



Allamuchy Township School

THE BOARD REPORT



Mountain Villa School

Volume 9, Issue 1

August 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Back to School

This is an exciting time of year for education. Students, teachers and families have had an opportunity to recharge. Parents are completing shopping for school supplies and school outfits. Youngsters are eager to see their classmates after the summer. Teachers are refreshed and preparing new lessons. The schools have been cleaned, polished and prepared for the new school year. Optimism abounds. The excitement is palpable. It is a good time to look at goals, what constitutes success and how that success is achieved.

Everyone, students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, the State and the Board of Education has different visions of success as it relates to education. Parents typically want their children to get good grades, which in turn translate to good colleges, which in turn produce good jobs. The State is concerned with college and career readiness. These are concerns for the education community. But the students and the educators, i.e., teachers, administrators and the Board of Education, have a different but more fundamental and overarching common concept of success: the cultivation of an excitement for discovery and learning. Success is found in “eureka” moments. Success is reflected when youngsters proclaim “That’s cool!” when they explore. Teachers know they have succeeded when they hear students exclaim “Wow” when making connections. The ultimate goal is for this excitement for discovery and learning to endure for a lifetime.

How shall we achieve this? Note that the question is addressed to “we.” The education of a young person and the cultivation of intellectual curiosity is a collective effort. Parents, students and educators each have a role. The Board of Education has the responsibility of adopting curriculum, providing a space conducive to learning and employing educators to guide our young people on their adventure of discovery and to spark the flame of inquisitiveness. Our administrators and teachers must strive to create the environment for exploration and curiosity. And our parents must support their children with positive encouragement and sharing in the wonder of learning. The District for several years has adopted a program created by Johns Hopkins University which promotes effective parental involvement in a student’s education. Students must also attend school every day with punctuality (attendance has become an issue in Allamuchy) and do so equipped with an eagerness to learn. Especially in these primary years, all must encourage our students to be daring and to take academic risks, regardless of consequence for grades. For some of the most important lessons spring from mistakes and failures.

In this era of politically motivated educational reform much of the public focus on education revolves around student achievement in the form of test results. These tests are important. Moreover the testing regimen will expand greatly beginning this year with the inception of the PARCC. Allamuchy as a whole does well on the State tests. More importantly, the District uses them for their primary purpose, insight into relative strengths and weaknesses of program from which the District will make adjustments to program. The tests must not be the exclusive litmus test for achievement. Real student achievement is a far broader concept than test scores. Eureka moments, appreciation of graphic art or music, hands-on experience with animals, social development and many other aspects of student growth in Allamuchy are qualitative indicators of achievement that tell a more complete story of achievement. The true excellence of the Allamuchy School District includes those aspects of student growth which fall outside the scope of standardized tests.

So, as a community, let us all keep the excitement of the return to school alive and vibrant for the entire school year. Let’s promote the eureka moments!

Student Service Impact!!!

In partnership with Picatinny Arsenal, members of the Allamuchy School community contributed to a military care package that was recently sent overseas. SSG Christopher Mackie, our 2013 Veterans’ Day speaker, is currently on his third deployment, and he was grateful to receive our care package and share it with his fellow soldiers. He described it as a “morale booster” and “the best care package” that he has received in all of his deployments. What a special way for Allamuchy School to remind our troops that their heroism is never far from our hearts.



The best lessons are the ones that will stay with a child for a lifetime. Service learning can help a child to recognize that our greatest calling is to better the world around us, and the Allamuchy Township School District seeks to inspire its students to take up this mission. The 8th graders in our district will again this year work to help feed the hungry. Volunteer sessions at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey will show the students the value of community service locally. In the past, meal packaging events through Stop Hunger Now have contributed over 22,000 nutritious meals to lunch programs in El Salvador and Tajikistan. Our 8th graders are learning that everyone can help to make our world a better place.

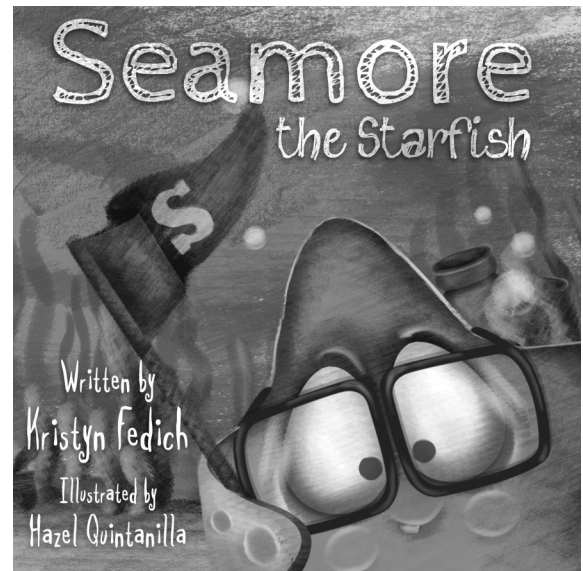
Allamuchy’s Very Own Author

Seamore the Starfish

Kristyn Fedich—Author
Allamuchy Reading Specialist

Allamuchy Reading Specialist, Kristyn Fedich, is a published children’s author! Her books feature a little starfish who is unsure of himself. He is worried about the way he looks and about trying new things. With the help of his friends and family, his confidence soars, and he learns he can do anything he sets his mind to!

Books are available on Amazon in paperback and ebook for Kindle and the Kindle app.



Important Dates

Tuesday-Wednesday, September 2-3	All Staff Report	
Thursday, September 4	First Day for Students	
Monday, September 22	7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, September 30	7:00 pm	Grades K-1 Back to School Night
Wednesday, October 1	7:00 pm	Grades 2-5 Back to School Night
Thursday, October 2	7:00 pm	Grades 6-8 Back to School Night
Monday, October 13		Columbus Day—No School for Students
Thursday-Friday, November 6-7		School Closed—NJEA Convention
		Allamuchy Township School
		Mountain Villa School
		Allamuchy Township School
		Allamuchy Township School

Meet Our New Staff

Melissa Sabol—Supervisor of Instruction and Technology

Melissa Sabol is a graduate of the College of New Jersey, where she earned her Health and Physical Education degree. She completed her post-graduate studies in Special Education at Centenary College in 2011. Melissa is currently enrolled in the Educational Leadership program at Centenary College and recently received her Supervisor's Licensure. Her varied experiences include physical education, elementary and special education, as well as technology coordination and instruction.

Pete Demary—Maintenance—Mountain Villa School/Allamuchy Farms Campus

Pete Demary looks forward to giving back to the community. He has been an Allamuchy resident since first grade.

Michelle Mayhood—Maternity Leave Replacement—Art

Michelle Mayhood has experience as an art and photography teacher with students of diverse backgrounds and ages. She obtained a B.A. in Fine Arts and later received her Masters in Education from Montclair State University. Most recently she has completed long-term replacement positions as an art teacher in the Chester and Great Meadows School Districts.

Good Eats Coming!!

Returning Allamuchy students should be pleasantly surprised to see the “fruits,” and vegetables of their Gardening Enrichment Program “labors.” Summer weather conditions are yielding some very promising harvests of long season and late summer vegetables, herbs and cutting flowers. The students, especially current 3rd and 4th graders, began all the plants from seed starting in February. Lessons emphasized during the program included the use of environmentally friendly, low cost gardening techniques to produce organic, nutritious food while using teamwork in the process. Corn, melons, sweet potatoes, beets, and cotton are just a few of the crops awaiting the students for harvesting, tasting and exploration during this year’s Autumn Gardening Enrichment Program.



INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED SEARCH INITIATED FOR PERMANENT CSA

As many already know, Dr. Seth Cohen resigned from the position of Superintendent of the Allamuchy School District on June 30. The Board of Education conducted a search for an interim Superintendent. After interviewing several candidates, the Board brought back as Interim Superintendent Dr. Tim Frederiks, who served as our Superintendent for 7 years. During his tenure, he was a leader in curricular design, the evolution of the educational culture of the district and the acquisition and development of Mountain Villa and Rutherford Hall. We are truly fortunate to be able to bring Dr. Frederiks back.

In the meantime, the Board is undertaking a search for a permanent Superintendent. It is expected the process may take until the end of December. The position is so important that the Board is planning on proceeding with appropriate thoroughness and thoughtfulness to find a candidate who will support the educational culture of the District. As part of the process, the Board has examined the administrative structure of the District, especially in light of the demands of the new AchieveNJ law. The goal is to have the new Superintendent also assume the duties of the director of the Child Study Team. The Board decided to retain the services of a consultant to guide the Board in this important process. Dr. Gary Bowen had been retained, at a cost of \$4,000, to provide CSA search services.

ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION



The ATEF is energized for the new school year, having secured several grants in 2014 that helped a variety of projects and programs at the schools and at Rutherford Hall. For the first time in its six-year history, the Allamuchy Township Education Foundation received a grant under its own application. The \$2,500 award – known as the Toby Tyler Grant – from the New Jersey Education Foundation (NJEFP), a statewide nonprofit organization, is being used to purchase a 16-channel digital mixer and four wireless microphones with body packs and receivers for the benefit of the drama and music departments and for other programs and assemblies. Additionally, \$1,650 awarded by the Warren County Cultural & Heritage Commission, through a re-grant from the NJ State Council of the Arts, and matching funds from the ATEF, helped fund the Scientist/Artist in Residence event all the students enjoyed in June. On behalf of Rutherford Hall, a \$2,500 grant from the First Energy Foundation (JCP&L) will help enhance safety and security on the premises through lighting improvements.

The success of the Third Annual Taste of the Town in April will allow the ATEF to make additional contributions to technology improvements in the schools. Furthermore, the Foundation was excited to be a sponsor for the Fireworks Spectacular in July.

Looking ahead, the second phase of brick pavers will soon be installed, and a third phase will be announced soon. Flyers will be available at Back-to-School Night and on the Foundation's own website, which is wrapping up construction.

Plans continue for an outdoor classroom, a natural, authentic learning environment on the Allamuchy Farms/MVS campus. This and all of the ATEF's efforts support innovative educational and funding opportunities in Allamuchy, for both children and the public...AND, in the months to come, look for exciting information about the ATEF's 4th Annual TASTE OF THE TOWN in APRIL 2015!

In accordance with its bylaws, the ATEF now meets quarterly. Four additional meetings will also be announced throughout the year. Anyone with expertise and interest in education foundations and the Allamuchy School District, including Rutherford Hall, is encouraged to consider being part of the current group of seven trustees or working on specific projects or events.

For additional information about the Foundation, contact trustee/president Sal Corino at (646)319-6446 or visit the ATEF's new website at www.ateffoundation.com for updates. Please note that until the website is visitor-ready, ATEF information will be posted on the Allamuchy school website.

PTO NEWS

PTO WISHES ALL A HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Meet the new 2014-15 PTO Executive Board:

President: Paula Waeschle has been an active PTO member since her “very first day” at Allamuchy School. Her daughter is in eighth grade, and her son is in fourth grade. Over the years she has served as PTO secretary, co-vice-president, and book fair chair, and she has been instrumental in successful tricky tray fundraisers and most recently the PTO’s silent auction.

Co-Vice-Presidents: Kindergarten teacher and mom of three ATS alumni Paige Schmiedeke, who has been the teacher grant coordinator and co-vice-president for many years, is joined this year by Dina Putz, whose daughter is in eighth grade. Dina has been very successful handling national solicitation for several tricky trays and silent auctions.

Treasurer: Tiffany Ulch takes a second term as treasurer. Tiffany has two sons in the district, one in first grade and one moving to the “big school” for second grade!

Secretary: Gina Reardon continues in this position. Gina has triplets in fifth grade and a son who is a high school freshman.

Kara Fragale, immediate past president, is the Advisor. Five of Kara’s six children are Allamuchy alumni; her youngest is in first grade.

The first PTO meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 in Room 149 at the Township School. The PTO then meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. except in DECEMBER...no meeting during the holidays! The complete meeting schedule will be on the school website under the PTO tab.

The PTO will kick off the year with BOOK SOX (fabric book covers) sales in the cafeteria the first week of school. Let your child(ren) do this part of back-to-school shopping during lunch – there will be new colors and patterns for all their book-covering needs! KIDSTUFF coupon books will be available for purchase again this year, and the PTO’s three-tiered 50/50 raffle takes place in the fall. Market Day will continue, too, in a much more streamlined format. Lori Neely takes over as chair from Claire Britt, who graciously ran Market Day for several years, even after her last child moved on to high school!

“Welcome Packets” will contain important information about the PTO and also about the School Directory it coordinates. Families are asked to be prompt returning the requested information.

The PTO is proud of its accomplishments and the assistance it was able to give to the district during the last school year because of the support of families and the extended community. Participation in fundraisers and the “Collectibles”* program helps make possible so many enriching programs and classroom and school-wide enhancements. The PTO is already planning to meet fund-raising challenges and is excited to announce its major fundraiser:

ALLAMUCHY PTO’S NEW FUNDRAISING EVENT

DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

March 21, 2015 at the Holiday Inn in Mt Olive.

Plans are underway for a night of fun and prizes for Allamuchy families and friends to support the PTO in its efforts to assist the school district with education enhancing opportunities. Details will go public in the very near future.

***So, what are Collectibles? PTO fundraising programs that require no additional out-of-pocket spending:**

- **SHOPRITE’s dollar-for-dollar gift card program** earns a percentage on the money you use to shop for groceries. Gift cards are sold in increments of \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100; estimate what you might spend and purchase that amount from Lisa Strutin, Beth Gavin, or Marianne Weber.
- **elabelsforeducation.com.** Use your ShopRite PricePlus card number (or your phone number). The PTO receives a 100-label sign-up bonus. Our school is listed under "Allamuchy Elementary School." It’s the same account for Mountain Villa—please DO NOT set up a separate account for MVS. Continue clipping Labels for Education labels and UPCs, too. *With Labels for Education, Marsha Koerner’s Skills class received a large equipment cart for the new school year!*
- **Boxtops4education.com.** Bonus points for registering, shopping through the site, plus info about bonus box tops and contests. Keep clipping box tops, too. Each is worth 10¢, so why throw dimes in the trash?
- **Target Redcard Rewards** (school ID 72241). Use your Redcard to get 5% off your purchases PLUS earn money for our schools.
- **Terracycle.net.** From juice pouches to glue sticks to personal care/beauty product packaging...yes, the PTO earns money from this waste and much more! Check the complete list on the PTO website.
- **Recycle4fundraising.** Ink- and laser-jets.
- **Tyson.** Box flaps and bag tops, worth 24¢ each.



September *Sizzles* at Rutherford Hall!

September 7—3 to 5 PM

Lecture —“We Can Take It: The Roosevelt Tree Army”

Peter Osborne, writer and historian, presents on the 70th anniversary of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s visit to Rutherford Hall. This fascinating lecture explores the rich legacy left by the Civilian Conservation Corps, building parks, forests and wildlife refuge areas including dams, roads, vistas, lakes and buildings across America. The New Deal’s most notable success, the CCC provided much needed employment for millions of unemployed young men during the Great Depression. Peter has written four books about the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Admission: \$1

September 21—3 to 5 PM

Concert on the Lawn —Story Songs of History

Gordon Thomas Ward, historian, educator and entertainer, presents “Welcome to the Past.” This collection of original songs, celebrating the rich history and secret tales of our shared past, is designed to inspire, educate and entertain. The concert utilizes a “behind the scenes” format combining music, song and anecdotes to take listeners on a fascinating journey through time. Gordon has appeared at numerous music festivals and on television, and has worked with notable musicians such as Eric Troyer, David Rimelis, and Dave Shapiro.

Admission: \$5 per person

September 24—7 PM

Rutherford Family Film Night

A curated collection—Look behind the scenes with the Rutherford family’s home movies and other films taken at Rutherford Hall.

Admission is Free

Visit us on the web: www.rutherfordhall.org

Jazz at Rutherford Hall 2014-2015

September 14, 2014

The Dena DeRose Trio

Dena DeRose, jazz vocalist and pianist, has performed at some of the most respected jazz festivals around the world. DeRose has also been named “Artist Deserving Wider Recognition” by Downbeat Critic’s Poll in 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2013. DeRose will be accompanied by **Martin Wind** on bass and **Tim Horner** on drums.

\$20.00 Advance - \$25.00 Door

October 19, 2014

Piano Extravaganza

Featuring pianists **Danny Mixon**, a prolific piano virtuoso; **Dave Roper**, with the ability to integrate jazz and classical music; and **Tomoko Ohno**, an outstanding international performer, accompanied by Diva’s rhythm section—**Sherrrie Maricle** on drums and **Noriko Ueda** on bass.

\$25.00 Advance - \$30.00 Door

November 30, 2014

Two Tenors From Philly

Featuring tenors **Larry McKenna**, a masterful jazz improviser and influential jazz educator, and **Tommy Gryce**, an outstanding saxophonist, arranger and premier music teacher, with their rhythm section—an organist and drummer.

\$22.50 Advance - \$27.50 Door

December 28, 2014

Harry Allen Quintet

Featuring the outstanding 13-year-old trumpet prodigy **Geoff Gallante**, an amazing talent for his age, and **Harry Allen** the award-winning worldwide jazz saxophonist, backed by an outstanding rhythm section.

\$22.50 Advance - \$27.50 Door

February 1, 2015

The Tony DeSare Trio

World known pianist **Tony DeSare** performs with infectious joy, wry playfulness and robust musicality. His take on classic standards and sophisticated original compositions has earned him a reputation as one of the country’s hottest young singer/pianists. His sound is romantic, swinging and sensual, dubbed as a Sinatra, Connick Jr., and Buble. Tony will be accompanied by a great rhythm section.

\$27.50 Advance - \$32.50 Door

March 22, 2015

Big Apple Jazz Band

Dick Voigt, jazz pianist, is the founder and leader of **The Big Apple Dixieland Jazz Band**. The band plays classic jazz with style, energy, and joy, stemming from the combined experience of the top New York musicians in the ensemble. Dick has directed and performed jazz and Dixieland for some of the best jazz clubs and festivals for over 50 years.

\$22.50 Advance - \$27.50 Door

April 19, 2015

A Tribute to Johnny Mercer, The Great American Composer

Swingadelic swings in with founder and bassist **Dave Post**, featuring **Jerry Weldon** on sax (a featured soloist for Harry Connick Jr.); Jersey’s own **Vanessa Perea**, vocalist and regular in NYC jazz clubs; **David Longworth**, an international and “off Broadway” award winning drummer; and **John Bauers**, world known pianist, accompanist and musical director.

\$22.50 Advance - \$27.50 Door

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Allamuchy Township School
Grades 2–8

Mountain Villa School
Grades PK –1

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Director of Special Services

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Principal

MS. JULIE MUMAW
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