Ewing High School Senior, Magdalena Stankowska, Receives President’s Volunteer Service Award; Accepted to Princeton University

Magdalena Stankowska, a senior at Ewing High School, has been honored for exemplary volunteer service with a President’s Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Magda was born and raised in Wroclaw, Poland and migrated to Ewing shortly before her 10th birthday. In September 2005, without knowing a single word in English, she started fourth grade at Antheil Elementary School.

There she faced many struggles: from the language barriers, to being teased, and to the extreme culture shock. Even after she learned the language, she said that it was still very hard to adapt and find true friends among her peers.

“I was a very involved and recognized student in Poland, so it was difficult for me to settle for average,” shares Magda. This motivated her to excel and move up into the advanced classes. Her hard work paid off and high school changed her life forever. Magda has a 4.4 GPA and is at the top of her graduating class.

Magda entered Ewing High School with a clean slate and broke free of being known as the shy Polish girl who barely spoke English. Throughout her four years, she chose to take all honors and AP academic classes and even took Introduction to Psychology at Rider University this past fall.

On top of her rigorous classes, Magda also stayed very involved in her school and community. She ran on the EHS cross country and track teams until she found her true forte in theater. In her sophomore year, Mrs. Miller, the director of EHS musicals, granted her the privilege of becoming the student director/stage manag-

ers of the spring musical. Magda also earned a spot in the prestigious Princeton University Preparatory Program.

Beyond everything that Magda does, she says she likes to help others the most. Since freshman year, she has been an active member of Key Club, which volunteers at various community events. She is now in her second year as president of Key Club and is looking forward to her favorite volunteering opportunity, The Walk for Autism at her high school. She says that this event reminds her every year how little it takes to make someone smile.

In addition to her service with Key Club, Magda was also chosen to become a peer leader.

Some of the EHS staff joke and say that by now Magda should have an office in the school. There are days when she is at Ewing High School from 7:30 AM to 8:30 PM and spends that time among many activities.

Outside her high school, Magda is also a peer educator at Mill Hill in Trenton and altar server at St. Hedwig’s Catholic Parish. Magda’s efforts did not go unnoticed, as they earned her a spot in the National Honor Society as well as a recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Magda looks forward to continuing to serve her community as she hopes to study sociology and theater in college. Although she has not committed to any college yet, she has been accepted at Rutgers (New Brunswick and Newark), TCNJ and Princeton University. Magda says she feels blessed to have gotten so far, but she says it would not be possible without her supportive family, friends and teachers.

EHS Boys Basketball: CJ Group III Champs and State Finalist

The Blue Devils Boys Basketball Team earned the Central Jersey Group III title by defeating Red Bank Regional on March 10th at home in the Emil Wandishin gym. The Blue Devils then defeated Delsea 83-49 on March 12th at Brick Memorial HS to advance to the Group III State Championship against Newark East Side on March 16th at Rutgers University. This was the Blue Devils third trip to the State finals in the past four years, having claimed the overall Group II title in 2012 and finishing as the runner-up in 2011. Ewing lost a tough game to Newark East Side to end a terrific season.

EHS Consumer Bowl Team Placed 2nd in County

Ewing High School teacher, Mrs. Ludwig, is pleased to report that Ewing High finished second in the county-wide Consumer Bowl competition held at the Stone Terrace in Hamilton. After defeating West Windsor-Plainsboro South, Hamilton West and Steinert in the first round (by a substantial margin), Ewing faced West Windsor-Plainsboro North in the Championship Round. The contest was so close that the winner was not determined until the final question.

Congratulations go out to Captain Kevin Fernandez, Stacy Maurer, Alexa Strzyzakowski, Jodie Ann Crutchley and Sydney Bray, who proudly represented Ewing High School.
Ewing Board of Education Approves 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget

On March 17th, at a Board of Education meeting held in the Fisher Middle School auditorium, Superintendent Michael Nitti and School Business Administrator Brian Falkowski presented the 2014-2015 Preliminary School Budget to the public. The Board then approved the budget by a vote of 8-0, which must now be sent to the Department of Education for approval.

Their presentation, titled 'Prudent Past, Proven Accountability, Providing a Foundation for Life', detailed the district’s path to building its budget and provided an overview of the new spending plan.

“We have always enjoyed strong community support in Ewing,” stated Dr. Falkowski, alluding to the passage of six straight budget votes by the community, including the turbulent 2010-2011 budget election. “Our goal in building this budget was to keep all the programs that our community values and continue to move the school district forward.”

Programs maintained in the preliminary budget include all academic programs, full-day kindergarten, middle and high school athletics, K-12 music and art, and after-school activities and programs. The preliminary budget also includes funds for capital projects, to maintain acceptable class size, and for technology and security initiatives.

“The goal of the Board and administration is to provide our students the opportunity to achieve in academics, the arts and athletics,” Mr. Nitti stated. “We had many examples of student success recently, and this budget puts us in the position for that to continue.”

In this era of ESEA accountability in New Jersey, no Ewing schools are negatively classified under ESEA standards. Two years ago, Ewing was one of only two Mercer County school districts to meet every mandated ‘Performance Goal’. This past year, Ewing was the only Mercer County school district to accomplish that objective.

The district faced a special challenge in this year’s budget. In September, the International Academy Charter School of Trenton, run by the SABIS® Corporation, plans to open on Bellevue Avenue in Trenton. The charter school intends to enroll students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade not only from Trenton, but also Ewing.

“We have been required by the State Department of Education to budget $1.13 million in preparation for the possibility of Ewing primary students attending this charter school in Trenton,” Nitti remarked. “To put that in perspective, our current charter school budget line item is just over $80,000, so this was an astronomical increase in one line item that made preparing this budget quite challenging.”

The administration was forced to raise the tax levy and shift budgeted funds from line items devoted to capital projects and facility management to meet this State mandate.

The school budget will not be presented to voters, as the Board adopted a resolution allowing the district to move its board election to November and eliminate budget votes entirely for spending that falls within the 2 percent tax cap.

The preliminary budget actually comes in at a 3.2% increase on the tax levy. The district has the flexibility to use waivers and previously ‘banked cap’ to exceed the 2.0% standard as a result of previous savings and increasing health care costs.

Dr. Falkowski and Mr. Nitti again presented the final budget at the March 24th regular working Board meeting at Fisher Middle School. A public hearing on the final budget and final Board budget vote will take place on Monday, April 28th, again at Fisher. The budget will then go into effect on July 1st, 2014.

All information pertaining to the 2014-15 budget can be found on our website www.ewing.k12.nj.us under the homepage Site Shortcuts menu.

For additional information, contact Theresa Hullings at thullings@ewingboe.org or 609-538-9800 X1102.

EHS Swim Team New School Record Holders

Congratulations to this year’s record setters on the Ewing High School Swim Team. Celebrating at the swim banquet are left to right: Trevor Hahn, Micah Bergstrom, Alec Hahn, Kate McCord, Cameron Conant, Olivia Czelusniak and Jack Shoplock.

8th Grade’s Maycomb County Fair

The 8th grade Apollo and Mercury teams at Fisher Middle School celebrated the culmination of Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird with the 1st annual Maycomb County Fair. To Kill a Mockingbird uses themes of courage, prejudice and racial discrimination to teach tolerance and acceptance of all differences. In order to make this historical fiction novel more authentic, students logged the southern foods mentioned and analyzed characterization in their English Language Arts class while reading. Inspired by the setting and characters, students brought their favorite dish from Maycomb, Alabama-cornbread, yams and collard greens were popular. Likewise, after understanding the difference between indirect and direct characterization, students dressed as their favorite characters from the novel. The 8th graders enthusiastically dressed as iconic characters, such as Atticus, Jem and Scout Finch, Tom Robinson, Miss Maudie, Calpurnia and Dill (Charles Baker Harris). While perusing the Fair, one could hear students inquiring if Miss Maudie has watered her flowers and if anyone has seen Boo Radley in their best southern drawls.

The novel truly came to life at Fisher Middle School during the Maycomb County Fair, and one could, in fact, mistake the Media Center for Maycomb, Alabama in the 1930s. The English Language Arts teachers would like to thank their supervisors, administrators, parents and the Ewing community for making this creative celebration a reality!

Helping Our Wetland Neighbors

The 2nd graders at Antheil School are at it again. Last year, the students collected money to raise awareness of the plight of the New Jersey diamondback terrapin turtle and the many programs at the Wetlands Institute. The turtles visited Antheil last spring. Ms. Kushla, retired teacher from Antheil, volunteers at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, New Jersey. The goal this year is to raise enough money to have Mr. Kirby and Ms. Kushla visit with several marine animals from The Institute. Our guests will include sea stars (formerly called starfish), hermit crabs, green crabs, horseshoe crabs, spider crabs, sea snails and sea urchins. Ms. Kushla is communicating with us through email, keeping us up to date, sending photos and videos, and answering all of our questions.

Did you know…

- hermit crabs are not true crabs?
- horseshoe crabs were once called horsefoot crabs and their shells are used to make medicine?
- there are over 800 kinds of marine hermit crabs?
- sea snail shells were once used for money?
- sea urchins (cousins of the sea star) have teeth unlike the sea star?
- a carapace is the name for a crab or turtle shell?
Kindergarten Olympics

The kindergarten students at Parkway Elementary School participated in their own Olympic Games. They started with Opening Ceremonies. Athletes marched around the cafeteria showing their school spirit in Blue and Gold. The Olympians carried hand crafted torches, listened to the National Anthem and the Olympic Theme song. The Parkway Panther even joined in on the fun! Everyone showed off their great sportsmanship and looked wonderful in their red, white and blue. Here’s a quick look at the events:

Sock Skate (vowel sounds): Athletes skated in fuzzy socks across the gym announcing vowel sounds as they zigzagged past each flag on the course.

Bobsled Scooter Race (sight words): Racers slid down the gym floor to choose a sight word and read it aloud before returning to their bobsled and completing the remainder of the race.

Olympic Ring Toss (number recognition): Our American Team tossed a beanbag into the numbered Olympic Rings and led the group in an exercise. Toss a 3...jump 3 times! Toss a 5...hop 5 times! They really broke a sweat.

Curling (reading numbers): Push away the number that does not belong in the group! Olympic curlers used swiffer mops for the fun.

Discus (counting on): Olympians tossed a discus to earn their team points. The team worked together to count on to add their total score.

Ice Hockey (word blending): Hockey players pushed letters together to blend words. What fantastic reading practice!

What a great day! The Olympians recouped with a snack of champions, an Olympic Torch made from ice cream cones and cheese doodles. They concluded with a medal ceremony on the stage. Go Panthers!

Principals in Pajamas

To kickoff the New Year with new goals and aspirations, 1st graders at Lore School launched a new reading incentive. This supported the continued efforts to develop love for books and independence as growing readers. The entire first grade participated in an exciting reading adventure called, ‘Principals in Pajamas’, and we worked collectively to reach a specified goal within 2 months.

Students read daily as part of the Book Exchange Homework Program. Children were also encouraged to complete additional leisure reading at home in order to help achieve the reading goal. Children were permitted to being read with someone, to someone, by him/herself, and/or being read to by someone else for this incentive. To accurately monitor and track books read, all students recorded book titles on a special log. These reading logs were collected weekly by homeroom teachers and then used to tally our progress as a whole group. Our progress was posted in the main hallway for other students and staff to observe. We averaged over 500 books per week.

The grade level goal was to read 5,000 books by March 4th. We are proud to announce that we EXCEEDED our goal by reading 5,267 books in eight short weeks! What an achievement! To celebrate our accomplishment, Mr. Chmiel and Mr. Pereira joined the first grade in a special ‘Pajama Day’ celebration on March 14th. They dressed in a pair of PJs specially selected for them, and students wore their favorite PJs to school to celebrate their love for books in comfort.

Antheil Kindergartens' 100th Day Celebrations!

On Tuesday, February 25th, Kindergarten at Antheil School celebrated the 100th day of school. To surprise the students when they arrived in the morning, the Kindergarten teachers presented them with a banner and streamers as they entered the Kindergarten hallway, 100 Days Smarter!

Senior Spotlight

Meet Alec Hahn, 3 team varsity sport member and intern at the Ewing Police Department.

What do you like best about Ewing High School?
I like how everyone knows everybody, and how friendly the staff and students are.

Who is your favorite teacher(s) and why?
Mrs. Ludwig knows how to work with students and provides an amazing learning environment and, despite how difficult her class was, I obtained more information from Ms. Sedhom in one semester of math then I thought imaginable.

In which activities do you participate?
I play 3 varsity sports: soccer (captain), swim team and baseball. I’m also a member of the Athletic Training Club and Key Club.

What is your favorite memory of high school?
Being on the swim team, my relationship with my teammates was great. The records my relay team and I broke only added to this incredible experience. You can’t find a team with better spirit and sportsmanship than the EHS swim team.

What do you do outside of school?
I’m an intern with the Ewing Police Department and the head lifeguard at the Hopewell Valley YMCA. I volunteer at the Special Olympics, Trenton Soup Kitchen and NJDEP’s Barnegat Blitz. I attended the NJ State Trooper Youth Week in Sea Girt, NJ last summer.

You are a twin. What is that like?
Being a twin is nice, but it has its moments. Although we have our differences, I know Trevor is always there for me and knows how I feel. My brother is my best friend. I also have an older sister, Jessica, who I admire.

What are your plans after you graduate?
I plan to attend college and pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. I have been accepted to Penn State, Michigan State, the University of New Haven and West Virginia University.

Where do you see yourself in five years?
Working in the law enforcement field, my goal is become an FBI Special Agent or US Marshal.
The Ewing Public Schools

April 2014 Schedule in Ewing Schools

| April 1-4 | FMS - School Book Fair |
| April 1 | FMS - Music Fundraiser: Rick Smith, Jr. Card Tricks @ 7pm |
| April 2 | FMS - 5th Grade Parent Orientation @ 6:30-8pm |
| April 3 | FMS - Parent Association Meeting |
| April 4 | Parkway - Pasta & Basket Raffle Fundraiser @ 6:30-8:30pm |
| April 9 | Parkway - Spring Picture Day |
| April 10 | Antheil - PTO Meeting @ 6:45pm |
| April 12 | Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament @ EHS |
| April 14-18 | **Schools Closed - Spring Break** |
| April 21 | EHS - Ring & Sing @ 7pm |
| April 22 | Parkway - PTA Meeting @ 7pm |
| April 24 | SCHOOLS OPEN – Single Session/Early Dismissal/Staff Development Day |
| April 26 | Autism Walk-A-Thon @ FMS |
| April 28 | BOE Meeting - 8pm @ FMS |
| April 30 | District Honors Band Concert - 7pm @ FMS |

Music Department Spring Fundraiser Event

Join us in the Fisher Middle School Auditorium on April 1, 2014 at 7 PM for an event to remember! Rick Smith, Jr. (the world record holder for fastest thrown playing card) will be performing tricks that are sure to dazzle the audience. Tickets go on sale starting March 1st, and are available by contacting a member of the FMS music department. Join us after the show at our bake sale! Tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door.

Mr. Apgar: hapgar@ewingboe.org (609) 538-9800 x3108
Ms. Horne: jhorse@ewingboe.org (609) 538-9800 x3144
Ms. Forness: jforness@ewingboe.org (609) 538-9800 x8960

Congratulations to the Blue Devil's Boys Varsity Bowling Team! Group II State Champions!

Congratulations to the Blue Devil's Boys Varsity Bowling Team! The Blue Devils repeated as Group II State Champions in New Brunswick on February 27th and ended up 4th in the state overall after competing in the Tournament of Champions! Leading the way for the boys was Tony "Just Call Me Tony" Giovanetti who rolled the high game of 265 and the incredible high series of 723! Congratulations to the entire team on this amazing performance! Marc Trabosh, Pat Jones, Tony G. of course, Connor Orr, Donald Trabosh, and Andrew Abelowitz. Outstanding work done by the best Group II school in New Jersey! Our thanks to Mr. Kowal and Dr. Logan for their constant support of the Boys and Girls Bowling teams and to the program as a whole! We Came, We Saw, We Rolled ... To Victory!

Time to Register for Kindergarten Round-Up

The Ewing Public Schools is planning the annual kindergarten registration for residents known as the 'Kindergarten Round-Up' which takes place every March and April. You can pre-register your child (by appointment only) by contacting: Mrs. Diane Shoales at 609-538-9800 ext. 7181 or Mrs. Julie Miner at 609-538-9800 ext. 7175.

You may also register on-line at http://www.ewing.k12.nj.us/Page/132. The link will guide you to our registration forms and procedures.

A Quality Transition Is Key to Student Success

Our 2nd Annual Ready Freddy Kindergarten Club for eligible kindergartners will occur again this summer. This program offers those qualifying students entering kindergarten a variety of early literacy activities and a way to acclimate our new students and their parents to the district and what it has to offer. This program will assist eligible students in making the move into kindergarten based on all five domains of development: adaptive, personal-social, communication, motor and cognitive, with more of a focus on early literacy skills.

Students will be identified for eligibility in our program during a screening at Kindergarten Round-Up. Eligibility will be considered based on multiple measures. Residency requirements must also be met.

Please do not wait to register your child! If your child is turning 5 by October 1, 2014, please begin the process and register. Call Diane Sholes at (609) 538-9800 ext. 7181 or Julie Miner at (609) 538-9800 ext. 7175.

2014 Safety Town of Ewing: Registration Information

Safety Town is a program designed for children who are entering Kindergarten in September 2014. The program is open to all children of Ewing Township. It is co-sponsored by The Ewing Board of Education and The Kiwanis Club of Ewing Township. Safety Town will be held from Friday, June 27, 2014 – Wednesday, July 3, 2014 from 8:45 AM – 3:30 PM in the Gymnasium at Antheil Elementary School, 339 Ewingville Road, Ewing, NJ 08638. We urge you to enroll your child as soon as possible as there is limited registration. For additional information and to register your child, please go to www.ewing.k12.nj.us and search for 'Safety Town' to download application.

For questions or information, please contact:
Superintendent’s Office
609-538-9800 ext. 1102
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Website: www.ewing.k12.nj.us

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