In this issue of Reflections, we take an opportunity to reflect on our achievements from the 2016–2017 school year, as well as give a sense of conversations taking place among district leadership to help shape short-term and long-term goals together. It is our hope that this monthly newsletter, coming to you from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, will help keep our school community apprised of ongoing efforts to offer and sustain a world-class education for the students and families of Franklin Township.

Congratulations, Award Winners!

Khailah Johnson received the prestigious 2017 Paper Mill Rising Star Award for “Outstanding Actress in a Leading Role” for her role in Franklin’s production of Sister Act, directed by Tim Walton. In addition, students across our district have received recognition for their scholarship, leadership, service, and/or, athletic accomplishment. This year’s senior class was also offered over a million dollars in scholarships. Way to go, Franklin Warriors!

Franklin Teachers Shine at the 2017 NJTESOL Conference!

Fifteen Franklin Township Public Schools (FTPS) teachers presented best practices to educators from districts across the state at the New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NJTESOL) Conference on May 31st. While this may come as no surprise to anyone who has been paying attention to our recent successes in Franklin’s ESL/Bilingual programs (the NJDOE recently named them “Model Programs”), what is interesting and pleases Supervisor of ESL/Bilingual Programs, Ms. Julie Ochoa, is the fact that our district fielded four non-ESL teachers at the conference, underscoring the important partnerships that need to happen between teachers in ESL and in non-ESL programs. Please click here to hear Ms. Ochoa explain more about her teachers’ presentations at the conference.

Math Leadership Teams Gather at FHS to Celebrate Student Growth

Teachers from our elementary schools met on June 8th to celebrate and reflect upon the initiatives they embraced in math instruction this year. Ms. Iris Blay, Supervisor of Mathematics, K–5, invited guests, math coaches, principals, and teacher leaders – the FTPS Math Leadership Teams! – to share their learning about best practices each school’s team used to help our students learn math. Please click here to listen to Ms. Blay describe this reflective experience.
**Teachers Reflect on 2016-2017 NTA**

This year the administrative leadership at FTPS decided to reconfigure the way it offers professional development via the New Teacher Academy (NTA). For this year’s NTA, teachers met in their own buildings with principals or their designees, including teacher leaders such as Tamara Hollinger and Alexandra Thomas. At SGS, the NTA was incorporated into a vibrant teacher PD program that had already existed. In pictures below, notice how the leadership at SGS put together gifts for new teachers at their end-of-year celebration. Special thanks to the team at SGS and also to Nikkii Tatum, Vice Principal at Franklin Park School, who helped incorporate an important cultural competency training program into the NTA. We are very much looking forward to building on the success of this year’s program so that our new teachers continue to receive quality support.

**FPS Science and Technology Night**

Continuing its tradition of providing a hands-on experience for students and their families, the Franklin Park School was the place to be on May 24th. Please click here to see one very popular activity our kids look forward to at this annual event – the egg drop test! Add to this excitement exotic animals, demonstrations of engineering and design, and a proud partnership between teachers and parents, and you have the ingredients for a very fun night of learning!

---

**Revised Student Placement Criteria**

District stakeholders have begun a conversation this year designed to improve access, equity, and opportunity for all students so that they can take advantage of the outstanding programs we offer in the FTPS, including G&T, Honors, Advanced Placement, and Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) courses. As a result of this ongoing conversation, district supervisors and directors have concluded that it makes sense continually to review our criteria for student placement into these courses. Please click here to read a letter that has been posted on our website about some of our recent placement criteria adjustments.

**District Achievement Presentation**

One of the most important ways to reflect on our work together is to take a look at this year’s picture of student growth in terms of our local benchmark assessments. At the July 27th Board of Education meeting we will present student learning data from 2016-2017, and we hope you will be able to join us.

In next month’s issue of Reflections, we will share some of the planning we’ve been working on, including exciting plans for 2017-2018, our transition into our full realization of the One Less Move referendum project the following year.