

DRAGON PRIDE

Annual Ladies' Tea

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In recognition of Women's History Month, William Davies Middle School hosted their seventh annual Ladies' Tea on March 30th. The theme of this year's tea was "Our memories of the ocean will linger on, long after our footprints in the sand are gone." The tea provided selected female students the opportunity to meet and learn from successful women who have excelled in their profession. The hope of the tea was to inspire students to achieve their goals while continuing their education. Stephanie Wroniuk, WDMS's new eighth grade Vice Principal, was the keynote speaker. In addition, a special thank you to Caesar's Casino of Atlantic City for providing table settings and linens that transformed the school library into a perfect place for a mid-morning tea. After an etiquette lesson and brunch, students had the opportunity to walk around and speak to all the invited women. Thank you to all our guests and sponsors for helping make the tea such a success!



Patriot Pens Essay Contest

On Monday March 26, members of the local VFW presented awards to three of our seventh grade WDMS students with certificates of achievement and savings bonds for their participation in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. The winners of the contest were Vanessa Rodriguez, who placed third, Joshua Silapeth who placed second, and Khadijah Coleman who not only won the contest but also read her winning essay to the seventh grade class during the presentation. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to the VFW members for honoring our students with these awards!



Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are currently in the final marking period of the 2011-2012 school year. As we feverishly prepare for NJASK testing and the numerous end of the year activities, believe it or not, one very important task still remaining is preparing for next school year. Many great concepts built within our current schedule will remain the same, however, there are exciting changes planned for the 12-13 school year. Some changes include teaming within grade levels that will allow for both vertical and horizontal articulation among staff, as well as the schedule blocking of both Science and Social Studies. In addition, we plan on allowing for four lunch periods compared to our current three lunch periods in order to create a more safe and productive environment for students and staff. Naturally, we will also continue to support and implement our one-to-one technology (Talent 21) initiative so that all three grade levels are afforded the best 21st century technology. Finally, every 7th and 8th grade related arts course will be considered "extended." All 7th and 8th grade students will still need to take at least one marking period of World Language; however the remaining three marking periods will consist of one related arts course. We encourage all of you to attend our Parent Involvement Committee meeting on Monday, April 30th at 7:00 in the Davies IMC. The main purpose of the PIC meeting will pertain to the abovementioned new schedule for next year. We look forward to seeing you there.



Follow us on Twitter!

A great resource for parents and students who want to stay up to date with our school and have quick and easy access to educational resources!

@WmDaviesMS

WDMS Organic Vegetable Garden

On Saturday March 17th, William Davies students, teachers, parents and administrators pitched in to help build six raised-bed vegetable gardens for our school. Earlier this year, William Davies Environmental Club was awarded a \$1,500 grant from AtlantiCare Healthy Initiatives. The building of the garden

beds was the first step of it's implementation. Club advisors Lee Ann Campbell and Gay Laubert supervised the building of the beds with gardening tools donated from Lowe's and Eco Soil donated by ACUA. After hours of hard work and pledging to eat the food that they grow, students are now ready to plant the seeds at the

next Environmental Club meeting. The vegetable gardens make an excellent addition to the Serenity Pond and Butterfly Garden which can be used as outdoor classrooms. William Davies Middle School would like to thank all those who helped with the creation of the beds as well as AtlantiCare, Lowe's and ACUA.

Think Day 2012



On March 10th members of WDMS's Academic Team competed against other local middle schools in the annual Think Day Competition. Of the twenty-two members who make up our Academic Team, fourteen qualified to attend the competition which was held at Mainland Regional High School. 'Think Day' is an academic challenge focusing on current events, history, science, math, literature, performing arts and even sports. Congratulations to all students who competed!

This Year's Think Day Members included: Captains Apria Pinkett and Ethan Latoza, Lucie Pham, Sophia Ragan, Maren Ross, Geolie Cayme, Alfonso Roque, Kartik Garg, Tiffany Van, John Yasay, Aulhany Reese, Emilia Perez and alternates Anna Lim and Donna Tran. The Davies Academic Team is coached by Davies teachers Graig Stanford and Brandi Holdren.



Renaissance Academic Team

William Davies Middle School's Renaissance Academic Team of Students (R.A.T.S.) has been very busy! In March, selected students participated in a fieldtrip to read to the students of Shaner Elementary School to promote "Read Across America." Back here at Davies, students have also created a 'Staff of the Month' box where students may vote for their teachers. Mr. Robinson had the honor of being February's Teacher of the Month. Congratulations! Currently, our R.A.T.S. are in the process of decorating our school with personalized paper stars to represent each and every one of our students. Looking ahead, our members are busy planning for, as well as participating in, Davies's Got Talent, our annual lip-synching and dancing competition. Davies's Got Talent will take place on April 20, 2012 in the Davies Cafetorium and tickets are \$5.00.

Yearbook Sales

Yearbooks can now be reserved at school. Students should see Ms. Pickering during SPP to purchase a yearbook. The cost is \$40.00 CASH ONLY—but can no longer be personalized. Purchase your 2011–2012 yearbook now before they are sold out!

Walk for Water



On March 24, students, staff, administrators, and community members participated in a 6k run / walk event at St. Vincent de Paul Regional School. Give Help 2 Others- Walk for Water, was a huge success! A donation will be made to the non-profit organization, *Plan USA*, which will help build a clean water well in a community in Ghana, Africa. Congratulations to the runners who participated and placed in the event. The planning committee wishes to thank all the staff and students that participated. Special thanks to Mrs. Caccioppo and Mrs. Yutzky for all your hard work and planning! This could not have been possible without all your donations and our sponsors.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors !!

W.D.M.S Grade 7 L.A.L Rocks!
W.D.M.S. Grade 7 Math Rules!
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Marandino's Extended Art Students
M. Florence Oliverio
Belhaven Lake RV Resort
Atlantic City Electric
Cousin Mario's Italian Restaurant
Ceech Brother's Italian Cuisine and Pizzeria

New National Junior Honor Society Members

William Davies Middle school would like to congratulate the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society! The induction ceremony will be held on April 17, at 7:00 p.m. within the William Davies Middle School cafeteria.

New members include: Timothy Anthony, Sylvia Bachinsky, Caitlyn Beck, Cynthia Cheng, Khadijah Coleman, Haley Crispell, Christian Dennis, Levi Doughty, Kassia Doukhnaï, Brody Eccles, Patrick Elkner, Melissa Evans, Joseph Fraone, Briani Griffin, Gina Grunwald, Samantha Haley, Kayla Hamler, Teagan Hay, Erynn Heggan, Dah Jah Hood, Karen Hughes, Myra Jackson, Claresa Kawreh, Jessica Ketschek, Janet Lam, Bryan Marengo, Nia Mays, Charles McCardell, Jasmine Newsome, Lindsey Parks, Altea Parlapiano, Dina Patel, Lucie Pham, Brenna Risley, Samantha Rocap, Manuel Rodriguez, Vanessa Rodriguez, Alfonso Roque, Kyle Ross, Lynette Ruiz, Allison Shill, Joshua Silapeth, Abby Silver, Breana Stringer, Maria Torres, Donna Tran, Jasmine Tran, Taylor Van, Gabrielle Varalli, Melissa Vargas, Timothy Waldron, Jacob Weber.

8th Grade Highlight

On Wednesday, March 14th, the Atlantic County School Boards Association hosted the First Annual "8th Grade Dialogue and Reception." The recognition program honors an 8th grade student whose character, determination, school spirit, leadership and community service inspire all of us. Congratulations to Caitlyn Bond for her selection and representation of WDMS during this prestigious event.



Music Department News

On March 28th, William Davies Middle School held their 9th Annual Music in Our Schools Month 'Performing Arts Night.' The night featured select soloists and small ensembles as well as students from Davies 'Swing Kids' Jazz Band. Performances included vocal solos, instrumental solos, as well as students who both sang and played their instruments. After the performance, students and parents were treated to a dessert social. All students performed beautifully and should be congratulated on their hard work and dedication!

Also, special congratulations to the following outstanding musicians who were selected for or auditioned for membership in the South Jersey Regional Honors Ensembles.

Elementary Choral Festival Honors Choir: Sarah Putiri, Michelle Soto, Shannon Mulraney, and Nicole Morgan

Junior High Honors Jazz Band: Sophia Ragan— Bass Guitar

Elementary Honors Band Festival: Mia Somershoe- Clarinet, Kaitlyn Scardino- Flute, Daniel Mulraney- Mallet Percussion

Junior High Honors Concert Band: Tyler Booth— Timpani

Junior High Honors Choir: Erynn Heggan, Elena Castillo, Quinn Cowan, Sophia Ragan, Lainey Day