

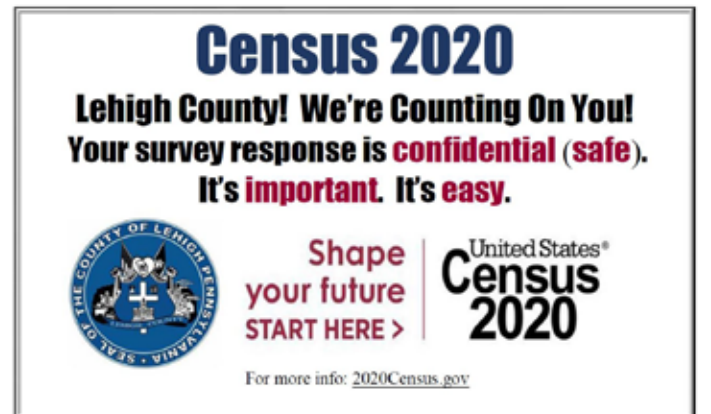


PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 3
JUNE 2020

PARKLAND PLANS 0% TAX INCREASE TO HELP THOSE STRUGGLING DURING PANDEMIC

A Proposed General Fund Budget for the 2020-21 school year in the amount of \$194,164,262 was approved by the Parkland Board of School Directors during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 that includes a 0% tax increase. The 2020-21 Proposed General Fund Budget represents a 4.13% increase over 2019-20 expenditures. In order to reach the goal of **NO INCREASED TAX RATE** for the Parkland taxpayers, the Proposed Budget includes the appropriation of approximately \$11.2 Million of Fund Balance. By this action, the Board will offset the need to levy taxes by approximately 1.38 mills. The balanced budget would provide for a 0% tax increase as the District takes into account that many in the community may be struggling to make ends meet as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, business closures, unemployment and other economic challenges that persist in our region and around the globe.



A GLIMPSE INSIDE OUR NEWEST SCHOOL - VETERANS MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY IS READY TO OPEN IN FALL 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE

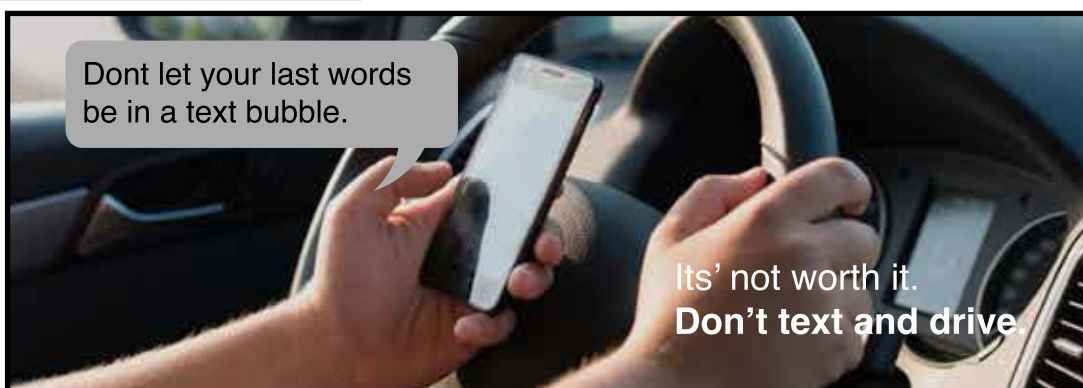
- pg. 3 SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE
- pg. 4 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
LUTRON BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
- pgs. 6-7 SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS
- pg. 8 GRATITUDE PROJECT
ADIDAS DONATION
- pg. 9 FOUNDATION UPDATE
- pg. 11 CLASS OF 2020
CELEBRATION
STUDENT RECOGNITION
...AND MUCH MORE!



CONGRATULATIONS



Photos taken by Alvin H. Butz, Inc., clockwise: Front entrance with bus drop-off area, courtyard behind building, a 4th grade classroom, creative commons learning area with mural.



Heintzelman
FUNERAL HOME
INC.

Robert B. Heintzelman, Supervisor
4906 Route 309 Schnecksville
610-799-3125
www.heintzelmancares.com

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020



M Muhlenberg College Going Above and Beyond

Sports Banquets, Graduation Dinners,
Business Meetings and Trainings, Galas,
Receptions

Kosher Catering Available



JoEllen Rooney, Conference Manager: 484-664-3810 • joellenrooney@muhlenberg.edu
For more information, please visit: muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/events

St Luke's oms



**Your Center for
Oral Surgery & Dental Implants**

ALLENTOWN • BETHLEHEM • EASTON • STROUDSBURG
610-865-8077 • www.stlukesoms.com

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parkland Community,

My hope is that this message finds you and your family in good health. These past few months have presented Parkland and all community members with challenges that we have never experienced in our lifetime. This is a very difficult time period for all as we deal with social distancing, school closures, and the economic downturn since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, we have an outstanding team and each member of our staff has risen to the task and exceeded expectations.

While unprecedented, I am so proud of how Parkland pivoted to keep students connected, engaged in learning, and moving the needle forward in meeting the educational standards required to matriculate all students to the next grade level. This also required a tremendous amount of support from our parent community and I thank them for their efforts. Now, we transition into summer mode and plan for students to come back to our school buildings, which is our preference. In preparation for the possibility of social distancing requirements, we are contemplating density-lowering solutions to reduce building populations that would enable us to open schools safely. We have our work cut out for us, and we will rise to the challenge of providing the best educational program possible with the health, safety and welfare of students and staff at the forefront of our plans.

THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE

The future educational needs of our students are an extremely important consideration. e-Learning cannot replace students' experiences in a regular school environment. All stakeholders I have spoken with during this pandemic share how much they miss the daily interactions with students and colleagues that can only take place in a school setting. But as much as we want to be in-person come fall, we do not know what the future holds. What is most difficult about the pandemic has been the inability to plan or know how the virus will affect future public health guidance. One thing is certain: our primary focus remains the health and safety of our staff, students and community at large.

Parkland administrators are part of a county-wide task force that is discussing teaching and learning, transportation, special education, student services, nutrition and food services, technology, operations, facilities, safety, human resources, and communication. We will look at various scenarios to assess the feasibility of each in the areas of effectiveness, capacity, and sustainability. It will be essential for the region to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a high quality, comprehensive educational program.

We are working diligently in developing an instructional framework in anticipation of returning to school this fall. The goal of this framework is to respond to the limitations presented by COVID-19. The academic plan to be used for the 2020-2021 school year must emphasize key priorities: health and safety of the students, staff and the Parkland community; flexibility and the ability to expand/contract the schedule based upon conditions; and the ability to provide meaningful instruction while maintaining prescribed social distancing to the greatest extent feasible.

We recognize the important role our District shares with our community, not simply for the educational, social, nutritional and health benefits we provide to children, but also for workforce participation by parents. While maintaining safety remains our priority, we are also extremely sensitive to the impact our school delivery model may have on childcare needs.

As we head into June, we have been surveying teachers, students and parents trying to assess how possible plans for the fall may impact childcare needs and many other issues. We also understand that some families may not be comfortable allowing their children to return to our school buildings and rejoin in-person learning, even when students are permitted to do so. In the event families wish to have their children participate in 100% e-Learning, we envision offering that as an option. Getting back to school with 100% face-to-face learning is our preferred plan, however, we are also creating a blended scenario where we split up the population of students who report physically to school each day and participate in e-Learning the rest of the week. This model impacts every operation that we have in place and therefore takes extensive planning as we analyze various scenarios. As such, we will continue to communicate to families over the summer.

I also want our community to know that we are continuing our efforts to improve and enhance our e-Learning Program. We learned so much over the last three months in delivering our educational model remotely. There were many things to celebrate and many accomplishments achieved by students, staff, administrators and parents. However, we want to take the best practices that were discovered and share them among our staff and take a deeper dive into what was successful. Teachers can build great relationships with new students this fall even if we are still in an e-Learning format. This summer, our teachers and other staff will continue with their professional development to improve our e-Learning instructional delivery model.

As a community we must remain resolved in our determination, patience, empathy, flexibility and support in this time of uncertainty. We all share in a strong desire for our students and staff to feel comfortable and safe upon returning to the school environment.

Amid all of this, the Veterans Memorial Elementary School project is just about completed. We are in the last phase of the project which consists of road improvements that include road widening and the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Schantz Rd. and Twin Ponds Rd. We are pleased to announce that the bid for work came in \$616,000 under budget (from \$2.2M to 1.6M). We really cannot wait to share the building with the community at large and we remain hopeful that we will be able to do that soon.

As we close out this school year we extend best wishes to our students, staff, parents and community members for a safe and happy summer.

Thank you for your continued support,

Richard T. Sniscak, Superintendent of Schools

KEY POINTS OF THE 2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET

The annual June newsletter is typically filled with budget information to educate you, our taxpaying community, about our plans to fund programs and projects for the following school year. It was the most difficult budget process my seasoned team has ever been a part of. While we are happy to propose a 0% tax increase for the community as a result of the economic environment and the negative impact the coronavirus is having on family and business income in the Parkland School District, it comes with many concerns about the future. In May, we passed a proposed preliminary budget that appropriated approximately \$11.2M of Fund Balance to offset the rising costs associated with next year's essential school district needs to maintain NO TAX INCREASE for the Parkland taxpayers. We will continue to analyze revenues and expenditures in order to mitigate the appropriation of Fund Balance in the Final Budget that is recommended in late June. We plan to mail a newsletter supplement that provides a budget overview to all taxpayers once we have finalized our 2020-2021 General Fund Budget which will contain NO TAX INCREASE. Final Budget adoption by the Parkland School Board is scheduled for late June.

Concerns about current and future revenues for our District appear below.

- **Lower interim real estate taxes as home sales slow**
- **Reduction in Earned Income Tax revenue due to loss of income**
- **An increase in delinquent tax payment due to financial hardship**
- **Loss of rental income due to the District's inability to rent to outside groups**
- **Lower income due to lower interest rates on investments**
- **Uncertainty about how the COVID-19 crisis will affect state and federal revenues**
- **Rising state and federally mandated costs and obligations**
- **Pennsylvania School Boards Association estimates that school districts statewide will face declining local revenue collection at more than \$325M this year and as much as an additional \$1B next year.**

School District Millage Rank Comparison

School District	2019 Millage (Highest to Lowest)
Northern Lehigh	22.51
Allentown City	20.07
Catasauqua Area	19.51
Salisbury Township	19.47
East Penn	18.38
Whitehall-Coplay	18.07
Bethlehem	18.03
Northwestern Lehigh	16.61
Southern Lehigh	16.02
Parkland	15.71

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SAHAS VEERA



Meet PHS Senior Sahas Veera, a student who volunteers his time to help inspire a passion for science, technology and business.

Since middle school, Sahas has had a passion for STEM, robotics, and business. In middle school, he was selected from a pool of 2,500+ applicants nationwide for the Broadcom MASTERS Awards, a national science award for middle school students.

While in 9th grade, Sahas started the Parkland TED-Ed Club - an official branch of TED where students share ideas in a non-competitive environment. That same year, after 5 years of involvement and recognition, his FIRST Lego League Tech Challenge Team, Team Igutech, was invited to compete at the world championship for robotics in St. Louis.

During the summer following freshman year, Sahas volunteered at the Da Vinci Science Center to help run an Arduino Robotics Summer Camp. Through this experience, he was able to see how the kids were challenged to design, build, and program a robot to achieve a certain goal. After the program ended, he wanted to create

opportunities for interested students to further explore robotics. He approached Tyler Groft, the education coordinator at Da Vinci, with the idea of starting a FIRST robotics team that would run all year long. After operating on a trial basis for one year, the demand for the program grew and Sahas was put on the payroll at Da Vinci to run a FIRST Lego League team that met weekly. With the help of two other Da Vinci employees and four PHS student volunteers that he recruited, the program took off. Today, the program has expanded to include two FIRST Lego League teams and three Lego League Jr. teams.

At PHS, Sahas serves as the vice president of the Future Business Leaders of America Club where he has honed his craft of designing websites. And last summer, he attended LaunchX, an entrepreneurship program at Northwestern University. Employing the skills that he developed at the month-long program, he is working with a team to develop a smart-pen that can recognize handwritten spelling and grammatical errors in real-time to help students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Sahas is also the Vice President of the Math Honor Society and is a member of the Science, Spanish, English, and National Honor Societies. He also enjoys volunteering at the Da Vinci Science Center, Vishwa Hindu Parishad of North America, and in the Parkland School District Young Scientist Science Fair program that allows him to mentor 6th graders about the science fair competition process.

LUTRON ELECTRONICS AIDS SMS WITH COIN COUNTING MACHINE PROJECT

PROJECT HELPS DEVELOP SKILLED WORKERS AND INTEREST IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



As part of the **Teacher in the Workplace Grant Program**, Lutron Electronics, recently teamed up with Springhouse Middle School (SMS) students to “build a better mousetrap,” per se, all the while exciting students about careers in technology and manufacturing.

The **Teacher in the Workplace Program** helps connect educators with local business leaders and employers, bridging the gap between the classroom and industry, via field trips to workplaces across the Lehigh Valley. Through this program, teachers, counselors, and administrators learn more about industry trends, needs, and opportunities – which supports and enhances college and career preparations in classrooms across Pennsylvania.

Following a visit to a Lutron lighting control manufacturing facility, Darren Dravuschak, an SMS Technology Education (Tech Ed) teacher, tapped into the engineering expertise of two Lutron employees regarding an idea he had to add the coin counting mechanism to the machine that was already part of his curriculum. He wanted to enhance the coin sorting machine project with the ability to calculate money dropped into the unit. Lutron engineers specified the materials and custom-designed the circuit board that powers the coin sorter, which the students then assemble on their own.



“We’re grateful for Lutron’s support to partner with us to bring this coin sorting machine project to life,” said Darren Dravuschak. “It’s thrilling to introduce these skills to the students and get them thinking about manufacturing and engineering career opportunities.”

Students flow through the Middle School Technology Education curriculum for six weeks during each year of attendance at Parkland in grades 6-8. Springhouse Middle School houses 1,400 students across the three grade levels.

Andrew Jarrah works on his Coin Counting Project.



610 - 841 - 5929

Let our family care for your family.

Family General & Cosmetic Dentistry, Oral Surgery, Implants, and Sedation.

NurtureDentalHealth.com

240 Cetronia Road #121 South, Allentown, PA, 18104





We're ready for YOU!

St. Luke's is working tirelessly to ensure our hospitals and facilities are as safe as ever:

- We are all masking for you
- We screen all patients for COVID-19 symptoms prior to appointment and convert suspected positive screens to virtual appointments
- We limit the number of people in our waiting rooms and maintain social distancing
- We limit guests to 1 per person and mask all guests
- We keep patients with COVID-19 in separate patient rooms
- We make sure our staff is healthy and fever-free
- We provide virtual registration and check-in as well as online payments
- We offer a blend of appointments (in-person and virtual)
- We maintain high levels of infection prevention, repeatedly cleaning and disinfecting all waiting and exam rooms

The care you trust. Now more than ever.



sluhn.org/COVID-19

St Luke's
UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

Summertime is a great time to extend learning. Here are some FUN ways to encourage learning and creativity!

Pre-K/Elementary

Incorporate Reading, Writing and Math every day!

Have your child read the directions to a game or recipe as you do the activity together.

Start collecting change in a jar on the first day of summer. On the last day, estimate your change, count it, and plan a special purchase.



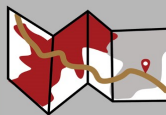
Ask your child to write the grocery list as you think of things to add. With your youngest learners, encourage them to listen to the sounds they hear in the word and resist the urge to spell words for them. For older children, ask them to alphabetize the list or sort it into categories.

Turn your volume down on the TV and read the closed captions while watching a show.



Create patterns using summer items (popsicle sticks, shells, flowers). Or draw patterns in the sand or dirt using a stick or your hands.

Use a stopwatch to time yourself running, roller blading, swimming, or biking. Then try to beat your time. Be sure to keep the distance you're moving the same for each trial. Graph the results.



Using a map, calculate where you will be if you travel 20, 50, 100, or 1,000 miles from home.

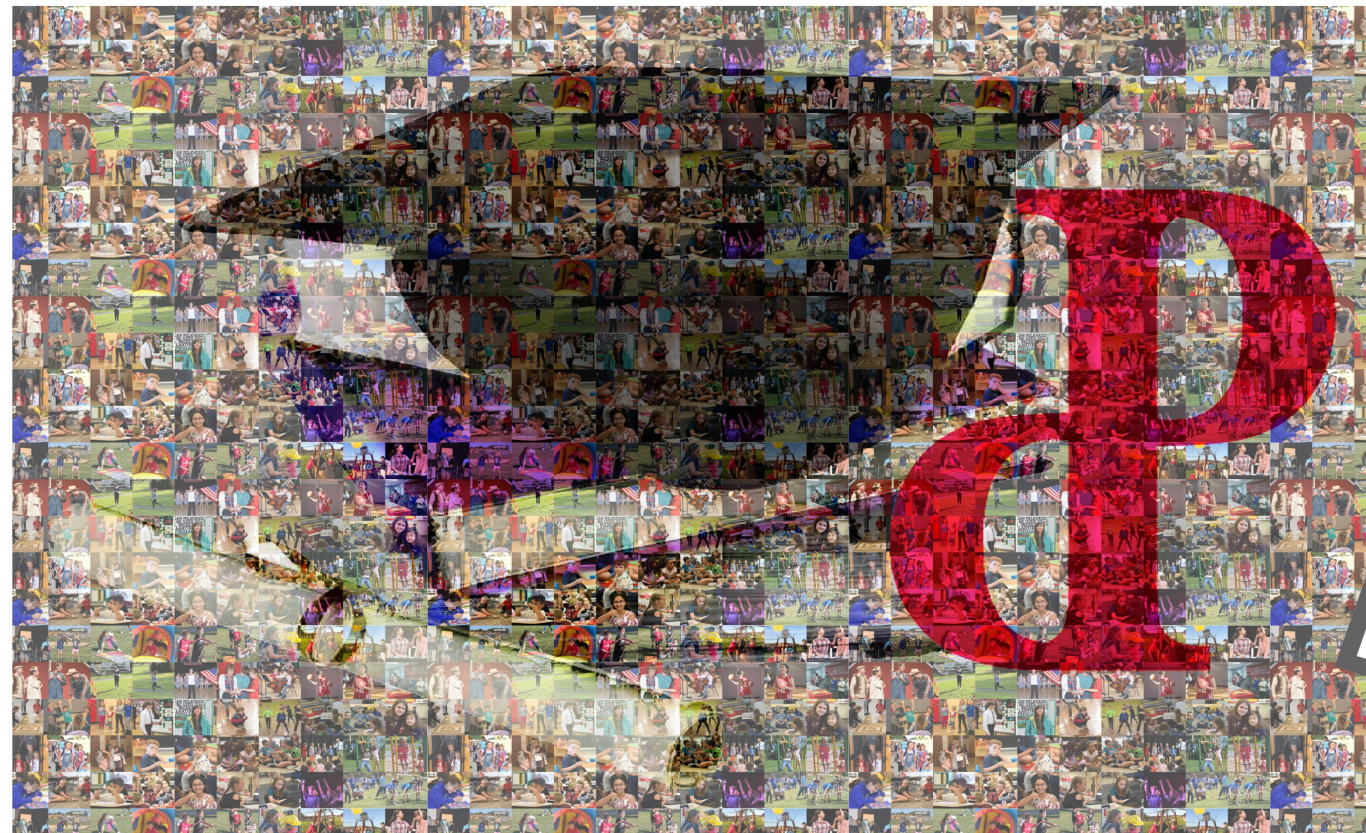
PBS Kids - parents can sign up to receive newsletters that include daily activity ideas.

Waterford - free summer curriculum for all Pre-K to 2nd grade students (includes incoming Kindergarteners) in reading, math, and science - 15 minutes per day/5 days per week.

Wonders - access books at various reading levels or play reading games.

ST Math - tackle puzzles to improve problem solving skills.

KEEP LEARNING GOING ALL SUMMER LONG



STAY PARKLAND STRONG!

Elementary CLEVER Apps

Parkland students will continue to have access to activities online through CLEVER until July 31st. Students know how to access these apps that offer good practice:

Wonders - access books at various reading levels or play reading games

ST Math - tackle puzzles to improve problem solving skills

Go Math! - math practice

PBS and Discovery Education - educational videos

Moby Max - math and reading games that will keep skills sharp

Newsela - up-to-date, high-interest articles that meet students right at their level

Middle School High School CLEVER Apps

Students know how to access these apps.

Go Math! (6th grade math) - math games offer practice

Moby Max - math and reading games that will keep skills sharp

Newsela - up-to-date, high-interest articles that meet students right at their level

Tynker - free coding for everyone and premium content for middle schoolers

Xello - Part of a .5 graduation credit that all students are required to do, Xello provides the opportunity for students to explore careers.

Class of 2021
Get a headstart for next year by applying for scholarships with our excellent list of opportunities here:
<http://bit.do/ParklandScholarships2021>

Looking for a remote summer job, summer camp or summer learning opportunity?
Visit our website for a list of great resources and more summer learning opportunities in our region for K-12th graders:
<http://bit.do/ParklandSummer2020>

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



THANKS TO ADIDAS FOR OUTFITTING OUR ENTIRE PHS STAFF IN ANTI-VAPE SHIRTS

Special thanks is extended to Adidas who donated T-shirts for all Parkland Staff to hold “Escape the Vape” days. By having the entire staff wear the “Escape the Vape” shirts, which were designed by a Parkland student, students got the message that the entire PHS teaching staff stood behind the message that vaping is a dangerous practice. Assemblies held at PHS also took place and the PHS TV Studio was able to interview a local Smoking Cessation Medical Professional to develop a news program for the students to view. Signage like the one that hangs above outline the dangers of vaping and smoking. We are Parkland Proud of the way our staff came together to support our students in tackling a new phenomenon among teenagers here and across the country.



GRATITUDE PROJECT

Springhouse Middle School Guidance Counselor Michael Gross started a unique project for 7th graders called the Gratitude Project. He wanted to focus on character/personal development and when he polled the 7th grade teaching team to get input on the type of practice they wanted for their students, he decided to incorporate writing into his idea. He brought all 7th graders to the auditorium where he talked about gratitude, the science behind it, how it impacts the prefrontal cortex in the brain, and how it can become a habit if you choose to focus on it. He shared the emotional, physical, and social benefits of practicing gratitude. At the end of the presentation, he asked the 7th Grade English teachers, Kerin Steigerwalt, Jessica Reitnauer and Maria Serina to give students time for the assignment. The project entailed writing a letter of gratitude to someone of the student’s choice. Mr. Gross offered to provide envelopes, postage and to mail letters to the person they were most grateful for. At right is a picture of Mr. Gross with letters that students wrote. Mr. Gross slipped notes inside the envelopes telling the receivers of the letter that they made it into the Gratitude Project and invited them to send responses back to him so that he could share with the students how good their letters of gratitude made others feel.

Here are some examples of the responses:

“I can’t express enough how wonderful it was to get a letter from my former 2nd grade student! Her letter not only warmed my heart, but filled me with immense pride!! I am honored she chose me and that she would remember so many details and moments from 5 yrs ago! As elementary teachers, we always hope that we can provide a positive experience for the first steps on their education “ladder.” Her detailed and kind letter lets me know that she continues to be a wonderful student! Thank you for this special project! It brought a huge smile to my face and truly made my day!” - a Parkland teacher

“I wanted to share with you that I received a most heart full letter yesterday from my daughter who we adopted when she was approximately 5 years old. Out of all the things she could’ve written and people she could’ve selected, she elected to write to me to thank me for taking on something that I did not have to ever do. She was very insightful—of course it put tears in my eyes. So thank you for having the children get involved in this project.” - a Parkland mother

“I received a letter of gratitude from your class. A letter from my beautiful, amazing, thoughtful granddaughter thanking me for always being there for her and how much she appreciates everything I do for her. The tears just flowed down my face as I was finishing the letter. Thank you so much for doing this project. I think it helps kids appreciate the things we do for them.” - a Grandmother



Thank you, Mr. Gross, for helping students focus on being thankful for the many blessings in their lives and helping them realize how good it can feel to make others feel valued and appreciated.



PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



WHAT IS A CORPORATE PARTNER?



In these challenging times we are thankful for the continued support of our community.



Schools rose to the challenge of providing distance learning this year. The Parkland Education Foundation, with the amazing help of our supporters, has been able to provide school staff with teacher headsets and Emergency Grants to assist them during this transition. We have also helped to feed our neediest families, and we gave EVERY Parkland Senior a graduation lawn sign, delivered by faculty, to show our support for them. There are so many needs all around us right now. We are thankful to our sponsors who help us meet these needs. These companies and individuals who are facing their own difficult times are still helping the community! Together, we strengthen our community and we are Parkland Proud!



The Parkland Education Foundation would like to specially thank all of its wonderful sponsors:



The Corba Family - Kameron '22, RJ '18, Kim '85 and Rob D.E. Cressman Insurance Agency, Inc.
Eastburn and Gray, P.C.
Fox Rothschild LLP
HSA Mechanical Inc.
Kades-Margolis Corporation
KCBA Architects
Geoffrey and Karen Legg
Lesavoy, Butz & Seitz LLC
Myco Mechanical, Inc.

One Financial Services
Parkland Education Association (Teacher's Union)
Parkland Education Support Professionals Association (Support Staff Union)
The Parkland Press
Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd.
Radio Maintenance Inc.
RBC Capital Markets, LLC
Richard Irwin '73
Terraforma Engineering, LLC

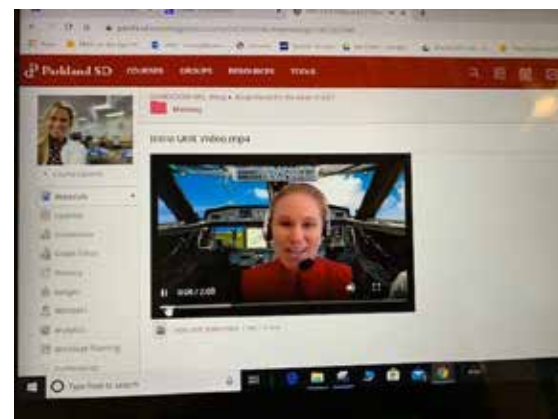


The Foundation produced "Parkland's Funniest Home Videos" with the help of amazing Parkland students in the Parkland High School TV Studio which premiered on May 20, 2020, the night we were supposed to have our Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala. This will be rebroadcast throughout the summer on Parkland TV (Channel 65 on RCN and Channel 264 on Service Electric, of 102.9 for digital subscribers). We hope you enjoy it and we thank all of the sponsors above who stuck with us (listed above), even when our Gala was canceled, to help us fund teacher grants for the coming school year!

In 2019, the Parkland Education Foundation started a **Partners in Education** Program unlike any other education foundation program in the region. At various annual gift levels that start at \$5,000, the Foundation works with Parkland School District to provide businesses with visibility throughout the District. Marketing benefits include signage in every school, on Parkland athletic fields and even inside school buses. Our goal is to provide visibility for businesses who show support for Parkland schools. We are fortunate to live in a community that recognizes the power of a good education. Many of us moved here to enjoy the benefits of a Parkland School District education for our children or the great community that is comprised by our three townships. Whatever the reason, good public schools help to make a stronger community and local businesses see a reason to invest in Parkland's success. We want to reward businesses by providing visibility to the many people that use Parkland's wonderful facilities.

The Parkland Education Foundation, through its **Celebrate Innovation Grant Program**, provides opportunities that help every school and every student in the district. A sampling of this year's investments include gifts to help fund the SMS food pantry, robotics equipment for the high school club, and Da Vinci Science Center field trips for all 4th grade students across the District. We exist to provide great opportunities for staff and students and we couldn't accomplish this without the help of our amazing partners. Next time you see one of these businesses, make sure to thank them. They help us provide students with opportunities that go beyond a traditional public school budget. For more information on the Program please contact Lisa Ervin, Executive Director, at ervinl@parklandsd.org or 610-351-5572.

WE LOVE OUR TEACHERS



Here is a picture of me using the headset for a kindergarten introduction unit about transportation. We were discussing things that travel by air. Love the headsets! Thank you!

- Laura Moog, teacher at Parkway Manor



Thank you so much for the headset, providing me with a smoother way to teach and work with 2 toddlers, a dog, AND a puppy all in the background! - Patty Roberts, teacher at Cetronia



MOVIE STAR WITH PROSTHETIC LEG VISITS ACTING CLASS

Rachel Handler, an actress and motivational speaker, visited Parkland High School (PHS) to speak with all four levels of PHS Theater students along with the PHS Women's Choral Ensemble about what it's like to work in the television industry, her disability, and the challenges she's had to overcome to fulfill her dream of being an actress. Rachel was a musical theater major who studied at Westminster University. Soon after she graduated, she got into a small fender bender. She pulled over to the side of the road to exchange information with the driver who had rear-ended her car. While there, another vehicle came off the exit ramp and hit her. She was thrown over the guard rail and lost her leg. As a young woman who was starting her career as a dancer and actress, this was quite a tragedy. She retaught herself not only how to walk, but also how to dance with one leg. She is a successful television and film actress as well as a filmmaker and writer. She shared personal stories and goals and was truly an inspiration for all.

PHS PHYSICS TEACHER SEAN FLUESO WINS PA STEM AWARD

Sean Flueso, Physics Teacher and Science Department Chairperson of Parkland High School, has been accepted as one of 28 ambassadors in the Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador Program, which aims to shape the future of STEM education in the Commonwealth. PA STEM Ambassadors met for inaugural training sessions at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) to receive advocacy training from state and national leaders in the field and have agreed to invest the next nine months in training and policy development to share expertise and content knowledge with influential stakeholders to help develop a stronger voice in shaping STEM education policy issues.

Flueso said of his experience, "This training and title has me even more energized about helping lead our district's and community's efforts to advocate for quality STEM education for all students. The opportunity to network with educators and stakeholders in STEM from across the state was both humbling and eye-opening. I gained an insight into the legislative side of STEM advocacy, and emerging STEM ecosystems to better equip students with skill sets to thrive in regional and global industry. I am excited to begin my work as a STEM Ambassador to first and foremost share the outstanding achievements in STEM at Parkland and learn from others about areas where we can improve." Sean has been a leader in STEM education for more than 10 years in Parkland School District. He has served on committees to develop inquiry-based education practices and professional development. Not only is he a teacher leader, he is also an advocate of STEM with community partners and works alongside the Greater Lehigh Valley STEM Alliance.

TEACHER RETIRES AFTER IMPRESSIVE RUN IN ROBOTICS EDUCATION



This year's Engineering Club's Senior Robotic team was special to Bob Yocum who completed 35 years teaching in public education (the last 21 at Parkland). The seniors on his Robotics Team, a club that met after school several times per week, were invited to the "Night at the Museum," a Signature event at the new Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Virginia. It was an invite-only competition that represented the top 60 teams in the country. At the end of Friday night, the team went 3-3 in the qualifying rounds with a significant problem in their robot. The students reprogrammed the robot on Friday after the event and came back on Saturday with 3 straight wins, improving to 13th rank. They then began the Elimination rounds. After upsetting some higher-ranking robotics teams, they made it to the Semi-finals, and then to the Finals, losing by just 2 points. This was a great effort by the team who also received the Judges' Award. The senior team was ranked 16th in the world and was invited to the World Competition, but it was eventually canceled due to COVID-19.

Mr. Yocum was honored for his successful teaching career at the VEX Robotics State Championships in February. He taught 7 different courses in the Technology and Engineering department at Parkland as well as 3 courses at Lehigh Carbon Community College.

Team members (L - R) are: Arjun Vedantham, Ojas Gupta, Ethan Lin, Harper Chisari, Tristin Quimno and Soham Sane. Not pictured are: Zeq Yaya & Josh Ye



CONNOR ARMSTRONG IS THIS YEAR'S MR. PARKLAND!

Congratulations to all of the contestants including Christian Dzema, 2nd Place, and Nathaniel Armstrong, 3rd Place.

Experienced. Friendly. Professional Tax Solutions.

Call Today for a **FREE** consult! 484-274-6979



Tax Preparation • Bookkeeping • Payroll

• IFTA • Sales Tax

TilghTax.com



**The Neffs
National Bank**
A Subsidiary of Neffs Bancorp, Inc.
STRENGTH. TRUST. COMMUNITY.

Neffs Office
5629 Route 873
Neffs, PA 18065
(610) 767-3875

NEW Walnutport Office
211 S. Best Avenue
Walnutport, PA 18088
(610) 224-2265



www.neffsnatl.com



PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

PARKLAND PRIDE

9 STUDENTS EARN FULL TUITION 28 EARN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS, 14 EARN ATHLETIC AWARDS

Total equates to more than \$4M over 4 years

FULL TUITION AWARD WINNERS

Academic

Catherine Balestrini, Misericordia University
Lauren Ceh, United States Naval Academy
Kyle Schantz, Ursinus College
Michael Schmitt, University of Maine
Alan Uthuppan, Temple University

Athletic

Nick Dawkins, Penn State University
Jada Mangahas, Arizona State University
Ja-lon Perkins, Colgate University
Ava Schaller, Lehigh University

25% or MORE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kole Cannon, Rochester Institute of Technology
Kiera Colon, DeSales University
Liam Dempsey, DeSales University
Liam Dempsey, Kutztown University
Jakob Edwards, Ursinus College
Caterina Farole, DeSales University
Mason Hayward, Misericordia University
Abigail Hill, Duquesne University
Maximus Kistler, Monmouth University
Emily Leiby, Stevens Institute of Technology
Coby Lindenmuth, Temple University
Ainsley Long, University of Alabama
Elena Mecchi, University of Richmond
Jacob Melady, Catholic University of America

Anya Pant, Gettysburg College
Tyler Payne, Texas Christian University or
Savannah College of Art & Design
Lauren Petrocelli, Pennsylvania State University
Jada Pinsley, West Virginia University
Emma Prehl, Muhlenberg College
Nathan Reimer, Muhlenberg College
Lynsey Reynard, Drexel University
Gavin Russell, Utah State University
Kara Schmitt, University of Pittsburgh
Jacob Shaffer, Rochester Institute of Technology
Bryce Shalbert, University of Lynchburg
Natalie St. Hill, Duquesne University
Gianna Tully, University of Delaware
Alexander Wilsterman, Bloomsburg University

PARTIAL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Field Hockey

Mia Coval, Villanova University
Maddie Molchany, Temple University
Olivia Vaccari, Temple University

Boys Lacrosse

Max Kistler, Monmouth University

Boys Swimming

Kole Cannon, RIT University
Gavin Webb, Youngstown State University
James Zhang, Niagara University

Girls Swimming & Diving

Alexa Brinker, Dartmouth University
Cora Hochstetler, Drexel University
Laurel Krause, Washington College
Lexi Lehman, James Maddison University
Annie Walls, Penn State University

Girls Volleyball

Amber Resendez, Shippensburg University

Girls Lacrosse

Jill Bushinsky, Temple University

STUDENT WINNERS TAKE 1st or 2nd PLACE AT STATE & NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Parkland Pride is at its best when students earn State or National recognition in academics, the arts, or athletics. Here are some of this year's highlights (note that many of the usual State Competitions were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 crisis):

STATE HISTORY DAY: Ankhitha Manjunatha, Akshatha Manjunatha and Tanya Mehta, Antony Tomy & Rishab Yanala

ELMER GATES ENTERPRISE AWARDS: Mackenzie Kirchner & Paige Knowles

NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY: Sierra Gross, Mackenzie Kirchner & Sophia Lapenta

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART: Olivia Wilkinson

ALL STATE BAND: Jordan Bucks, Jared Lazansky, Meg Takahashi & Alex Tang

ALL STATE CHORUS: Catharine Aboulhoda, Raphael Ettinger-Finley, Zachary Evans, Brycen Geiger, Abby Hill, Sharyn Kaiser & Jacob Roth

ALL STATE ORCHESTRA: Suchir Agarwal, Victor Cai, Coby Lindenmuth, Hasan Noh & Angelina Roccamo

USA PHYSICS OLYMPIAD: Victor Cai

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS: Vicky Chen, Imran Dharamsi, Raphael Ettinger-Finley, Akaash Kapoor, Ga Young Lee, Maya Parekh, Maya Paul, Kara Schmitt, Michael Schmitt, Farid Shahid & Joshua Ye

STATE SILVER MEDAL SWIMMER: Annie Walls (500 freestyle)



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020...VIRTUALLY!



View the Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony
Academic, Athletic and Visual and Performing Arts Awards
Scholarship Recognition Ceremony
College Athlete Day
and more ways that we celebrated the Class of 2020 virtually this spring
on our Class of 2020 webpage!

<https://phs.parklandsd.org/students/class-of-2020>

An in-person Commencement Ceremony is planned for August 4, 2020 at PPL Center
if social distancing guidelines permit.



**DID YOU
KNOW**

The Class of 2020 volunteered...
3,174 hours when they were freshmen
5,189 hours when they were sophomores
5,791 hours when they were juniors
2,419 hours when they were seniors

**Total of 16,573 community service
hours over their 4 years at PHS!**

CONGRATULATIONS SENIOR SPEAKER CORA HOCHSTETLER!

At Parkland High School, students audition for the prestigious role of giving the senior class speech during Commencement. This year, 22 students tried out to be Senior Speaker. Congratulations are extended to Cora Hochstetler who gave this year's speech!

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

BULLETIN BOARD

Parkland is pleased to announce it was a 5X winner of a Top Workplace Award this year!



SUMMER CHROMEBOOK GUIDANCE

Grades 5-11 students will retain their assigned Chromebooks over the summer. Current 8th Grade students will be contacted during the summer with the opportunity to exchange their existing Chromebook for a new Chromebook. This will be their new learning device for Grades 9-12. All K-4 students who borrowed a device in spring 2020 will retain devices and be contacted over the summer to either exchange or upgrade their device with their 2020-2021 classroom learning device. Every Parkland student will be assigned their own learning device for the 2020-2021 school year. Students should keep Chromebooks charged and ready for next school year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will they have certain restrictions? Yes, The same content filtering policies will remain intact.

Can we set some time limits on how long they can be on? The District will not be enforcing time limits on the devices.

Will these Chromebooks be monitored by the school? Our content filter does generate logs of student activity but it is not actively monitored.

Will there be restrictions on Google? The same restriction will apply as during the school year. Access to Google apps necessary for educational purposes will be available.

Can my student use the Chromebook during summer? Students are encouraged to use their Chromebooks over the summer to continue with learning activities and some students may have summer enrichment or summer school credit recovery that requires the Chromebook for e-learning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

South Whitehall Township At-home Recreation webpage has ideas for fun things you can do virtually:
<https://southwhitehall.com/parks-recreation/at-home-recreation/>

Parkland Summer Learning Opportunities/Job/Camps/Internships webpage: <http://bit.do/ParklandSummer2020>

SUMMER LIBRARY and ALL SUMMER CAMPS at Parkland Schools are canceled for the summer and no facility rentals will be granted.

AARP SAFE DRIVING CLASSES for Parkland Senior Citizens are being offered online at <https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>. Those who need to take a class to keep certification current can take the course online. To receive 25% off the course registration fee, use code DRIVINGSKILLS. The code is good through August 31, 2020.

ZUMBA with GRACE: If anyone is interested in joining an online Senior Citizens Zumba class, please contact Grace at dance10@ptd.net.

CONFIDENCE

to shine

When you smile with confidence, it can make a huge difference. Help make your school a happier and brighter place by sharing your smile.

GHOSH

ORTHODONTICS

STRAIGHT. FORWARD. | GOGHOSH.COM

GOGHOSH.COM

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

1210 SPRINGHOUSE ROAD, ALLENTOWN, PA 18104

**NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LEHIGH VALLEY PA
PERMIT# 719**

Published 4x Annually in September, January, April and June

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER VOLUME 52 NUMBER 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lisa A. Roth, President
David J. Hein, Vice President
Robert M. Cohen
Carol L. Facchiano
Patrick H. Foose
David M. Kennedy
Marie Maritch
Linda Perlman-McKenna
Marissa L. Ziegler
Richard T. Sniscak, Superintendent
Dr. Rodney R. Troutman, Assistant Superintendent
Tracy E. Smith, Assistant to the Superintendent for Operations
John A. Vignone, Board Secretary/Director of Business Administration
Nicole Mehta McGalla, Editor/Dir. of Community Relations & Development

www.parklandsd.org

NONDISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

In accordance with TITLE VI, TITLE IX, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Parkland School District does not discriminate either in the educational or vocational programs and activities which it operates or in the employment of personnel, on the basis of sex, handicap, disability, race, color, national origin, age, or religion. If you are physically or mentally disabled, visually or hearing impaired, you may qualify for special services/instruction/equipment modifications so you can successfully complete the education program or participate in activities. All inquiries concerning this policy/questions regarding specific programs, services, and facilities for the disabled should be directed to the district equal rights officer, Assistant Superintendent, Parkland School District, 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA at (610) 351-5505.

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PUBLICATION,
PLEASE CALL NICOLE at
610-351-5630**