

FOCUS

on our schools

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FHS Grads Accepted By Noted Colleges, Universities

\$340,000 in Scholarships awarded



Sandy goes to Harvard

Sandy Junta, co-valedictorian for the 1987 graduating class of Franklin High School has been accepted to Harvard University where she plans to major in public or international relations.

Other students accepted by very competitive colleges are Suzanne Roberts accepted by John Hopkins University, Maren Linett accepted by the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania, Philip LaFornara and Britt Lacher, accepted by Cornell and Alicia Grey accepted by Wellesley College.

Competitive colleges which have accepted FHS graduates include Carnegie

Mellon University, the University of North Carolina, Vanderbilt, Boston University and Rutgers University.

According to Heidi Greiss, Guidance Counselor, FHS seniors have garnered a total of \$340,000 in athletic and academic scholarships this year.

She said statistics from the 1987 class show that 52% of the graduates will be attending 4-year colleges and universities, 16% will attend 2-year colleges, 8% will go to technical, trade or business schools; 7% will join the armed forces; 16% will be working or already have jobs; and 1% are undecided.

FHS Celebrates 25th Anniversary

About 400 people turned out at the Ukrainian Center on Davidson Avenue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Franklin High School. Representatives from each of the 25 classes attended the buffet dinner/dance celebration.

Preparation for the 25th anniversary celebration was arranged by the reunion committee, headed by Judy Butler, herself a graduate of Franklin High School 19 years ago. Ms. Butler is currently a teacher at the high school.

Other committee members included Tedi DeVries, Sue Kopsco Diehl, Yvonne Everett, Bill Grippo, Jack Hellman, Rich Hibbard, Cynthia Holiday, Tom Kralovic, Melita Krauszer, Norah Kuthy, Linda Kopsco Micklesen, Frank Pervecchio, Donna Bubliss Resta, Ivy Hunt Stephens and Patti Pace Young.

Each former graduate attending the celebration was awarded with a medallion commemorating the anniversary.

Elaine DeSalva: Teacher of the Year

Elaine DeSalva, a fifth grade teacher at Hillcrest School, has been selected as Franklin Township's Teacher of the Year.

"I am very excited personally and very excited for Hillcrest School," Ms. DeSalva said. "I was thrilled just to be nominated for the award."

Ms. DeSalva is a 22 year veteran of the classroom, having spent her entire career as fifth grade teacher at Hillcrest.

According to Ms. DeSalva, teaching is in her family's blood. She said her maternal grandmother organized county study groups while raising 13 children and managing the family farm in Marathon County, Wisconsin.

Both her older sister and her brother became teachers, adding to her desire to enter the field.

Ms. DeSalva said two elementary school teachers became a major influence in her life, encouraging her to think and approach issues from conflicting points of view.

After exploring possible careers in journalism, government, social work, medicine, law and business, she chose teaching because it allowed her to incorporate all the things she enjoyed.

Ms. DeSalva said she chose to do her student teaching in a ghetto school in order to expand her experience. She said the year proved to be a combination of frustration, exhilaration and constant challenge.

According to Ms. DeSalva, teaching has been a completely rewarding career. "I couldn't imagine myself at any other job," she said. "Make no mistake about it, you can't win all the children. But you keep on trying and keep on caring."

Ms. DeSalva will now advance to the county competition level, and if successful, on to the state level.

She said she feels the secret to successful teaching is learning.

"You have to keep learning," she said. "If you keep learning, you can't help but be a fairly effective teacher."



Conerly Has NASA Assembly



District Arbor Day

The Sampson G. Smith outdoor learning center held a district-wide Arbor Day celebration and invited all township schools to attend the ceremonies. Pictured above is S.G.S. teacher Jeff Wren (left) and Errich Nurnberger. Also shown are third graders Jackie Herr, Robyn Smith and Ross Holtham from Elizabeth Avenue School.

It took three years to get the special NASA assembly for Conerly Road School, according to Dr. Jack Pirone, principal. But on Thursday, Feb. 12, students were privileged to enjoy the NASA presentation of Michael A. Caterina, Aerospace Education Specialist for NASA.

"I think the program is fantastic," Dr. Pirone said. "It is just such a difficult program to acquire."

Mr. Caterina told the students much factual information about the space program, describing many of the wonderful advancements made with modern technology.

Mr. Caterina said there are only four requirements for becoming an astronaut with NASA. The first, candidates must be less than 36 when selected, second, candidates must be between 152 and 192 centimeters tall, third, candidates must be in good physical health, and fourth, candidates must have four years of college.

"Four years of college is not much," Mr. Caterina said in response to the moans from the audience. "All your

teachers have four years of college and many have their doctorates, meaning they have seven or eight years of college."

When it came time to demonstrate the astronaut suit, Mr. Caterina asked for a volunteer from the audience. Tia Williams, a Conerly student, volunteered.

"The astronaut suit is heavy, weighing 50 pounds with the oxygen tank weighing 150 pounds," Mr. Caterina said. Neither have any weight in space, he added.

Tia was helped into the astronaut suit and Mr. Caterina explained all the fixtures located on the suit. He said the suit was constructed of 11 layers of materials.

"The suit felt very hot and heavy," Tia said after she had returned to her seat.

Mr. Caterina told students their interest in the space program could begin now, as is the case with a student from New Brunswick who has had a science project selected to go on a future shuttle mission.

Following the assembly, Mr. Caterina spent the afternoon at Conerly doing follow-ups with selected individual classes.

He and his program were well received by the students from Conerly Road School.

Message From The Superintendent:

Franklin Township Public Schools have recorded a noticeable improvement in HSPT test results.

Scores show that 93.9 percent of students who took the reading portion passed, as compared to last year's 86 percent. Improvement was also noted in the mathematics portion of the test. This year, 83.2 percent passed, up from 70.6 percent in 1986.

The improved scores are the result of a district-wide focus on HSPT skills. Students are more aware of skills needed to pass the HSPT, and materials have been

prepared to meet those areas.

Out of 256 ninth graders taking the test, 213 passed the math section and 240 passed the reading.

While the effort consumes much energy and talent by all, the results are equally rewarding.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Whyte, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Noted Author Makes Visit To Pine Grove

Terry Wolfe Phelan, a published author of such children's books as "Best Friends, Hands Down," "S.S. Valentine," and "The Week Mom Unplugged the TVs," recently visited students at Pine Grove Manor School.

She stressed that the only way to be a writer is to write.

"It may not be very good the first time, but you crumple it up, throw it out and try again." Ms. Phelan said. "Everytime you write something it will be a little better. You just have to keep writing."

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Focus on Our Schools is published by the Franklin Township Board of Education in the interest of better communication between the schools and the community. The public is invited to share with us any suggestions or questions about our schools or this newsletter.

Regular business meetings of the Board of Education are held the second Monday of each month. Meeting date changes are announced. For further information, call 873-2400.

Editor/public relations specialist Bill Grippo
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Biographies For A Day At MacAfee

According to MacAfee Road School teacher Mary Follette, each of her students had to read a biography on his/her reading level, and report back to the class in the first person — which is no easy task, requiring stage presence and dramatic skill, as well as a keen memory.

"It's one of the high points of the year," Mrs. Follette said. "It's really exciting when they reach a higher level. It's really pretty sophisticated."

**—Important Opening Of School Announcement—
School Hours 1987-1988 School Year**

Full Session Day

A.M. Kindergarten
8:20 am to 10:55 am
P.M. Kindergarten
11:40 am to 2:15 pm

Elementary
(Including Extended Day Kindergarten)
8:20 am to 2:15 pm

Sampson G. Smith School
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Franklin High School
7:45 am to 2:21 pm

PLEASE NOTE:

- Public school students in Kindergarten through Grade 6, transported and non-transported, will be allowed to enter the school building at 8:15 am.
- Public school students who are transported by school bus will receive bus passes announcing the new "pick-up" times by mail on or before August 25, 1987. Parents with questions concerning bus transportation may call the Transportation Hot Line at 873-2698.

FEATHERS IN OUR CAP

Ruth Drennan was selected as a finalist in the 1987/88 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program.

Peter Chen and **Ben Weintraub** were selected to attend the Governor's School at Drew University, and **Viquar Pervaaaz** was chosen to attend the Governor's School at Monmouth College.

Danielle Heimann was selected to serve as Eisendrath International Exchange Scholar for 1987.

Mary Simonson won first prize in the Folk Tale contest at Elizabeth Avenue School for reading and reporting on 114 books.

Anthony Holder, Jonathan Henning, Kathleen Noway, Jeremy Burton and **Joseph Kady** won medals at the Somerset

County Tournament of Champions in May.

Students of Pine Grove Manor School read 1,728 books on their own as part of the school's program — Reading is Fundamental.

Darron Brown, 6th grader at Hillcrest, won the slalom and grand slalom race in his age group during the National Brotherhood of Skiers 1987 Summit at Lake Placid, N.Y.

David Ritschel won the Spirit of Stokes award this year and **Sally Reir** and **James Kopczyk** were chosen best campers.

Dana Oley of Franklin Park School competed in the State Championship Gymnastics meet, finishing in the top 50 percent.



Seniors Day

For the second successive year, Elizabeth Avenue School has matched together the young and the old as part of Senior Citizen's Day. Students act as hosts and hostesses for their guests, providing both tours and entertainment for the day. Pictured above is Venee Tubman, junior hostess, and Mr. Nick Marx.



Teachers Honored

Franklin Township teachers honored at a special Governor's Teacher Recognition Program are (from left, seated) Lynn Schown of Sampson G. Smith, Marion Daugherty of Elizabeth Avenue and Phyllis Novak of Hillcrest School. Shown standing (from left) are Eleanor Hoeflinger of Hillcrest School, Sheila Beberman of Conerly Road, Mable Hauck of MacAfee Road School, Chuck Miley of Franklin High School, Marcia Wolfe of Franklin Park and Dr. Ronald Whyte, Superintendent. Suzanne Springer of Pine Grove Manor is not pictured. Each of the teachers receives a \$1,000 grant for educational use at their respective schools.

**1987 Fall Adult/Community Education Program
Registration Dates**

Thurs., Sept. 10; Mon., Sept. 14; Wed., Sept. 16

Watch for our Brochure in the mail!

(Phone 545-4229)

Hillcrest: Top 10 in Math

Hillcrest School's sixth grade math olympiad team has placed in the top 10 percent in the international skills competition for elementary schools, said Principal Linda Beyea.

One sixth grader, Mark Schocklin, missed only one question in the entire five meets, earning him a position among the top .18 percent.

A total of 50,744 students competed in this year's math olympiads representing 2,024 schools from all 50 states and 17 foreign countries.

Mark was one of 89 students to miss only one question, scoring a 24 out of a

possible 25. Fifty-four students scored a perfect year. The average score was 6.46 points.

"The math olympiads is a program where students are given difficult math questions to help build their math abilities," said Ms. Beyea. "It helps students learn to think through math questions. The questions are not from the times tables or anything like that."

The recognition is nice, but it's not the most important thing," she added, "Knowing the students are learning thinking skills is the important part."

Ben Franklin Visits School

A man dressed in worn 18th Century garments who introduced himself as Benjamin Franklin paced about the auditorium of the Franklin Park School this spring. He was delivering a monologue on major personal and professional episodes of his life to a delighted elementary school audience.

Ralph Archbold, the man behind the persona, said he's been freelancing as Franklin for the past 14 years at banquets, conventions and schools around the country.

"For school groups I talk mostly about the inventions and discoveries of the early years," Mr. Archbold said. "For conventions I do motivational type things — like accepting challenges and communicating. For corporations I do the same thing, it's very popular."

Mr. Archbold said he knew little about Franklin when he started out. He said he not only resembles the real Franklin, but even shares the same birthday (Jan. 17). He added that he does as many as 600 performances a year.

Mr. Archbold portrayed Franklin as an amusing, ironic figure, who saw even his victories in realistic — sometimes humorous — terms.

He finished his speech on a serious note, hailing the inventiveness of Americans.

"We are a people who solve problems," he said.



Ralph Archbold in the role of Benjamin Franklin.



Teacher Appreciation Week was held the week of May 4 in Franklin Township Public Schools. The PTO's from each of the schools took the opportunity to express appreciation for the inspiration and leadership teachers provide everyday. Pictured above, representing Kingston School, is student Katie Crespo offering the traditional apple to teacher Cynthia Berliner.



School Angels Thanks To ...

Trap Rock Industries, Inc. for the sponsorship of six Franklin High School students to the August Leadership Training Conference. The \$690 contribution is greatly appreciated.

The Garden Department of the Cedar Wood Woman's Club of Franklin Township for the donation of seven Kwanzan cherry trees for Arbor Day, and for enabling Sampson G. Smith school to purchase bulbs for the arboretum.

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