they have been recognized as a bronze designation with the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Business program. VFMS is one of thirty-seven new awardees joining 1,458 Bicycle Friendly Businesses across America who are working to make our streets safer and better for bicyclists in their community. This all began when Valley Forge Middle School received a grant from Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association to promote the My School in Motion initiative. The purpose of the grant is to educate the next generation of commuters on the value of using biking and walking as a mode of transportation and the healthy-living benefits that these modes can help achieve. While the goal of the grant is to increase awareness and enthusiasm for walking and biking, the grant also lays the groundwork for serious conversations about investing in the infrastructure that allows for the safety of students as they walk or bike to and from school.

The League of American Bicyclists was founded as the League of American Wheelman in 1880. This organization's mission is to promote the benefits as well as the joy of bicycling for every member of our society. This national movement promotes the rights of people and businesses who bike in diverse communities. At Valley Forge Middle School, both biking and walking are integral components of the curriculum thereby promoting health

and safety as a life skill. Due to the growing number of students biking to VFMS, additional bike racks have been added to the school grounds. Hopefully, the biking and walking numbers at VFMS will continue to grow each year, and our streets will be safer for walkers and bikers as a result.



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated at Hillside

This year, September 15 through October 15 marked Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout the month, we honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors come from Central and South America, Spain, Mexico, and the Caribbean. At Hillside Elementary School, dedicated English Language Development teacher Julianne Kelly designed a beautiful display of books for the main hallway which celebrate our Latinex students. She also shared resources with teachers including links to book lists to expand knowledge of Hispanic heritage and to highlight Latinex authors. Additionally, Ms. Kelly worked with four of Hillside's amazing bilingual scholars to create a video read-aloud in Spanish and English of the book *Where Are You From*, by Yamilé Saied Mendez. The amazing readers are Mariana Solano Real (grade 4), Catherine Lopez-Flores (grade 2), Genesis Monterroso Diaz (grade 3), and Andrea Bonilla Diaz (grade 4). Many teachers shared the video with their classes. The book teaches a beautiful message about families and cultures: "You're from here, from my love and the love of all those before us.... You are from all of us." Additionally, a big thank you goes out to the Hillside PTO for a generous gift of classroom library books from

the Class of 2021. These books included many diverse authors and characters so that our students may see themselves reflected in more of our classroom materials. Hillside pride flowed throughout Hispanic Heritage Month!



▲ Hillside English Language Development teacher Julianne Kelly stands with students near the school's Hispanic Heritage Month display.

Science Excellence at T/E Middle School

Every expert once started out as a beginner. World renowned athletes, musicians, entertainers all began their journey from a place of learning and understanding. Excellence comes after much work that most people do not see.

TESD has a tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, performing arts, and music to name a few. Within each realm, there are students that excel in specific areas. There is no shortage of students that have received acclaim at the district, state, or even national level. TEMS 8th grader Rowan Chetty recently achieved success on a national level.

Last school year, Rowan competed in the Chester County Science Research Competition and placed first in his selected category of biology. Rowan worked with enzymes and how they are denatured in certain conditions and if they would digest faster or slower based on different variables. He then moved onto the Delaware Valley Science Fair and placed first in that competition.

After winning that competition, Rowan was nominated on a national level for the Broadcom Masters. This is a program of Society for Science that looks to identify top STEM talent in the country. Rowan placed in the Top 300 Masters in the country and was among thousands of students nominated for this group.

Rowan estimated that he was required to write 15 essays for the Broadcom Masters. These essays varied in topics from writing about his own life to discussing science ideas. Rowan has a passion for science and stated that he would potentially like to explore a career in biochemistry in the future.

Where did it all begin for Rowan?

He has two older brothers that were both involved in science fairs and interested in science as they came through TESD. Rowan's oldest brother, Shayl, is in 12th grade and he also has a 10th grade brother, Kieran. Rowan has always had an interest in science and

math and he joined the TEMS Science Olympiad group when he was in 6th grade.

Science Olympiad is a group offered to students in grades 6-8. This group is currently led by staff members Jothi Strohmetz and Colleen Johnson. In any given year, there will be between 30-40 group members. While the club meets after school once or twice a week throughout the year, students also complete work for the club outside of school.

The group will attend local and regional competitions. There are three types of competitions for students: building, labs, or testing. Performing well at local and regional competitions leads to moving onto the state level and beyond.

TESD is proud of the achievements of all of District students and is grateful for the support of staff and administration.



▲ T/E Middle School student Rowan Chetty is a member of the school's Science Olympiad team and has competed locally and nationally.