

Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

April, 2022

U.S. AMBASSADOR AND CONGRESSMAN VISIT PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Pemberton Township High School proudly hosted United States Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Congressman Andy Kim in an interactive assembly on April 12.

Thomas-Greenfield was nominated by President Joe Biden to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations as well as the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations on January 20, 2021. Kim currently represents the Third Congressional District of New Jersey which consists of a majority of Burlington County and

Schools superintendent Jeffrey Havers. The pair took a moment to watch the high school's band perform along with Havers before entering the auditorium to be introduced by Pemberton Township High School principal Eder Joseph. Kim began the assembly by introducing himself and informing the audience of Thomas-Greenfield's notable contributions as a diplomat in the Foreign Service. Fourth and fifth grade students from Fort Dix Elementary School in addition to Pemberton Township High School students listened as Thomas-Greenfield discussed the purpose of the United Nations and the alignment of the Security Council. She also discussed her recent travels to Moldova and Romania, and expressed the severity of the war in Ukraine. The Security Council representative emphasized the importance of developing relationships with one another within one's career.

"It's about developing relationships and friendships and engagements that will serve you well (for) all of your lives," Thomas-Greenfield said. "I've done this for almost 40 years. I was in the Foreign Service for 35. I hope that one of you today will decide because you heard me and Congressman Kim that you (will) want to pursue a career in the Foreign Service."

Students also participated in a Q-and-A session with the Ambassador and Congressman. Students asked

a variety of questions pertaining to relationships in the United Nations, legislation processes, influential role models, career choice and public service.

Thomas-Greenfield and Kim watched



Andy Kim, left, and Linda Thomas-Greenfield, right, answer questions from students at PTHS and Fort Dix.

the Fort Dix Elementary School choir perform a rendition of *America the Beautiful* before entering the designated green room for another Q-and-A session with members of the press and students. The event concluded with photos in the green room before Thomas-Greenfield and Kim departed.

"It was a great honor to host the Ambassador and Congressman at Pemberton Township High School," Havers said. "Both our students and staff members were privileged to have them share their experience, wisdom and passion for public service. It was an exceptional opportunity for our students, and one they will not forget."



Linda Thomas-Greenfield, center, and Andy Kim, right, arrive and are welcomed by superintendent Jeffrey Havers, left.

parts of Ocean County. The district serves 53 municipalities.

Upon their arrival, Thomas-Greenfield and Kim were greeted by Pemberton Township



Pemberton Learning Community: *Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time*

PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS CELEBRATES WELLNESS WEEK

Students throughout the district participated in a plethora of health-based activities and events from March 21 to March 25 as a part of Wellness Week. The initiative was created to attain educational goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical



Newcomb sixth-grader Ah'Mira Middleton prepares to throw a football to a group of her classmates as they participate in outdoor recess.

activity, and to incorporate school-based activities that promote student wellness. These activities are planned and coordinated annually by each school's principal and carried out by teachers and students.

"It's important for our students to participate in Wellness Week activities and learn about healthy habits to attain better physical and mental health outcomes," Assistant Director of School Counseling and Health Services Rita Jenkins said. "Healthy habits help our students grow up happy and healthy, as well as contribute to preventing future health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease."

The week kicked off with sixth-grade students at Newcomb wearing red attire to represent heart health awareness. Apples and red peppers were also offered to students at lunch to fulfill the red-themed day and promote healthier eating habits.

Students were also encouraged to exercise during recess with various

activities such as basketball, jump roping and non-contact football.

Activities continued on March 22 with students at Busansky engaging in a "Don't Judge a Book by its Cover" fitness activity. Physical education instructor Shane Thomson guided students through a virtual classroom workout that incorporated books as weights. The participants used two textbooks at a time as dumbbells, and completed various strength-based tasks including bicep curls, lunges and shoulder lifts.

March 23 was designated as "Workout Wednesday" at Helen Fort, and all seventh and eighth graders began their physical education learning periods with specialized warm-ups.

Students at Pemberton Township High School participated in a handful of activities in their physical education classes from yoga and zumba to strength-based workouts such as weight lifting. Instructors also developed fitness challenges and stations to help



Students at Newcomb were served apples and red peppers for lunch as a part of a red-themed heart health awareness initiative.

gauge physical performance. The students utilized a health app to track their steps and measure their physical progress.

The week concluded with Fort Dix hosting a March Madness Basketball Game for students to coincide with the ongoing NCAA Tournament. Students

were split into two teams and competed



Fort Dix student Kayled Rudd attempts to shoot the basketball while the red team plays defense in the school's March Madness game.

against each other for bragging rights. One student was assigned as the play-by-play announcer and another student performed as the school mascot. The game was live-streamed and viewed by the entire school.

Denbo-Crichton watched principal Brett Thorp get pied in the face by 19 students and one staff member after each person raised at least \$5 towards the Kids Heart Challenge.

Last but not least, Emmons concluded its week with a "Drop Everything and Dance" event. At 3:30 pm, music blared through the intercom system and students were encouraged to get up and dance.

"I think health and physical education is more important than ever at the elementary level," Fort Dix physical education teacher Ian Doyle said. "After these past few years, the new buzz word we hear constantly in education is social-emotional learning. However, this is nothing new to education. In fact, it's what we do every single day in the gym. Students are challenged to socially interact and work cooperatively to achieve success. The bonus is that students are practicing healthy lifestyle habits while working together."

DENBO-CRITCHTON COORDINATES CEREAL BOX DOMINO CHALLENGE TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED

Fourth grade students participating in the Gifted and Talented Program at Denbo-Crichton have studied ways to transfer energy through dominoes and chain reaction machines throughout the duration of the current school year.

So when Wendy Larue, the Denbo-Crichton and Stackhouse Pre-GATE and GATE teacher for



Fifth grade student Mayson DeJesus knocks down the first cereal box in the domino chain. DeJesus led all students with 89 cereal boxes donated.

grades 1 through 5, discovered the “Cereal Box Challenge” via social media, she figured it’d be an ample opportunity to utilize physics in the classroom to assist families in need.

“I saw a video on Facebook where another school did the cereal domino challenge,” Larue said. “I thought it would be a good way for the fourth grade GATE kids to demonstrate what they’ve been doing all year.”

The Cereal Box Challenge is a project designed to collect cereal boxes to help stock local food pantries. The donations will first be collected and aligned in a domino-like formation. The goal is to incorporate a splash of entertainment for participating students and to see how long a chain can span before being knocked down.

The GATE students mapped out different routes for the cereal boxes to travel around the school and took measurements of the hallways to figure

out how many boxes would be needed. Once it was determined the designed routes would require over 1,000 boxes, Larue and her students presented a cereal box collection contest to the entire school.

“It took an hour to do and we were really excited to do it,” fourth grader Jackson Fortier said. “We used a lot of basic gravity and kinetic energy. We needed the dominoes to be around the same height so they could fall down on each other and make it down all the way to the finishing point.”

Participants also determined that incorporating incentives would augment the possibility of increased participation throughout the entire building. The founders of the challenge created a benchmark that rewards the classroom that collects the most boxes overall. The student that gathered the most cereal donations was able to knock down the first box of the domino chain. The winning classroom from each grade level was also allowed to pick a box of cereal to take home.

Fifth grade student Mayson DeJesus led all students with 89 cereal boxes donated. DeJesus’ contributions helped his class win the contest by providing a school-best 243 cereal boxes.

Ms. Earlin’s class led all kindergarten rooms with 76 boxes, Mrs. Manchester’s class led first grade with 43, and a tie between Ms. Dawson and Ms. Hodge’s class and Mrs. Gale’s class resulted in the second grade division as both classes donated 26 each.

Ms. Pearson’s class led third grade units with 47, Mrs. McCuen and Mrs. Orlovsky’s class led fourth grade rooms with 44, and Ms. Dunn’s fifth grade class contributed their 243.

Larue, who also serves as the

National Elementary Honor Society Chapter Advisor at Denbo-Crichton, was able to include her fifth grade NEHS students in the



Fourth grade GATE Program student Skylar Harper helps set up the cereal box domino chain at Denbo-Crichton.

challenge as well.

The fifth grade NEHS students have been working on service project ideas, so they jumped in to help promote the contest by making posters, going to each classroom to explain the guidelines of the contest, and making promotional announcements over the school’s intercom system.

After the cereal box domino challenge concluded, the remainder of the donations were given to the Christian Caring Center. Larue also noted that the CCC will be sharing the donations with their sister organization, Beacon of Hope in Mount Holly.

Denbo-Crichton collected over 1,300 boxes of cereal.

“This just seemed like such a neat, cool idea,” fourth grade GATE student Sofia Bivins said. “I know that there are a lot of people suffering. Sometimes I hear about it and it makes me feel horrible. A lot of people don’t have that, so just to be able to give them something to eat is something that I am so grateful and happy for because they are the ones that deserve it and need it.”

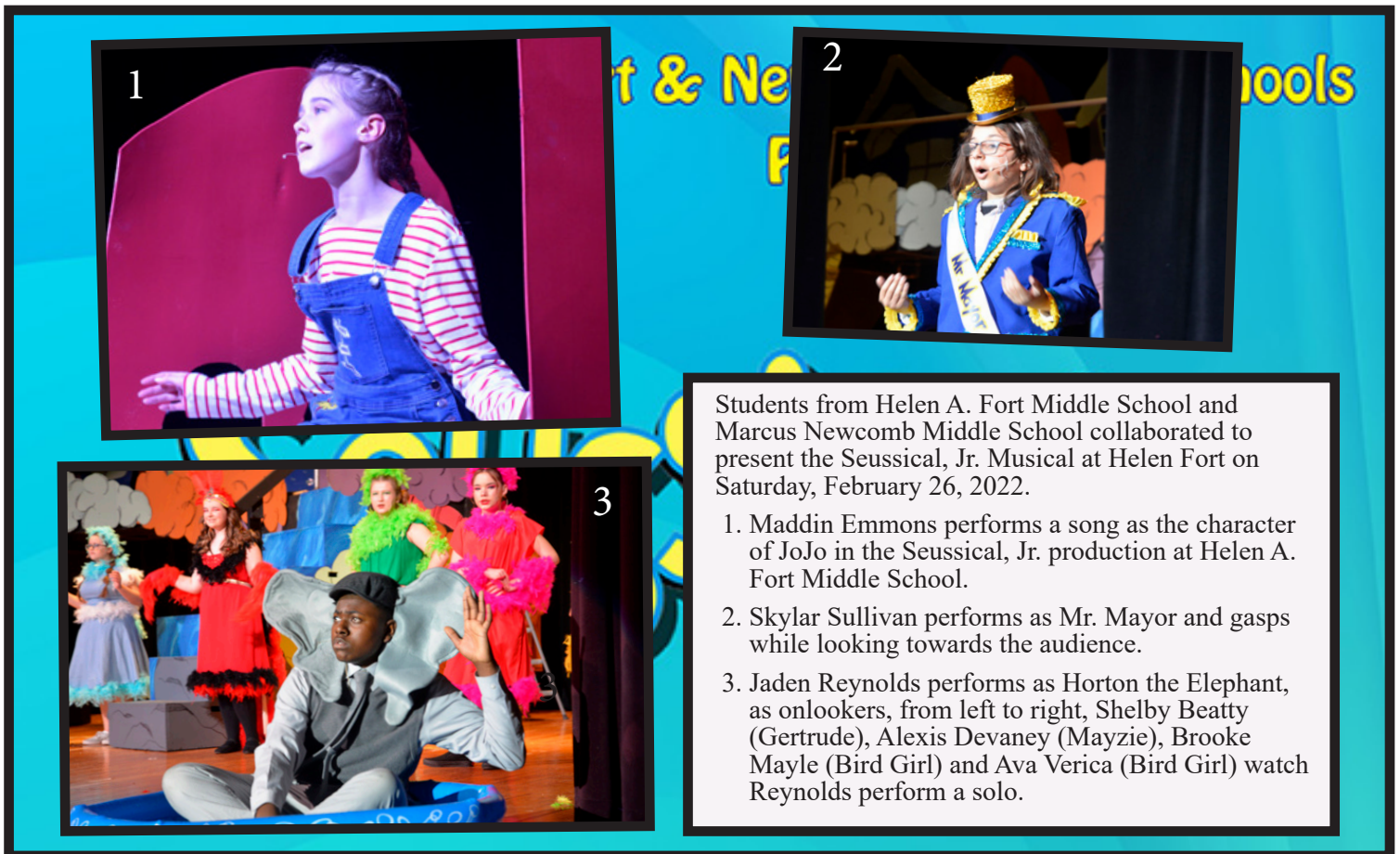
Denbo-Crichton Students Create Black History Wax Museum



Students in Mrs. Ondo's third grade class created their own Black History Month Wax Museum to highlight Black History Month and teach other classes about prominent African-American figures in United States history.

1. Everett Vancho poses as Jackie Robinson.
2. Jennifer Aries Diez strikes a pose as Serena Williams.
3. Kristian Benson stands as George Foreman.

Pemberton Players Jr. Present Seussical Jr.



Students from Helen A. Fort Middle School and Marcus Newcomb Middle School collaborated to present the Seussical, Jr. Musical at Helen Fort on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

1. Maddin Emmons performs a song as the character of JoJo in the Seussical, Jr. production at Helen A. Fort Middle School.
2. Skylar Sullivan performs as Mr. Mayor and gasps while looking towards the audience.
3. Jaden Reynolds performs as Horton the Elephant, as onlookers, from left to right, Shelby Beatty (Gertrude), Alexis Devaney (Mayzie), Brooke Mayle (Bird Girl) and Ava Verica (Bird Girl) watch Reynolds perform a solo.

STACKHOUSE COIN DRIVE RAISES MONEY FOR BURLINGTON COUNTY ANIMAL ALLIANCE

Students and staff at Joseph L. Stackhouse Elementary School coordinated a coin drive to raise money for a local animal shelter.

The service learning project stemmed from the second grade team in connection to their language arts unit on “Alexander Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday.” It marked the first time Stackhouse held a coin drive event as the second grade students felt a need to raise money for an animal shelter.

“I am extremely proud of our generous students and their families for supporting this cause,” principal Robin Blue said. “A lot of teachers went over with the students as they brought their coins in that they are demonstrating one of our core values of service.”

Stackhouse raised a total of \$489.92. A representative from the Burlington County Animal Alliance visited Stackhouse to receive the donation on April 1.



Students at Stackhouse taped principal Robin Blue to the wall as part of a fundraiser, and presented a check for \$489.92 to a representative from the Burlington County Animal Alliance on Friday, April 1, 2022.

Mrs. Spili's class raised \$230, the most of any class, and was able to tape Blue to the wall in the cafeteria as a result of the outcome.

Mrs. Waters' class also participated in the taping after finishing in second place.

Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Morrow's classes finished third and fourth, respectively, and earned the privilege of watching the activity live and assisting in the taping of Blue.

The remainder of the classes were able to witness the event via live stream.

“I think it is important for our students to be able to see that

they were able to help animals get help in their own county,” Blue said. “It makes it even better that it could be an organization that their families have rescued from or might in the future. We want the students to learn that service is not only helping those in the school and at home, but also helping in our community.”

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