



THE EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

CORE TEAM

June 2011

At the CORE of Our Mission Are Children



The School District of Philadelphia Core Beliefs

Children come first.

Parents are our partners.

Victory is in the classroom and facilitated
by a strong instructional leader.

Leadership and accountability
are the keys to success.

It takes the engagement of the
entire community to ensure the success
of its public schools.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Senior of the Month	3
Desk Poetry.....	5
Honor Roll.....	6-7
Faces and Facts.....	7
Where in the World.....	8

At the Core

With
Superintendent Arlene C. Ackerman

With graduation season upon us once again, ceremonies and celebrations are happening all over the city. June is a time to come together to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of all of our graduating seniors. At this time we also honor the academic success of our students who will soon transition from middle school to high school and let's not forget the children who have completed kindergarten and are getting ready to begin first grade!

I am happy to take the opportunity of a Core Message to congratulate the Class of 2011 and applaud all our teachers and principals, as well as all parents and caregivers whose collective efforts contributed to student success at every level and in every classroom. Knowing and believing that "Victory is in the classroom and facilitated by a strong instructional leader," is a core belief that continues to inform all our decisions and drive all our actions. As I look back over the past school year, I'm proud of everything we accomplished and deeply grateful to all for keeping our schools and students moving forward in positive and productive ways.

As we power through a difficult economy and grapple with unprecedented budget cuts, let's do all that we can to keep focused on the job at hand and the road up ahead. The fact that graduation rates throughout the District are rising steadily is good news. But the actual



commencement of each and every student should be marked and celebrated as a milestone along life's long journey. It's a day in a young person's life that he or she will always remember.

As a mother, a former teacher and now as Superintendent, I have witnessed the power of realizing one's potential and seizing the opportunities that are placed in front of us. I have seen the gifts that our students were born with mature into remarkable talents and skills which will take them far beyond their high school years. And I have seen so many overcome challenges and obstacles with great determination and pride, all the while keeping their eyes on the prize. It's like Henry Ford once said, "obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal." As we conclude this school year, let's all remember to remain focused on our goals and keep our students focused on theirs.

Respectfully,

Arlene C. Ackerman, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Education Nation “On-The-Road” Tour Rolls Into Philly



Michael Chen, Aditi Roy, Michael Bard, Ann Curry, Dr. Arlene Ackerman, Steve Capus, and Kevin Hungate.

Photo provided by NBC News

NBC News’ “Education Nation On-The-Road” made its final stop on a three-city tour in Philadelphia the week of June 5 – June 12. Featuring education-based TV programming, panel discussions, an interactive installation with video boards, facts and figures and several national political programs, the tour turned the National Constitution Center (NCC) into a forum on education for eight days.

The week began on June 5 at a Teacher Town Hall with local educators to brainstorm ideas, talk about what works in the classroom, and highlight the challenges of today’s education system. The event was moderated by The Today Show’s Ann Curry and NBC 10 Philadelphia’s Aditi Roy.

On Tuesday, June 7, Superintendent Dr. Arlene Ackerman kicked off the Education Nation Experience, a public exhibition designed to inform and engage visitors on the current state of education in America, on the lawn of the NCC with Mayor Michael Nutter, NBC 10’s Aditi Roy and Comcast Executive Vice President David L. Cohen. The installation allowed visitors to interact, discuss what works in education and the challenges that our country’s educational system faces in the 21st Century.

Dr. Ackerman was again invited to the lawn of the NCC on Wednesday, June 8, to participate in a live broadcast with MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell on her political roundtable program, “Andrea Mitchell Reports,” to discuss Parent University, the District’s innovative approach to addressing the issue of parent engagement. The program was followed by MSNBC’s “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” which featured a live audience discussion on the importance of obtaining a quality education.

“Engaging the community in events such as this is just as important to student success as engaging our young people,” said Dr. Ackerman. “It takes the involvement of everyone – parents, teachers, civic and business leaders and the community at large – to make sure we’re putting the education of our young people at the top of our nation’s list of priorities.”

On Thursday, June 9, the Franklin Institute played host to the “Job One: Preparing America to Compete in the 21st Century” panel, a moderated discussion with MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell, NBC 10’s Lori Wilson, Telemundo’s Fernando Mendez and Philadelphia civic leaders with discussion focused on the needs of a 21st Century workforce and how to best prepare our students for the jobs of the future.

NBC 10 also featured special programming throughout the week on issues, programs and initiatives impacting the District. The featured programs were *Dr. Ethel Allen Promise Academy*, *Homeless Students* and *Parent University*. The “Education Nation On-The-Road” tour previously visited Los Angeles, CA and Chicago, IL.



Dr. Arlene Ackerman and The Today Show’s Ann Curry.

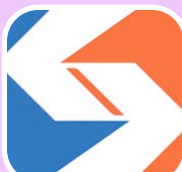
Photo provided by NBC News

I N T H E N E W S !

SEPTA, School District hashing out transpass agreement

WHYY: NewsWorks, June 3, 2011

SEPTA and the School District have established a basic framework to continue providing Transpasses for the schoolchildren of Philadelphia for the upcoming school year in lieu of the District’s budget shortfall. In the coming weeks, both groups are working on a one-year plan to maintain Transpass access for about 60,000 students.



Two Philly schools get health award from Bill Clinton

Philadelphia Daily News, June, 14, 2011

Overbrook Educational Center and Anne Frank Elementary were honored at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s Healthy Schools Forum by former president Bill Clinton. The recipients were recognized for their efforts to make healthy eating and daily exercise a priority and helping to reverse the obesity epidemic in the United States.



Hamels pitches in to aid Philadelphia schools

Philadelphia Inquirer, June 15, 2011

Students at Swenson Arts and Tech. High School and Shaw Middle School were pitched a home run hit, care of Philadelphia Phillies ace Cole Hamels and wife Heidi through their namesake foundation’s nonprofit fund. Each school received a \$50,000 donation for a new fitness center and library. Construction is expected to be finished by Nov. 1.



First Cohort of Surplus Properties to be Listed Under District's Facilities Master Plan

The School District of Philadelphia is poised to list for sale eight properties now in its surplus inventory, in accordance with the guidelines established in its Facilities Master Plan (FMP) and the District's new Adaptive Sale and Reuse Policy.

These surplus properties are the buildings that formerly housed the following schools: Alcorn Annex, 28th Street and Snyder Avenue; Beeber-Wynnfield Annex, 53rd and Euclid Streets; Childs Elementary School, 17th and Tasker Streets; Clemente Middle School, 5th and Luzerne Streets; Gillespie Middle School, 18th and Pike Streets; Lewis Middle School, Tulpehocken and Ardleigh Streets; Muhr (Allegheny) School, 12th Street and Allegheny Avenue, and Walton Elementary School, 28th and Huntingdon Streets.

The disposition of these properties will take place under the guidelines spelled out in the Adaptive Sale and Reuse Policy which the SRC adopted at its June 13, 2011 meeting. These steps include a public request for proposals from interested purchasers, informational community meetings, and a community presence on the District committee that will review and evaluate the proposals. The District seeks to receive proposals that span three uses specified in the policy: educational, community or public use, or private use.



Childs Elementary School at 17th and Tasker Streets.

On June 13, the SRC also adopted a new Facilities Rightsizing Policy. It describes the criteria the District will use to determine whether a school is eligible for rightsizing—in other words, converting to appropriate or optimum size. The policy also defines nine different actions that might be taken to achieve an appropriate ratio of filled “seats” to a school’s optimal capacity. It also sets out a general timeline, beginning in October 2011, for the District to present rightsizing recommendations at an SRC meeting. The rightsizing process also will include intensive community engagement.

Over the last five years, the District experienced an overall student decline of 11,000 students. Analysis indicates that currently there are more than 77,000 empty “seats” in District schools overall. That is greater than the seating capacity of the Philadelphia Eagles’ home stadium. Projections indicate that District enrollment will continue to decline except in an area that covers the five Northeast Philadelphia divisions defined by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

Options under rightsizing include: co-location; changes in programs, grade configuration and/or school boundaries; expansion of choice; renovation, rebuilding or demolition; and closure or consolidation.

For more information on the Adaptive Sale and Reuse Policy, the Rightsizing Policy, and other aspects related to the School District’s Facilities Master Plan, go to www.philasd.org/fmp.

The 2011 Summer Learning And More (SLAM) program, the District’s summer program that provides students an additional 18 days of learning to recover credits, prepare for the SATs, complete Senior Projects, or transition into



new schools, begins on July 5 and runs through July 28. This year’s SLAM program will also provide a number of enrichment opportunities

including, “Arts in Action,” “Science in the Summer,” and “Sports Camp” as well as the 8th Grade Bridge, a program that focuses on academic activities and orientation for 8th grade students transitioning into high schools.

Senior of the Month



Office Depot, June 2011
Senior of the Month is...

Tyler Martin
Masterman High School

Academics: Has been on the Honor Roll throughout his four years at Masterman and all of his courses have been at the advanced and Advanced Placement (AP) levels. The June Senior of the Month is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. His favorite subjects are science and math; two of his grandparents were scientists.

Leadership: Captain of the varsity soccer team.

Service: Tutors a third-grade student at the Northern Home for Children; completed a summer 2010 internship at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where he was trained to use GIS (geographic information systems) mapping software.

Future Plans: Will major in biology in a pre-med track at the University of Pittsburgh.

Career Objective: A profession that enables him to pursue his interests in medicine and scientific research.

The Office Depot Senior of the Month Award is presented from November through June. Each recipient receives a \$500 stipend from Office Depot and a Certificate of Excellence from Superintendent Arlene C. Ackerman. The presentation occurs at a School Reform Commission meeting.

Annual year-end awards honor outstanding administrator and District's 2011 Teacher of the Year

Earlier this month, a veteran School District principal and an exceptional teacher were honored with traditional school-year-ending awards.

- The Dr. Ruth Wright Hayre Teacher of the Year Award, with a \$2,500 stipend from Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc., went to Sharon Mora, Forrest Elementary School, Academic Division Six, in a surprise announcement during the school's annual Sprit Day event. Presenting for the sponsor was Len Rizzotti, Lincoln Investment Planning's regional vice president.
- The Marcus A. Foster Award to an exemplary School District administrator, with a \$2,500 stipend from Freedom Credit Union, was bestowed upon Dobbins Technical High School Principal Charles Whiting at the school's June 14 graduation exercises at Robin Hood Dell. Whiting accepted the award from the credit union's Board President Joseph Yerkes.

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNIZED

– The commencement for Dobbins Technical High School was the scene of the presentation of the Marcus A. Foster Award for an outstanding School District administrator to Dobbins Principal Charles Whiting (left) by Joseph Yerkes, chairman of the board of Freedom Credit Union, the award sponsor. This honor, along with the \$2,500 stipend, is bestowed annually.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONORED –Teacher of the Year Sharon Mora (second) from left) is congratulated shortly after the surprise announcement by her husband, Denis (left), Forrest Elementary School Principal Patricia Epps, and Len Rizzotti, regional vice president, Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc., who provided Mora with the winner's check for \$2,500 from the company, which sponsors the Dr. Ruth Wright Hayre Teacher of the Year Award.

The finalists for the Teacher of the Year, representing the District's eight other academic divisions, were:

- Mark Scott, Roxborough High School, Academic Division One;
- Matthew Mandel, Baldi Middle School, Academic Division Two;
- Samantha Venafra, Promise Academy at Ethel Allen, Academic Division Three;
- Miranda Kozman, Philadelphia Learning Academy South, Academic Division Four;
- Kimberly Gavin, Cramp Elementary School, Academic Division Five;
- Nicole Khan, J. B. Kelly Elementary School, Academic Division Seven;
- Maria Pandolfi, Childs Elementary School, Academic Division Eight; and
- Joan Harris, Catharine Elementary School, Academic Division Nine.

District Students Engage World Scholars

For 15 District high school students, the opportunity to witness some of the world's brightest leaders discussing the most important global issues of the day was too good to pass up. Eisenhower Fellowships, an organization created in 1953 as a birthday gift to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, held their Chairman Event on May 19, 2011, at the Rittenhouse Hotel and hosted students from across the District to witness a select group of 15-20 individuals respond to the world's most pressing topics through discussion, debate and the exchanging of ideas.

The participating students were selected through a Leadership Essay Contest created by Office of Secondary School Reform AP/IB Program Manager Vera DaVinci, with each writing an impassioned essay about what it means to be a leader and what types of leadership qualities the world's decision makers must possess. Participating schools included Communications Technology High School, Carver Engineering and Science, Central High School, Lincoln High School, Northeast High School and Bartram High School.



While at the event, the students were introduced to Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Eisenhower Fellowships Board of Trustees and former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Each was given a signed copy of Gen. Powell's book, *The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell*, and had the unique opportunity to discuss Powell's experience in international affairs.

"For the young leaders in our District to have the opportunity to meet some of the world's next great leaders is an incredible honor," said DaVinci. "Gen. Powell and the Eisenhower Fellowships truly embody what we want our students to become through their dedication, passion and commitment to confronting global challenges."

To date, Eisenhower Fellowships has sponsored more than 1,900 fellows from more than 100 countries to travel and interact with emerging leaders from other countries and exchange ideas, broaden views, and expand knowledge.



Who Would've Thought?

Open your heart up to these words that flow,
They flow out my mouth and go and go,
These words I speak are so raw and so real,
I'll be happy to tell you how I feel.
You are a beautiful young lady so why do you cry,
You have an amazing personality so why are you shy?

You say that you have been through it all,
But to be put down so low, you are standing so tall.
You are my friend I hate to see your frown,
It is torture to see your best friend down.
We are like sisters I knew you since I was 10,
All the craziness we've been through, I would do it all again.

The last time I seen you happy, was a long time ago,
We were 12 having fun, playing in the snow.
You laughed you smiled, again and again,
But who would've thought that would've been the end.

The end of your smile, the end of your joy,
All because you gave your virginity to that boy.
The boy who did you wrong, left you to die.
He gave you that disease
that starts with an H and an I.

Who would've thought you would be,
My friend, my sister with H.I.V.
No one ever knew, just me and your family,
I wonder how in this world you can deal with this insanity.

The nerve-racking thought of people finding out,
All this paranoia must make you want to shout!
You are my best friend I love you no matter what,
You're going to be just fine; I feel it in my gut.
So be safe, be good, and take all of your meds,
I don't want you lying in dirt when you're lying in your bed.

By Johnnay Bradford
Grade 11
Lincoln High School

**2011-12 Scholastic Writing
and Art Contest Winner**



Honor Roll

Congratulations to graduating senior **Harold Holland** from **Swenson Arts and Technology High School** who has been awarded a “good-through-graduation scholarship” to use at any college or university of his choice from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As a **Gates Millennium Scholar (GMS)**, Harold Holland’s prestigious scholarship covers the cost of his undergraduate studies, Master’s level studies, and if he chooses, his Doctoral level studies programs.



In true Shakespearean fashion, “all’s well that ends well!” Let us adorn “sweets to the sweet” (Hamlet) as we give praise to **Central High School’s Sony Mathew**, for a third place win in the National Shakespeare Recitation Contest, held May 2 in New York City. With nearly 60 participants from all over the country competing for this honor, “forever and a

day” (As You Like It), **Sony Mathew** will be honored for her outstanding efforts as she exhibited poetry in motion with “her infinite variety” (Antony and Cleopatra), leaving the competition “melted into thin air” (The Tempest) having won first place in both the local and state Shakespeare Recitation Contest.



Congratulations to students at **Ellwood Elementary School** on their home run effort in the **Philadelphia Phillies “Phanatic About Reading” Program**. This program highlights the importance of literacy in education and encourages students to read. As a reward for their efforts, Citizens Park Bank, the Philadelphia Phillies, along with their star shortstop, **Jimmy “J-Roll” Rollins** and his J-Roll Aces Program, invited 20 Ellwood students to the Phillies Game on May 3. The students were invited on the field to be honored and had the

opportunity to meet-and-greet “J-Roll” and take pictures.



Let’s all jump out of our seats and celebrate the students of **Allen M. Stearne Elementary School** in their efforts to raise money and awareness for the “Jump Rope for Heart” event sponsored by the **American Heart Association**. Under the direction of Physical Education teacher, **Shawn Secret**, Stearne’s student jumpers collected a total of nearly \$400 for children that suffer from heart-related birth defects.



Baldi Middle School has raised a record breaking \$3,603.00 for the 2011 Pasta for Pennies fundraiser benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. For their efforts, students received lunch at Olive Garden, a pizza party, a pretzel party and a dress down day!!!



On Friday, May 20, 2011 students at Ethel Allen Promise Academy had the opportunity to glimpse into the careers of more than 26 presenters at Career Day. Some of the featured speakers included police officers, a lawyer, chef, professional athlete and editor. Speakers were treated to a light breakfast and then traveled to various classrooms for one-on-one presentations. The presenters were equally impressed by the thoughtful and intelligent comments and questions of the students. It was an eventful and memorable day that the students of Ethel Allen will not soon forget.



The Furness Fighting Falcons Dragon Boat team won a Gold Medal in the Mixed Division at the Independence Dragon Boat Regatta on June 4, 2011. The team was formed by the staff at Furness High School to build teamwork and collaboration skills and instill school pride among the Furness community. As staff members move through the SDP system, they return to participate on the team. Former Assistant Principal Daniel Peou is the team’s captain and this is their second year racing. The team won a Bronze Medal in last year’s race.



From June 23 - 27, Masterman teacher Louis “Luigi” Borda will run 100 miles from City Hall to the State Capitol Building to increase awareness of the cuts to education being proposed in Harrisburg. Luigi will be stopping in other districts along the way and encouraging parents, teachers and students to run with him as he makes his way across the state. The goal of his journey is to draw attention to the state of education in Pennsylvania, engage people around the issue and prompt a larger dialogue about our collective priorities for education in the short and long term.

Honor Roll

Join us as we shout "break a leg" to the all student performers at **The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)** for their whooping 12 nominations at this year's students-based **Cappies** or "Critics and Awards Program" held on May 15. Under the direction of music and performance teachers **Else Johnson Bass, Dorina Morrow and Chad Ingram**, CAPA's rendition of "Aida" consisted of over 138 vocal music and theater students, accompanied by the award winning CAPA orchestra. The Cappies is a performing arts program through which high school theater and journalism students are trained as critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish those reviews in local newspapers. Throughout the summer, many of the top award honorees from around the U.S. and Canada are invited to participate in the Cappies International Theater, where students perform shows at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.



Ever wonder what your favorite teacher does on Saturdays? Sleep in late? Shopping at the mall? Well for three District teachers **Rita Sorrentino, Meenoo Rami, and Ann Leanness from Overbrook Elementary, Franklin Learning Center, and Martin Luther King High School**, respectively, they spend their Saturdays honing their skills and talents with other educational professionals at EdCamp. EdCamp, an "unconference" for educators that was conceived in the Philadelphia region last year, was designed to be the exact opposite: the free events are participant-driven and attendance is strictly voluntary. The educators who go to EdCamp give up their Saturday, and they don't get any credit for it. These selfless professionals share and learn, collaborate, and lead discussions on all facets of education. These teachers are indeed committed to the children of Philadelphia. Gold stars for our dedicated teachers.

 **FACEBOOK** - facebook.com/PhillyEducation

 **TWITTER** - [@PhillyEducation](https://twitter.com/PhillyEducation)

 **BLOG** - phillyeducationblog.com

 **FLICKR** - flickr.com/PhillyEducation

 **SCHOOL TUBE** - schooltube.com/user/PhillyEducation

 **YOUTUBE** - youtube.com/PhillyEducation

Do you have a story that you want to see featured in Core Team?
Send your story ideas to coreteam@philasd.org. You may also submit photos and captions to accompany your story.

Are you seeking publicity for an upcoming event?
Submit a request form to the Office of Communications by visiting The District's website at www.philasd.org.

Go to Sitemap - Communications - Forms - Publicity Request Form.
Fill out the information and click "save" to submit.



Ingrid Tejada

Non-Teaching Assistant
Supportive Services Assistant
Richmond Elementary School
2944 Belgrade Street

FACE:

While Ingrid Tejada ably serves in a dual capacity at Richmond Elementary School, Dr. Anthony Ciampoli, the school's principal, it is her outstanding service as an NTA that merits especially high praise.

With the school's ESOL population increasing, the principal often calls upon Tejada to translate, a skill which is much appreciated by all those she assists. She does not hesitate when called upon, even if that means interrupting her regular duties, such as overseeing the children during recess or in the lunchroom.

Dr. Ciampoli noted that Tejada completes even seemingly routine tasks--such as cleaning up after the children's lunch-- with great attention to detail. This dedicated employee has a big heart, which she demonstrates by bringing in balls for the children to play with, or even by the patient way she helps kindergarten students tie their shoes.

This is Tejada's second term of service at Richmond, having initially been assigned there when she started with the School District about six years ago. In between her two stints at Richmond, she worked at Edison High School.

FACTS:

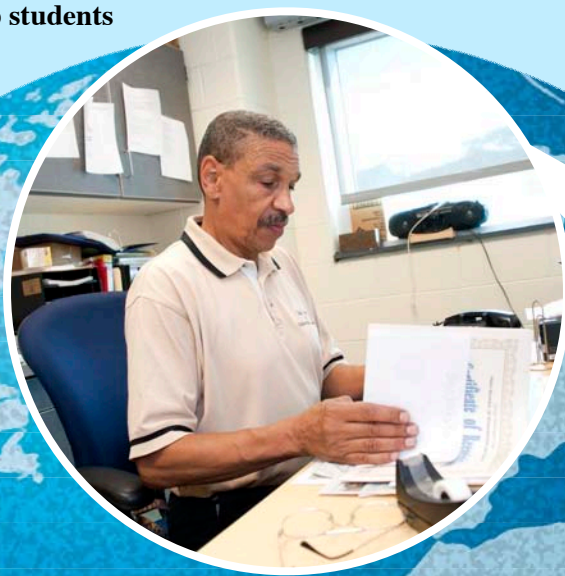
As Principal Ciampoli pointed out, Richmond is a K-5 school that serves an increasingly diverse community.

Where in the World is Charles Brown, Basketball Coach, Athletic Director, and Health and Physical Education Teacher?

Since E & S opened its doors to the Philadelphia community in 1979, Coach Charles Brown has become a pillar of the E & S community. As one of two original employees remaining at the school, Coach Brown puts on a stellar performance inside and outside the classroom as health and physical education teacher, head coach of the boys basketball team and the school's athletic director—which currently has over 17 teams.

A product of the Philadelphia School District (Central High School), Coach Brown, too, has earned much notoriety from the Philadelphia Public League (PPL)—as one of the top ten coaches in PPL history and as a triple-threat student athlete, playing basketball, football and baseball.

With a lifetime of athletic achievements and over 37 years of teaching, coaching and mentoring experience, Coach Brown's true sense of accomplishment comes not from amazing sports stats and countless trophies, but instead comes in the achievements of his beloved students. Coach Brown enjoys nurturing students, watching them progress, and witnessing their epiphany moments through his rearing and teaching. With his well deserved District retirement nearing, Coach Brown vows to continue to help students flourish beyond sports—as doctors, lawyers, and even educators! So stay tuned as Coach Brown may be found at a basketball court near you.



Spring is a major time of year in his role as Athletic Director. Balancing priorities and deadlines, maintaining compliance and academic eligibility and scheduling rotating teams for practices, Coach Brown remains dedicated to this heavy lifting.

Among the 17 sports teams E & S offers, as physical education teacher, Coach Brown demonstrates the key to aces and birdies in the game of golf.



Coach Brown leads members of the basketball team through drills and plays as he reinforces his words to live by: "Eyes front, head high to the finish. See it through!"

