



# Prospect Hill Academy

## K-12 Family Newsletter

Read to find out about how we engaged and inspired our students, families, and community in March 2018! We encourage all families to frequently check the school calendar throughout the remainder of the year for important events and reminders.

**Save the Date** Please mark your calendars for International Night 2018 on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-8PM! We are looking forward to seeing you for this cherished annual PHA tradition. There will be delicious food, fun performances, and lots of friends and family! If you would like to donate a dish for this celebration of our PHAmily, please contact [court@phacs.org](mailto:court@phacs.org).

### We're Social!

Did you know PHA is on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Follow us, and stay up to date on important announcements! Find out about events and changes such as school closings. Campus Instagram accounts: [Early Childhood](#), [Upper Elementary](#), [Middle School](#), [High School](#).

### Pop into PowerSchool!

We kindly ask that all families update their information in PowerSchool. Having your most up to date email address and phone number is necessary to receive crucial school announcements and updates! Please contact the main office administrative assistants at your child's campus to update your information.

### Prospect Hill Academy Lady Wizards Win the MSCAO Championship

The PHA Girls Basketball team, pictured above, closed out a successful season by winning the MSCAO championship 46-37 in early March! We are so proud of the PHA Lady Wizards! Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and families of the team! Read more about our Champion Lady Wizards [here](#)!

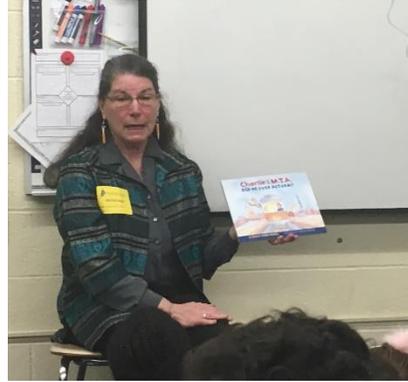
### Spring into STEAM

Registration for the Spring Session of STEAM Saturday will begin THIS Friday, April 6. [Click here for a list of Spring STEAM courses](#). We are always looking for family members to volunteer as classroom helpers, registration assistants, etc. If you are interested in volunteering during any or all of the sessions, please email Rachel Freedline ([rfreedline@phacs.org](mailto:rfreedline@phacs.org)).

## Early Childhood & Upper Elementary Campuses

### Why do we call them Charlie Cards?

Our Early Childhood campus enjoyed an author visit from Julia O'Brien, author of the book "Charlie on the M.T.A. Did he Ever Return?" Julia spoke with students about her family history and how it inspired her to write the book. She spoke with students about her process of gathering historical information and putting together a wonderful book!



### Sea Creature Invasion

The New England Aquarium visited STEAM Saturday with a variety of tide pool animals. Students in all STEAM Saturday classes had the chance to learn about and touch the sea creatures. STEAM Saturday is all about fun hands-on learning. Don't forget to sign your child up for the spring session!



### Family Bingo!

The Upper Elementary Campus enjoyed a fun evening of Family Bingo and refreshments. Principal Brown hosted the event and gift baskets filled with games were given out as prizes! We had a great time at Family Bingo Night, Special thanks to all who participated!



### Reading Challenge

The Upper Elementary Campus participated in Read Across America day. Students engaged in a bookmark making competition, a literacy facts scavenger hunt, and a read-a-thon! Students did a fantastic job, we had a goal of 5,000 pages and we read 29,491 pages. Congratulations to the bookmark contest winners: 4th grade winner – Coral Colon, 5th grade winner – Jayden Flynn, 6th grade winner – Riz Shrestha.



## Middle & High School

### Pinhole Photography: Beauty in Mistakes

Five PHA seniors studying art history made primitive cameras out of shoeboxes and a piece of copper pierced with a tiny hole. They took photos around PHA's Essex Street campus to learn more about stylistic choices photographers make in their work. As put by art teacher Mr. Anderson, "even the 'mistakes' have abstract beauty" in them. Enjoy some of the work done by our seniors [here](#).



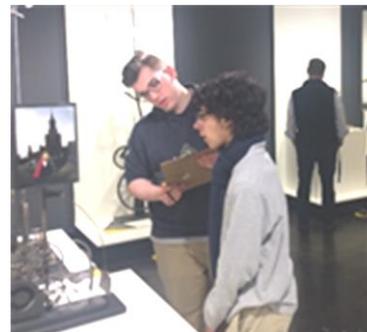
### National Honor Society Volunteers!

On Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, members of PHA's National Honor Society (NHS) volunteered at the Pine Street Inn. They spent hours chopping vegetables so that shelter residents could have a delicious meal later that night. We are so proud of our young volunteers and we celebrate their spirit of giving. Thank you to Ms. Freed for leading this service learning trip and for teaching responsible citizenship! For more photos, check out our Instagram account [here](#).



### AP Statistics Students Discover Big Bang Data

On Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, students in the Collegiate Institute AP Statistics class went to the MIT Museum to see "Big Bang Data." This exhibit explores the intersections of culture, technology and society in our digital age. It explores how the interpretation of data is transforming our society and how decisions are being made every day. See the fun our students had [here](#)!



### Middle School Finches Take Flight!

Middle School students enjoyed robot "finches" that were loaned to PHA by BirdBrain Technologies. The robots are designed to act out the computer "code" that students write, and students were so excited to see their codes come to life. To see more photos, click [here](#).



## March 2018 Special Feature

### Student Literacy Task Force

#### *An Interview with the Middle School Student Literacy Task Force and Ms. Wetschensky*

Have you heard about the Middle School Student Literacy Task Force (SLTF) yet? They are a student-run group that has tackled reorganizing and reopening our library at 50 Essex. The students and their advisor, [Ms. Wetschensky](#) have made the library inviting for students, teachers, and staff. The SLTF currently has 8 members and we had the opportunity to sit with the SLTF and Ms. Wetschensky to learn about their work – learn more below!

#### **What is the Student Literacy Task Force?**

The Student Literacy Task Force is a group of students who work in the library before and after school and during recess to organize and decorate the library. We do not have a school librarian, so we do it. We also help setup the book spotlights for each month. We also keep track of the "I've Read a Book" project that encourages students to read one book per quarter. Students who read one book per quarter are invited to a pizza party at the end of the quarter.

#### **What impact has your work with the SLTF had on the school community?**

The library is more organized and more inviting for students. Students are also reading a lot more since the library has been opened. Other students are volunteering during their recess to help us organize books. Many students have told us that the library looks nice.

#### **Why is working with the Student Literacy Task Force important to you?**

- Interesting work, I really enjoy fixing up the library! – Brianna
- For me, the biggest thing is that it is student run! It makes it so special to me. I believe that the library is the heart of the school, so this is truly revolutionary. – Ms. Wetschensky
- Working with the SLTF is changing how I view books! Before, it was hard to find books that suit me, now with it organized, easier to find books I am interested in! – Abigaiella

**If you would like to donate books to our library, please contact Ms. Wetschensky, at [rwetschensky@phacs.org](mailto:rwetschensky@phacs.org). To see more of the work done by the SLTF, please check out our Middle School Instagram page [here](#).**

