

# JANUARY 2016 SPOTLIGHT



*Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding and mutual valuing.*

Rollo May



Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- ✓ Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Board of Education Meeting
- ✓ Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> - School Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ✓ Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 PM EFLS Meeting – Point Rd. School
- ✓ Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Board of Education Meeting

How do you spell v-a-l-i-a-n-t or b-e-r-r-e-t?



Many Point Road 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students know how! On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the last three standing students from each randomly-grouped cluster of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade students will move on to the full-school Spelling Bee.

**Kindergarteners earn Technology Badges**

“Kindergarten students are earning badges in technology class each time they achieve a specifically-identified technology goal (i.e. logging in without assistance). 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Tech Buddies assist Kindergarten children to ensure that they practice and master required navigation skills in order to earn their badges. To view more technology photos, feel free to follow me on Twitter @PointRoadTech1.”

Mandy Orrick



**Markham Place prepares for PTO sponsored author Sarah Weeks visit**

In preparation for the Sarah Weeks visit in January, the 8th grade peer leaders planned a few days of CPR (Circle of Power and Respect) activities pertaining to the book *Two Eggs, Please*. Between Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> all Markham students participated in classroom activities and on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, there was a whole-school CPR to get the entire student body excited about meeting the author.

**Sarah Weeks** is an American writer of children’s books, perhaps best known for the novel *So B. It*, which won both the *Rebecca Caudill Young Reader’s Book Award* & *William Allen White Children’s Book Award*.

“The entire eighth grade created Dinosaur Google books that mimic the style of Sarah Weeks. They will be shared with the second grade when they study Dinosaurs in Science class.”

Janice Anderson

**Who’s in the news?**

Eighth graders Erin O’Kane and Sally Ehlers are featured in December’s *Student Voice* section of the Asbury Park Press. To read their articles, please visit: <http://www.app.com/story/opinion/columnists/2015/12/22/student-voices-asbury-park-press/77760392/>

## A Season of Giving



The faculty in LS is never void of giving of their time. On 12/11, faculty members attended the Book Fair at Barnes & Noble to read to the audience while others wrapped gifts to donate to those in need. Still other staff volunteered their time by joining the Markham Place Chorus on stage during the 12/21 concert at RBR.



## Did you know?

Last winter, 2014-2015, Little Silver resident Eileen Kubaitis reached out to Mayor Neff and Dr. Kossack to initiate a collaborative **Senior Snow Shoveling Project**. The goal was to get Markham Place students in grades 6-8 involved in volunteering to shovel for LS seniors who could not do it themselves. To date, we have 28 senior houses covered for snow shoveling this year.

“The Little Silver Shovels program has been a great opportunity for our students to contribute to the community they live in. Ms. Kubaitis (program director) and I are so excited that this year almost double the amount of seniors and students are already involved with the program! If your 6-8 grader is interested in participating, please find the form in the MPS Virtual Backpack.”

**Jennifer Peirson**

## PARCC Requirements

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001, requires schools with grades 3-12 to demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In order to make AYP, a school must ensure that State assessments have been taken by at least 95% of enrolled students in each subgroup, (i.e. special education, English language learners, etc.). In response to political concerns regarding the 2015 PARCC administration, the NJDOE has shortened the amount of testing. There will be only one window of testing per grade level for the 2016 PARCC administration. In Little Silver, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be tested the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be tested the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## What is CyberPatriot?

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program. At the center of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly-hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six hour period. Teams compete for the top placement within their state and region, and the top teams in the nation earn all-expenses-paid trips to Baltimore, MD for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.



Last year, the Little Silver School district had our first middle school CyberPatriot teams ever. Two of our three teams went to the National Finals Competition and they placed in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Nation!

This year, Mrs. Wendy Whittle has teamed up with parent Greg Jansky to coach our young team of CyberPatriots as they maneuver through challenging cybersecurity tasks.

“We are excited to announce that our CyberPatriot Team has qualified for the National Semi-Finals. Congratulations to Brooke Arend, Olivia Cassidy, Sam Jansky, Chase Lawrence, Madelyn Marucci, Michael Mueller, Holly Scanlon, Matthew Schmitt, Leanne Spears and Kendall Stout! They will be competing to advance to the finals against 152 other teams across the country in February.”

**Wendy Whittle**