

# TAPintoWayne

## Your Neighborhood News Online

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WAYNE, NJ – Anthony Wayne Middle School was the host of the TREP\$ holiday marketplace on Friday evening. Dozens of aspiring middle school students set up shop in the school gym and began to sell products that they designed, created and packaged themselves.

TREP\$ comes from the word enTREPpreneur\$, and it's a program that teaches kids how to start their own business. This is an afterschool enrichment program that encourages students to come up with an entrepreneurial idea then make those ideas come to life with the help of friends and family.

The program has been at Anthony Wayne for ten years, with local entrepreneur, Rachel Anevski from Matters of Management running it for the last six years. She loves the entire idea of the program which encourages creative thinking, overcoming challenges and independence.

“It’s such a wonderful opportunity for these students,” said Anevski with a big smile. “You can sense the pride on a night like this when they share what they’ve created with the community.”

Weeks ago, the Anthony Wayne TREP\$ program held a Shark Tank style event where several local business owners such as Christian Sees from Integrus Financial volunteered their time to give feedback to the young entrepreneurs on their product ideas.

From the students’ product ideas began to evolve into actual products and on Friday night, the community came out to shop for holiday gifts from these students.

Mayor Chris Vergano officially opened the marketplace with a short speech and a ribbon cutting. He was joined by all the students in the program who posed with their large smiles hidden behind masks.

“Tonight kicks off a great night,” said Vergano. “I know you’ve all been working really hard on your projects and I can’t wait to walk around and shop and see what we have here tonight.”

He congratulated all of the students and added to the adults in the room: “Everyone is welcome to spend as much money as you can tonight.”

At that point it was on, and the kids began to seriously hock their wares.

Kevin Greene decided to use his 3D printer at home to create 3D printed objects and toys. Because it can take hours to make one toy, he began printing his inventory weeks ago and at the marketplace, his table held dozens of fun objects from moving sharks to jets and cars.

There was food and drinks available to purchase from the kids, toys, signs, rings, mugs, cups, candles, decorative pillows, art and so much more. And the products were of great quality too. So many were beautifully designed and lovingly crafted.

Mayor Vergano purchased a hot plate from Nate’s Plates that night. This was a perfect example of a young entrepreneur who pushed past negativity and willed his product into life.

Nate Martus’ shark tank judges thought his idea wouldn’t work. They told him he was creating something too expensive for a marketplace like this. Nate went forward anyway and created hand-made tile “plates” to put hot pots and dishes on when they come out of the oven. He sold these for \$15.00 and the Mayor’s purchase was all the justification he needed to know he had made the right decision.