

# 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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## Newsletter Spring 2019

The official newsletter for the 13th Street Educational Partnership, connecting Albright College volunteers with students of the Northeast Reading community.

### Trio of Classical Musicians Gives Energetic Performance for Students



In December, 13<sup>th</sup> & Union's student orchestra and band musicians were treated to a sensational performance by the Merz Trio at Albright's Rook Hall, made possible by the Friends of Chamber Music of Reading (FOCM). These three young, talented and nationally recognized musicians put on an energetic and engaging performance for the students, who were joined by Principal Peggy Brown and music teacher Brianna Bortz. Three Albright professors – Suzanne Palmer, John Pankratz and Robert Seesengood – serve on the FOCM board. We thank FOCM Outreach Coordinator Ellen Shapiro and the board for bringing this spectacular experience to our Partnership!

### Northeast Innovation Lab Gets Splash of Color and Helping Hands from Albright



In the fall semester, Northeast converted a former woodshop into a newly designed Innovation Lab. In this room, science teachers are able to have their students participate in design challenges related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This bland and outdated lab did not look very inviting to the students, so Albright instructor and local muralist, Andrew Pochan, designed a mural that both Albright and NEMS students helped paint! As the painting was going on, students would walk by and be intrigued by the mural and became even more excited to go down into the lab. Along with painting, Albright students also volunteered as hands-on helpers in the lab when engineering design challenges were happening. A STEM background is not necessary to volunteer and we will be recruiting more volunteers in fall of 2019!



## BB&T Donates \$20,000 to Partnership for Innovation Lab Technology



David Roland, president of BB&T's Berks County/Northern Montgomery County market, presented a \$20,000 check from the BB&T Economic Fund of Berks County Community Foundation to students and staff of Northeast Middle School and Albright College for the partnership's STEM initiatives. The check was presented around the holidays, so it really was the perfect gift. The students were so ecstatic and cannot wait to see what it brings to their Innovation Lab!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Spend Day on Campus



While Albright students were away on spring break, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from NEMS stormed onto campus to sit and learn in a real college classroom for the day – and of course enjoy the dining hall! The students had class, went to lunch, got a tour of our beautiful campus, visited the Freedman Gallery, and ended with a Q&A from Albright students. Thank you to the Admissions Office and Dining Hall Staff for making the visits run so smoothly!

## Envirothon Team Tree Tour



In preparation for their Jr. Envirothon Competition at Nolde Forest, NEMS students went on a tree tour with biology professor Dr. Samuelson to study native Pennsylvania trees. The students had to be able to recognize and name trees just by looking at their bark and leaves. Albright's campus is home to some of the trees on their list that needed to be identified, and the team was able to learn about many other trees and plants as well.

## Albright Students Form Middle School "Boys to Leaders" Club




One of the ideas that VISTA Chelsea Lienhard had envisioned for the second year of the VISTA project was to create a boys' leadership group at Northeast. There were a few girls' leadership groups going on, but not one for boys. The vision came to light when Albright volunteer Jordan Brown approached Chelsea with the same idea. Through the efforts of Jordan and collaboration of four more Albright students, Boys to Leaders was created this spring semester. The core group of Northeast students opened up so much with their Albright mentors and had fun while building on their leadership skills and confidence. We look forward to continuing the after-school club in the fall semester.



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### 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Visit Campus



It's not too soon for 10-year-olds to start thinking about college! As part of their guidance curriculum, 13<sup>th</sup> & Union 5<sup>th</sup> graders visited campus in March. Albright Ambassadors escorted classes on a tour of campus and students visited classrooms, dorms and the student center. They completed a scavenger hunt along the way and added a sticker to their passport for each location they visited. Thank you, Albright Admissions team for welcoming our 5<sup>th</sup> grade friends.

### Aviation in Art: Albright Alum Returns to Campus for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Freedman Visit



Albright alum Makenzie Witter, Museum Educator at Glenn H. Curtiss Aviation Museum in upstate New York, returned to campus in January to give 13<sup>th</sup> & Union 5<sup>th</sup> graders a tour of an Aviation collection she curated for the Freedman Gallery. During a standards-based lesson, students learned about the Wright Brothers and watched a video of barnstormers in action before creating their own airplane-inspired artwork.

### Kindergarteners Explore Wetland, Stream and Meadow Habitats



Kindergarten students took the long trek to Albright Woods for a lesson on the stream and wetlands. Along with Biology Professor Dr. David Osgood, Albright students taught the children about our local habitats and the small animals that live in them, including salamanders which the kindergarteners got to see! On their walk back to their school, the 13<sup>th</sup> & Union students spread wildflower seeds in our meadows.

### Outdoor Time for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders at The Nature Place





Outdoor education funds from the Kurr Foundation made it possible for 4<sup>th</sup> graders to visit The Nature Place and spend some outdoor time along the Angelica Creek. The students trekked around the trails for a "Nature Scene Investigation," learned about how pollutants impact our water sources, and explored in the Nature Play area. Thanks to Michael Griffith and the Berks Nature team for a fun day in the sun!



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## Fashion Students Teach Cultural Art Lessons to 4<sup>th</sup> Graders



Once again this spring, Professor MeeAe Oh Ranck and Albright's fashion students took time out of their busy schedules and headed across 13<sup>th</sup> Street to teach 4<sup>th</sup> graders art lessons about international cultures, inspiring them to create original artwork. The Fashion students started each class with a lesson on the country being covered, then instructed craft projects related to that country. For India, students made mandala-like images on muslin and dyed the fabric. The Jamaica lesson included sand art designs. The activities were creative and engaging for both Albright undergrads and the young designers from 13<sup>th</sup> & Union.

## Sustainability Garden Tour



Students from both first grade and autistic support classrooms came across the street to Albright's Sustainability House garden to see what the summer interns have been up to. They helped Albright students compost, harvest radishes, and plant sunflower seeds while learning about what it means to be sustainable and the importance of recycling.



Thank you to all of our amazing tutoring and mentoring volunteers for a wonderful school year! Hundreds of volunteer hours were served this year at our partner schools. We can't wait to see you back in action in the fall and our neighboring friends at 13<sup>th</sup> & Union and Northeast. Wishing everyone a happy and fun summer!

In partnership,  
Lily, Andrea, and Chelsea




Best wishes to our VISTA Chelsea Lienhard as she moves on to be a VISTA Leader for next year's Campus Compact NY/PA cohort!



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