

# The Phoenix News

**SPEEDWAY ACADEMIES**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017



## 2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY 2017

For the second year, Speedway Academies, led by Principal Atiba Buckman, opened our doors to Vailsburg, the West Ward, and the Greater Newark community for a day of food and fellowship.

For two days, Speedway Academies' faculty, staff, and volunteers worked into the late hours to prepare meals and transform our cafeteria into a family bistro.

Finally, on Saturday, November 18, 2017, faculty, staff, and community supporters came together to volunteer their time for the Speedway Academies' community. We had an amazing day of food, fellowship, and fun. We were able to serve more than 400 meals and distribute more than 50 toys. Hope to see you there next year!



## 1ST QUARTERLY SPELLING BEE



In November 2017, we held our first quarterly spelling bee, where representatives from each homeroom (grades 3 to 8) battled one another in a Scripps-style Spelling Bee. Their words were all pulled directly from their WordlyWise workbooks. After hours of battling against one another, word after word, the following students won!

### Congratulations to our Winners!

Grade 2: Jason Khweye  
 Grade 4: Gabriel Fuks  
 Grade 5: Mashiyah Jackson  
 Grade 6: Kabir Cray  
 Grade 7: Mercedes Eaves  
 Grade 8: Javier Serrano

We are so proud of all of our students and participants! We hope to see you at our next spelling bee in January/February.

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE HOMEROOMS GO TO SKYZONE



Because of their amazing overall attendance, our top three homerooms (Ms. Chisolm's 2nd Grade Class, Ms. Richardson's 3rd Grade Class, and Mr. Gaines' 6th Grade Class) got to spend their day jumping and playing at SkyZone! One of our students said "I'm really proud of our homeroom. We worked really hard for this." We hope that you had a wonderful time! We wanted to take a quick moment to remind everyone how important it is that your child attend every day of school.

Each day that they miss is another missed opportunity for learning, engagement, and exposure. In fact, according to the latest, students who miss more than 10 days/year are more likely to fail/be retained.

**Get ready! Our Winter Attendance Trip is coming up soon. See the article to your right for more details.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

11/30	6th Grade presents "Greek Godz"
12/9	8th Grade High School Fair at Barringer High School (10 AM - 2 PM)
12/13	Early Dismissal (1 PM)
12/14	1st Quarterly Mathematics Bee
12/19	Speedway Academies' presents "The Festival of Lights: A Winter Arts Recital" (2 PM)
12/20	Speedway Academies' presents "The Festival of Lights: A Winter Arts Recital" (5 PM)
12/21	Early Dismissal (1 PM)

## SCHOOL SUPPLY REMINDER

As the new year is about to start, please remember to re-supply your students. After a full four months of learning, they will be in need of new supplies.

Our students need new composition books, pencils/erasers, highlighters, filler paper and other consumable supplies. Contact your child's homeroom teacher via ClassDojo for an exact list.

## ATTENDANCE TRIP #2

**This February, our top homerooms (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) and our students with perfect attendance will be taking a trip to go ice skating!** Make sure that your child gets to school every day to give them a fighting chance. The contest starts on November 30, 2017 and ends on January 31, 2017.



## PUMPKIN PATCH TRIP

On Friday, October 27, 2017, seven school buses arrived at 701 South Orange Avenue, home of Speedway Academies, to transport students in grade K- 2 to a pumpkin patch in Morris County, New Jersey.

Administration, instructional and support staff members, and parent volunteers ensured that the extended learning experience of the students was a memorable one. Students returned to school excited to display their pumpkins and talk about their experience on the farm.

Teachers academically prepared the students with information about farming and pumpkins prior to their departure. A student remarked, "I knew exactly what we were going to do on the farm."

The impact of extended learning or field trips is often greater when teachers prepare the students with information prior to the trip. Taking about life on a farm and what grows on a farm does not only build up the curiosity of the students, but help them acquire better insight of their experience, and instructionally benefit from the whole experience.

Every year, administration ensures that all students of Speedway Academies enjoy and experience at least one field trip during the year. The main months for most of Speedway Academies' field trips are May and June.



### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

School begins at **8:05** AM. Students who arrive after **8:15** will be marked tardy. Students who are excessively tardy or absent are more likely to struggle in school than students who are in school daily. We need our students present in order for them to learn.

## HARVEST DANCE

On November 6, 2017, our students boogied the afternoon away to the tunes of DJ Gaines (aka Mr. Gaines, our Middle School ELA teacher). Students enjoyed cake, juice, and plenty of fun.



### SPEEDWAY ACADEMIES' DEBATE STRIKES AGAIN!

The defending champions of Newark, NJ, the Speedway Academies' Debate Team competed in their first competition of the year on November 12, 2017.

Coming out to a strong start, Speedway Academies secured 1st Place in Beginner (Overall), 2nd Place in Advanced (Overall), and 1st Place in Advanced (Overall). Additionally, our individuals scored 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Place in Advanced (Individual).

Thanks to all of our debaters and community supporters!

### Vision Statement

To cultivate a school community that honors the talent and differences of each student, culminating in lifelong learners and productive citizens, competitive in global economy.

### Mission Statement

Speedway Academies will collaborate with our parents, community members, staff, and students to create a safe, supportive, and diverse environment, promoting high expectations and standards through professional development, workshops and rigorous tasks, ensuring that all students meet their potential.

## PUBLISHING PARTY

On November 21, 2017, our students presented their published works at our bi-annual Publishing Party. Our faculty and staff got into the spirit of the event, having snacks and dressing up as their favorite books and literary characters.

Thank you so much to all of our parents/community members who participated and read our amazing scholars' work. Hope to see you at the next one!

