



# Delran Township School District Parent Newsletter

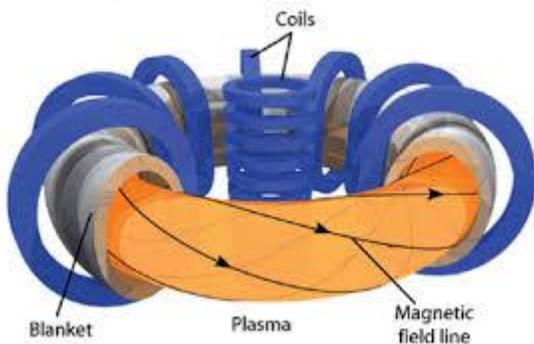


February 2017 Edition 4

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## TOKAMUK, PLASMA, & TRITIUM... OH MY!

I have been fortunate enough to attend the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Science Saturdays for the past few Saturdays. These events take place at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey at 100 Stellarator Road each Saturday in January, February and March. The Saturday science sessions are a free series of talks geared toward high school students, but open to all. I sat between my seventh grade son and my fourth grade daughter at the kickoff Saturday session while we listened to Dr. Egemen Koleman, an astrophysicist from Princeton University speak about plasma control for energy. At times I had recurring images of the “flux capacitor” from Michael J. Fox’s conversation with Christopher Lloyd in the movie Back to the Future, but the three of us were able to learn about a tokamak, a device that uses a powerful magnetic field to confine plasma in the shape of a torus and a little about plasma. While this was not the center of the conversation at that night’s dinner table it did provide the opportunity for my children to ask questions and be surrounded by brilliant thinking minds of scientists and astrophysicists. Not to mention they were both able to see that women and people of the minority *are* scientists and they don’t wear long, white lab coats with big black glasses. If you think you might not be able to persuade your child that this is a good way to spend a Saturday morning throw in the argument that there are free doughnuts, juice, muffins, and bagels from 8:30 to 9:30 before the talk.



### Saturday Science Session Topics

- February 4<sup>th</sup>; Imperative of Vaccination Nationally and Globally
- February 11<sup>th</sup>; Meat, Monkeys, and Mosquitoes: One Health Perspective on Emerging Diseases
- February 18<sup>th</sup>; Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: the nexus of the climate, water, and energy challenges
- February 25<sup>th</sup>; No Science Saturday lecture—Department of Energy’s 2017 New Jersey Regional High School Science Bowl

March 4<sup>th</sup>; Eyes wide open and all hands on deck: Challenges and Opportunities in Responding to the Risks of Climate Change

March 11<sup>th</sup>; Science Invigorating Architecture

March 18<sup>th</sup>; Mechanics, organ development, and disease

For more information visit <http://www.pppl.gov/>



## PARCC ASSESSMENT

Beginning in April, New Jersey will administer the third-year of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The test was first administered in 2015 and replaced the NJ ASK and HSPA tests. It matches the content and skills outlined in the standards that guide instruction in the classroom and provide valuable information about student learning. We are committed to providing accurate information to parents and families in our community, as well as clarifying any misperceptions about the value of student participation in statewide assessments.

The PARCC test provides a deeper level of information about student progress than previous tests, which makes it a valuable tool to measure student performance. PARCC identifies the areas in each subject where a student needs additional support and where he or she has mastered the content and can be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter—information that is useful for parents, teachers, students, and school administrators.

As a parent, you can use the information you learn about your child’s performance to support your child at home and guide a discussion with their child’s teacher to identify what, if any, additional support is necessary in school. Teachers use the information to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. Students can work on the areas where improvement is needed to ensure they are staying on track to be successful in the next grade. In areas where students excel, teachers can provide appropriately challenging work to ensure students continue to be engaged in school and advance their knowledge.

No single test can give a complete picture of achievement, but when it is combined with student grades and teacher reports, it can provide important information about student

progress. With this year's scores, you will be able to compare your child's performance this year to last year's and track your child's progress over time. In addition, the PARCC test is the best way to ensure that traditionally underserved students—those receiving special education or English as a Second Language services, low-income, and minority students—are not overlooked.

Both the New Jersey Department of Education and our school district are working to reduce the number of assessments students take at the state and district level to ensure that test provide meaningful information for teachers, students and parents.

When a student does not participate in the annual state test, we all lose out on valuable information. We are committed to student achievement, and the PARCC test raises the bar for our students to ensure they are on the path to success. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators, and your support, our students can meet and exceed these expectations.

### PARCC Assessment dates for Delran Township Schools

#### Delran Intermediate School:

Grade 3:

Mathematics: April 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>

English Language Arts: May 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup>

Grade 4:

Mathematics: April 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>

English Language Arts: April 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>

Grade 5:

Mathematics: May 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>

English Language Arts: April 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

Make-up Testing Dates: May 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> & May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

#### Delran Middle School

Mathematics: April 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>

English Language Arts: May 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>

Make-up Testing Dates: May 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>

#### Delran High School

Mathematics (Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and/or Geometry):

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>

English Language Arts (Grades 9, 10, & 11):

April 5<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>

Make-up Testing Dates: May 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>



### (NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS)

#### How will NGSS change my child's science classroom?

Teachers will emphasize scientific exploration and experimentation, instead of giving long lectures and expecting students to memorize lists of facts. You'll see engaging classroom experiences with children asking more questions, exploring and discussing possible solutions, investigating science concepts, using argumentation, and being fully active in the learning process. This approach mirrors real-world science practices and engages students deeply in the learning process.



#### The State of New Jersey's Timeline for implementation:

##### 2014-2015

- Fall- District level administrators began sustained, intensive work so that teachers of science became experts on the Frameworks for K-12 Science Education
- Spring- Building level administrators had targeted professional development
- Late spring- Teachers began professional development with a focus on the model science curriculum and unit assessments

##### 2015-2016 (NGSS were fully adopted as the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Science in the summer of 2016.)

- Directed professional development for K-12 teachers
- K-12 Alignment of curriculum work continued
- 6-12 Curriculum completed
- NJDOE requests that assessments will include the scientific practices

##### 2016-2017

- Grades 6-12 implemented the new curriculum
- In some K-5 classrooms piloted a science program aligned to the standards
- Spring- NJ Biology and NJASK8 assessment reflects the new standards

##### 2017-2018

- Grades K-5 teachers will implement the new science curriculum
- Spring- All state assessments will reflect the science standards

NJDOE Science:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/science/resources.htm>

A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

<https://www.nap.edu/read/13165/chapter/1>



### NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

At the Re-Organization meeting of the Board of Education on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we welcomed new Board of Education members Ingar Blossfelds and Mark Chierici, and swore in returning board member Dr. Melanie Goodwin Ogozalek.

January was School Board Recognition Month. Our Delran Township school board members are elected by the community and represent the public's voice in public education. This voluntary post requires a significant amount of time commitment. In addition to our monthly board and committee meetings, there are county meetings and mandated training sessions for school board members. We thank our Delran Township School Board Members for their service to our schools: Glenn Kitley, President; Joseph Biluck, Jr.; Vice-President; Ingar Blossfelds; Mark Chierici; Mary Melvin; Mark Oberg; Amy Rafanello; Melanie Goodwin-Ogozalek; and Eileen Wachter.



### STEAM Up Summer Camp Returns to Delran for Summer, 2017!

The Delran Public Schools are pleased to continue a summer enrichment opportunity first offered last year. This summer camp-style program will be open to students entering 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2017. Designed to inspire our next generation's great thinkers, students will be solving fun engineering design challenges connected to real world problems, while incorporating the arts. Four individually themed camp weeks will be geared around engineering design tasks. Daily lab experiences will include designing, building, and testing designs, while using state-of-the-art science lab facilities at Delran High School. Students will also participate in Robotics and Coding activities, all under the supportive instruction and guidance of certified teachers and high school volunteers.

- 4 Weeks of Camp: Monday - Thursday, July 10- August 3
- **Extended hours this year**- 9am until 3 pm
- Grade Levels: Incoming 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade (New this year are **3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade**)
- Engineering Design Challenges, plus **new activities this year, Coding and Robotics!**
- New this year: **Busing** provided for Delran students

- \$225 per week - discounts are available for early bird registration, multiple weeks, or siblings and financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

Registration forms are being sent home with all students currently in grades 2-6. Additional information can be found on the district website, [www.delranschools.org](http://www.delranschools.org). Hover over the "parents" tab and click on "STEAM Summer Camp."

**Contact:** District Supervisors Mrs. Hutchinson & Mrs. DeMichele by emailing [steamcamp@delranschools.org](mailto:steamcamp@delranschools.org)



### Delran Robotics Team

Congratulations to the Bionic Bears, our DHS Robotics Team, on a successful showing at their first VEX Robotics Competition. 45 teams competed at BCIT on January 28, 2017. The Bionic Bears worked through the fall to design and program a robot using VEX parts, which could compete in this year's "Starstruck" themed challenge. The 18-inch robot, controlled wirelessly, was able to lift and move 1-foot stars and cubes to the opposite side of a fence. The Bionic Bears placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 35 teams competing in the Skills Test, and 15<sup>th</sup> of the 45 teams competing in the Field Competition. Considering many of the other teams came with years of experience, this is an outstanding first competition for the DHS team, and their coaches Mr. Smith and Mr. Rood-Ojalvo!



### DELTRAN HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

Delran High School is pleased to invite you to join us as we produce this surprisingly contemporary take on the classic tale of Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. This lush production features an incredible orchestra, jaw-dropping transformations and all the moments you love—plus some surprising new twists! Be transported back to your childhood with some of Rogers and Hammerstein's most beloved songs. This show is family friendly and perfect for young princesses and princes! Join us before a matinee performance on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> for Cinderella's Royal Tea Party. Information can be found on our website at [www.delranschools.org](http://www.delranschools.org).

## **Hammerstein's Cinderella Performance Dates & Times:**

Saturday, February 25th- 8pm  
Sunday, February 26th- 2pm  
Friday, March 3rd- 8pm  
Saturday, March 4th- 8pm  
Sunday, March 5th- 2pm

All performances will be held at the Morris R. Burton Performing Arts Center at Delran High School, 50 Hartford Rd. Delran, NJ 08075. Online ticket sales for the public begin February 16th. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased through [www.delranschools.org](http://www.delranschools.org). All seats are reserved.



## **EMERGENCY CLOSING/DELAYED OPENING PROCEDURES**

In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances that would cause the closing of schools, a delayed opening, or an early school closing, communication with staff and families occurs in multiple and redundant ways.

Families and staff members receive notification via phone, email, and text using our School Messenger system. Please make sure your child's school has up-to-date contact information. The District posts delay, early dismissal, or closing information on the District Website and our local Delran Police are also notified of the district's plan.

On days when inclement weather is predicted, the decision to close school may be made the evening prior. If not, the decision-making process begins at 3:30 a.m. and includes research on weather conditions, assessment of site conditions for our schools, consultation with the township police, and a conference e-mail with regional superintendents of schools. A decision will be made by approximately 5:30 a.m. and the communication process will be initiated.

### ***Some important information:***

A "Delay" means a 2-hour delay for students and staff. Students report to their bus stops or arrive at school 2 hours after normal time.

When a "Delay" is called, please continue to be alert for communications, as a "Delay" can become a "School Closing."

For "Early Dismissals," Millbridge Elementary students are dismissed at 1:00;  
Delran Intermediate School students are dismissed at 12:30;  
Delran Middle School and Delran High School students are dismissed at 12:00, noon.

## **DELTRAN STEM ECOSYSTEM ALLIANCE**



## **LEAD LIKE A GIRL CONFERENCE**

Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, a private PreK-12 girls school, is hosting a free conference on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM entitled "Lead Like a Girl". Dr. Ellen Stofan, Chief Scientist at NASA, and Debbie Sterling, Founder and CEO of *GoldieBlox*, are scheduled keynote speakers. This conference is designed to showcase and inspire girls' confidence, creativity, and leadership in STEM and entrepreneurship. Young women of all ages and their parents are invited to connect with experts, mentors, and each other. For more information, please visit the Stuart School website at <https://www.stuartschool.org/academics/leadlikeagirl-conference>

## **FUNDING FOR MILLBRIDGE AND DELTRAN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ROBOTICS CLUBS**

We are pleased to announce business partnership funding for our Millbridge Elementary School Robotics Club and our Delran Intermediate School Robotics Club from one of our Delran STEM Ecosystem Alliance partners, Radwell, International. The Radwell, International organization donated \$500 per school to assist our schools' robotics clubs. Thank you to Radwell, International and Vice President, John Radwell for his participation in our Delran STEM Ecosystem Alliance! John will visit each school's Robotics Team on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to present the checks; Delran Intermediate School at 3:20 and then to Millbridge Elementary School at 3:50. To learn more about STEM Learning Ecosystems visit [STEM Learning Ecosystems here](http://stemecosystems.org/) or visit <http://stemecosystems.org/>.

Please consider contributing your voice at the Delran Asset Survey link [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/survey-taken/?sm=ijn8UiLGZbS2ltdv336d7ycXONipI2Pt1i0Pt3NGTNPVJzU6Y5boevSULSkwOenpdFMKXTAnyBDFaITuQk8A 3D 3D) or log onto the website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/survey-taken/?sm=ijn8UiLGZbS2ltdv336d7ycXONipI2Pt1i0Pt3NGTNPVJzU6Y5boevSULSkwOenpdFMKXTAnyBDFaITuQk8A 3D 3D>. The Delran STEM Ecosystem Alliance is proud to have membership of teachers in the district with the partnership of Delran teachers; Siobhan McVay, Denise Belz, Jaclyn Carey, Richard Cameron, Lynn Biehn, and Christine Cusack.

## **EDITOR'S REGRETS**

Regrets are sent to Mrs. Erica DeMichele who also played a formidable role in organizing the Hour of Code during the month of December and was not mentioned in the January newsletter. Mrs. DeMichele serves as the district's Supervisor of Science, Engineering, Food and Consumer Science and Industrial Arts. Mrs. Mary Jo Hutchinson is the Supervisor of Mathematics, Business, and K-5 Computers and the K-12 Robotics Coordinator and STEM Program Co-Coordinator, not the Supervisor of Science as the January newsletter incorrectly indicated.