

Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

May, 2021

PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS CELEBRATES MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The Pemberton Learning Community celebrated Month of the Military Child with various activities throughout the month of April. Pemberton takes an enormous amount of pride in providing the local military community with a quality education. The empathy and support that the staff has shown throughout the years has allowed us to provide an education that fits the unique needs and challenges of the military student.

Students throughout the entire district celebrated National Purple Up Day on April 15 to recognize Month of the Military Child. The color purple



Fort Dix kindergarten student Lincoln Laubaugh shows off his "Keep Calm and be Military Kid Strong" shirt.

symbolizes all branches of the military colors. The Coast Guard is represented by blue, the Army by green, the Navy by blue, the Marines by red and the Air Force by blue.



You can get there from here!

The Child and Youth Program (CYP) from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst visited Fort Dix Elementary School and set up a table and banner while volunteers presented students with gift bags.

"The Child and Youth Program put that together," said Dr. Tamra Garbutt, principal of Fort Dix Elementary School. "They wanted to do something for the military kids for Purple Up Day and to combine that with Month of the Military Child. They came over, a group of them from the Child and Youth Program, and gave the kids these bags with a lot of goodies inside -- a water bottle, snacks and things like that."

The students responded well to the activity and were thankful for the recognition from the CYP. Along with a water bottle and snacks, students were also gifted sunflower seeds and enjoyed a celebratory day filled with fun.

"I think it was pretty fun," fifth grade student Deven Gajewski said. "Me and my family got to plant the sunflower seeds in our backyard. We also got some snacks for the road and also got some clothes."

Garbutt feels it is important to identify and satisfy the needs of the military student and feels that Month of the Military Child serves as well-deserved recognition. She has also been very thankful of the opportunity.

"It's really important to me to be able to help and assist kids of military

families," Garbutt said. "My husband was in the Navy, I have family members in the armed services and I know how difficult that life can be. It's important for us to meet them where they are, to take their needs and know what those needs are, and help them to get



Fort Dix student Madison Hedges sports a purple shirt and purple bow for National Purple Up Day.

to where they need to be. I really love them and enjoy being here."

The Fort Dix Elementary School principal will be retiring after 14 years of service to Fort Dix, but will forever be thankful for the rewarding moments that come with providing an education for military students.

"They are so educated about the world," Garbutt said. "So many kids have come from different countries, different states and different experiences that it's fun to learn from them, too. I can't say that I'm the only one teaching them anything. They've taught me a lot, too."

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

PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS SPONSORS PTHS FIELD TRIP TO MOORESTOWN COVID-19 VACCINATION MEGASITE

PTHS students traveled to the Burlington County COVID-19 vaccination super site in Moorestown to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations. Students departed from PTHS at approximately 9:30 am on Tuesday, May 4 and successfully arrived at the Moorestown Mall to receive their

that start to make a difference.”

The event was coordinated by Assistant Director of Guidance and Health Rita Jenkins.

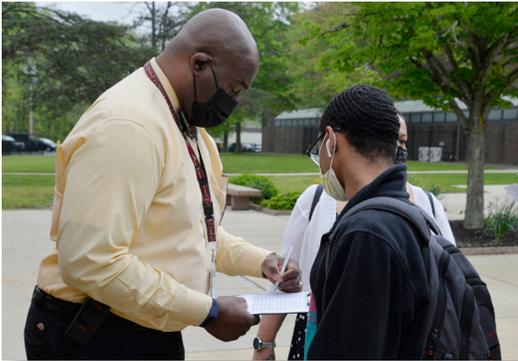
“It was truly a team effort,” Jenkins said. “I contacted Virtua and worked with Abby Catling, Access Center Supervisor, who was very helpful as I coordinated everything with her. She gave us pertinent information, provided the consent forms and FAQ sheet about the Pfizer Vaccine.”

The transportation department also played a key role by providing busing to students attending the field trip.

“Principal Joseph quickly created a Google survey for students and parents to sign-up and I arranged transportation with Dave Jantas and Anthony Clemens,” Jenkins said.

Jenkins was just excited as the students to be able to present such a beneficial opportunity to our learning community. She felt as though students were at an advantage to be able to get their COVID-19 vaccines via an organized field trip.

but for their health and well-being. As the supervisor of nurses here in Pemberton, I work with the nurses to ensure that



PTHS senior Gregory Floyd checks in with assistant principal John Bamber before boarding the bus en route to the Moorestown COVID-19 vaccination super site.

vaccinations.

Students were thankful for the opportunity and satisfied with their decision to ensure the health of themselves and their surrounding classmates, teachers, families and peers.

“In a way, I want things to go back to normal,” PTHS sophomore Ryann Cline said. “I feel like this is a good step, not only for the safety of me, but for the safety of my family.”

It’s very special (to have this opportunity),” Cline added. “I would recommend a lot of schools do it. It’s just easier for the parents, it’s easier for the school, and gets multiple people to get their vaccine at the same time.”

Classmate Erick Montan was in agreement.

“I just want everyone to be safe,” Montan said. “I just want to be one of the people



PTHS nurse Bailey Downs, left, and PTHS junior Gabrielle Thomas, right, pose for a photo after Thomas received her vaccine.

our students receive the most up-to-date COVID-related information.”

The success of the vaccination opportunity also exemplified our district’s commitment to empathy, integrity and perseverance.

“During this pandemic, the district has gone to great lengths to provide staff, students, families, and visitors a clean, safe, healthy environment in all of our buildings,” Jenkins said. “Throughout the school year, students have gone above and beyond our expectations with following the established guidelines that, at times, could be overwhelming for young people. It’s important to note that our staff had ample opportunities to also participate in maintaining this safe environment by following the CDC guidelines and also in participating in free COVID testing. Additionally, the district worked with Rite-Aid and Deborah Hospital to offer vaccinations to all of our staff. It’s my belief that this represents the hard-working, ‘no challenge too big’ mentality of our district!”



PTHS junior Kelsey Fagans poses with her vaccination card after receiving her second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the Moorestown super site.

“I was so excited to be able to offer this to our students,” Jenkins said. “We’re always looking for opportunities to better the lives of students not just educationally,

STACKHOUSE WELCOMES BACK STUDENTS WITH HERITAGE DAY



Students at Stackhouse celebrated various cultures around the world via Heritage Day. Each classroom, both in-person and virtual, created a poster that displayed one word from the English language and its proper spelling in different languages from around the world.

1. Maximus Martinez holds balloons to celebrate the return to school.
2. Students August Bleacher and Reine Barnes stand next to a poster that displays the word “happy” in various languages.
3. Juliana Velazquez poses next to a poster that illustrates world peace.

PTHS STUDENTS INTERN AT DEBORAH HEART AND LUNG CENTER



PTHS Medical Arts students Brianna Braman and Paige Wherley participated in an eight-week Nursing Assistant (NA) Internship Program at Deborah Heart and Lung Center. The program helps high school students who have completed specific curriculum by preparing them for job readiness after successful completion of their hospital rotation.

“We have a strong program which has been built over the years to provide our high school students the skills needed for college success in the medical field,” PTHS Medical Arts Academy Advisor Elisabeth McCartney said. “Our clinical components have created opportunities for our students to earn academic credits while in high school; certifications that transfer



From left, Deborah Certified Nursing Assistant Grace Dattner, and Nursing Assistant Helene Archibald join PTHS Medical Arts Academy seniors Paige Wherley and Brianna Braman as they train with their first Deborah patient, Katherine Parola of Toms River. (Photo courtesy of Deborah Heart and Lung Center).

directly into the work force; and training for subsequent successful job placement. The Nursing Assistant Program is the next step in this progression.”

The program was developed over the past three years with the high school faculty and Deborah clinical staff, aligning the PTHS Nursing Assistant courses with the job responsibilities of nursing assistants at Deborah. Students in the program will be able to work after graduation at a non-profit health care organization, or pursue certification through the state Certified Nursing Assistant program once they turn 18 years old.

We are so proud of our nursing students for all of their hard work!

DARVIS HOLLEY NAMED NEW FORT DIX ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Darvis Holley has been appointed as principal of Fort Dix Elementary School. Beginning July 1, he will replace current principal Tamra Garbutt, Ed.D., who is retiring at the conclusion of the school year, after serving as principal of Fort Dix Elementary School for the past 14 years.

“As the son of a Vietnam veteran, I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to continue serving the Pemberton Learning Community and our military families as the next principal of Fort Dix Elementary School,” Holley said.

Holley is a familiar face at Pemberton Township Schools, serving as an assistant principal at Helen A. Fort and Marcus Newcomb Middle Schools since 2014. Prior to joining Pemberton, he served as a special education teacher for 7 years at Albert E. Grice Middle School and Hamilton West High School in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Holley is currently pursuing his



HFMS AP Darvis Holley has been named principal of Fort Dix Elementary School.

doctorate degree in organization leadership from Stockton University, as well as a certificate in school management and leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Harvard Business School. He holds a master’s degree in school leadership from Wilmington University in Delaware, and a bachelor’s degree in special education from Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina.

A life-long resident of Willingboro, Holley is extremely active in local government and has served as the town’s mayor, member of the planning board, zoning board, and commissioner of the MUA. Holley was a 2017 Fellow in the New Leaders Council-New Jersey and is a former vice president and treasurer of the Willingboro & Vicinity Branch of the NAACP.

He is a member of numerous professional associations, including the New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the New Jersey Principals’ and Supervisors’ Association, among others.

“I am passionate about every single student and helping them reach their fullest potential. I realize that the success of a student’s early education will shape their path in life. I look forward to positively impacting the teaching and learning at Fort Dix Elementary School,” Holley said.

Pemberton Pride is a publication of
Pemberton Township Schools

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DONNA SCARABAGGIO NAMED ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT DENBO-CRITCHON



Donna Scarabaggio has been named assistant principal of Denbo-Crichton Elementary School. She will replace current AP Cordalia Sullivan, who is retiring after serving our Pemberton community for 19 ½ dedicated years.

Mrs. Scarabaggio has been a member of the Pemberton family since

2013, most recently serving as coordinator of the 21st Century Program for the past three years. Prior to that she spent five years as a classroom teacher and professional development trainer for the district.