
NEWS FROM THE MCCOOL/ KNESTAUT/BROKENSHERE TEAM

SECOND ISSUE, Second Marking Period

Sewell, N.J.

<http://www.gcsssd.org/>

The “Souper Bowl” campaign to raise soup cans for the under-privileged was a huge success. Over 700 cans were donated to the South Jersey food bank. The classrooms with the most cans won a pizza party. Congratulations to the winning classrooms – Mrs. Athey and Ms. Sirois.

Senior Math

By Rashad B., Rashon B., and Greg O.

In Senior Math with Mrs. Brokenshire, we are learning how to manage our money. We are learning about salary, raises, overtime and commission. We are also learning how to calculate monthly and yearly income from hourly wages. In Mrs. Brokenshire’s other Senior math class, we are completing a “Menu Math” packet to learn addition and subtraction. We use a breakfast/lunch menu to calculate our bill and are starting to discuss taxes and tips. These skills will definitely help us learn to use money better and figure out taxes.

SCIENCE LABS

By Justin H.

I’ll be giving a quick summary of the handful of labs we’ve done in science class these past few months. First off, we did an experiment on static electricity using a balloon to see what objects conducted electricity. I learned that my head does a pretty good job! Another lab we did involved dominoes and gravity. We learned about different forms of energy by setting up a bunch of dominoes in a line then knocking them down. The lab taught me that I dislike gravity... a lot. We also did a lab about frost. We put ice cubes in a coffee can and combined the ice with some salt. The ice and salt went through a chemical reaction soon after they were mixed. On the outside of the can, you could see frost at the bottom and on the sides, and you can feel how much colder the can had become. The latest lab we did around Valentine’s Day. It was called the “Sweetest Experiment.” We got to eat different kinds of candy and had to rate the candy from 0 to 10. Then we found the average score for each candy and compared the scores from class to class.

Integrity Projects

By Nick D.

In Ms. McCool’s Transition class, we had to write eulogies. When I had to write my eulogy, it made me reflect on my life and all the good things about me. I thought of all the things I do for fun, like BMX, hang with friends, and fish. It also made me think about my family, and how they are always there to support me.

I enjoyed the project. It not only made me think about the good parts of my life, but it also made me think about my flaws and how I wouldn’t want to be remembered for them. It made me want to strive to be a better person.

Junior Boys and Girls Social Groups

By Tony R.

In the boys social group with Mr. Kirkland, we are discussing things going on in our teen-age lives. We meet once a week. In the group, we are learning how to become responsible men. We have discussions about how to develop and keep healthy relationships and how abuse can affect your physical and emotional health. We are also allowed to ask Mr. Kirkland any questions we have.



CLASS TRIPS

Students have been going on community-based outings the past few months to get a sense of employment opportunities and practice life skills they are learning in the classroom.

LOWES/PET SMART/TARGET/SANTINI'S

By Samantha O.

In February, we went on a trip to Lowe's, Pet Smart, Target, and Santini's. Our first stop of the day was a visit to Lowe's. An employee named Andy gave us a tour around the store. He told us about the application process, and said we had to be 18 to apply for a job at Lowe's. Before we left, we made craft sets that we were able to take home. We could choose to make a jewelry box, piggy bank, or tic-tac-toe.

Next, we went to Pet Smart, where we got to look at all the animals for sale and the dogs as they were being groomed. Then it was off to Target. We had to complete a scavenger hunt there – finding things that were on a list Ms. McCool made for us. The team that found the most items won a prize at the end of the trip. We also had a check-list of things to do, like finding an empty shoe box and introducing ourselves to a cute guy or girl. Some of us even got to try free smoothie samples.

After Target, we headed to Santini's for lunch. We ordered our own food, and had to pay for ourselves using our own money – applying what we've been learning in math class. Then we played in the arcade room while we waited to board the bus. All in all, it was a great day!

SHOP RITE/POST OFFICE/LIBRARY

By James W.

Our health classes took a trip in January to Shop Rite, the Post Office, and the library. At Shop Rite, we did a food scavenger hunt. We had to find the different sections of the grocery store and look up the amount of fat in different foods and snacks. Finding the nutritional value had a lot to do with what we are learning in health class, like how to make healthier choices when it comes to the food we eat.

At the Post Office, we took a tour of the facility. We learned about the different jobs within the Post Office. Our tour guide took us into the back area, where we could see what goes on behind-the-scenes. It looked like hard work. They have to sort thousands of pieces of mail according to the address where it is being sent. I found out that this would not be a job for me because they have to stand on their feet all day, and it seemed too overwhelming.

At the library, we did another scavenger hunt, finding certain books and different areas of the library. It was surprisingly harder than I thought to find things in the scavenger hunt. We ate lunch in the Teen Center, but we had to be quiet since the library was busy that day. Then, we headed back to school. Overall, it was an okay trip.

RITZ THEATER

By Luther K. and Ryan W.

In January, we went on a school trip to the Ritz Theater in Philadelphia to see *Rumpelstiltskin*. The show was great. It was obvious that the actors and actresses put a lot of hard work into the play. It was about a girl who gets a dwarf to make gold for her in exchange for the girl's first-born child. When the dwarf comes to take her child, she has to find out the dwarf's name in three days or else she loses her child. Our vocation at school is media, so we could appreciate the behind the scenes work needed to put the play together. Right now, we're working on claymation – making movies out of clay figures.

Congratulations to our *Character Education* Winners:

December: Luther K. (**Trustworthiness**)

January: Ray B. (**Integrity**)

February: Joe M. (**Relationship management**)