

# Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

January, 2022

## THE ARTS REEMERGE WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES IN 2021

From the annual PTHS musical to a plethora of winter concerts on the elementary and intermediate level, students throughout the district participated in a variety of live, in-person art and music based events for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic emanated.

PTHS choral director and FAME Academy facilitator Christina Pinto collaborated with PTHS band director Raymond Quattrochi, PTHS alum Patrick Poole and Helen Fort colleagues Afton Pressley and Frank Zintel to create and perform a rendition of Charles Dickens' novella "A Christmas

Pemberton Players worked collectively to bring the musical to life. Art students in the FAME Academy helped design and construct the set, in addition to helping create costumes. Students from Amanda Taglairino's guitar and piano classes performed in the lobby for guests during intermission. And of course, students put their acting abilities to the test in a trio of performances in front of the public.

"We just thought, 'let's try something new and different,'" Pinto said. "Let's try to re-inspire our music program. (Patrick) and his wife wrote the adaption to "A Christmas Carol." We picked out the music that was geared towards our students. It gave us time to really figure out who our students are this year. We're all pulling together."

Sixth grade students at Newcomb, along with seventh and eighth graders at Helen Fort, collaborated to participate in the first band and choir concert of the winter season. The show kicked off with sixth grade band members from Newcomb performing a handful of holiday songs. Newcomb's choir students followed up the performance with their own series of sing-alongs before the seventh and eighth grade students took the stage to showcase their instrumental and vocal work to those in the audience. Pressley, Helen Fort's choral director, guided the choir students from both schools during their production while Zintel, Helen Fort's band director, enthusiastically directed

the band students with help from a few student volunteers from PTHS.

The reemergence of the arts continued as elementary students at Emmons, Denbo-Crichton and Stackhouse provided the district with three



*Leia Marker, left, performs as Christmas Past and Maddie McGreevy, right, performs as Scrooge at this year's winter musical.*

Carol." Their unique creation combined the theatrical drama of the original play with the joyous sound of classic holiday tunes.

Members of the FAME Academy and the



*Denbo-Crichton fifth grade student Abigail Tornetta sings on stage at the Wolfpack's winter concert on December 15, 2021.*

consecutive days of musical fun from December 14 to December 16.

"It meant so much to me to provide this opportunity to students and families," Stackhouse music director Zabrielle Holloway said. "For many of my students, this was their first time ever performing, so they were very excited. I know that there were definitely more nerves for them than I've seen in previous years considering that performing was completely new to the students. I'm so glad that our students are having these experiences and making these memories again!"



*You can get there from here!*

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

# HELEN FORT TEACHER NAMED NJ STATE EXEMPLARY SECONDARY EDUCATOR FOR 2021

Helen A. Fort Middle School teacher Jennifer Paetzold Jedrzejewski has been named a 2021 New Jersey Exemplary Secondary Educator as awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education. Jedrzejewski currently teaches eighth grade science and has been with Pemberton Township Schools for

acknowledged for her superb ability to plan lessons that include activities and assessments that appeal to different modalities, and her utilization of activities to get all students excited about their learning. In addition, she exhibited exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom by serving on the Character.org committee that helped earn Helen A. Fort Middle School the New Jersey School of Character designation in 2018. She was also one of the leaders in a successful effort to seek National School of Character recognition, which the school achieved in 2019.

inspiring her students and co-workers to be their best through her upbeat and encouraging personality. Her fellow teachers see



*Helen Fort principal Tami Strege, left, presents Jennifer Jedrzejewski, right, with her certificate after being named an NJ State Exemplary Secondary Educator for 2021.*

seven years. In total, she has spent 13 years in education. Jedrzejewski received her certificate from Helen Fort principal Tami Strege on November 24.

“Its an incredible honor,” Jedrzejewski said. “I am a graduate of Pemberton Township High School and was once a student at Helen Fort Middle School, just like my students are now. It is critical for our students to see people from their community be successful so that they can feel empowered to dream big and one day achieve their goals.”

Jedrzejewski was honored for her effective instructional practices and student learning results through her understanding of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. She was

“Jen is a partner in Character Education,” Patrick Hines, the co-chair of the committee said. “I have no clue where I would be without her if she was not my partner in this. She is always helpful to her colleagues and finds ways to better our school. She is an adaptive teacher who always finds ways to educate her students.”

She was also appointed to direct Helen Fort Middle School’s reopening committee in the spring of 2020 and volunteered her time to assist administration with plans for a safe and successful reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also showcased her long-range potential for professional and policy leadership by assisting vice principals in August 2020 in a professional development seminar.

Jedrzejewski has worked hard to motivate and impact students, colleagues, and the community. Colleagues say that she is always



*Jedrzejewski also helped Helen Fort Middle School earn it’s National School of Character designation in 2019.*

her as a star and admire her courage and determination she showcases when facing adversity.

“She works so hard to engage all learners,” Strege said. “Mrs. Jedrzejewski unites others around a common purpose. Her love for science and teaching is evident in her classroom, lessons, and her connection with staff and students. Mrs. Jedrzejewski is amazing and works so hard to ensure she reaches her kids.”

Jedrzejewski’s commitment also landed her Helen A. Fort Middle School Teacher of the Year honors for the 2020-2021 school year.

“Mrs. Jedrzejewski embodies the idea of craftsmanship,” Strege said. “A role model to the students and staff, she cares about everyone’s feelings and goals; she wants what is best for everyone she knows. Whether through sharing resources, giving others a good laugh, and as always, providing top-notch instruction to her students, she inspires others every single day to be better.”

# Fort Dix Students Explore New Space Program



Students in grades 3-5 had an opportunity to speak with Captain Anderson, a member of the US Space Force. Fort Dix Elementary School used the STEM2Space occasion as a kick off event to preview their upcoming incorporation of STEAM classes.

A separate and distinct branch of the armed services, the STEM2Space campaign offers participating guardian volunteers, ranked with stripes of all military achievements. The guardians raise awareness about Space Force services and contributions to national security and daily life, while highlighting the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in space.

These learning experiences will allow students to discover, create, and own solutions to real-world problems while using the latest technologies. As students apply the standards in science, math, and art, they will also develop and refine leadership and problem-solving skills through collaborations and presentations.

# Burl. Co. Sheriff's Department Holiday Toy Drive



Staff members from Howard L. Emmons Elementary School visited the Burlington County Sheriff's Department on December 10, 2021 to collect holiday toy donations for students in the district.

1. Teacher's aide Geraldine Cole-Brown hands donations to Emmons guidance counselor Krista Samuels.
2. Burlington County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Mroczka helps Emmons nurse Natalie Weekes organize donations in her trunk.
3. Burlington County Sheriff's Department detective Sgt. Giannini and her canine companion, Niko, receive a gift from the Emmons staff for their generosity and selflessness during the holiday season.

# FORT DIX STUDENTS GATHER TO COLLECT CANNED GOODS FROM 174TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

The 2-315 Brigade Engineer Battalion made an untraditional stop along its daily marching route at Fort Dix Elementary School on December 14. The unit, which is a part of the 174th Infantry Brigade at Fort Dix, arrived in a variety of outerwear from their daily uniforms, to Christmas gear and even flashy pajamas, to deliver canned goods and boxed food donations for students to collect and organize for this past holiday season.

The students greeted the soldiers with waves and cheers as they arrived listening to Christmas music, before helping each participating soldier unpack their backpacks and organize the canned goods into boxes.

Students then began to work together to lift the cargo and transport each box to a shopping cart that would hold all of the donations.

Fort Dix main office secretary Anna Visco coordinated



*Members of the Fort Dix 2-315 Brigade Engineer Battalion arrive at Fort Dix Elementary School to deliver canned goods along their marching route.*

the occasion by beginning communications with an official on base and making sure the classrooms would be aligned and prepared for the soldiers' arrival.

Visco also communicated with Tara Kosinski at Pemberton Township High School to ensure the donations would be delivered to the high school and received by the Interact Club. The Interact Club plans to evenly separate the donations and use them at future community outreach based events.

"I am so proud of our staff for coordinating this beneficial event and of our students for their

participation," Fort Dix principal Darvis Holley said. "I can't thank our local soldiers enough for all that they do for our Pemberton Learning Community and their service to this nation. The students responded well and were enthusiastic in helping the soldiers organize the canned food donations. We hope to continue our tradition of giving moving forward."

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