**New Principal at Ardmore Avenue**

We welcome Ms. Raqueebah Burch to the William Penn School District family. Ms. Burch is Principal at Ardmore Avenue Elementary School. She has most recently worked at the Chester Community Charter School and at the School District of Philadelphia, where some of her most notable accomplishments include establishing a successful parent workshop series, and piloting a self-care plan for staff and a Climate and Trauma-informed Culture plan of action.

Immediate goals for Ardmore Avenue include building and establishing strong relationships with the staff, students, and families, and allowing a forum for collaboration and feedback. Ms. Burch also intends to create structures at Ardmore Avenue that strengthen and enhance the academic, social and emotional programming. She said, “It is both an honor and privilege to lead and serve the children, staff, and families of the William Penn School District. I am excited to be entering my 20th year as an educator and can vehemently say that no two days have been alike.”

**New Student Board Rep Takes Oath of Office**

Penn Wood High School freshman Paul Vandy (center) was sworn in as a Student Representative Member of the Board of School Directors. Superintendent Ms. Jane Harbert (far left) assisted as the Oath of Office was issued by William Penn School District School Board President Ms. Jennifer Hoff.
William Penn Names New School Safety Coordinator

Mr. L’Toray Hill was hired as School Safety Coordinator for the William Penn School District. Mr. Hill most recently served as School Safety Officer at Walnut Street Elementary School. He is a graduate of Penn Wood High School.

Enjoy Hors D’oeuvres, Giveaways, and More!

Come see various technology initiatives in the William Penn School District and examples of projects and programs provided through Penn Wood Foundation grants to help support our students and communities.

To RSVP, please email pbookman@wpsd.k12.pa.us

The event is free and people of all ages are welcome.

Penn Wood Foundation, Inc.


November 2019

- November 3 - Standard Time Begins (Move clocks back 1 hour at 2am)
- November 5 - No School for Students (In-Service Day)/Election Day
- November 13 - Report Cards Issued (Grades K-6) and Mailed (Grades 7-12)
- November 13 at 6:30pm - School Board Personnel Committee Meeting
- November 18 at 6:30pm - School Board Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
- November 20 at 4:00pm - School Board Community Relations Committee Meeting
- November 20 at 6:30pm - School Board Policy Committee Meeting
- November 21 at 6:30pm - School Board Education Committee Meeting
- November 25 - Student Flu Shots
- November 25 at 7:30pm - School Board Business Meeting (Pre-session at 6:30pm)
- November 26 & November 27 - Parent/Teacher Conference Days - No School for Students
- November 28-29 - Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

November 2019

- November 3 - Standard Time Begins (Move clocks back 1 hour at 2am)
- November 5 - No School for Students (In-Service Day)/Election Day
- November 13 - Report Cards Issued (Grades K-6) and Mailed (Grades 7-12)
- November 13 at 6:30pm - School Board Personnel Committee Meeting
- November 18 at 6:30pm - School Board Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
- November 20 at 4:00pm - School Board Community Relations Committee Meeting
- November 20 at 6:30pm - School Board Policy Committee Meeting
- November 21 at 6:30pm - School Board Education Committee Meeting
- November 25 - Student Flu Shots
- November 25 at 7:30pm - School Board Business Meeting (Pre-session at 6:30pm)
- November 26 & November 27 - Parent/Teacher Conference Days - No School for Students
- November 28-29 - Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

**American Education Week**

American Education Week is co-sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA), National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), the National School Public Relations Association, and other national education associations as a time to support and raise awareness about public schools. The 98th annual observance of American Education Week (AEW) is November 18-22, 2019. The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

NEA’s recurring theme for AEW observance is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," and reflects the NEA’s calling upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century. American Education Week is a time for saluting our public schools and the relationships between all school employees, students, parents, and communities. More information about American Education Week can be found on the National Education Association’s website at www.nea.org.

**American Education Week Proclamation**

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they’ll need to maintain our nation’s precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees – be they custodians, teachers, bus drivers, coaches, librarians, administrators, instructional assistants, nurses, counselors, secretaries, or board members – work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, American Education Week presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education; and

WHEREAS, schools are community bridges, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise.

NOW, therefore, the Board of Directors of the William Penn School District does hereby proclaim November 18-22, 2019 as the annual observance of American Education Week.

Proclaimed the 28th day of October, 2019.

The William Penn School District
Board of Directors
William Penn School District to Host Annual Toys for Tots Drive

The William Penn School District invites parents and guardians to submit an application for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Holiday Drive. Toys will be available for infants and children up to age 13 years, and families must have a student attending school in the William Penn School District.

Applications were sent home with students in the Wednesday folder and also available on the district website. Applications must be fully completed and legible and returned to the school counselor by November 8, 2019.

Toy pick-up will take place on Tuesday, December 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesday, December 4th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the William Penn School District Administration Building.

For more information, contact Ms. Marisa Taddonio at 267-210-9149 or Ms. Nikole Heilmann at 484-802-1184.

Two East Lansdowne School Students Selected for Youth Leadership Forum

Samir Rasul and Ismael Torres, fourth-grade students at East Lansdowne Elementary School, were selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Pathways to STEM program taking place in the summer of 2020.

Samir and Ismael were nominated by East Lansdowne School Principal, Ms. Phyllis Cubit. Students are nominated based on a demonstration of maturity, academic distinction, and leadership potential. The NYLF Pathways to STEM program is a six-day program for aspirational elementary school students who will grow into innovators, engineers, doctors, software developers, and scientists.

The program includes the opportunity to engage in hands-on workshops focused on five skills: self management, time management, communication, collaboration, and goal setting. Participating students will explore a future careers in three STEM pathways of Medicine, Engineering, and Crime Scene Investigation.

The Pathways to STEM Summer 2020 Program will take place at a number of colleges and universities throughout the United States. Nearby campus locations are Villanova University and The College of New Jersey.

Samir Rasul and Ismael Torres were selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum Pathways to STEM program.
Guidance Department Hosts Annual “FAFSA Form Completion Night”

The Penn Wood High School Guidance Department, with assistance from representatives from Delaware County Community College, will hold its annual “FAFSA Form Completion Night” on Monday, November 4, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Media Center at Penn Wood High School – Green Avenue Campus, 100 Green Avenue in Lansdowne.

The purpose of the event is to assist Penn Wood High School seniors and their parents in completing and submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form for financial aid for college.

Both the student and parent must attend and bring their 2018 W2 forms and completed tax return forms. Both student and parent must have an FSA ID, which is a username and password used to log in to many of the Department of Education websites. It is also the electronic signature needed in order to electronically sign a FAFSA form.

It will take one to three days for the Social Security Administration to verify your information and allow use of the FSA ID. Visit the Federal Student Aid website at http://fsaid.ed.gov to apply for an FSA ID. Parents/Guardians and students should review the FAFSA website at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov prior to the workshop.

Contact the Guidance Department at 610-284-8080 ext. 2170 or email Guidance Counselor Ms. Elizabeth Brown at erbrown@wpsd.k12.pa.us for more information or if you have questions.

Two Penn Wood High School Seniors Selected to Attend Leadership Seminar

Christopher Jones and Jimmy Sek, Penn Wood High School seniors, were selected to attend the “High School Sports Leaders” Student Leadership Seminar on October 8, 2019 at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The Seminar was presented by Mr. Craig Hillier, CEO of Winning Edge Seminars, who provides seminars across the nation that focus on student leadership training.

Christopher is a member of the Penn Wood High School Soccer Team and Tennis Team. Jimmy is a member of the Penn Wood High School Cross Country, Track, and Track & Field Teams. Both students are members of the Penn Wood Marching Band (Christopher is Drum Major) and both operate the cameras as part of the high school sports live streaming team. Jimmy and Christopher are both members of the Honor Roll.

A partnership between the PSADA Foundation and the Forst Family Foundation provided for two students from every high school in Pennsylvania to attend the seminar. The PSADA Foundation supports coaching education, professional development, and student scholarship. The Student Leadership Seminar provides students with strategies to prepare them to take leadership positions.
Upper Darby/Lansdowne Rotary Club
October Student of the Month Awards

The Rotary Club of Upper Darby and Lansdowne recognizes high school seniors from the Penn Wood, Archbishop Prendergast & Monsignor Bonner, and Upper Darby High schools in its Student of the Month Program.

At Penn Wood High School, Sophia Cunliffe and Christopher Jones were selected as Students of the Month for October 2019. Students are chosen based on academic performance, leadership skills and participation in extracurricular activities.

Sophia is a member of the National Honor Society and has earned a place on the Distinguished Honor Roll since seventh grade. She has a challenging academic schedule that includes Advanced Placement classes in Psychology and English Literature & Composition. Sophia has also taken classes at Delaware County Community College through the Dual Enrollment Program.

Sophia is a member of the Senior Class Committee, PBIS Club, is a contributor to the Penn Wood High School Gazette student newspaper, and a Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Student Intern. She plays snare drum in the Penn Wood Marching Band and can play any percussion instrument. Sophia teacher drumline to some of her band colleagues and participates in local parades.

Her honors and awards include the 2019 Rotary Youth Leadership Award, Penn Wood High School Classroom Superstar Awards in Social Studies in 2017-18 and 2018-19, and 2018-19 Classroom Superstar Award in English.

Sophia plans to major in Psychology at West Chester University in pursuit of a career as a Guidance Counselor.

Christopher is a member of the Penn Wood Honor Roll. He has a challenging academic schedule that includes Advanced Placement courses in Calculus and Chemistry. He has also taken classes at Delaware County Community College through the Dual Enrollment Program.

Christopher plays the saxophone and is Drum Major of the Penn Wood Marching Band and a member of the Penn Wood Choir. He plays on the Penn Wood Soccer and Tennis Teams, and was a member when the Boys’ Tennis Team won the Delaware Valley League Championship in 2019. Christopher is also a member of the Penn Wood Guitar Club.

His honors and awards include various Music awards, 2018 Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, 2018-19 Leadership Award in Boys Tennis, 2019 High School Sports Leaders Student Leadership Seminar, and a 2019 Classroom Superstar Award in Spanish.

Christopher plans to major in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Maryland or Penn State University.

Sophia and Christopher were recognized at the monthly luncheon of the Upper Darby/Lansdowne Rotary Club and presented with certificates.
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Grant
The William Penn School District has been awarded a 2019-20 PA-MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) Grant to support the 9th-grade students at Penn Wood High School – Cypress Street Campus.

The grant is entitled “Enhancing Secondary Outcomes: Implementing 9th Grade Academies,” and the award is in the amount of $10,000, with a $2,000 travel expense stipend. The funds will be used to improve outcomes for our 9th-grade students, focusing on increasing the attendance rate, reducing the number of suspensions, and increasing academic performance of students who are failing one or more courses.

A core MTSS Team has been established at Penn Wood High School to work collaboratively to meet the goals established and fulfill the requirements associated with the grant. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, transition to high school and, specifically, performance during the ninth-grade year, sets the stage for graduation and future post-secondary success more than any other variable.

Penn Wood Foundation Showcase
The Penn Wood Foundation will host a Showcase for the community to exhibit some of the technology initiatives funded by the Penn Wood Foundation in the William Penn School District. The Penn Wood Foundation has granted funding to help teachers and other members of the community with a number of innovative projects and programs to support our students and communities.

The Penn Wood Foundation Showcase will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Penn Wood High School – Green Avenue Campus. Activities include demonstration stations of various technology initiatives by teachers, students, and community members, as well as fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities for children and adults. There will be hors d’oeuvres and giveaways. The event is free and people of all ages are welcome. RSVP to Pamela Bookman at pbookman@wpsd.k12.pa.us.

Scenes from October

Cyber Academy teachers Ms. Cynthia Hyland and Ms. Colleen Derleth dress as Starbucks baristas.

Superintendent Ms. Jane Harbert and Special Education Secretary Ms. Trina Lewis show off their costumes at the Halloween luncheon hosted by Ms. Harbert.
Red Ribbon Week

At Colwyn Elementary School

At Park Lane Elementary School

At Walnut Street Elementary School