



MANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Family and Community Update –Spring, 2015

Greetings to All of Our Families and Friends of the Manville Public School District! We have many exciting things happening in our schools and are very proud to share them with you in this Springtime Update for the Manville Public School District. Here are some of the highlights:

A Special Invitation!!! This past January, long-time Health and Physical Education Teacher, Ms. Michelle Sniscak, retired from Weston School after nearly 32 years of service to the Manville Public School District. Ms. Sniscak is a life-long resident of Manville. Ever civic-minded and always looking to serve the Manville community, she has selflessly volunteered her time and talent to Manville Recreation and to the Manville Municipal Alliance.

On **Saturday, May 2, 2015**, the Manville Board of Education and Manville School Administration will be honoring Ms. Sniscak as they dedicate the **Michelle Sniscak Elementary Gymnasium at Weston School. The dedication ceremony will run from 11AM – 1PM, and refreshments will be served.**

Please pass the word on this special event! All are welcome! A community invitation and a registration will be sent out as the date draws closer.

District Action Plan Presented to the Manville Board of Education: In our last issue of The Parent and Community Update, we shared that the following goals were adopted by the Manville Board of Education at its Regular Voting Meeting on December 16, 2014:

Manville School District Goals for the 2014- 2015 School Year:

- Analyze all personnel/certification/job descriptions, administrative capacity, scheduling, building space, impact of FEMA flood buyout, and use of technology to maximize personnel hours.
- Create a Cost-Saving Action Plan/Possible Redistricting/Possible Referendum.
- Improve Professional Development for instructional staff through research-based “Best Practices”.

Manville Board of Education Goal for the 2014 -2015 School Year:

- The members of the Manville Board of Education will reframe the District “Brand” and the Mission Statement.

We have now organized a comprehensive Action Plan for the district based upon these goals. The Action plan was presented to the Board at its Winter Retreat on February 26, 2015, and we are in the final stages of organizing in order to carry out the plan. We will update the community on our progress in our End of Year issue.

New Committee – Communications / Public Relations: At the Board’s Reorganization Meeting on January 6, 2015, the Communications and Public Relations Committee of the Board was formed. Board Committee Members, along with the Manville Administrative Team, received training from Mr. Brian Gatens. This spring and summer, the Communications and Public Relations Committee will be working to develop a technology based communications plan for the community about the many positive things occurring in the Manville School District. Please be on the look-out for some exciting changes towards this end.

Fred Carrigg Visits Manville Public School District: Noted Literacy Expert Fred Carrigg visited the Manville Public School District twice during the winter months of 2014-2015. Mr. Carrigg served as an Assistant to the Commissioner of Education for the State of NJ with a focus on Literacy. Mr. Carrigg was the architect and author of two state-approved models for literacy instruction: **IDEAL** – (The **I**nitiative for the **D**evelopment of **E**arly **A**chievement in **L**iteracy; and **LEADS** – **L**iteracy is **E**ssential to **A**dolescent **D**evelopment and **S**uccess. Mr. Carrigg visited Weston, Roosevelt, ABIS, and Manville High School assessing students and student work samples. His visit was followed by two comprehensive meetings with Central and School Based Administration to discuss findings and to make preliminary recommendations for improving reading and writing for all students district-wide. All of Mr. Carrigg’s recommendations have been shared with the Manville Board of Education and are the current focus of Professional Development for Teachers district-wide.

TECHSPO 2015: NJ’s annual TECHSPO Conference was held January 28- 30, 2015 in Atlantic City, NJ. Manville School District sent a team of 8 Teachers and Administrators to this premier conference devoted to improving instruction through use of innovative and exciting Technology. Teachers attending this conference are now engaged in implementing strategies learned at the conference into their classrooms and are sharing strategies with teachers across the district. We are extremely proud of their efforts and will be sharing detailed information in future updates.

Professional Development: We enjoyed a successful In-Service Day of Professional Development for Manville Staff on Monday, January 19, 2015, and are in the final planning stages for our next PD Day on April 24, 2015. Our theme for Professional Development this year has been: ***“Improving Student Achievement through Research-Based Active***

Learning Strategies". Manville Staff Members participated in a "menu" of events, in which they could choose multiple sessions from among the following:

- a. Achieve 3000 – "Using Data to Focus Instructional Improvement"
- b. Morning Message and Effective Literacy Centers (K-2)
- c. Developing Common Core Vocabulary and Comprehension Across the Grades 3-12 Curriculum
- d. Universal Design for Learning – Meeting the Needs of All Students Through Technology and Portfolio-Based Instruction for Grades 3-12
- e. Critical Reading 2.0 – Build Literacy Skills across the Curriculum through a Tech-Based and Multi-Media Approach – Grades 6-12
- f. Technology and Mathematics – Grades 3-12 Improving Student Outcomes through a "Flipped Classroom" Approach

Google Certification Comes to Manville: Our own Weston Principal, Mr. Nicholas Diaz, has recently become a Google Certified Educator. He is now helping to turnkey all things Google to the Manville staff at large. To this end, Mr. Diaz ran three information sessions, which will help our teachers to: Learn what it takes to become a Certified Google Educator; Get tips on passing the required exams; Become a Google Educator to be recognized for advanced knowledge in Google Apps for Education. Teacher and administrative response to these sessions has been enthusiastic. We are proud and pleased to see our Manville staff avail themselves of this terrific opportunity.

Read Across America Day / NJ Close-Up: *Read Across America Day*...our annual celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday, and of all things pertaining to reading, took place at Weston Elementary School on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. It was a fine affair featuring a lavish breakfast of Green Eggs and Ham and featuring numerous dignitaries who came out to read a favorite story book to our youngest students. We are also very proud to have hosted the PBS public television program "NJ Classroom Close-Up" at this wonderful event. Very special thanks to our Board Members and other distinguished guests for volunteering to read to our students.

Proud Moments! Great accomplishments happen due to great dedication.

- First off, we are all so amazingly proud of our Manville Mustangs Wrestling Team after their decisive win on January 28th against Belvidere (36-30). This amazing victory was followed by **Manville High School Junior, Brian Kuhlman, finishing** eighth in the state at the NJSIAA/Rothman Institute Championships at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Brian is the first Mustang to win a medal at this meet since 1977!
- The MHS Forensics Team under the direction of MHS Teacher, Mr. Michael Forte, have accomplished much this year. At the Ridge March Invitational Tournament, Sophomore Chelsea Phuangthong took 5th place in Varsity Prose Interpretation and qualified for the State Tournament; Freshman Daniel Meza has been accepted to Dartmouth College Debate Institute – Summer 2015; and Six (6) Students competed in the NJ State Forensics Tournament this spring:

- Chelsea Phuangthong (So.) - Prose Interpretation (5th place Varsity, Ridge Invitational, 3/7/5)
 - Mary Klein (Fr.) - Poetry Interpretation (1st place Novice Honors Division, Ridge Invitational, 1/31/15)
 - Daniel Meza (Fr.) - Varsity Congressional Debate
 - Sarah Hujber (Fr.) - Varsity Poetry Interpretation
 - Andrea Murillo (Fr.) and Jade Puia (Fr.) - Novice Public Forum Debate
 - Melina Castro (Fr.) and Kayla Molesko (Fr.) - JV Public Forum Debate
- MHS Future Business Leaders of America: The FBLA Manville chapter attended the 2015 FBLA State Leadership Conference and the students below were recognized for their outstanding achievements:
 - Brittany Hoodja
 - Gloria Yakobchuk
 - Brielle Formanowski
 - Sebastian Wisniowiecki
 - Gloria Yakobchuk
 - Lauren Gruzka
 - Karli Ramirez

Additionally, Manville's FBLA chapter was recognized for the following awards: Chapter Award of Merit, March of Dimes, Gold Key Chapter Award, and 1st Place for Outstanding Chapter (1-50 members) for the second year in a row.

- ***Footloose!*** The Manville High School Drama Club ran three AMAZING performances of the musical *Footloose!* on March 26, 27, and 28, 2015. We are incredibly proud of all of our students who performed and are equally proud of our staff members who made these performances possible. Special thanks to our Director, Mr. Stephen Sallach; Assistant Director, Mr. Robert Longstreet; and our Musical Director, Mr. Ken Zampella.
- **Scholar Athletes at Manville High School:** We are extremely proud to announce the following Scholar Athletes nominated at Manville High School!
 - Somerset County Principal Association - Female: Olivia Smutek; Male: Eric Warren
 - Skyland Conference – Female: Samantha Loriot; Male: Kyle Puza
 - NJSIAA – Overall - Gloria Yakobchuk

Bubbles for Autism Awareness: Did you know? As of Spring 2014, the U.S. (CDC) released a report showing 1 in 68 children nationally currently have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This newest estimate is based on the CDC's evaluation of health and educational records of all 8-year-old children in 2010 in 11 states, including New Jersey. New Jersey has the highest rates, with 1 in 45, 1 in 28 boys. The national rate marks an increase of 30% from the previous 1 in 88 statistic. April has been declared in the US as National Autism Awareness Month. *Our students in Grades 4-5 at Roosevelt School raised awareness by running a special "Bubbles for Autism" activity on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. The event was designed to show the care, love, and support for students and families in our own community who face the challenges associated with Autism.*



A Final Note: As I write this issue of the Parent and Community update, it is lunchtime and the windows are open. Our Roosevelt children are at recess. Two little ones are chatting together by my window, and one of them just remarked: "Isn't spring great? The sun is out and it's warm, and **I'm loving it!**"

I couldn't agree more...

Wishing all of our Manville families and friends a safe and enjoyable spring break.

With Sincere Best Wishes,

Anne R. Facendo

Anne R. Facendo, Superintendent
Manville Public Schools