

# ACADEMY ACADEMY

The Edison Rotary honored senior Rishi Abuwala as the April Student of the Month for his tireless support to the community. Mr. Wallace Smith, the Interact advisor, also attended the morning program.

The Science League results, posted as of March 2008, are:

Biology Team - #1 in NJ; Individuals #3 Kathryn Materna, #4 Sayantan Deb in NJ

Chemistry Team - tied #2 in NJ; Individual #1 in NJ, Carlo Vaccari

Physics Team - #7 in NJ; Individuals tied 14<sup>th</sup> in NJ, Phillip DiSanto, Varesh Prasad

Richard Prego was recognized with the Middlesex County Guidance Counselors Caring Award for his tireless efforts in community involvement.

The New Jersey School Business Administrators recognized junior Joyce Holowatch and senior Katherine Cag at the Honor Student Dinner.

Jennifer Apostol, Director of the MCFOODS program, indicated that the Academy was again a county winner for the annual drive and will be honored at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting. Over 5,400 pounds of food for the county's 60 food banks and kitchens was collected.

A team of 16 students and their advisor participated in the Haddonfield High School Model UN Competition. Results will be published next month.

Mr. James McCormick, biology instructor, has been selected by Rutgers University as the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society fellow for the year 2008. He was honored at a dinner meeting at the Rutgers Club on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Electronic/Computer Engineering Programming Team competed against 42 other school teams in the NJIT High School Programming Contest. The team consisted of seniors Phillip DiSanto and Dimitry Ayzenberg and junior Jeffrey Bellanich. The team successfully solved 5 out of 8 programming problems.

"Let's Get Real" competition was held at Hershey's chocolate plant in Pennsylvania. Our team of experts again solved the environmental problem of excess carbon monoxide during manufacturing processes. The team of Candice Liao, Saahithi Karuturi, Judy Park and Yashshree Shah was crowned as the 2008 Champions.

Junior Natalie Naranjo has been accepted into the Governor's School of the Arts at The College of New Jersey; Junior Judy Park was selected to attend the School on the Environment at Richard C Stockton College of New Jersey.

Wesley Chen, a ninth grade student who played first violin this year in the Central Jersey High School Orchestra, has been selected to play with the New Jersey All Star Central Region Orchestra. This is the first time a freshman was chosen since the youth orchestra is comprised of junior and senior high school students.

Nine students qualified for this year's National Merit Scholarship Program: Candice Liao, Dylan Ganguzza, Saahithi Karuturi, Omer Mano, Saswathi Natta, Judy Shah, Gareth Shaw, Carlo Vaccari and Qi Wang.

# East Brunswick Campus

Garrett Miller, a senior in the Performing Arts Theatre Program, was chosen as Student of the Month. His school activities include Freshman Class Treasurer, Student Council Vice-President, Peer Mediator, School Mascot and the *Tiger Times*. Garrett also filmed and produced the school's entry into the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Middlesex County Don't Drink & Drive Video Contest.

As a student in the Performing Arts Program, Garrett played the roles of the Squire in *The Living*, Lawrence in *For Whom the Southern Bell Tolls*, Baz in *A Bright Room Called Day* and participated in the *Senior Showcase*. He was the front house manager in the most recent production, *Anton in Show Business*. In the summer of 2007, Garrett took part in NJPAC's Summer Youth Performance Workshop where he played the role of Trigorin in *The Seagull*. After graduation Garrett will be attending Five Town College in Long Island, New York.

The School of Performing Arts presented its annual main stage production, Jane Martin's *Anton in Show Business*. The play, based loosely on Anton Chekov's *Three Sisters*, takes a look at the cultural importance of theatre in today's society and the lack of appreciation for the people who make these plays happen.

The play was directed by Maria Aladren, professional theatre director and instructor in the School of Performing Arts. Stage managing the show was Daniel Baker; Matt Silvay was the show's technical director.

The East Brunswick Campus, under the direction of Ms. Dana Spinello, collected approximately 800 pounds of nonperishable foods and necessities in the 2008 Annual Spring Food Drive for M.C.F.O.O.D.S.

The East Brunswick Campus welcomed representatives from ALLIES, an employment service organization, to speak to Health Technology and Health Services students in regard to finding full and part time positions within their field. Seniors were particularly interested in learning what they need to have in order to successfully obtain jobs ranging from home health aides to certified nursing assistants.

Six Flags/Great Adventure visited the campus to recruit potential students to work during the summer at their facility. They set up a table in the lunchroom during both lunches and distributed over 200 applications for employment.

The Library Club hosted a breakfast for faculty and staff to commemorate National Library Week. Aside from enjoying coffee and muffins, guests were also reacquainted with network databases and Destiny, our new automation system. Finally, they received a copy of a "Faculty Favorite Book List", a compilation of everyone's favorite book title.

Signs with library mottos were posted throughout the school. Students were encouraged to visit the media center all week to receive a book mark and to suggest books they would like to see added to our collection for next year.

To celebrate Earth Day, the East Brunswick Campus planted a coral bark maple tree in front of the Agriscience Shop which Ms. Alexander documented on film. Agriscience students conducted a tomato and herb plant sale and calculated their carbfootprints to see how much energy they utilized. Mr. Brown encouraged everyone to go paperless to help save trees.



# Perth Amboy Campus Perth Amboy Campus

The Perth Amboy Campus hosted a job fair for the City of Perth Amboy. Mayor Joe Vas was in attendance as was Freeholder Director David Crabel. Over 2,000 people came through to apply for jobs.

The Perth Amboy Campus hosted Board of Education President John Bicsko, Jr. and Dr. McCloud-Hjازه at our home baseball game on April 14. Mr. Bicsko threw out the first pitch for the game against East Brunswick Tech.

# Piscataway Campus

## Piscataway Campus

The Piscataway Campus collected 700 pounds of food for the MCFOODS Drive under the direction of Ms. Gloria Cook and the Student Council. Sales Occupations collected the most food in the school.

The following students were honored at the Annual Cooperative Education Banquet held at the Piscataway Campus: Casey Jacobus, Kyle Ward, Mark Boyko and Dennis Cuzzolina.

The Piscataway Campus celebrated "Bring Your Daughter/Son to Work" day. The children visited some of the shops and experienced hands on what instruction is like in a vocational school.

Ms. Moeller and Mr. Shiffner escorted six students to the National Project 1<sup>st</sup> competition in Atlanta, Georgia. Students and their robot participated in several rounds and were very competitive. Team 223 was awarded two trophies for "Best Partner" from two alliance teams.

Ms. Moeller and two of her students participated in "An Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate". Many members of the business community were present. Approximately 200 people tasted the fine food prepared by our students. Mr. Moose was also on hand to network with the guests and participants.

The Piscataway Campus school newspaper, ALL EYES ON PVT, has come in second place in the nation in the American Scholastic Press Association's 2007 – 2008 Competition. Last year they placed third, but with much effort on the part of the Computer Applications for Business 9 & 10 students, the PVT newspaper has moved up this year.

Many of the instructors participated in activities to celebrate Earth Week. Poster contests, research projects and web quest projects are just some of the activities that took place.

The Child Study Team members hosted an Open House for sending districts to visit the shops and attend an information session about some of the changes to our school and our programs. Many of our shops helped contribute to the success of the event.

In celebration of Library Week, a 20 question quiz on authors and titles was distributed to participants throughout the school. The person who answered the most questions correctly was awarded a gift card to McDonald's.

# Woodbridge Campus

## Woodbridge Campus

The Health Technology students organized a clothing drive to benefit the Lupus Foundation.

An assembly titled "Twentieth Century Music and Composition" was attended by all students. The workshop was presented by Dr. Daniel Auerbach. The students greatly enjoyed this informative and enjoyable lecture demonstration.

Three video entries, one in English and two in Spanish, were entered into the Middlesex County Freeholder's "Don't Drink and Drive PSA Video Contest."

The science classes enjoyed a field trip to Liberty Science Center. They viewed the IMAX movie, *Roving Mars*. Students also toured several exhibits including Infection Connection, Energy Quest and Wonder Why.

A representative of Berkeley College who utilizes the theater arts to present life planning and goal setting skills to students, visited with our hospitality club students. The students enjoyed the presentation and were rewarded with skills and methods to further their educational and professional goal setting ability.

During Alcohol Awareness Month, Mrs. Friedman visited a variety of grade levels to give students the opportunity to use "*fatal vision goggles*" to simulate the visual impairment caused by alcohol or other drugs. The wearer can experience a loss of equilibrium, which is one of the effects of intoxication. The message of the *HERO* Campaign was conveyed to remind students to discuss with their families that licensed drivers need to drive sober or become a designated driver.

# Adult Education

## Adult Education

Terry A. Castillo, a 2007 graduate of the Practical Nursing Program at Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools, is a 2008 STAR Award recipient. The Sharon Dutra Memorial Star (Student Training Achievement Recognition) Award luncheon has been part of the Garden State Employment and Training Association (GSETA) Organization since its inception in the early 1980's. It was named in honor of Sharon Dutra, Planner from Monmouth County, who was an advocate for those less fortunate. She embodied the true mission of GSETA by her lead-by-example work ethic. Financial scholarships are presented to recipients from local Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) who have excelled both personally and professionally through participation in the one stop system. The award will be presented the award at the GSETA Conference Awards Luncheon on June 5, 2008.

Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools awarded Certificates of Completion of Related Instruction to sixty-six students at Apprentice Graduation in the auditorium of the campus in East Brunswick. Dr. Karen McCloud-Hjازه, Superintendent of Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools, Board of Education President John F. Bicsko, Jr. and Albert Hudanish, Regional Director, United States Department of Labor, Region II, New York, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, retired, provided congratulatory remarks. More than three-hundred fifty individuals attended, most of them family, friends and sponsors of the graduating apprentices.

Adult Education participated in the Regional Technical Assistance Workshop for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Grant.



# Instructional Services

Ms. Margaret Rizzolo attended the NJAMT Conference on April 14. NJDOE staff presented programs dealing with the mathematics reforms that are being suggested by the NTSTEPS committee.

The Instructional Services Department attended a workshop at PSA focusing on data driven decision making; Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer was a guest presenter.

The second district in-service included the following programs: Block Scheduling (Woodbridge Staff), African American History in New Jersey, IDEIA and 504 Updates, Cyber-bullying, Mentoring, Final Exam Revision, Curriculum Revision, Fitness Activities for Health and Physical Education Instructors, CPR and First Aid.

# Technology

In continuing with the new Woodbridge Academy rollout, the Technology Department completed the wireless installation project for the entire school. With the new upgrade, each classroom has wireless environment which is a key component in the creation of a mobile learning and teaching environment that encourages collaboration in the construction of knowledge.

The Technology Department has completed 2008 NJSMART SID verification for the entire district. These state ID numbers have also been added to Schoolmaster personal profiles for better identification of students and reporting purposes.

The Technology Department completed 149 technology support requests for the month of April.

# Student Affairs

Brian Loughlin, Assistant Superintendent, provided a staff development program on School Safety for staff at the Piscataway Campus, the Woodbridge Campus and the Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Technology. The presentation included a review and distribution of our four model "Emergency Response Proto-cols" accompanied by the active shooter video presentation "When Disaster Strikes."

The East Brunswick, Piscataway and Woodbridge Campuses each hosted an Open House event for Middlesex County Child Study Team members. Attendees were given an updated review of MCVTS programs and a tour of the facilities.

Successful "Guidance Day" programs were held at the East Brunswick Campus, the Perth Amboy Campus, and the Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Technology. The Guidance Department provided informational programs and admissions materials to school counselors from local school districts.

Debra Buchma, School Social Worker, and Eileen Ziper, School Psychologist, provided an informational power point presentation at an Old Bridge Special Education Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meeting. They discussed options available at MCVTS for students with Special Needs. Mrs. Buchma and Ms. Ziper presented to approximately 25 people including Administrators, Child Study Team members, parents and students. They were invited back to present again next year.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Employer Appreciation Banquet, held at our Piscataway Campus, was sponsored by our Cooperative Education Coordinators and their students. More than 225 students, employers, and guests attended.

The district received a two year grant (The Governor's Initiative: Enhancing and Expanding In-District Program Options for Students with Disabilities) from the State of New Jersey in support of Special Education Programming. Designated teachers and Child Study Team members participated in three grant trainings to support the use of equipment and software purchased through the grant. Participants were trained to use the Interactive Smart Board and the following instructional software: SOLO, United Streaming, and Co-Writer.