

Lenape Middle School 2009-2010

Dear Friends of Lenape,

The final phase of the Lenape renovation is underway. Lenape, established 1957, has already undergone substantial improvements. All classroom renovations have included new windows and doors, new tile flooring, cabinets, whiteboards and bulletin boards, and paint – they look wonderful! The hallways have received new lockers, tackboard, restored skylights, water fountains, updated bathrooms, and new ceiling tiles. The renovations in the gymnasium, the auxiliary gym, and locker rooms provide new opportunities and a beautiful facility. New spaces/additions will include two new art rooms, a TV production studio, a new Lenape entrance (with a “safe school” design), guidance and administration offices, nurse’s suite, faculty room, special education classrooms and a computer lab.

Perhaps one of the most exciting challenges of this project is the design of the front of the 2-story glass entrance to the office. The design for the new entrance provides a unique opportunity for our students, parents, and community to present a welcoming foyer, one that is aesthetically pleasing, and that promotes a sense of community for our school and town. The proposed design is intended to promote and maintain these special Lenape qualities for decades to come. The design was developed by Adam Zayas, Head Ceramist of Moravian Pottery and Tile Works. The 52 square feet of mosaic tiles will be made at the Doylestown Tile Works and installed on site. The tiles will provide not only a beautiful entry space, but an historical account of many events that are studied in our social studies classes at Lenape, a space for teachers to bring their classes, and a tribute to Henry Mercer, and to the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works which has provided tile across the world. How more fitting for our school and community.

Although the district is renovating our school to meet the academic needs of our students for years to come, this proposed entry is not part of the scheduled renovations. It is our hope that funding for these tiles will be provided by our Student Council, staff, parents, alumni, and special friends of Lenape. All donations are tax exempt, and special record of all donors will be maintained and displayed in the new lobby. Any and all gifts are appreciated ...

(Top Row, L to R)



1. NOREMBEGA

A fabled city “with splendid houses supported on pillars of crystal and silver”, marked upon the maps of ancient geographers as the capitol of a populous region in the unknown forests of New England or Canada.



7. PLUCKING INDIAN CORN

Maize, the greatest of American plants, unknown in Europe before Columbus, cultivated by Indians in North and South America, is here shown; as Indian of ancient Yucatan plucks the stripped ears from the stalk, while another Indian carries corn in an earthen bowl.



13. WARRIOR OF YUCATAN

The Maya Indian warrior of ancient America with target, double pointed obsidian spear and uplifted stone axe appears in the elaborate war dress of the time before Columbus, as shown in the ancient native manuscript known as the Codex Columbino.

2. ESKIMO DOGS

Five dogs are here shown, harnessed to a sled carrying two Eskimos dressed in furs.



8. BURNING COPAL

According to a native picture in the ancient manuscripts known as the Codex Columbino and Codex Mendoza, the Indian Priest of Yucatan carrying the copal bag, burns the perfumed gum in an earthen bowl upheld in his right hand.



(Middle Row, L to R)

1. VINELAND, LAND OF GRAPES

An unknown place supposed to be on the American coast, where an ancient Norse tradition says that Leif Ericsson discovered grapes growing and founded a colony ... about 500 years before Columbus. The picture shows an Indian plucking fox grapes for one of the Norse sea rovers seated in a boat.



3. NORSE SHIPS

The Norse sea rovers, discoverers of Iceland, Greenland and perhaps America, appear on the decks of two ships sailing side by side, followed by vultures, adorned at prow and stern with the heads and tails of monstrous animals. On one, a vulture devours the head of a slain enemy set upon a pole at the bow.



9. DESOTO AND THE MISSISSIPPI

Hernando Desoto stands in a boat before a shield bearing his name and waves a banner carrying the name “Mississippi River”. This great explorer was probably the first white man to see and cross the Mississippi, in 1541. He died on its banks and was buried in its waters.



2. CONCH HORN

In elaborate costume with head-dress and sandals, the ancient Priest of Yucatan holding an earthen water vessel in his left hand, blows by vibration of the lips, a horn made of perforated shell of the Sea Conch.

4. THE SKRELLINGS

A wild people, possibly Eskimo, who, according to the ancient Norse tradition of the Codex Flatoyensis, attacked the Norse voyagers on the American coast. Two of them are here shown in a boat, dressed in furs, as with bow, arrow, and bone harpoon they threaten their enemies.



10. TRISTE NOCHE OR SAD NIGHT

When, after a disastrous defeat by the Aztecs at the Bridge of Mexico, Cortez and his despairing soldiers rested as the picture shows, under a celebrated cypress tree still standing near the city of Mexico.



3. THE CARAVEL OF COLUMBUS



5. CROSSING BEHRING STRAITS

Boats crowded with men, the fabled sea serpent, a polar bear upon an ice flow, blowing heads of storm demons, rudely typify the strange adventure when unknown savages first crossed Behring Straits to discover America.



11. FORTUNATE ISLES

A fairy standing upon a sea crag scatters flowers from a cornucopia over the fabled “Fortunate Islands or the Islands of the Blessed”, of the Ancient Atlantic Ocean.



4. DIGGING POTATOES

The potato was unknown to the Eastern world before the discovery of America. In a garden near the walls of the Inca city of Tiahuanacu, an Indian in sandals and elaborate head-dress digs potatoes with a wooden spade.

6. MAKING ARROWHEADS

The Indian holding a block of Jasper in his left hand against his knee, chips it into the shape of an arrow or spear by repeated blows of a large quartzite pebble held in his right hand.



12. LEIF ERICKSON

A Norwegian sea rover, who, according to an ancient Norse manuscript known as the Codex Flatoyensis compiled from oral tradition about 1390, discovered America about the year 1000, or 492 years before Columbus. right hand.



5. PENN'S TREATY WITH THE INDIANS

Under the celebrated elm tree on the Delaware River near Philadelphia at Kensington.





6. LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS

The Mayflower lies at anchor as her boats land the Puritains upon Plymouth rock. The Captain shouts orders, a mother recovers her child in the crowd as the Pilgrims ascend the bank.

7. THE NOSE PIPE

An Indian of the West Indies inhales tobacco through the nostrils by means of a nose pipe, as seen by the early Spanish explorer, while a companion with a bowl of tobacco holds another such pipe in his left hand.



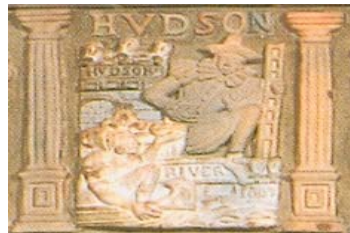
8. POWHATAN

The Virginia Chief celebrated in the narrative of the explorer Captain John Smith, with wolf skin waist cloth, bow, and war club, as shown on Smith's map of Virginia of 1625.



9. THE HUDSON RIVER

Hendrick Hudson, discoverer of the Hudson River in 1609, leans over the taffrail of his ship while an Indian in a barked canoe offers him a present of native walnuts.



10. HOUSE OF TURKEYS

The turkey, originating in America, was domesticated and caged by pre-Columbian Indians in Mexico and Arizona, as suggested in the emblematic picture.

11. PLUS ULTRA

Emblem adopted by the Emperor Charles the Fifth in honor of America newly discovered. Two columns, the "Pillars of Hercules", represent the Straits of Gibraltar, known as the end of the ancient world. The words Plus Ultra, or "More Beyond", refer to America. The image was later stamped on Spanish American coins, and is probably the origin of the familiar dollar symbol \$.



13. ATLANTIS

Most celebrated of the fabled Islands of the once unknown Atlantic Ocean. Described by Plato. Supposed origin of American and European peoples, and pathway between the two continents. Submerged in an earthquake.

(Bottom Row, L to R)



1. POTATOES IN IRELAND

Under an effigy of St Patrick, the Shan Van Vocht (Poor Old Woman) representing the genius of Ireland receives a potato from the hand of Sir Walter Raleigh as he stands in a boat loaded with potatoes. The picture typifies the introduction of the celebrated vegetable into Ireland by Raleigh in 1623.



2. ANTIGLIA

A mythical island in the "Sea of Darkness", or Western Ocean, sometimes marked upon the fanciful maps of ancient geographers. Origin of the name Antilles.



3. POTTER'S WHEEL [KABAL]

As a substitute for the famous potter's wheel of Europe, the Indian woman potter of Yucatan turns with her bare feet a disc of wood, upon which a lump of plastic clay revolves to take shape in her hands.



4. DESTRUCTION OF ATLANTIS - I

The fanciful picture shows the fabled destruction of Atlantis, as at sunset, the demon of earthquake and lightning, seated upon the edge of the world, hurls thunder bolts upon the doomed island.

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6. DEPARTURE OF COLUMBUS

Columbus in armor with his three ships and the Sovereigns of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella, are shown under vaulted canopies in the style of the carvings of the 17th century.



7. AZTEC TEMPLE OF SACRIFICE

A gigantic, headless human statue, the God Itzilopochtli stands on a staircase between piles of human heads and below two temples set upon a higher platform; between the towers of these the head of the God is wedged. From a map picture on the Cortez plan of Mexico of 1520.



8. THE SEA OF DARKNESS

A monstrous marine snake issuing from a sea cave, where a ship is moored, swallows a sailor, while his terrified comrades climb the rigging for their lives. From an old print, illustrating the terrors of the "Sea of Darkness" or the Atlantic Ocean, by the Swedish geographer Olaus Magnus.



9. WORSHIPPING THE SUN

Peruvian Priests, upon the steps of a temple, surmounted by a basket of sacrificial fruit, worship the rising sun.

10. AVALON

The Isle of Apples, paradise of Celtic mythology. A fabled magical island beyond the sunset in the Atlantic Ocean, one of the visionary types of undiscovered America. Dwelling place of the Fairy Morgana, and where King Arthur's sword [Excalibur] was forged.



Mural in place



Lenape Middle School, est. 1957

The Moravian Tile Lobby Project
Honoring our past, present, and future . . .



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Please make checks payable to Lenape Middle School Lobby Project

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