

# Potential

P.G. Chambers School News

October 2022 Edition



## School News

### New School Year brings families and friends together

The 2022-2023 school year has brought renewed opportunities to bring our community together.

We welcomed families to our first in-person Back to School Night since the pandemic. We welcomed 86 parents to a special breakfast giving families a chance to reconnect, or in the case of families who joined school community in the past few years, a chance to meet other families for the first time.



*Above:  
Thomas and  
Ava happy  
for the start  
of a new  
year.*

*Right: Families  
enjoying the  
marshmallow  
challenge at  
the parent  
breakfast.*



### Partnership with Penn State

#### Enhances Curriculum to Teach Reading - An Important Life Skill for All Students.

We at P.G. Chambers School have always focused on our kids' potential, and reading is no exception! Focusing on the needs of our changing student



population and the advances in technology to support English language arts literacy, we reached out to researchers Dr. Jessica Caron, a communications sciences professor at Penn State and her colleague, special educator Dr. Salena Babb. They are conducting research on a new phonics app designed for students with disabilities.

ALL (Accessible Literacy and Learning) is a Penn State-developed curriculum which teaches phonics and literacy using an app. The program is specifically designed for children with special needs and helps students learn letter sounds, blend sounds together to make a word, type letters, and identify letters or sight words. After one visit, we were selected as a research site, and we are thrilled to report that 15 students are officially enrolled in the study. In addition, all of our students are being taught using the ALL app and progress data will be collected for both groups of students. Just this past week, Drs. Caron and Babb visited for two days of observation and consultation. They were impressed with our staff members' use of the app and the progress that's already being made by our students. As a result of the collaboration, P.G. Chambers School speech therapists, Dana Hall and Jen Jacobs will be co-presenting their work with Penn State at a national conference this winter. We look forward to sharing more in the year ahead.





## D'Amato receives Pediatric Clinical Specialist distinction

Congratulations to physical therapist Dana D'Amato on receiving the Pediatric Clinical Specialist (PCS) title given by The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. D'Amato's specialist certification helps patients, parents, and referral sources know that she has a deep understanding of the pediatric population and is committed to professional growth. D'Amato is equipped with the tools to treat children in several settings including NICUs, rehab centers/hospitals, and outpatient clinics. Dana is grateful to P.G. Chambers School and the Patti Chambers Professional Development Fund for supporting her in obtaining this much deserved recognition in the field.



*Dana D'Amato in a PT session with student Patrick.*

## P.G. Chambers Staff Recognized for Excellence in Special Education

ASAH is a non profit organization of private schools and agencies in New Jersey which provide highly specialized services to more than 10,000 infants, children, and young adults with disabilities. Each year ASAH recognizes excellence in professionals in field of special education.

In 2022, P.G. Chambers School had Regional !! winners in three categories: Dina Alves, Teacher for the Year; Natasha Kirk, Paraprofessional for the Year; and physical therapist Tracie Murray, Related Services Provider for the Year.

Congratulations to Dina, Natasha, and Tracie for this honor. We are proud of the tremendous work you do for our students each and every day.



*Dina Alves*



*Natasha Kirk*



*Tracie Murray*

## Partners Making a Difference



*The Blue Foundry Bank supports new technology for our classrooms. Bank representatives, Robert Urban and Stephanie LiCausi take tour and present check to Executive Director, Patty Sly.*



*Chester Lioness Club members volunteer at 5K and then return to help digitize our library book check out system.*





Friends enjoy tour and update from executive director, Patty Sly. Pictured l to r; Patty Sly, Jerry DeFrancisco, Ray Chambers, Jim and Carol Longley, and Patti Chambers.



Principal Heather Gilliland brings guests to see our Gratitude Garden during a recent tour. Pictured l to r. Heather Gilliland, Dot Van Natta, Mia Scavone, Marybeth Tamburro, and Harry Van Natta



## Randolph High School to host accessible Halloween Event

P.G. Chambers School students and families are invited to participate in an accessible trick or treating event at Randolph High School. We are grateful for our ongoing partnership and this fun opportunity for our students.



### AdoorABLE Doors Event

*(An accessible event hosted in partnership with Special Services)*

#### Randolph High School

511 Millbrook Ave.

Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

We invite your child to wear their Halloween costume and bring a bag to collect treats! Children and parents will navigate decorated classroom doors inside of the high school.

Please RSVP to Brienne McGreen: [bmcgreen@rtni.org](mailto:bmcgreen@rtni.org) by October 15, 2022.

## 5K Brings Community Together



On Sunday October 2, the annual **Walk.Run.Roll.5K** brought friends and family together in support of P.G. Chambers School. A little wind and rain did not dampen the spirits of the 339 registrants, who took on the course at Park Avenue at Morris County in Florham Park. Thank you to our committee, sponsors, and run.walk.rollers for supporting our students.



# Partners Making A Difference



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Jason continues to surprise us with his remarkable accomplishments! Watch your mail to learn more in the coming weeks!



Make an impact  
on Jason and his  
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To learn more about P.G. Chambers School visit our website and follow us



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