

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2009

Our Schools

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF WHIPPANY AND CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ



HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence in



A Message From the Superintendent

Welcome to the latest edition of the “*Excellence in Our Schools*” newsletter. Along with introducing our new faculty, this newsletter features some remarkable examples of community service projects that reflect the caring and generosity of this school community. In spite of the economic downturn, events such as the “One Day One School” school safety and beautification program to the “Concert for Kathy” and the various school based service projects show that the spirit of care and concern for others is still present. The power of the partnership between the parents, school, and community continues to inspire all of us to greater heights of excellence. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Scott R. Pepper, Superintendent of Schools

Student and Staff Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

- **Pictured On the Cover (clockwise from the top):**

1. *Some of the participants in the recent One Day One School program at Salem Drive School.*
2. *SDS students planting a shrub at the One Day One School event.*
3. *Sean Cashman, right, of Cashman Landscape, and crew planting a new tree during the One Day One School event.*
4. *Three volunteers help clean up at the One Day One School event, designed to help keep the school grounds safe.*
5. *Tom “Ace” Gallagher, founder of the One Day One School program, grinding a stump prior to new plantings going in.*

- The “One Day One School” program held at Salem Drive School on November 1, 2008 was a huge success in large part to the excellent turnout of tree care professionals and volunteers. The day started at 7:00 a.m. with the hanging of a 30 foot banner across the front of the school announcing the event. T-shirts were distributed to the attendees and a barbecue lunch featuring hamburgers and hot dogs was enjoyed by everyone. It is hard to describe the amount of work that was completed but estimates from the tree care professionals place the value of the work at somewhere between \$80,000-\$100,000. The program ended at about 4:00 p.m. A tree company also did work over at Mountview Road School as part of this event. Later this year, Ace will return to Salem Drive School to complete some additional tree work on the far end of the walking path as well as travel to Bee Meadow School to trim some branches on the



walking path by the playground area. Ace Gallagher, who is the “architect” of the program, was recognized at a recent Board of Education meeting.

- In December the Hanover Township Public Schools Kath-

Each year the Whippany Rotary donates dictionaries to all third graders in the district. This year the Whippany Rotary donated almost 200 dictionaries at Bee Meadow, Mountview Road and Salem Drive schools, valued at approximately \$400.

ryn Moser Endowment Fund was established, in memory of Kathryn R. Moser’s contribution and dedication to music education, to be used to enrich music education in the Hanover Township Public Schools.

- In February the Hanover Township Public Schools held a “Concert for Kathy” benefit concert. Hanover Township music teachers, staff members, parents, members of the community and music educators from Whippany Park High School all participated to make this musical event a huge success. \$12,400,

including donations, proceeds from the concert ticket sales and bake sale, have been donated to the Kathryn Moser Endowment Fund so far.

- Earlier this year the 3M Corporation donated 23 digital media systems to the Hanover Township Public Schools. The digital systems, which are mounted to the wall, can convert any whiteboard into an interactive computer screen. The total estimated value for the donation is about \$100,000.
- HTSACC was awarded a \$1500 grant and curriculum materials from the IBM Global Work/Life Fund to implement the Healthy Eating/Active Time (HEAT) Club in the HTSACC After School Kids programs at BMS, MTV and SDS.



Mr. George Moser poses with music teachers Tracy Currie and Jessica Shupp at the Concert for Kathy.



MTV HTSACC After School Kids stretching and warming up for some HEAT club activities.

Student and Staff Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

- Bee Meadow School Student Council members volunteered at Super Saturday.
- SDS 4th graders held their annual Biography in a Bottle program.
- BMS Student Council donated \$350 to the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter.
- BMS Student Council donated \$200 to U.S. troops stationed in Iraq through Senator Bucco's office.



Bee Meadow School PTA held another successful Super Saturday on January 31, 2009. Teachers and parents volunteered their time to "work" the various games, prize booth, cake walk, etc. and serve refreshments.



Ms. Tracy's PACT students held a toy Trade Show to display and try to "sell" their prototypes. Parents and faculty attended as "buyers" who each chose their favorite toys. The Trade Show was a success for all.

- Two SDS students were awarded certificates of recognition and savings bonds for their 2nd and 3rd place awards in the 3rd-5th grade level of the "Kids Care" Holiday Card

Program competition sponsored by the NJ Elks. They did an outstanding job recognizing our veterans in their artwork and words.

- The BMS Elementary Strings Ensemble, under the direction of Maria Valla, performed at the January Board of Education Meeting.



MJS Student Council held its annual "Caring and Sharing" program. Preschoolers from Collinsville Child Care Center in Morristown were bussed to MJS on December 22. They were entertained by the MJS choir and eighth grade band and were presented with holiday gifts.

Ms. Tracy's PACT classes visited the New York City Financial District. The students have been studying the world of business and the stock market this year and had a wonderful time learning more about Wall Street firsthand.



- MTV first graders have been studying the Solar System including the moon, sun and the planets. As part of the unit on the Solar System, students were asked to design



Close to 200 people participated in the SDS Student Council sponsored 21st annual parent-student basketball game. The 3rd-5th grade students played against their parents and staff.

- MTV hosted a visit from one of their favorite authors, Dan Gutman, thanks to the generosity of the MTV PTA. Mr. Gutman gave students some great writing tips, and met with students who read one of his books, "The Homework Machine"

- Third graders at SDS presented their Save the Animals program to increase awareness about endangered animals.



Mr. Anderson teaches a lesson using one of the twenty-three 3M Digital Media Systems, donated to the Hanover Township Public Schools by 3M Corporation, valued at approximately \$100,000.

Student and Staff Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions



MTV teacher, Linda Kerins (right) with her sister, Maureen Mosh, outside the entrance to the Home State Ball.

- MTV teacher, Linda Kerins spent 3 days in Washington DC for the historic presidential inauguration. Prior to her trip, she had her students make up interview post cards for her to hand out. Each post card had the campaign phrase “Yes We Can...” on it along with space for the interviewee’s signature and occupation. Twenty people took the time to write responses for her class. They shared what they thought should and could be accomplished during the new administration. As Mrs. Kerins collected the cards she took a picture of each responder. Her class is printing out the pictures, typing the responses to accompany each picture, and planning a bulletin board to display the results.

- An MJS student and a BMS student were chosen for parts in the Whiphany Park High



Mrs. Iwicki teaches a class using the Senteo interactive system, donated through a grant provided by the MJS PTA, valued at \$2,500. She asks questions, while her students anonymously key in answers with their remote. The responses are tallied and displayed instantly on a projection screen or interactive whiteboard.

School musical production of Les Miserables.

- BMS Student Council donated 500 lbs of food to the Morris County Interfaith Food Pantry.
- BMS Student Council collected \$688 so far for the “Pennies for Patients” program organized by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- SDS held a food drive for the Interfaith Food Pantry and a toy drive for Valerie Fund and Tomorrow’s Children Fund during the holiday season.



The MTV fifth grade physical education show, “Feel the Music and the Beat Goes On” took place on February 11, 2009. Among the many events was the Disco Party Dance, where students danced the hustle dressed in clothes worn by club goers in the 1970s. The show was conceived, directed and choreographed by Mrs. Wendy Gibbons, physical education teacher.



Seven MJS students were chosen to participate in the North Jersey Area Band. The festival began with an audition process in December. During the week of January 12-17 the students rehearsed for more than 17 hours and performed in a concert on January 18, 2009. The concert was outstanding and our students did a fantastic job!

- Three MJS students were chosen for North Jersey Regional Band.
- Seven MJS students were chosen to the North Jersey Regional Chorus.

Two MJS students placed second and third in the Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest sponsored by the Veteran’s of Foreign Wars Post No. 5351. They were presented with plaques at the January 27, 2009 Board of Education Meeting.



The Jump Rope for Heart fundraising event took place during gym classes the weeks of February 9, and 23, 2009 at BMS and SDS. Pictured are BMS jump-ropers with Mr. Simek, physical education teacher.



Meet Our Excellent New Staff



- Jennifer Gaffey is our long-term substitute Health and Physical Education Teacher at Memorial Junior School for the remainder of the school year. She received her BA in Health and Physical Education from Kean University. In her spare time she likes to run, read and go to the beach. She loves playing, watching and coaching almost any sport!



- Stefanie Kriegel is the new Resource Center Teacher at Memorial Junior School. Previously she worked for five years at Bee Meadow School as a Special Education Teacher in the Autism classroom. She received a BA in Elementary Education, a BA in Psychology and her Teacher of the Handicapped Certification from the College of Saint Elizabeth.

- Laura Diamante is the new 5th grade teacher at Salem Drive School. Previously she taught at Bee Meadow School in the self-contained Autism classroom and in grades 2 and 3. Mrs. Diamante earned her BA in Elementary and Special Education at Seton Hall University. Prior to joining us in Hanover Township she taught for six years at the Morris Union Jointure Commission.



- Tina Charalambopoulos is teaching 2nd grade at Mountview Road School. She graduated from Wagner College, where she earned a Masters of Science in Elementary Education. Prior to coming to Hanover Township, Ms. Charalambopoulos taught 3rd grade at PS 52 in Staten Island for over two years. Her hobbies are



exercising, listening to music and traveling.



- Caitlin Smith is enjoying her position at the long term substitute Coordinated Services teacher at Mountview Road School through June 2009. She lives in Butler with her husband, Ryan, 6 month old daughter, Lily and her Yorkie, Bailey. She graduated from

Penn State with a BA in Elementary Education. Prior to coming to Hanover Township, she had been a long term substitute in grades 1 and 3 at Lincoln Park Elementary School for the past two years.



Hanover Township music faculty was joined by Whippany Park High School music teachers and community members to form a great jazz band at the Concert for Kathy.

(Left) MJS language arts teacher, Dan Diaz played guitar and he and PACT teacher, Shana Tracy sang a beautiful version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah at the Concert for Kathy. (Right) Hanover Township staff and friends sang in the chorus.



**SPRING 2008
STATE TESTING
DISTRICT RESULTS**

MATHEMATICS

GRADE	NUMBER TESTED	PERCENT PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	PERCENT PROFICIENT	PERCENT ADVANCED PROFICIENT	TOTAL PERCENT PROFICIENT
3	188	3.2%	53.2%	43.6%	96.8%
4	179	7.8%	41.9%	50.3%	92.2%
5*	182	13.7%	48.4%	37.9%	86.3%*
6*	174	18.5%	43.4%	38.2%	81.6%*
7*	177	30.5%	38.4%	31.1%	69.5%*
8	149	16.1%	42.3%	41.6%	83.9%

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

GRADE	NUMBER TESTED	PERCENT PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	PERCENT PROFICIENT	PERCENT ADVANCED PROFICIENT	TOTAL PERCENT PROFICIENT
3	188	8.0%	81.3%	10.7%	92.0%
4	179	9.0%	80.3%	10.7%	91.0%
5*	182	22.0%	68.1%	9.9%	78.0%*
6*	174	22.7%	72.7%	4.7%	77.4%*
7*	177	10.7%	63.8%	25.4%	89.2%*
8	149	3.4%	83.9%	12.8%	96.7%

All results include both regular and special education students.

*Test results in grades five through seven are based on new (higher) standards.

*“A Community That Inspires Excellence”
Support Hanover Township Public Schools*

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