



Winter 2006

Howell Highlights

Technology Issue

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Mark Your Calendars!



Don't forget to vote on April 18, 2006. If you plan on being away or find it too hectic to get to the polls, simply fill out an absentee ballot application, and vote from the privacy of your own home. To obtain an Absentee Ballot Application, simply visit www.howell.k12.nj.us. See you at the polls!

Howell Township Ranks Fifth for Technologically Advanced School District

The Howell Township Public School District was ranked number five by the Center for Digital Education (CDE) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA), for being one of the Top 10 Digitally Advanced school districts. Rank was determined based on the Digital School Boards Survey, which examined how each of 2,500 districts applied information technology to engage local communities, improve the delivery of services, and the quality of education to public schools.

Survey questions and criteria centered on public school districts' online presence, innovative ideas for the future, one-to-one learning applications, student achievement, and the public's ability to interact with school

board members. In addition, access to information such as calendars, policies, and agendas were also considered important in being a technologically savvy school district.



The ABC's of Broadcasting

Fifth grade students from Aldrich Elementary School are learning about news broadcasting through the Aldrich Broadcast Company (ABC). Students interested in participating in ABC completed applications with the understanding that they would come to school on broadcasting days by 7:40 a.m. to rehearse their scripts.

Students take turns working the various positions to run the show, including teleprompter operator, news anchors, weather person, camera people, and two first or second graders say the Pledge of Allegiance. Shows air Tuesday and Friday mornings, and run for approximately four minutes.

ABC's supervising faculty members, Ginny Conklin and Cindy Fine, have dedicated their time and resources to work with the students to produce the show, modeled after the Newbury News.

Superintendent's Message

Technology and Learning

In February 1999, our community took a giant leap forward when it passed a \$7,880,000 Technology Referendum. This major initiative was based primarily on the recommendation of a Community Task Force, which studied the impact of technology on learning. It was designed to make the Howell Township Public Schools ready to enter the 21st Century.

Now, seven years later, we continue to reap the benefits of that successful referendum and the wise decision that was made to change teaching and learning in Howell Township.

This year, our Strategic Plan 2005 Committee, reaffirmed the District's commitment to the integration of technology into our instructional program. Once again, our community came together and recognized the importance that technology continues to play in the lives of our students now and into the future. Howell students, as early as first grade, are using the District's technology and are feeling confident about the skills they are learning.

In an article by Marc Prensky, entitled "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants," he reminds us that today's students represent the first generation to grow up with this new technology. "They have spent their entire lives surrounded by and using computers, videogames, digital music players, cell phones, and other toys and tools of the digital age." As educators, we must confront this new generation and provide them with the learning tools that will ensure their success today and allow them to become leaders in whatever areas of life they pursue. We are so thankful that the Howell Township community has been such strong supporters of educational technology in our schools.

Although it seems early now, as the next few months pass and spring puts an end to a cold and blustery winter, it will be time for the 2006/2007 school budget election. The level of education in Howell Township is ranked as one of the best because of our quality staff, limited class sizes, and continuity of instruction.

Please remember to vote on April, 18, 2006. If you would like to learn more about the 2006/2007 budget, please visit www.howell.k12.nj.us for a complete list of budget presentation dates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Enid Golden, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Howell Township Education Foundation's \$1000 Logo Contest

In an effort to provide Howell Township Public School students with enriched learning opportunities and increased educational experiences, the Howell Township Educational Foundation (HTEF) has been founded.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to supporting innovative programs designed to enhance and enrich the curriculum of public school students.

"Our goal is to make at least one award by the end of the school year," said Dr. Anthony Novembre, Board Chairperson, HTEF.

The HTEF has reached out to the students of Howell Township, as a way to involve the members of the community in this worthwhile task, by asking them to design a unique logo, based on the Foundation's Mission Statement.

The winning logo will be selected by the Foundation's Board of Trustees and announced during the February 15, 2006 Board of Education meeting. Winners will receive saving bonds.

If you would like to volunteer your time to the Howell Township Education Foundation, or if you are interested in making a donation, please contact Cherylyn Salerno, Communication/ Research Officer, at 732-751-2480, ext. 3815.

Community Focus Groups Get Involved!



Take advantage of this opportunity to get involved and let us know what you think of our methods of communication. Cherylyn Salerno, Communication/Research Officer, Howell Township Public School District, is reaching out to all members of the Howell Township community to ask for your opinions and suggestions, regarding the District's methods of communicating important messages.

Based on focus group feedback, a five year Communication Plan will be developed, similar to the District's Strategic Plan. If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of a focus group, hosted by the Howell Township Public School District, please contact Cherylyn Salerno via e-mail at csalerno@howell.k12.nj.us.

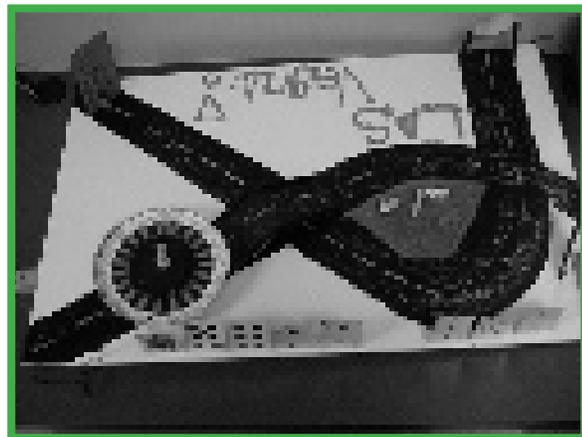
www.howell.k12.nj.us

Howell Township Public Schools
PROUD OF OUR SCHOOLS CONCERNED FOR OUR CHILDREN

Technology in Education

Students in Howell Township are fortunate to be educated in both Technology Education, which is the study of technology's effects on individuals, society, and civilization, and Computers, where students are taught general operating functions, computer hardware, Internet navigation and etiquette, research skills, spreadsheets, database usage, multimedia presentation, desktop publishing, and Web page design.

S tacy Norkus, Middle School South and Rich Concato, Middle School North, Technology Teachers, worked with their students to design mini-mini golf courses using a marble instead of a golf ball and specially designed golf clubs. After researching miniature golf course designs, students worked in squads to design their course, which includes two obstacles, an incline and a decline. Courses were designed with aesthetic appeal in mind, but were not built using any purchased products. Instead, Popsicle sticks and leftover pieces of wood were used in constructing the courses. Lego motors were used to make obstacles turn. All course designs were put together to create one big course for students to test the designs and construction of the holes.



T om Semko, Technology Teacher from Middle School South, and seven of his technology students recently participated in a Leadership Conference with other students from around the state of NJ. Students were given an opportunity to meet with state representatives holding similar organizational titles to those that the students hold for Student Council. Middle School South students worked with a group of students from Brick Town on teambuilding and problem-solving activities. The combined group designed an enclosure that would allow them to survive hurricane force winds.

M ary Dunshee, Computer Teacher, along with Denise Holtz, Music Teacher, both from Memorial Middle School, have worked with computer students to create Public Service Announcements (PSA's). Students were given various topics including diversity, bullying, anti-smoking, anti-drugs, anti-alcohol, and leading a healthy lifestyle, to create their PSA, which is their marking period project. These 30-60 second projects were created using I-Movie, I-Tunes, I-Photo and Garage Band. Dunshee and Holtz thank administration and colleagues for their support regarding this project.

B oth Technology and Computer teachers are incorporating technology in the classroom as an instructional tool to facilitate learning in all subject areas to provide the most meaningful learning experiences for students. Students are learning content through independent or collaborative projects at their own developmental paces and their own individual learning styles.

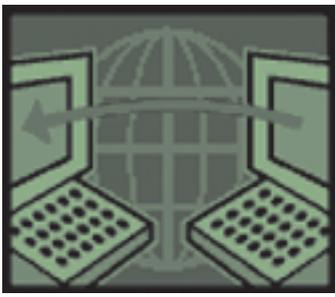
Howell PBA Celebrates With Students

Howell Elementary School students bowled away the morning of December 2, 2005 with Howell's finest at the annual PBA sponsored Holiday Bowling Party at Howell Lanes. While children played, laughed, and chatted with dozens of Howell police officers, Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and a helpful elf mingled with the children and spread holiday joy.

"It was amazing!" said Miss Kelleher, teacher at Griebing Elementary School. "It was great to see the kids have so much fun interacting with each other and the police officers."

The event was organized by Cpl. John Weg, Cpl. Guy Arancio, and Cpl. Kevin Stout, in correlation with Mr. Michael Burgos, Assistant Principal, Griebing Elementary School. The generosity displayed by the P.B.A. captured the spirit of the season and warmed the hearts of everyone in the room.

Each child sat on Santa's lap and received a present. The police donated a multitude of presents to many families in the Township. Undoubtedly, their kindness has touched the lives of many of our children. The Howell Township School District extends a heartfelt thank you to the Howell Police Department for all they do!



Internet Survey Results

An anonymous survey was conducted during Safe Schools Week regarding the Internet use of 281 seventh and eighth graders from Howell Township. Tom Letson, Student Assistance Coordinator, provided the following results from the student survey.

Concern: 36 percent have Internet access in their bedrooms. Internet access should be confined to a main area in the house so parents can easily supervise Internet use.

Concern: 47 percent have a space on Myspace.com. Students using these “social networking” sites need constant parental supervision and should not post pictures of them, use their first or last names on their site, or accept cyber invitations from people they do not know.

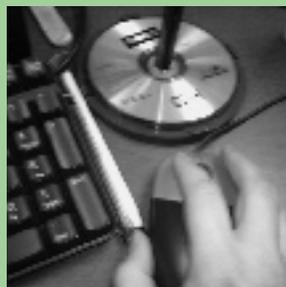
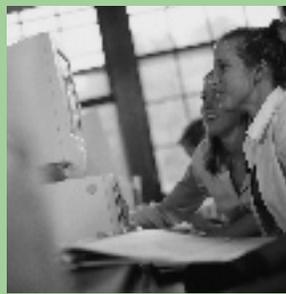
Concern: 60 percent indicated they do not have parental controls installed on their computers. Parental controls allow parents to designate access to sites containing certain material and should be used.

Concern: 35 percent have posted pictures of themselves and/or their friends online. Children should not post pictures of themselves or their friends to the Internet.

Concern: 11 percent indicated a person they met online asked to meet in person. Be sure to talk to children about the dangers of meeting strangers through the Internet.

Students Design Winning Postcard

Several Middle School South students, in conjunction with art teachers, Joanne DeMartino and Diane Eleneski, participated in a program at The Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, to create a postcard to thank those who donated food to the food bank. Ryan Dambach, Alex Cacciatore, and Andre DePasquale designed the winning postcard (pictured right).



Call it a Snow Day

The decision to close school is made based upon the amount of snow and ice accumulations, road conditions, temperature, wind chill, weather predictions, and contact with surrounding school districts. We also consult the Howell Township Police Department, along with our Transportation, and Buildings and Grounds Departments to get an overall view of road and building conditions.

In some instances, the inclement weather has ended but there has been an impact on school electricity or heat, which requires schools to be closed.

The decision to close school must be made by 5 a.m. or earlier, so that we can notify radio and TV stations and post our decision on our District Website. We also need to contact our staff members before they start their drive to work.

While the majority of area roads may be cleared, individual streets or neighborhoods may still be hazardous. I encourage you to use your best judgment on these particular days regarding whether or not you wish to send your child to school.

While we try to make the best decision for our students and staff, there are no guarantees when it comes to the weather. Lost instructional time is always a concern, but the safety of our students is our priority.

Community Alert:



In an effort to keep the Howell Township Community up-to-date regarding school district news, alerts, meeting minutes, and curriculum changes, a button entitled News Bytes has been added to the District Website. Simply click on the News Bytes button on the main Web page. You may subscribe to one or all of the updates available and receive valuable information regarding the Howell Township Public School District right to your e-mail inbox, whether you're at work or home. Subscription options include Board Briefs, Budget Information, Curriculum Information, Howell Highlights, Press Releases, and School Alerts.

Take advantage of this opportunity to be an informed member of the Howell Township Community.