

# THE FALCON FLYER

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ELLEN T. BRIGGS GOES SCREEN-FREE

The Briggs community participated in Screen-Free Week. Students and families took a pledge to participate at home. Glow Day started the week off; students participated in activities under black lights, such as hopscotch, tic-tac-toe, building glow shapes (*pictured top-right*), and bowling. Mrs. Sell and Mrs. West met with all of the classes and taught them activities that could be played without screens. Students created scoopers, learned card games Go Fish and Crazy 8s, and played fishing for letters with magnetic letters and fishing poles. At the end of the week, students played outside with different outdoor games and extra time at the playground.



## STANLICK & WHITE ROCK DEBATERS SUCCEED

Congratulations to Mrs. Platz's Jefferson debaters from Stanlick and White Rock Schools who competed in the Morris Area Regional Debate Tournament on May 25th at Saint Elizabeth University. Seven area districts competed in the event and this year's Resolution was: *Be it Resolved that the keeping of animals in zoos shall be banned in the United States*. Each debater was given three minutes to present and two minutes to rebut using up to eight citations to support their case and up to seven attacks against their opponents. (*pictured second right*)



## STAFF RECOGNIZED AT WHITE ROCK

To celebrate Staff Appreciation Week, fifth-grade students made staff a beautiful paper flower. The students personally delivered the flowers along with kind words of thankfulness for making White Rock such a wonderful learning environment. Thank you to our World Language Teacher, Mrs. Kelly, for making this possible. (*pictured third-right*)



## JTHS UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD COMPETE

JTHS Unified Track and Field Team hosted six schools with over 150 athletes and buddies to participate in a Unified Track and Field meet, partnered with Special Olympics. The athletes and their buddies competed together in the long jump, javelin, shot put, and two running relays. There were lots of laughs and cheering going on throughout the evening. All the planning and organizing of this event would not have been successful without the help of our volunteers. Thanks to the donations of snacks and drinks, everyone in attendance was offered treats free of charge. (*pictured below and bottom-right*)



## NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

**Ellen T. Briggs School:** Kindergarten students in Mrs. Greene's, Mrs. Bennett's, Mrs. Longo's, and Mrs. Joshi's classes have been enjoying watching the growth and metamorphosis of our Painted Lady caterpillars. The students eagerly awaited the caterpillars' transformation into their pupas and butterflies. Releasing the butterflies is always a highlight for students.

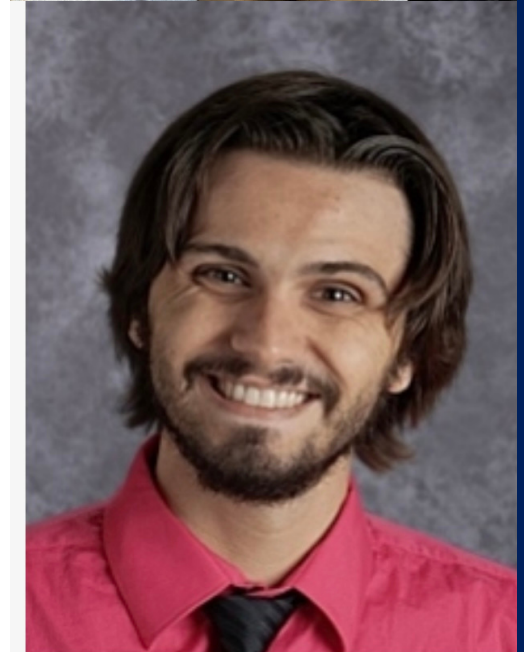
**Arthur Stanlick School:** Mrs. Weaver's students published a book *This Was Once a Circle*, which is a collection of their words and art. (pictured top-right)

**Cozy Lake School:** First graders anxiously awaited the arrival of their chicks and ducks. The students have been busy learning about adult and baby animals, oviparous and viviparous animals, and life cycles. Additionally, the first-graders are busy working on their egg-drop projects. The students will place a raw egg inside a container that they believe will protect the egg from breaking. Dr. Plotts dropped the eggs from the school's roof on Animal Day, May 27th. (pictured second-right)

**White Rock School:** Second-graders participated in a STEM Challenge. Each class received a giant pile of cardboard, painter's tape, and 30 minutes to build the tallest tower. It was awesome watching everyone work together. Students decorated their towers and tested the strength of their structures by throwing balls at them. Awards were given to all for an outstanding job. (pictured third-right)

**Middle School:** The members of the JTMS Band recently performed their first concert since December 2019. With pieces like Rock Solid, Champions Rising, Midnight Madness, Mechanical Monsters, and Dragon Lord, the concert was filled with excitement and fun. Their final performance will take place on June second at Dorney Park.

**High School:** A huge shout out to all the students and staff who participated in Service Night. Over 160 sandwiches were made to benefit Project Kind. Thank you to everyone who participated and gave back to our community.



## MR. DiDONATO SELECTED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Middle School STEM Teacher, Mark DiDonato was named the 2022 Air Force Association Chapter 195 "Teacher of the Year" in Aerospace/STEM Education. The Association is a nationwide network of Air and Space Force veterans, family members, professionals, and related industry experts and advocates who seek to promote aerospace and STEM education in the interest of our future workforce and national security needs. Chapter 195 "Shooting Star" covers Northern New Jersey and selects a "Teacher of the Year" who best reflects the values of their chapter and has demonstrated the inclusion of flight-based STEM instruction to their students. Mark is a perfect match for this award. Mark's passion for STEM education and working with our middle school students make his classroom a place that everyone wants to be. As our STEM programs gradually shift to becoming more flight and aerospace-based, it is great to know that we have a teacher like Mr. DiDonato showing our students the way. (pictured bottom-right)