

PRESS RELEASE

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WOODBINE ESSAYIST HONORED BY GOVERNOR CHRISTIE

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that Woodbine resident Josh Cooper, a Choice student at Maude Abrams Elementary, was chosen to represent Cape May County at the Governor's Black History event on February 24.

Exemplary student essayists from in each county in the state were honored at this ceremony. Governor Christie spoke to the students about Black History month. He introduced several of his Cabinet members and Department heads, who joined him in the Governor's inner office with the students. The students were encouraged to question the Governor on any issue from Black History Month to why he chose to become a lawyer. (The Governor responded that his fifth grade teacher told him he was so argumentative in his answering that he should become a lawyer.) The Governor spent a good hour and a half with the students and also gave them a tour of the State House.

Josh's teacher Mrs. Pacevich had assigned her fourth grade class to pick an individual from a list of lesser known notable African-Americans whom she felt served as great role models. He selected basketball player Tim Duncan, of the San Antonio Spurs. The assignment was a classroom literacy and technology project requiring research prior to writing.

Josh was previously honored as the outstanding author in his class for the second marking period. Each marking period each classroom teacher and writing teacher select a student to honor.

Barbara Dalrymple, Principal of Maud Abrams School, noted that Josh is an excellent student with parents who are very supportive.

Josh's parents are Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Terry Cooper.

"I was pleased to have been in Trenton for the ceremony and to be able to also introduce Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno to Josh," added Mayor Pikolycky. "Josh's parents were able to take a picture with her as well. The students all received a pencil from the Governor, who told them they could get no math wrong while using. Josh has made both his community of residence and his school proud."