

# Spotlight On Our Schools

Volume 4 Issue 3

Summer 2007

**Wharton Borough  
Public Schools**

## **Congratulations to Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School's Graduating Class of 2007**

The Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School proudly graduated the Class of 2007 on the evening of June 15, 2007.

Proud parents, school faculty, administration, and board members, as well as respected members of the community were among the hundreds gathered to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the MacKinnon Class of 2007.



Principal, Mr. Christopher Herdman, and Eighth Grade Student Council President Michael Reynolds welcomed everyone to the ceremony and highlighted the efforts and accomplishments of the class of 2007.

Superintendent, Mr. Richard Bitondo, further praised the class and provided advice for future success and safety.

Prior to the presentation of diplomas, the commencement ceremony honored and recognized achievement and excellence in various academic, civic, and athletic genres. The Wallenberg Honors Award and the Morris County Middle School Leadership Award are two examples of the distinguished awards presented. The Wallenberg Honors Award is presented to a student who gives of him or herself unselfishly and the Morris

County Middle School Leadership Award is a county-wide program recognizing student leaders. The recipient of the Wallenberg Honors Award was Amanda Sharma. Michael Reynolds was awarded the Middle School Leadership Award.

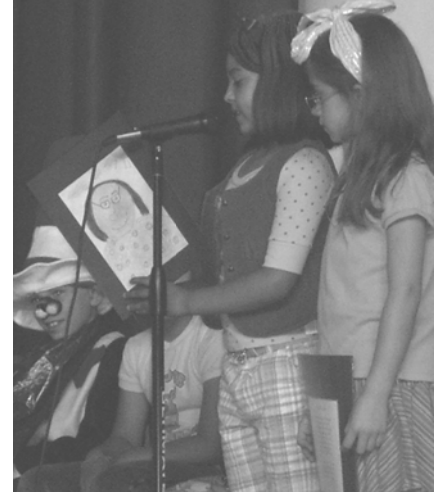
Pictured here are the MacKinnon Middle School's Class of 2007 Valedictorian, Sean Eckmann and Salutatorian Amanda Sharma. Congratulations to Sean and Amanda for their outstanding achievements and to the entire graduating class for their hard work and dedication throughout their years in the Wharton School District.

## Out of the Pages, a Character Presentation by Mrs. Meyer's Second Grade Students

As a culminating language arts experience, Ms. Joyce Meyer's second graders performed a character presentation, entitled *Out of the Pages*, for their families and friends. Students were asked to choose a favorite character from a book or poem they had read during the school year. Once a favorite character was chosen, the student wrote a speaking part and made a costume for his/her character's performance. The students practiced diligently and then, on June 8th on the stage of the Duffy All

Purpose Room and to the delight of their audience, the students performed their "theatrical magic" by stepping *Out of the Pages* as their favorite character. The students enriched each performance with a song and poem.

As an extra treat for invited guests, refreshments followed in the classroom.



## Fifth-Grade Social Studies Teacher, Diane Wallace, wins VFW Teacher of the Year Award

Diane Wallace, a social studies teacher at Marie V. Duffy Elementary School, was honored as **New Jersey Elementary Citizenship Education Outstanding Teacher of the Year** at a luncheon hosted by the Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 2290 in Manville, New Jersey. The honor was bestowed upon Ms. Wallace for her dedication to teaching civic responsibility, patriotism and flag etiquette.

The VFW recognized Ms. Wallace as a teacher who instills a sense of national pride in students and actively promotes the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Ms. Wallace has been a teacher in Wharton since 1985. She has always exhibited her own national pride in order to be a role model for her students. Ms. Wallace's message to the students of Wharton is to honor

our country and the people who serve it. Through her teaching, Ms. Wallace honors those who fought and died for our country, and instills patriotism in the next generation.



## Barack Obama Replies to Students' Concerns

Ms. Madsen's and Ms. Patterson's language arts classes had a very productive and enlightening experience. Students wrote letters to the current presidential candidates expressing their concerns and asking questions about the war in Iraq and immigration reform. Several students were thrilled to receive replies from Barack Obama.

During National Poetry Month in April, each student picked his/her favorite

poem and created an illustration of the poem with chalk on the sidewalk by the Big Toy.

Last, but certainly not least, after reading about animal trainers, the students created a brochure about how to become an animal trainer. The icing on the cake was a visit by Shelly Clawson, a renowned dog

obedience trainer and her award-winning boxers Holly and Indigo.



## Exploring Nature in Sixth Grade is Awesome

Spending a spring day at Fairview Lake Y.M.C.A. Camp in Stillwater is an awesome way to discover the beauty of nature when you're a sixth grader at MacKinnon Middle School. Students reveled in the beauty of their mountainous surroundings, while learning about nature and themselves. Nature activities included how to determine the depth of the lake, identifying its animal life, and investigating whether or not the lake was healthy.



The Students also learned survival skills in the woods and how to be prepared for emergencies. While working together as a team, students developed the social interactive skills needed to overcome obstacles and be successful in accomplishing various tasks.

This annual sixth-grade trip was once again enjoyed by all.

## Wharton Kids First Foundation Awards First Scholarships

Wharton's educational foundation, the *Wharton Kids First Foundation*, is dedicated to establishing new and diverse educational opportunities for the children of Wharton through fundraising events, grant solicitations and corporate and private donations. As a result of aggressive fundraising, including the *Lotsa Pasta* dinner and the engraved brick flagpole courtyard, the foundation was able to initiate a scholarship program. The scholarship program was designed

to recognize and award a Wharton resident graduating from Morris Hills High School, as well as a MacKinnon Middle School graduate.

The trustees of the foundation are thrilled to announce the recipients of the first scholarships: Juan Duque,-Morris Hills Class of 2007 and Chelsea Macalalag, MacKinnon Class of 2007. Juan received a \$1000 scholarship and Chelsie was awarded a \$200 savings bond.

The foundation Trustees wish these outstanding youngsters the best as they advance their educational and career pursuits.

Please note that the flagpole courtyard fundraiser is a continuing project as blank pavers will be replaced with engraved brick pavers. For \$50 you may purchase a brick to be individualized with your personal message or inscribed in honor of someone. Applications are available in the Board office.

## Students & Support Staff Members of the Month Awards

The *Student of the Month Award* is presented to students of the MacKinnon Middle School who have best personified those qualities of citizenship and academic achievement which reflect the highest ideals of the Wharton School District.

**January 2007**—Michael Lewis, Samantha Agront, Chelsie Macalalag,

**February 2007**—Rebecca Griffiths, Hemal Shah, Kenneth Orben

**March 2007**—Alvaro Gonzalez, Daniel Vargas, Amanda Sharma

**April 2007**—Luisa Toro, Anthony Vergara, Christian Acevedo

**May 2007**—Steven O'Connor, Nelson Riveron, Michelle Churchman



Each month, The Wharton School Pride Committee accepts nominations for the *Support Staff Member of the Month Award*. Nominations can originate from a colleague, supervisor, student or parent. The following employees were honored from January to May:

Susan Tymczyszyn  
Celeste Araujo  
Donna Canfield  
Marie Palmieri  
David Colicchio

## Wharton Borough Public Schools

STANDARD A  
NON-PROFIT  
WHARTON, NJ  
07885  
PERMIT #3

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Wharton, NJ 07885  
Phone: 973-361-2592

Richard Bitondo, Superintendent  
Peter J. Weigly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Christopher Herdman  
Middle School Principal  
Pamela S. Blalock  
Elementary School Principal

## WHARTON RESIDENT WHARTON, NJ 07885

### Educational Excellence

We're on the Web [wbps.org](http://wbps.org)

#### Our Mission Statement

*In partnership with the community, the Wharton School District is committed to educational excellence and guarantees challenging learning opportunities for all students to become life-long learners and productive and responsible members of society.*



**Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School**  
**Marie V. Duffy Elementary School**

## Tiny Town for Tiny Tykes

Tiny Town—a little community shared by Ms. Milite's first-grade and Ms Egan's second-grade students.

Tiny Town, housed within a classroom, had a post office, publishing company, TV station, bank, general store and game company. Members of both classes had the opportunity to campaign for the posts of Tiny Town's Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Elections were held, followed by an induction ceremony. Applications were completed by Tiny Town's citizens for various "jobs" in the community. The students worked hard at their assigned "jobs" and received weekly paychecks in Tiny Town currency. Tiny Town citizens were required to pay taxes, rent for their businesses, and had to purchase items such as stamps, envelopes and store-bought goods. The game of "Tiny Town Life" was played, teaching Tiny Town citizens about the real-life struggle of budgeting money. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor held weekly Tiny Town Council Meetings. Tiny Town Patrol Officers were assigned the duty of hallway traffic safety. Summons were issued and paid to the Tiny Town Municipal Court.



Tiny Town proved to be the perfect place for kids to learn to be good citizens, and to use the many skills they acquired during the school year. Their letter and journal writing, reading, math, and social skills were put to the test as they lived and traveled through Tiny Town.