

Board President's Report
Jacob Wyland
April 19, 2021

Penguin MVP Recognition

I am very pleased to begin my report tonight with some wonderful news. The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, the Grable Foundation and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit have recognized Foster Elementary School Principal Jason Ramsey as a Penguins Most Valuable Principal (MVP).

This program, highlighting outstanding work over this past year, recognizes principals who demonstrate an innovative approach to learning, a continuous strive for excellence and a passion for their school and students. Thank you Jason for the support you provide your students and your community.

As a Penguins MVP, Jason will receive a Penguins 'Prize Pack' including a Customized Penguins Jersey along with a \$1,000 donation for a school project of his choice.

The Penguins reviewed over 1,350 individual nominations, representing over 135 principals, and your dedication to your students stood out among the rest. You are among just 15 other principals in Allegheny County.

I want to share some of what your community had to say about you:

"Jason is available to his students and staff every day in every way. He goes over and above 24/7 and always puts all of us first. He has a genuine concern not only for our physical health but also our mental health as we navigate school during the pandemic."

"We are all so lucky to have him at Foster and we are thankful he is our "captain" and "MVP."

On behalf of the Mt. Lebanon School District, the Penguins, the Penguins Foundation, Grable Foundation, and Allegheny Intermediate Unit, we want to thank you for making a lasting impression on the students, staff and families of the Foster community and making our District a better place.

Please step forward to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Board.

Extra Mile Award

In more good news, I am pleased to announce an Extra Mile Award recipient this evening.

Mrs. Patricia Shine, Writing Clinician at the high school, nominated Mrs. Jodi Dunlop, a special education teacher at the high school and the Department Chair for Special Education for this award.

Mrs. Shine's nomination letter states the following:

"Mrs. Dunlop is top-notch. Whenever there is a task to do, she does it with professionalism, attention to detail, and a smile. Just this morning, she went to the Activities Office to make posters to cheer on the Unified Bocce Team in their championship competition. No one asked her to do this. She did it to support our students. No one asked her to set up a makeshift classroom during the school shutdown at the onset of the pandemic, yet she did. I have witnessed her working directly with juniors requiring IEPs, and her combination of grace and firmness produces results for the student. She gives every ounce of energy she has to whatever individual is in front of her. I am proud to work with her, and I know her colleagues would agree that she is worthy of the Extra Mile Award. She is, in a word, exceptional."

On behalf of the School Board, we wholeheartedly concur that Mrs. Dunlop is worthy of the Extra Mile Award. I would like to invite her to step up to receive a certificate of appreciation.

PTA Reflections

The National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life.

Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.

This year's theme of "I Matter Because" inspired students to use their imaginations to consider their role in and contributions to their world. Students submitted works of art in the following categories: Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

We would like to congratulate the following students for being recognized by the Pennsylvania State PTA for their submissions:

Melanie Rayl - "Stars" - Literature/HS Division - Mt. Lebanon High School - Award of Merit

Molly Bozick - "Missing Pieces" - Photography/Middle School Division - Mellon Middle School - Award of Merit

John Monocello - "Redd House Blues" - Music Composition/Middle School Division - Mellon Middle School - Award of Merit

Elora Tighe - "Three Moods" - Music Composition/Middle School Division - Mellon Middle School - Award of Merit

Congratulations to our students and our PTA volunteers for facilitating this awards program.