

HILLSIDE TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

READY, SET, EXCEL!

Spring Issue, 2017

Hillside Public School Honors High Achievers



Student achievement is front and center in Hillside Public Schools. Students at George Washington School and Hillside High School celebrated Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients.

Hillside High School recognized 213 students in grades 9-12, which almost doubles the MP 1 recipients. Students acknowledged the tremendous sacrifices necessary to excel in the classroom, but embrace the challenges, knowing that high academic achievement opens the doors to great colleges and future career opportunities.

77 students at George Washington received thunderous applause from family and guardians as they received their certificate of achievement. George Washington increased its number of Honor Roll recipients from 55 in MP 1.

We proudly recognize our shining stars!!!

This ceremony is in recognition of the dedicated students who made many sacrifices in pursuit of academic excellence. They have become the leaders, role models and shining examples for the school and community at large.



Superintendent Honor Roll honorees from the Class of 2017 .

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FROM TEACHER LEARNERS TO TEACHER LEADERS

Peer Teacher Educational Technology Sessions were introduced to staff in March 2016. Through this workshop series, teachers are invited to share their expertise with using technology in the classroom with their peers. Sessions are offered at various times and are scheduled at the convenience of our instructional team. Workshops can be for a few hours, or an entire series of sessions, depending on the desire of the teacher facilitating and planning these opportunities. Sessions can be held over the summer, like Catherine Martins's "Google Classroom" session that was presented this July. Today, we average between 1,400 and 1,635 Google Classroom users each week. Our Project Based Learning (PBL) professional learning community started with the idea of presenting a half-day session, possibly after school one day. By the time she was finished planning, it was evident we would need a full 6 hour day. The central theme of Project Based Learning is to shift the onus of learning from the teacher to the student, putting students in charge of their own learning paths, and the creation of the "Learner-Active Technology-Infused Classroom" (Sulla, 2015). This is a tremendous step forward for our instructional program, and something our teachers were passionate about exploring further. Since this paradigm shift in instruction could not successfully take place after just one training, we decided to take some time to explore our new techniques, instructional strategies, and tech tools, and then meet again in about a month, and our PBL PLC was formed.

Kristy Weaver, Instructional Data Specialist, stated that "We are still learning and supporting one another in this endeavor. Some of our team members use PBL for all their course sections, and others are taking it more slowly, but we continue to meet and move forward. At our last meeting, two elementary teachers joined us so that we could share what we are moving towards with all grade levels." She also would like to give a **Special Thanks** the 8 teachers who piloted this initiative:

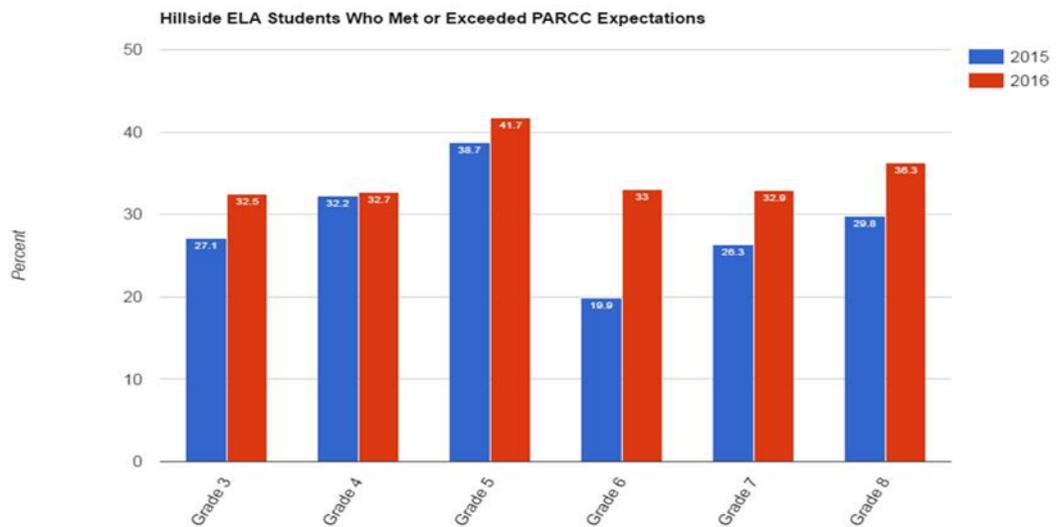
Jo Ann Ashby- Lead Teacher
Musheerah Gill
Sam Robison
Alicia Agoglia
Elizabeth Silva
Narha Nezius
Rosalind Bartholomew
Tracey Scott-Jackson

3RD & 4TH GRADE GIRLS ROCK AT HURDEN LOOKER

Girls Rock Science is an after school science program for girls. The goals for the program include: getting girls more encouraged in science activities, to encourage girls to take a leadership role in and out of the classroom, to work with their peers to solve problems and to build their confidence and empower them to understand that they can become anything they want if they put in the effort. The girl's complete science activities during each session, they discover and discuss WHY things happen, we talk about careers in science and most importantly, we have fun!

To see more about the Girls Rock Science Club, visit

<http://classroomcloseup.org/segments/girls-rock-science/>



Knocking It Out of the PARCC

Hillside students take aim at the upcoming PARCC exams. Students in grades 3-8 showed steady improvement in Language Arts Literacy in 2016 when compared. By implementing targeted assistance in Saturday Academies and afterschool tutoring, introducing new MAPs (Measures of Academic Progress) benchmark testing and revising curriculum, our students are primed and ready to knock the PARCC test out of the park!

PARCC stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers



Capt. Nicola Lamonte at George Washington School

Hillside Public Schools Partner with Hillside Police Department to Inspire Students to Read

The **Hillside Public School District** has partnered with the Hillside Police Department as part of the Community Relations Committee to share ideas and resources that support the academic, social and emotional growth of Hillside students in a safe environment. Notably, the partnership includes monthly articulation sessions with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gayles, Hillside staff Police Captain, Nick Lomonte and members of the Hillside Police Department. Outcomes of the partnership include Police Department advisement on specific methods to increase school safety, school security training on Hillside School District staff development days, and crisis management preparation and plans for PAL.

The Police Department also attends district events such as the newly formed mentoring program for Hillside High School and **WOK Middle School** students: **Ready, Set, Grow Academy** Kick-Off, PTA meetings and school events. In doing so, they have helped to stimulate our students' interest in reading and promote positive character development.

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