

CHS Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

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CHS Communiqué is the official publication of the CHS PSFA, The Parent Student Faculty Association of Communications High School, a Monmouth County Career Academy.

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The PSFA also has important PSFA announcements via our email system.

Please take a moment to register online at <http://chs-psfa.org/communique/>.

Co-Presidents' Corner

By Jessica Evans and Kathy Gilbert

The first signs of spring are here, and we are already preparing for the final events of the CHS school year. The year is passing so quickly!

Our next three PSFA meetings will include the following: introducing candidates for 2015-2016 PSFA Officers (April 16); voting for officers (May 7); and then turning the leadership of the PSFA over to them (June 4).

The PSFA's largest fundraiser, the Midnight Masquerade Dinner and Gift Auction was a sweeping success! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with this event as well as to those who attended. A fun night was had by all! The money that was raised will fund future PSFA initiatives which benefit the entire student body.

Two events that traditionally mark the end of the school year for CHS students are the Prom and Color Wars. This year, the Prom is scheduled for May 29th and will be held at The Mill in Spring Lake Heights.

Each year, the PSFA provides a **Barbecue** for the students and faculty on the day of the **CHS Color Wars**. This year the events are scheduled for **Friday, June 5, 2015**. Mark your calendars, and look for details about volunteering to help in the May issue of the Communiqué.

As the end of the school year approaches, the PSFA needs the support of our parent community more than ever. We hope to see many of you at the upcoming PSFA meetings and events. The elections will determine the leadership of the PSFA for the next school year, and we need every member to join us to make the PSFA an active and vital part of the school. Please participate in any way that you are able.

Annual Graduation Awards

Once again, the PSFA will present monetary awards of \$500 each to a select group of seniors upon graduation. Application forms will be distributed from the Guidance Office to all seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 90 or above and whose families have been PSFA members during their tenure with the school. Selection of award recipients will be determined by the MCVSD District Office. All interested seniors should complete the application and return it to their counselors no later than Friday, **April 24, 2015**. If you have any questions, please contact the Guidance Office or contact Kathy Gilbert at pkgilbert@att.net.



Masquerade unmasked generosity, and fun times for all involved

Our Midnight Masquerade 2015 Gift Raffle Dinner on March 21st at Jumping Brook Country Club was a wonderful success. We raised a ton of money for the CHS PSFA to be used for various programs for the upcoming year. We had such a great group of resourceful volunteers who really pulled it together. We had many gifts ranging from Go Pro Cameras, Big Screen TV, Ipads, and we even had Disney Park Tickets. The entire room was filled with gift baskets! The committee would like to thank all who donated gift items, solicited ads and or gifts, as well as the many people who came to Jumping Brook for the dinner. Also a big thank you to all the businesses that donated to our gift auction. Please keep them in mind and patronage them as they have helped CHS.

A big thank you to Hope Raymond and Jody Sackett who headed up the basket wrapping and were such a creative force in this event and coordinated the many volunteers. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers, many who came to every single wrapping session and tirelessly spent hours organizing and making the baskets. Thanks also to the many volunteers who spent Saturday morning transporting and setting up the gifts. The committee also wants to thank Cherith Matlosz and her team of decorators who came in early and transformed the space into a wonderful Midnight Masquerade. Special thanks to The Holtz Family and The Delgado family for donating a large portion of the decorations. Lang Holtz deserves a thank you for heading up the solicitations. She was instrumental in obtaining many of the corporate gifts as well as being present in almost all aspects of the event. Tracey Rademacher was coordinator of the dinner, keeping track of RSVP, dinner options and monetary donations. Cathy Siminerio compiled all the pre-sale ticket bundles and Annette Kelleher who made the bundles.

Thanks to our runners that evening and the men and women who sold the raffle tickets. Even though it is hard work, I can't say enough about how much fun and laughter goes on during the preparation of this event. It was a pleasure to work with some wonderful men and women. The work on the gift raffle is truly rewarding. I received many complements that night on the event. I really believe this year has been the best year yet! Even the Jumping Brook servers were complimenting us on how we run our gift raffle. All it takes is organization and lots of hands. We will be looking for some new team members to work within a committee or head up a committee for next year. Also, if you would like to donate gifts or services for next year, please email me at jtags1@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Judi Taglieri

NHS Blood Drive pulls in record- breaking results

The National Honor Society recently just held their annual blood drive! There was a record-breaking turnout of 67 blood donors, all of whom successfully gave a pint of blood to the NJ Red Cross. The National Honor Society and advisor Mrs. Lane thanks everyone who came out to do their part in saving lives across the state. Students Mary Cate Gallagher and Johnny Callaghan worked extremely hard to run the blood drive and made sure everything ran smoothly. It was a huge success and CHS awaits next year's blood drive!



Submitted by Mithu Sankar

Students, teachers getting ready for the runway at Fashion Show

The 2nd Annual CHS Fashion Show is coming up! More than 50 student and teacher models are gearing up to strut their stuff on the CHS runway on Friday, April 17, 2015. Clothes from local stores like Lucky Clover, Rare Cargo, and Inlet/Outlet will be featured. Beautiful prom dresses from Elite Boutique and stylish tuxedos from Tuxedo Den will also be shown. Delicious baked goods from many local bakeries will also be available during intermission. Tickets will be \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Please come out and support the fashion show! It will be an amazing evening!

The Class of 2015 is busy preparing for the Prom! It will be held on Friday, May 29, 2015 at The Mill in Spring Lake Heights. The required paperwork to attend the prom will be handed out the week of April 20, 2015 and prom bids will go on sale the week of May 4th. All Juniors and Seniors are invited to attend! The expected cost of a prom bid is \$70. Final costs will be determined soon.

In addition, the Senior Awards Dinner has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at Doolan's Shore Club in Spring Lake from 6 - 9 pm. Tickets will sold at the end of May. Look for more information to come.

Submitted by Leah Morgan

Save the Date

Friday, April 24th

CHS National Art Honor Society

Art Showcase & Induction Ceremony

5:00 - 8:00

On Display at
Communications
High School

6:00

Poetry Reading

6:30

New Member
Induction

CCC volunteers at Special Olympics, has successful annual festival



Students of the Cultural Communications Club volunteered at Special Olympics at Strathmore Lanes at the end of February, assisting athletes and coaches with the annual bowling tournaments. Students were able to cheer on athletes and encourage spirit at the lanes. The club's largest event, the annual cultural festival, took place on Friday, March 13. Students prepared fifteen unique country displays to entertain viewers about the culture, food, and art of the various countries. The club raised \$2500, a greater amount than ever before, proving that fundraising can be both fun and rewarding. All profits will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The club would like to extend a warm thanks to all of the parents and families that helped with successful event. The festival would not have been the amazing fundraiser it was without the involvement of the wonderful CHS families.





The Curriculum Corner

As the new Supervisor of Curriculum for the district, I look forward to using this space to share with you what the teachers are embarking on across the career academies. This column will highlight what teachers are doing, not only to support student learning and achievement, but to also support their own professional growth. Our teachers continually provide instruction that is aligned to a rigorous curriculum while implementing their school's vision and goals.

Ms. Teresa Mancini Martinez (World Language Coordinator) and Ms. Juanita Gonzalez who serve as Spanish instructors for The Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) along with Ms. Carolyn Chen from High Technology High School (HTHS) and Ms. Raquel Needle who teaches at Academy of Allied Health and Science (AAHS) recently attended a two day workshop in February hosted by *The Annual Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey*. They learned how to creatively differentiate authentic readings so students can read well in their language while also learning how students perceive themselves in a language classroom. Ms. Mancini Martinez is currently working on getting the World Language teachers together in April to update the Spanish placement exam and also engage in a professional development workshop.

Ms. Karen Brown who serves as the mathematics instructor at HTHS while also serving as the district coordinator is organizing a TI calculator presentation for the math teachers on June 12. The consultant will be providing teachers with some tricks to use for PARCC, in addition to skills with TI-84, the TI Nspire and the Navigator.

Ms. Danielle Jensen the science instructor and curriculum coordinator at Biotechnology High School (BTHS) attended the Winter Summit last month at Millstone Middle School to listen to Michael Heinz from the Department of Education present a valuable workshop on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Ms. Jensen has been sharing the information she learned while also preparing the science faculty for the transition to the new state science standards that will be implemented fall of 2016.

Freshmen and sophomore students at MAST are learning Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) more specifically ArcGIS mapping system. Mark Christiano, GIS specialist, has been instrumental in exposing Mr. John Cuttrell and Ms. Green (both technology teachers at MAST) to the world of GIS. Ms. Green arranged for Mr. Christiano to present to all of the freshmen and sophomores about GIS. Since then students have been learning about the GIS environment and program with hopes to change their "Maptitude."

Ms. Kelly Reilly who teaches chemistry at AAHS along with her science club sponsored three tables: slime, vacuum packing people, and water races at the NJ Makers Day on March 21.

Ms. Laura Gesin (technology instructor) and Ms. Shelley Ortner (visual communications instructor) from Communications High School (CHS) brought in Ms. Sarah Fadem, a graduate student majoring in Industrial Design at UPenn, to visit their industrial design and new media classes. Ms. Fadem presented assignments and projects she worked on as a Product Design major at Lehigh University as an undergraduate, as well as a research design project she prepared at UPenn to the students. She then conducted a user experience research activity with the students by asking them what prevented them from being on time to school the morning and what the repercussions are to being late. Students then broke out into groups to brainstorm possible products that could help people with this issue.

Ms. Carolyn Kaiser, English instructor at MAST invited her fellow colleague, Ms. Carol Johns, into her AP English classroom to initiate a poetry workshop. The team-taught lesson really engaged students, allowing them to dramatically read and analyze Billy Collins' poem, *Ossobuco*.

And finally, congratulations to Sarah Gross, 9th grade English teacher at HTHS, for being chosen as the co-vice-president for the NJ Council of Teachers of English! The New Jersey Council of Teachers of English is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to educational and beneficial purposes. NJCTE fosters excellence in English Language Arts by developing academic and professional expertise at all levels.

I'm so lucky to work with such passionate educators! Keep up the great work!

- Kelly Harmon, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

Improv group provided much-needed relief after testing week

Students and faculty enjoyed a good laugh at the end of testing week when the CHS PSFA welcomed Eight is NEVER Enough, NYC's interactive improv & musical comedy show for a school-wide assembly and after school workshop on Friday, March 27th. A combination of student interactive & troupe vignettes, the show provided both lively entertainment and a Q&A session about using improv skills in both business and theater. For more information about the group, visit www.newyorkimprovtheater.com

