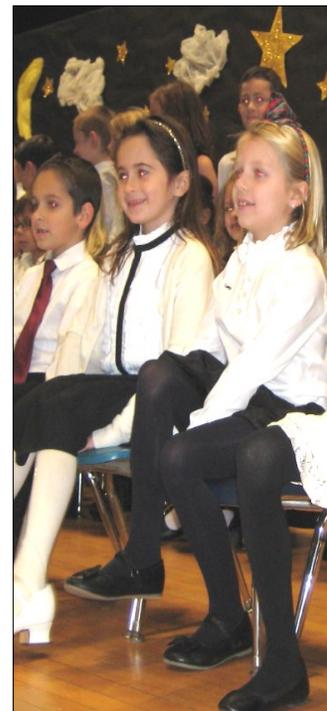




The Mountainside Messenger



STUDENTS SING IN THE HOLIDAYS

Beechwood sang in the holidays with Winter Concerts that took place on December 6th & 7th. Pictured right are 2nd graders, Nick Schiano, Brooke DeAngelis, and Molly DeSantis. Pictured above is the Deerfield Select Choir who opened for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular in November. They sang unique renditions of Jingle Bells and Silent Night. Deerfield Winter Chorus and Band Concert were held on December 8th. The Junior Band Winter Concert is scheduled for January 12th.



REFERENDUM BRINGS NEW HALLWAYS, NEW SAFETY & SECURITY

This summer much was accomplished as we move toward the completion of the referendum projects. In both schools there was an emphasis on improved safety and security: fire alarms, clocks and the PA Systems were replaced. In September a new card swipe system was installed in both schools.

At Deerfield School all the windows were upgraded. As a result of budgeting efficiency there was additional money to completely renovate the hallways including new ceiling and LED fixtures. Wood panels were replaced with acoustic panels; the hallway vinyl tiles were replaced with Terrazzo epoxy; and new lockers in



8th graders, Olivia Wass and Matthew Quinn, at their new lockers in the refurbished main hall.

grades 3-8 and new classroom doors in grades 3-6 were installed. In addition, all electric circuit breaker panels were replaced. In the gym, the lights were replaced with LED fixtures; the gym peg-board panels were upgraded with new acoustic panels; and the gym block walls were replaced. In addition to the Referendum projects, the gym and stage floors in both schools were completely sanded and refinished as part of the regular summer work. At Beechwood the gym walls were repainted and the exterior walls were power washed.

DEERFIELD CELEBRATES VETERAN'S DAY



Photo courtesy of S. Zecca

Students at Deerfield School honored veterans at their annual Veterans Day ceremony in the field outside the school on Monday, November 7th. Congressman Leonard Lance (R-7th) and members of VFW Post 10136, and local government officials attended. Congressman Lance inspired the audience and provided historical background for Veterans Day. He was followed by VFW Post Commander Timothy S. McLaughlin and Major Healy who spoke about pride, unity, service and sacrifice. The Deerfield chorus sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic" to close the ceremony. Special guests were invited to a reception afterwards, where the VFW presented the winners and runners-up with their awards from the Patriot's Pen contest. Award recipients were Louis Oddie – Grade 8, Helen Zhang – Grade 7, and Ma-ja Dinic – Grade 6.

FACULTY RECEIVES GRANTS TO ENHANCE CURRICULUM

The faculty continues to receive grants to enhance programs across the curriculum from a variety of sources. This year so far the district has received a total of \$9,583.50.

Three highlights are:

- **Healthy U:** Westfield area YMCA \$6,000 (received in June)

This grant, written by PE teachers Deborah Weiss, Bob Stanton, Chris Eckert and Zach Worswick is designed to promote physical activity and healthy food choices for Mountainside students. It also provides support to families for making good choices and lifestyle changes at home. PE teachers will implement a comprehensive school wellness model that encourages healthy eating and physical activity. The goal is to promote change at home and in the school setting that will impact students' present and future lifestyle.

- **Author Day:** Mountainside Education Foundation \$2,000

This grant will enable Miss Sharon Bradley, Deerfield Media Specialist, to invite two popular children's books writers to spend the day with our students. There will be a focus on interacting with the younger students (grades 3-4) since the featured books will have high interest in those grades. The Author's Day will take place in March, 2017 and students will have an opportunity to purchase and read the books in advance.

- **Aquaponics:** Mountainside Education Foundation \$2,000

Deerfield teachers, Miss Ellie Barkin (6th-Grade Science) and Mrs. Elena Bentley (Ecology Advisor and Life Skills Teacher), have spearheaded an effort to bring models of sustainable living systems to Deerfield School. Through this grant Miss Barkin and Mrs. Bentley will teach students how they can create a self-sustaining climate, a model that may one day expand human ability to grow plants and sustain animals in new environments. Deerfield students will study, build and care for the aquaponic systems.



On November 8, 2016 the Mountainside School District participated in a kick off event to start the Healthy U initiative. CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health) is sponsored by the Westfield Area YMCA and Horizon.

5TH GRADERS PREPARE FOR UK VIRTUAL REALITY TOUR

Technology continues to be integrated across the curriculum in Mountainside. Pictured right, as part of their study on the Vikings, 5th grade classes at Deerfield School recently connected with Sarah Weldon from Alderley, United Kingdom via Skype. The students have been following Sarah's unique expedition where she will duplicate the route Vikings traveled in the 1400's. Through her "Great Brit-

ish Viking Quest" episodes (#GBVQ), the students are learning about Sarah's fundraising efforts, route planning, trip preparations, and boat building experiences. They asked Sarah questions on topics such as contingency plans, boat building, and overall preparation. The students look forward to following Sarah's quest as she sets sail on May 1, 2017.



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOES GREEN

This year we are mounting a district wide effort to become a Sustainable Jersey School District. Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for NJ public schools that want to go green and conserve resources. Launched in 2014, this nonprofit organization provides tools, training and financial incentives for school districts as they pursue sustainability programs. The district and/or schools earn points for each sustainability action accomplished and supported with evidence. The two designations are Bronze (150 points), and Silver (350 points).

In May, 2016 the Mountainside Board of Education gave their full support to this project by emphasizing existing policies and/or passing new policies identified in the chart (right).

The first task was to develop a Green Team to oversee these efforts. The Green Team is made up of faculty, administration,

Sustainability	The Board of Education has made a commitment to support the Green Team and the District on its efforts to become a certified Sustainable Jersey School by approving the following policies.
Green Enhancements	Develop a resource management program that includes strategies for implementing effective and sustainable resource practices; explore renewable and clean energy technologies; reduce energy and water consumption; minimize utility costs; reduce waste of consumable materials; encourage recycling and green procurement practices; and promote conservation principles.
Green Cleaning	Green cleaning, with the use of green/environmentally friendly products, will be utilized by staff and vendors where possible.
Green Purchasing	Institute practices that reduce waste by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness. Purchase products that minimize environmental impacts, toxins, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety. These products are lead-free and mercury-free, should conserve energy and water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and include recycled content, agricultural fibers and residues, unbleached or chlorine free manufacturing processes, and wood from sustainably harvested forests when and where possible.
Anti-Idling	Institute practices that reduce pupil and driver exposure to diesel and automotive exhaust by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other vehicles.
Strategic Plan	The Mountainside BOE Strategic Plan, which covers the span of 2013 through 2018, includes guidelines that ensures the emotional and physical health and safety of students, as well as the pursuit of energy saving initiatives.

and community residents. The Green Team leads and coordinates the sustainability activities of the school. The first meeting of the Green Team was held on November 21st. An overview was provided and team members volunteered to pursue efforts in a variety of areas. For additional information check the website: <http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com>. If you have interest or expertise and would like to support the district's efforts, please contact the board office.



PEAK Program: Pre-school students are using shaving cream to learn about letters as part of the newly expanded full day PEAK program. They also have art, physical education, library/technology.

PARENTS LEARN ABOUT CURRICULUM INITIATIVES AND UPGRADES

On Monday, November 14, as part of the PTA Parent Education Night, the Administrative Team presented an update of major curriculum initiatives. An overview of our language arts program, Teachers College Readers and Writers Workshop (K-8) and the complementary spelling program “Words Their Way” was discussed. Several features of the Math program Go Math (K-5), Big Ideas (6-8), as well as upper level courses in Pre-Algebra (6-7), Algebra 1 (7-8), and Geometry (Grade 8) were outlined. Discovery Science (Grade 6-8), the new Science curriculum and the Next Generation Science standards were detailed. Our new systematic technology curriculum in K-5 was clarified,

with the 6-8 curriculum following shortly. The Chromebook 1:1 initiative is now fully implemented which means that all students in grades 6-8 have Chromebooks that they can use in all classes and take home. An overview of the student data dashboard was presented along with the specific assessments that the teachers use to target and individualize instruction. Both the Academic Support and the Enrichment programs were highlighted and explained. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Please see the Mountainside School District website for the actual Power Point presentation which explains these programs in greater detail.

MOUNTAINSIDE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY/STAFF

The Mountainside School District welcomes new faculty members: (1st row, l to r) Kelly McHale, 5th Grade; Lori Topel, 5th Grade; Elizabeth Shimwell, 4th Grade; Sonia Branco, Nurse; (2nd row, l to r) Michelle Cruz, Reading Specialist; Victoria Tiscia, Art; Caitlin McGarrity, Special Education; Kristie Crilley, 6th Grade Social Studies; Christina Orozco, Supervisor of Special Services; and School Psychologist, Theresa Brown starting in January (not pictured).

We also welcome new paraprofessionals: Nicole Ellis, Susan Gerakaris, Diane Gruszecki, Kimberly Ryan, Marilyn Nacci at Beechwood; Bridget Lawrence, Lydra Shehu, Brittney Steitz, Sandra Vendas, Kelcie Wavra at Deerfield; lunch aides: Christine Zagami and Jovan Siconolfi; media assistant: Carolee Lavey.



Mountainside School District

1497 Woodacres Drive
Mountainside, NJ 07092

Board of Education

James Ruban, Jr., President
Christopher Minks, Vice President
Dante Gioia Cathy Jakositz Kate Motz
Jeane Parker Carmine Venes

Administrative Team

Nancy Lubarsky, Ed.D., Chief School Administrator
Eric Larson, Business Administrator
Joy L. Blom, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Kimberly Richards, Principal - Deerfield School
Christina Orozco, Supervisor of Special Services

2017 Tentative Board Meetings

January 24, 2017 **	February 28, 2017*
March 28, 2017**	April 25, 2017*
May 23, 2017**	June 27, 2017*

* Beechwood School
Susan O. Collier Media Center
** Deerfield School Media Center

Executive Session 7:00 p.m.
Public Session 8:00 p.m.