

A photograph of a fencing competition in a gymnasium. In the foreground, a fencer in a white uniform and red socks is in a lunge position, holding a foil. Other fencers in similar uniforms are visible in the background, some standing and some in motion. The floor is polished wood with blue and green lines.

FOX TALES

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# Guys and Dolls – The Gamble Pays Off



By Annalese Bartolacci

Fox Chapel Area High School's 50th musical was certainly one to remember. *Guys and Dolls* was a huge success! Truly the perfect musical comedy, there was no shortage of laughs as the story followed a ring of New York City gamblers and their "dolls." Nathan Detroit (played by Lincoln Baldwin) looks for a place to have one of his illegal floating crap games, and needs money to secure a potential spot. He makes a bet he thinks he cannot lose with fellow gambler Sky Masterson (Ghost Snyder) to get the cash he needs. They bet

that Sky cannot take a doll to Havana, and Nathan chooses Miss Sarah Brown (Emily Harajda), the local missionary, as the doll that Sky must take with him. Sky is able to convince Sarah to go on a date with him, while Nathan has less luck with his fiancée of fourteen years, Adelaide (Kyra Gdovichin). A dancer at the Hot Box nightclub, Adelaide desperately wants to be married, and almost leaves Nathan for

good on account of his delaying the wedding date and his running the crap game again. Sarah falls in love with Sky, but wishes never to see him again when he admits to her that the only reason they met in the first place was because

he was trying to win a bet. It takes a lucky roll of the dice for Sky and Nathan to fix their problems and find happiness in marriage with their dolls.

A successful production does not come easily, and the cast and crew know this better than anyone. Carolyn Caracciolo, assistant stage manager explains, "We started all the way in November. It's when we found out about

the musical and started planning out the announcement video and were trying to get it done by the deadline. Preparing for that was stressful, but it was fun." From the very beginning, there was a large team of teachers and students that made the show into what it was, from casting and costumes,

to set design and lighting. Mr. Benjamin Murray (producer, music director, stage director, and sound) worked with many other adult production staff including Ms. Stephanie Reilly (production assistant), Ms. Cara Coulter (assistant stage manager, assistant

choreographer), Mr. Dennis Emert (orchestra conductor), Ms. Kathleen Fischerkeller (choreographer), Ms. Mary Jo Montgomery (set design, painting director), Ms. Anne Englert (costume and props coordinator), Mr. Joe





*Guys and Dolls, continued...*

Gass (set construction), Mr. Eric Amsden (lighting), Mr. Daryl Lesnik (sound), and Mr. Benjamin Bliss (rehearsal accompanist). The student production staff included stage managers (Lilly Adamo assisted by Carolyn Caracciolo and Madeleine Jones), student treasurers (Delaney Asbury and Emily Harajda), and program/poster artwork (Allie Watters), as well as the pit orchestra, set painting and set construction teams, lighting

sentiment seemed to resonate with most students, including the cast themselves, who worked tirelessly alongside the crew and the adult producers to put themselves into the shoes of their characters. Whether a lead or in the ensemble, it was evident that not only did the students enjoy their roles on stage, they enjoyed each other offstage, making the process all the more worth it. Emily Harajda,

who played the missionary Miss Sarah, commented, "My favorite part of musical season is the weeks leading up. Everyone is all together every night for practice and dinners and the bonds you make in those few nights are like none other." During



and sound crew, stage crew, student costume committee, hair and makeup team, ushers, and ticket sales volunteers.

Congratulations to everyone involved that contributed to such a fantastic show.

The months of hard work definitely paid off for this tight knit group. Says stage manager Lilly Adamo, "Preparing for the show is a very long process, longer than people think. It starts with making the musical announcement video and doesn't end until the show does. The stage managers are at school longer than they are at home for most of the musical season, eating whatever we can find when we have a break. But [on opening night] when I started in the light booth and called the show, all the long hours and lost sleep felt worth it." This

the long days and hours of hard work, lasting friendships are formed.

For anyone interested in contributing their talents

to the show next year, do not hesitate to get involved. Emily says, "People should get involved in musical because it builds such a diverse community with all the different people who join from different crowds!" Everyone is welcome to join, and there are plenty of jobs to do – you do not have to sing or dance if you do not

want to. Ask anyone who has done the musical, and they will give nothing but a good review.

Congratulations once again to the cast and crew of *Guys and Dolls* for putting on an amazing show.



# Taking the Plunge for a Good Cause



By Megan Mullhern

The Polar Plunge is an annual fundraiser organized by the Special Olympics. Students and teachers from various schools in PA jumped into a freezing cold pool set up right outside of Acrisure Stadium. In order to participate in the plunge, students and their teams collected donations from friends, family, and the public. This year, with a grand total of \$38,558, Fox Chapel raised the most money compared

to any other school district in Pennsylvania! ROLL FOXES! The students in Best Buddies had a lot of fun this year participating in the Polar Plunge, and I hope Fox Chapel Unified continues to raise more and more money for this inspiring cause. Fox Tales spoke with some of the participants to hear what they had to say about the Polar Plunge. Check it out!



*Claire Auffenberg: "I did the Polar Plunge this year because it is such a great experience and a fun way to raise money!"*



*Sydney Shutzman (president of Best Buddies): Polar Plunge this year was a blast! I had a great time dressing up as different superheroes with many of the other students, and I loved plunging with my friends!*



*Colin Lazzara: The polar plunge this year was a great time. We had way more people come compared to last year and we also got Dorseyville Middle School students to come along as well. It's always so enjoyable to make the trip to the stadium and interact with all the different schools who are also jumping along for a great cause.*







The Polar Plunge is an annual event in which participants jump into a body of water despite frigid temperatures to raise money for the Special Olympics organization.



*Molly Piper: I love Polar Plunge because it is such a fun event and our Best Buddies club has so much fun participating!*



*Ms. Welty: This was my first year participating in the Polar Plunge and it was such a "cool" experience! I was amazed at the amount of support and comradery among the students, staff and families all to benefit the Special Olympics. Not to mention how cold the water was!!!!*



*Nicky Cusano: I did the Polar Plunge because the Best Buddies organization that I am involved with was doing it. I also did it to spread awareness of special needs and support inclusion in our school.*

*Charlie Larsen: I did Polar Plunge because it was a fun way to support my peers, and raise money!*



# FC Represents at Regional FBLA Competition

Several Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the 2022 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Virtual Regional Leadership Conference and many qualified for the state competition. Fox Chapel Area first-place regional winners were seniors Helia Hamidi and Jack Wilk; juniors Jacob Anthikad, Maria Costantino, Evelyn Healy, Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Harry Littwin, and Angela Ngo; sophomores David Black, Jackson Hagler, and David Sorisio; and freshmen Marin Airik, Prachi Behal, Maeve Beresford, Michael Costello, Aavree Hill, and Rodrigo Silva. Second-place regional winners were senior Paul Kullmann; juniors Joseph Berger, Micah Cagley, Isaac Jacobs, and Dylan Work; sophomores Charles Larsen, Anna Mohn, and Kennedy Murton; and freshmen Joshua Shah and Nicolas Squeglia. Third-place regional winners were 2023 early graduate Zachary Sullivan; juniors Iris Doty, Jenna Lazaro, Tess Petrucelli, and Heidi Tong; sophomores Matthew Begg, Kai Edwards, Gabriella Hample, and Keegan Scanlon; and freshman Avery Jones. Fourth-place finishers were senior Diya Reddy; juniors Julia Hernaez and Jadyen Smouse; and sophomores Rayna Huang, Jonah Kline, and Asher White. Fifth-place regional winners were sophomore Rachel Pegher, and freshmen Mira Owens and Emma Srodes. Other winners included juniors Ava McCaffrey and Gloria Wen; and sophomores Brennan

Bielawski, Selin Geylani, Swati Mylarappa, and Holden Starz. All of these students have qualified to participate in the 2023 FBLA State Leadership Conference that will be held virtually and in person in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 17-19.

Other third-place regional winners at the conference included sophomores Baustin Bitar, Ridglee Boychuk, and Molly Delaney; and freshmen Samantha Dinh and Mikayla

Feder. An additional fifth place regional winner was freshman William Apitsch. Sixth- through 10th-place winners included seniors Donay Allen, Aisling Beresford, Anna Li, and Mia Nury; juniors Annalese Bartolacci, Lexi Biernesser, Leanora Carson, William Kratsa, Safiyyah Muhina, Laney Porterfield, and Troy

Susnak; sophomores Kellen Bleier, Milo Chiu, Christian Dantey, Megan Delaney, Reed Echnat, Mason Friday, Salome Navas Grijalva, Anna Kintner, Lily Massaro, Natalie Patel, Nicholas Patel, Ava Persichetti, Sienna Siegel, Hannah Smith, Henry Stallings, Gianna Tavolaro, and Luke Tsai; and freshmen Naudia Boyle, Vesta Homayoun, Charlotte Rattner, and Emilia Sutkowski.

The FBLA Virtual Regional Leadership Conference was held in December 2022 and January 2023. Approximately 600 students from 11 school districts participated in the regional competition.



On Tuesday, March 14, 2023 members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Fishing Club again partnered with the Allison Park Sportsmen's Club and the PA Fish Commission to stock trout in the Pine Creek watershed. They placed trout in the stream from the Glenshaw Fish and Boat Commission stream access area to the Hampton fire hall in Allison Park. With the opening season of trout



scheduled for April 1, this stocking involved more of the watershed and a much larger amount of fish. Mr.

Norberg, Mr. Karavlan, Mr. Baxter and Mr. Morley are Allison Park Sportsmen's Club members and helped to coordinate the stocking effort. Mr. Norberg and Mr. Baxter, along with juniors Jack Lynch, Micah Shelly and Cian Conry braved the cold temperatures to lend a hand.





# Clubs to Consider

By Alex Navas

Every year, FCAHS holds a club week for all interested high school students. On your way to class, you may have noticed different students displaying their clubs in the commons area. We have some recurring clubs every year such as FBLA, DESI, and Community Outreach, but we also have some fun and exciting new clubs! This year boasted a total of 15 new clubs.

Bibliotherapy was started by Dr. Ward with the goal to connect with others through books tangentially. Conservation Club, started by Lucas Gravina, works closely with the Fox Chapel Land Trust in developing their land. Kai Edwards started the Junior Vacation Club this year to promote growth as individuals and as a community and share the best vacation experiences possible. Sophomores Sienna Siegal and Anna Kitner have started Health Awareness Club this year. Their goal is to bring awareness to important causes such as breast cancer, heart disease, national nutrition, and more. The Motorsports Club was started by Micheal O'Day. They talk

about multiple motor races and current championship standings. The Playing Cards Club, started by Dayna Mullen, is dedicated to being a space for all card game lovers. Run by Jannet Wolf, the Pre-Vet club offers the opportunity to learn the basics of vet assistants. Women in

Science is meant to encourage more students to participate in the science fair and to grow the group of interested women in STEM. A popular topic, the True Crime was started by Caroline Hinz to expand students' knowledge of criminal investigation. If you need help growing and/or starting a Youtube Channel, Keonha Ye's Youtube Club is the perfect place. Additionally, Petter Mascilli started the Pickleball club for all pickleball lovers

and it now counts for gym makeups! Lastly, David Feder started a Game Design club this year to provide a platform for learning video game design skills and ideas.

Interested in getting involved in one of these new clubs? Email Mrs. Butkovic at [erin\\_butkovic@fcasd.edu](mailto:erin_butkovic@fcasd.edu) to learn how to join!



*Clubs are a great way to meet like-minded peers and to explore new interests. Our school has something for everyone, so get involved today!*

## Students Named Regional Finalist and Semifinalists in Coca-Cola Scholars Program Competition

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Arvind Seshan was recently selected as a Regional Finalist for the 35th class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Arvind is one of 250 students from across the nation, and one of only 10 from Pennsylvania, to be selected as a Regional Finalist.

Prior to being named a Regional Finalist, Arvind and classmate Ananth Kashyap were both named Semifinalists for the 2023 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. A total of 1,557 high school seniors from across the nation (and 100 from Pennsylvania) were chosen as Semifinalists from more than 91,000 applicants. Students are selected as Semifinalists based on their academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities.

Regional Finalists will now participate in the next

phase of the selection process which includes a 20-minute interview with a regional committee comprised of a Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation staff member and previous Coca-Cola Scholars Program scholarship recipients. Following the interviews, a total of 150 Coca-Cola Scholars will be named in March 2023 and each will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.

A joint effort of Coca-Cola Bottlers across the country and The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. With the addition of the 2023 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than \$81 million in scholarships over the course of 35 years.



# Regional Scholastic Art Award Winners

Thirty-nine Fox Chapel Area High School students recently won awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Region of the Scholastic Art Awards 2023.

Fox Chapel Area High School Gold Key winners were seniors Siheng Chao, Mikhail Ion (3 Gold Keys, 1 for his portfolio submission), and Jonathan Li; juniors Mia Pietropaolo, Alexandra Sroufe, and Gabriella Urso (2 Gold Keys); and freshmen Akshay Lath and Raina Guzman. All of the Gold Key winners will now have their work sent to New York for national judging where they will be competing with other regional winners from across the United States for national awards. The winners of the national contest will be part of The Scholastic Art Awards National Exhibit.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Silver Key winners seniors Johanna Asplin, Keeley Graham, Jonathan Li (8 Silver Keys, 1 for his portfolio submission), Mahnoor

Manha, Eliza Meyer (6 Silver Keys), Santino Pistella, and Sydney Ward; juniors Chloe Kim, Emma Kim, and Isabella Marcos; sophomores Gabrielle Generett, Benjamin Perez, and Yuqi Zhou; and freshmen Akshay Lath (3 Silver Keys) and Mira Owens.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Honorable Mention winners were seniors Johanna Asplin, Zoe Broyles, Siheng Chao (3 Honorable Mentions), Samuel Charlson, Alexis Fabrizi, Casey Forst, Eleanor Fox (portfolio submission), Mia Fraga-Ruiz (2 Honorable Mentions, 1 for her portfolio

submission), Sophia Gustafson (2 Honorable Mentions, 1 for her portfolio submission), Jonathan Li (7 Honorable Mentions), Mahnoor Manha, Eliza Meyer (2 Honorable Mentions, 1 for her portfolio submission), Marley Pistella, Luka Romero, Ghost Snyder, Joseph Zgurzynski (for his portfolio submission), and Adam Zimmerman; juniors Micah Cagley, Chloe Kim, Emma Kim, Mikayla Korczynski (2 Honorable Mentions), and Sophia Rike; sophomores Caleb Adams (2 Honorable Mentions) and Cammy Cavlovich; and freshmen Claire Conti and Akshay Lath (8 Honorable Mentions). Students from approximately 50 schools from across the greater Pittsburgh area participated in the regional competition. The award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges which included artists, art educators, and art professionals. The Fox Chapel Area students were honored at a special ceremony on February 25 at Carnegie Mellon University College of Fine Arts & Kresge Theater. The Fox Chapel Area High School art teachers are Joan Marangoni, Mary Jo Montgomery, Christine Smith, Sarah Stewart, and Amy Wickman.



*"The Flood" by Siheng Chao.*



*"Burst of Rain" by Alexandra Sroufe.*



*"Looking Beyond" by Mia Pietropaolo.*



*"Paintng with Yarn" by Raina Guzman.*



# Bringing the Moon Within Reach



By Ian Wellman

Seeing the moon rise over downtown Pittsburgh, most Pittsburghers would never guess how close the moon is to Pittsburgh, but to the engineers at Astrobotic, the moon is within their reach. Astrobotic, a space logistics company that specializes in making spacecraft that take payloads to the moon, has close ties to CMU and has several lander and rover designs. They currently have several contracts with NASA as well. As of the time of this writing, the Peregrine Lander is in the Moonshot Museum, but it will be shipped to Cape Canaveral for the planned launch in May. It will be launched on the Centaur Rocket.

Astrobotic was founded in 2007 by Red Whittaker, a CMU professor. The company's headquarters are located near the Carnegie Science Center, and it employs around 150 people. They have worked hard to complete the Peregrine lander, as well as landers for other missions in the future. The Peregrine lander is designed to take approximately 198.5 pounds of payload from low earth orbit to the moon's surface, in this case Sinus Viscositatis. It is approximately 8ft by 8ft by 6ft and is supported by four landing legs. It will be maneuvered by five small engines at the base and stabilized by clusters of four thrusters on the sides of the lander.

The Lander will be carrying the Surface Exosphere Alterations by Landers (SEAL), Linear Energy Transfer Spectrometer (LETS), Photovoltaic Investigation on Lunar Surface (PILS), Near-Infrared Volatile Spectrometer System (NIRVSS), Neutron Spectrometer System (NSS), Neutron Measurements at the Lunar Surface (NMLS), Peregrine Ion-Trap Mass Spectrometer (PITMS), Fluxgate Magnetometer

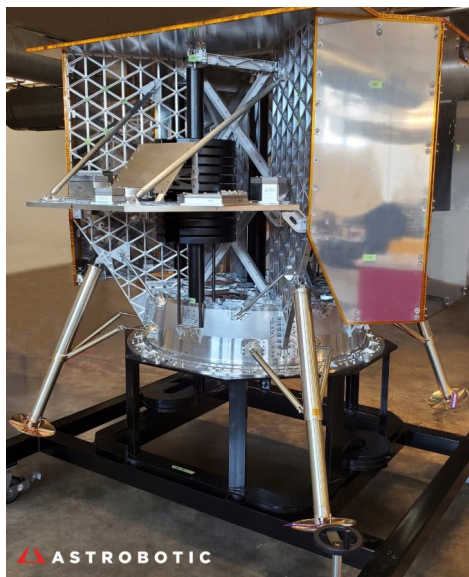
(MAG), Mass Spectrometer observing lunar operations (MSolo), and Laser Retroreflector (LRA).

The SEAL instrument will be used to learn how regolith reacts with rocket propellant products and test for potential contamination. The LETS instrument tests how often radiation hits an area of the moon. The PILS instrument has experimental solar panels and will record each design's

output. The NIRVSS instrument will measure concentrations of water, carbon dioxide, and methane. The NSS instrument will be used to measure the total amount of hydrogen in the ground, down to a depth of three feet. The NMLS instrument will be used to look for hydrogen and rare earth metals in the ground and help calibrate measurements taken from orbit. The PITMS instrument will measure volatiles, elements with low boiling points, their movement across the moon, and how the moon's exosphere changes. The moon has an atmosphere with less than one trillionth the pressure of Earth's. The MAG will measure magnetic fields of the Earth and the moon, and it will explore underground electrical conduction and magnetic anomalies. The MSolo will identify

which gasses came from the lander and which came from the moon's surface. The LRA will be used to determine the distance from the lander and other spacecraft. In addition to these science experiments, Peregrine will be testing new solar panels that can be made with lunar materials.

For more information about Astrobotic, go to [Astrobotic.com](http://Astrobotic.com), or search for the Peregrine Lander at [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov). Whenever you look up at the moon, remember the moon is closer than you think.



*The Peregrine Lander is currently in the Moonshot Museum, but it will be shipped to Cape Canaveral for the planned launch in May.*



# Fencing Teams Complete Successful Season



By Eli Conklin

Joseph Thomas had been in this situation before. Last year, he had experienced the heartbreak of coming up just short in the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association (PIFA) boys' semifinals. This year, he was faced with a nearly identical scenario. Taking on the homestanding Allderdice Dragons, he needed one more point to clinch a historic championship berth for Fox Chapel. He parried a lunging attack from his opponent, and this time Thomas was able to get the final touch in what he described as a "poetic way to end [the] season," sparking frenzied celebrations as the Foxes reached the highest matchup in Pittsburgh fencing for the first time since 2013.



*Teammates cheer on sophomore starter Nicole Kang after her win against a Mt. Lebanon opponent. Above, Lawrence Liu faces his opponent in the annual home meet.*

Although the team was unable to bring home their first-ever PIFA title, the success of reaching the title match was representative of a major turnaround accomplished by

the Foxes this season. After falling to eventual champions Shady Side Academy by one point in the opening week of the season, and dropping a one-bout decision to Allderdice in their regular season match, the team focused themselves on reaching the playoffs and preparing for high-pressure situations.

Aided by a two-match sweep at their home meet, the boys' team compiled an overall regular season record of 6-3, earning the third seed for the PIFA playoffs. Captain Lawrence Liu attributes his team's reversal of results to a



*Captain Lawrence Liu strategizes with starters Chloe Kim and Emmett Gillespie.*

commitment to hard work and team-building. "The hard work that we put in made us be better than these other teams and showed up in these clutch situations," Liu said. "More importantly, I think it was the team

atmosphere that helped. People really started to love the sport as their own."



*Fencing, continued...*



*Above (left to right), freshman Casey Byrne, sophomore Kai Edwards, and juniors Jacob Anthikad and Emmett Gillespie cheer on their teammates.*

Sophomore Arnim Kuchhal noticed the change in the team's intensity and culture as the season progressed. "The Allderdice match at championships was the ultimate symbol of our growth as a team," he reflected. "We barely lost to them earlier in the season, and that was the low point of our season. We put in the most work of any team over the next few weeks and earned our spot in the playoffs. We knew we were much better than before, and we knew that we were gonna beat Allderdice this time around."

Meanwhile, although the girls' team barely missed the playoffs on a tiebreaker, their athletes also noticed a significant increase in their team environment and fencing skill as they finished the regular season with a 3-4 record. Girls' captain Stella Minturn viewed the season as a success, especially as they performed well despite having few experienced fencers. "Starting this year was a bit of

a challenge having lost our seniors and not having any returning members with more than a year of experience," Minturn stated. "Even so, the girls team was able to grow into the tight-knit group that we are now. Everyone has put in an amazing amount of effort and has improved so much."

According to several members, the girls' team embraced an underdog mentality this season to help them improve. The relatively young lineup had to encounter teams such as Allderdice, whose starters were all seniors, but the Fox Chapel girls took this disadvantage in stride. "I think a huge part of why we succeeded this year is how tight we are," sophomore Gella Hample said. "Lawrence is always saying how we fence better if we're having fun, and I think that mentality paid off for us a lot this year!"

As the fencing teams look towards the future, they recognize that they have a strong foundation but yet an uncertain few years ahead. Both teams will return experienced starters as a result of this rebuilding year, including current sophomores Timothy Ye and Jin Zhang on the boys' side, and sophomores Minturn, Hample, and Nicole Kang for the girls. Despite having this solid base intact, the teams will have to deal with the loss of seniors Liu and Thomas, their top two fencers from this year, as well as the departure of longtime assistant coach Bill Fisher. Additionally, the sport's future in Pittsburgh as a whole will face uncertain times, as PIFA will welcome a new league president.

Nevertheless, the FC fencing program seems to be stronger than ever. With proven talent and a tight-knit team environment, the team will look to the 2023-24 season as one in which both teams can take the next steps towards their goal of reaching the top of Pittsburgh high school fencing, and they have the structure in place to do so.





# Mental Health Open Mic

By Vie Filar

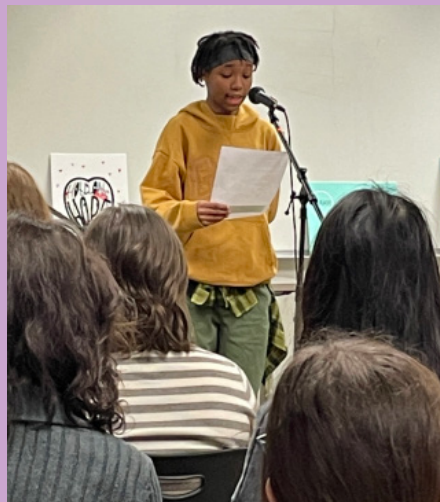


As high school students, we are under a tremendous amount of pressure. Whether from others, ourselves or society, there is constantly a bar we must meet. Expressing that struggle and providing support is crucial to our well being. With the help of Vie Filar, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Green, and Mrs. Machen, the Fox Chapel Stand Together team joined with Tapestry to host a mental health open mic event on March 10th.

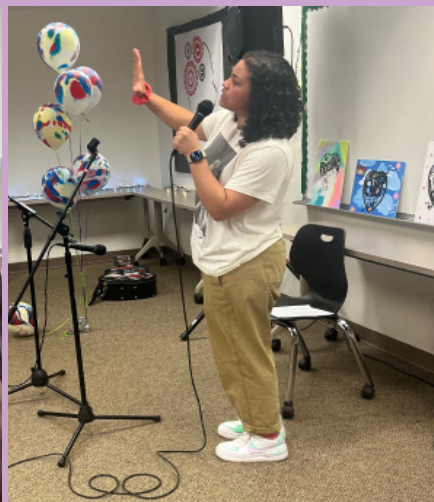
Stand Together is a club that works to promote the discussion of mental health and substance use disorder and works to eliminate associated stigma. Throughout February submissions were collected and reviewed and students worked hard to form a creative platform for the students at Fox Chapel to express their mental health challenges through the arts.

The arts can act as a crucial outlet for struggle. They encourage creativity and expression through something positive and beautiful. Through this event, the hope was that students would have a safe space to creatively share their struggles and triumphs with supportive peers and

adults. At the event, many students showcased their original poems, shared important information about mental health and played music. The room was decorated with many of the Positive Painting Project pieces, along with Stand Together signs that promoted awareness of the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders.



*Freshman Fayth Johnson (left) and senior Alaina Wright (right) were two of the poets who presented powerful pieces of writing at the mental health open mic event.*



The room was packed with students and teachers and booming with support. Seeing one's peers gathered together, listening to the rawness of each speaker created such a warm and welcoming atmosphere; it was truly wonderful. Some of the pieces actually moved listeners to tears. When sitting there observing, I was

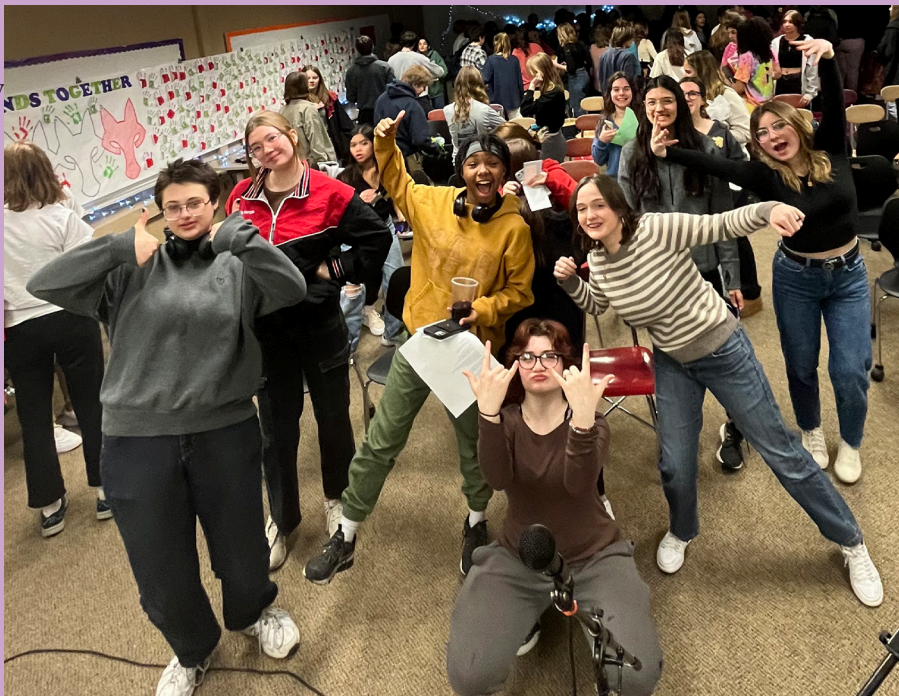
overcome with a feeling of pride for the people speaking and abundance of care from the audience. In between each piece, a member from Stand Together stepped up to the mic to share information about mental health, the stigma around it and how we can support. These student speakers began to shed light on what the reality of mental health



### *Mental Health Open Mic, Continued...*

struggles for teens is like. Education is truly vital if we are to tackle such challenging topics. The fact that we were able to openly discuss it together through the arts is truly magic.

Tapestry holds open mic events like these a few times a year and are amazing ways to share your passions and work! Whether it's poetry or music or art, Tapestry has an outlet for it. A huge thanks to Tapestry for helping sponsor the event and working to make it a reality! Stand Together provides training to club members about mental health and substance abuse struggles to help build a supportive community at school. It's truly wonderful that students and teachers were able to use that knowledge and share it through the school with the open mic.



*Student participants celebrate together following the successful open mic.*

## AAUW Recognizes Promise in STEM

By Josie Giguere

Congrats to the 38 female students who were recognized for demonstrating promise in STEM fields of study. The Fox Chapel Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) strives to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. As part of this biennial event, teachers nominate up to three students who they feel deserve recognition for their hard work and commitment to achievement.

This year's honorees were Annalese Bartolacci, Madison Callicott, Rebecca

Chang, Amelia Costello, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Kaylee Dunham, Madisyn Elwood, Camryn Eisner, Sophia Gass, Gabrielle Generett, Selin Geylani, Josephine Giguere, Rayna Huang, Anna Iasella, Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, Claire Kinst, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Ava McCaffrey, Rachel Milchek, Alina Minturn, Swati Mylarappa, Alaina Okunewick, Christina Panza, Keya Patro, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Sophia Rzeszotarski, Caroline Slember, Jillian Stahl, Ariana

Stevenson, Maria Stiger, Madeleine Stone, Emily Torbert, Gabriella Urso, Gloria Wen, Ella Werner, and Yuqi Zhou.

At the recognition event, attendees heard from four successful women in the different fields of STEM. The

panel members were Dr. Pooja Amarapurkar (Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine), Danielle Kline (Test Engineer, Westinghouse), Natalia Zacip Mejia (Program Evaluation Analyst at Code.org), and Brooke Pantano (Doctor of Physical Therapy student, University of Pittsburgh). Parents attended a session



with keynote speaker Colleen Smith, who is the STEM Outreach Coordinator for Penn State New Kensington, while the students engaged in round table discussions with each panel member.

Many who attended the event remarked that the evening was informative, engaging and enlightening. The discussions surrounded the need to increase exposure to STEM disciplines and to encourage females to have a forward thinking mindset when studying these fields.



# Sharing the Magic of Music

By Leah Kenyon

On the morning of Saturday, February 18th, members of the FCAHS Orchestra dressed up as their favorite Disney characters and put on an exciting performance for families in the community. While music from popular movies like Frozen, Moana, and Encanto, was played, children who

were dressed like their favorite characters were invited to the dance floor to show off their best moves. Students were dressed up as Belle – in the iconic yellow princess dress and the famous blue dress, Minnie Mouse, the Mad Hatter, Wendy Darling, Cinderella, Jack Sparrow, Maleficent, and Aladdin to name a few. The kids did not disappoint and seemed to love dressing up as Elsa, Anna, and Olaf, as well as Moana and many other princesses.

The concert first took place in 2013 as an idea from Girl Scout and former student, Jessica Gorgas. Girl Scouts can earn the Gold Award, a prestigious award given to recognize those who make a difference in the community by addressing an issue. Gorgas had gone to a concert downtown and noted how kid-unfriendly it was. She came up with the idea of the Disney concert as her project to earn her Gold Award. She added the dance floor so the energetic little ones could get up, move and have fun during the concert. The concert was a success and Gorgas's idea still impacts and benefits our community. In the ten years since this wonderful event started, orchestra students continue to build and improve this absolutely delightful event.

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In addition to having a fun event for children, the Disney concert has become a way to introduce music to these youngsters and future orchestra students. In between each song, speakers from different instrument sections of the orchestra teach the audience about that instrument and

the section plays a part of the next song, so the audience can listen for that instrument. This happens for each part of the orchestra, as the concert progresses. By the end, the audience has learned about the different parts of the orchestra, including

viola, violin, cello, bass, and conductor, how the orchestra works, and what is special about each instrument.

There is even a section in which they can practice being conductors. At the end of the concert, the kids are invited to the “Instrument Petting Zoo,” where they can actually experience playing each of the instruments. Members of the FCAHS orchestra are there to help teach them to play the instruments. Students also have an arts and crafts station where the children can color cut outs of the instruments and, of course, Disney scenes or even make a bracelet to

take home.

This great idea has been a wonderful addition to the Fox Chapel Area community. The concert is fun for the audience and popular with the orchestra students. Mrs.

Cooper, the FCAHS Orchestra Director, said that her favorite part of the concert is watching her students remember why they started playing in the first place.



Mike from Monsters, Inc. (Alex Kirby) demonstrates the bass to Belle.



Devon McDonald and Sophia Rike had fun decorating instruments with this young princess.



# The Rising Popularity of Chess

By Karsten Buchert

Since it was invented in Asia around the time period of the Gupta Empire, the game of chess has always been prevalent in human society. In recent months however, the classic game has seen notably increased popularity. In fact, the “old” way of playing (via a physical board) has now been buried by the digital age, namely Chess.com. The prominent online chess site reached 100 million users in December. There are many reasons for this current notoriety including, at least according to Chess.com, people looking for a new hobby amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Netflix’s Emmy-nominated *The Queen’s Gambit*, and the fact that the media has begun to pay more attention to it as a legitimately important sport.

Chess is not just becoming popular right now. The ancient game has roots going back to sixth century Asia although the game has evolved over the years. There is a fair bit of dispute over where chess was invented, especially between China and India. When it was played in ancient India, it was called Chatarung. The queen, which in modern chess is the most powerful piece on the board, was instead a ferz which translates from Persian to a “male counselor for the king.” Speaking of those Persians, they are ones who are generally thought to have come up with a more modern version of the game closer to what we know today. The ferz piece was changed to a queen and given increased power after traders introduced the game to the more idyllic Europeans. In fact, the spread of chess was so recurrent, it found its way across the islamic world, as far east as Japan, and arrived in Russia through Mongolia. From Siberia, the harsh eastern region of Russia, it even spread to what is now modern day Alaska. The game has even been played for entertainment by indigenous people groups! The game evolved with each new location in which it found itself, hence why one can find so many different designs for chess sets today.

The idea of playing chess on a computer first became possible in the late 1940’s when Claude Shannon, an American mathematician and “father of information theory” published a seminal paper that described a program that could play chess against an opponent automatically. This was adapted by British mathematician Alan Turing who made the first computer chess playing algorithm. He calculated the moves himself with the algorithm in a game against a playfellow as he lacked a machine that could run it. This took around 30 minutes for each move! I imagine having to

wait 30 minutes before making your next move on Chess.com - a game of chess could take anywhere between a day to a month!

The first chess algorithm to run on an electronic computer was formulated by Dietrich Prinz. However, he could only calculate a best move if the said move was only two moves away from checkmate due to limitations of the technology. Alex Bernstein, a researcher with IBM, was the first person to run a computer algorithm capable of playing a full game of chess against a human. In 1996, IBM’s Deep Blue computer managed to defeat the then world chess champion Garry Kasparov in a single game. The computer was victorious against Kasparov again in 1997 when Deep Blue won a six-game match with half of the games being victories and the other half being draws. Chess and computers eventually came full circle with the launch of the Internet Chess Server by Internet Chess Club in 1992 which allowed users to play chess with each other. This led to the development of modern day chess sites such as Chess.com and Lichess. Chess and computers have come to go hand in hand. Today, if you own a Mac system, chess comes preinstalled with your OS.

The rules of chess, in all honesty, are fairly simple. It’s easy to learn but hard to master. In the odd case that you do not know how to play, I recommend referring to a quick Google search. As one could hopefully infer due the fact of it already having been referenced by name multiple times above, Chess.com is another very good site for items related to the game. Additionally, our school has an official chess club as one of our many extracurricular activities. The student president of this club, Luke Curran, attributes the game’s recent popularity to “chess content creator advertising and the efforts from chess content creators to make the game more accessible.” The club hosts tournaments every other Thursday so if you happen to be interested be sure to look into attending them! I am sure they would love to have some newfound chess enthusiasts!





# New Club Helps Foxes to Find Their Zen



By Elena Curran

Fox Chapel Area High School has always embraced a wide variety of clubs that aim to improve the student experience. With over 80 different active clubs to join, it is clear how fundamental these clubs have been for students in encouraging self expression, creating new friendships/connections, and giving opportunities to showcase responsibility through leadership roles. A new club, started by current sophomores Alex Navas and Ava Condrón, is the Zen Club. This club is dedicated to implementing mindful activities to help manage and cope with stress, a common feeling that everyone has to deal with. Alex Navas explains the idea behind her club, "My goal for this club was to create a space where people can feel comfortable to relax and unwind from school or just anything that's going on in their life that they need a break from."

The club applies common anti-stress activities such

as meditation, yoga, coloring, positive affirmations, calming music and more activities that act to create a place of tranquility and mindful thinking. These exercises have been proven to increase positivity and reduce negative

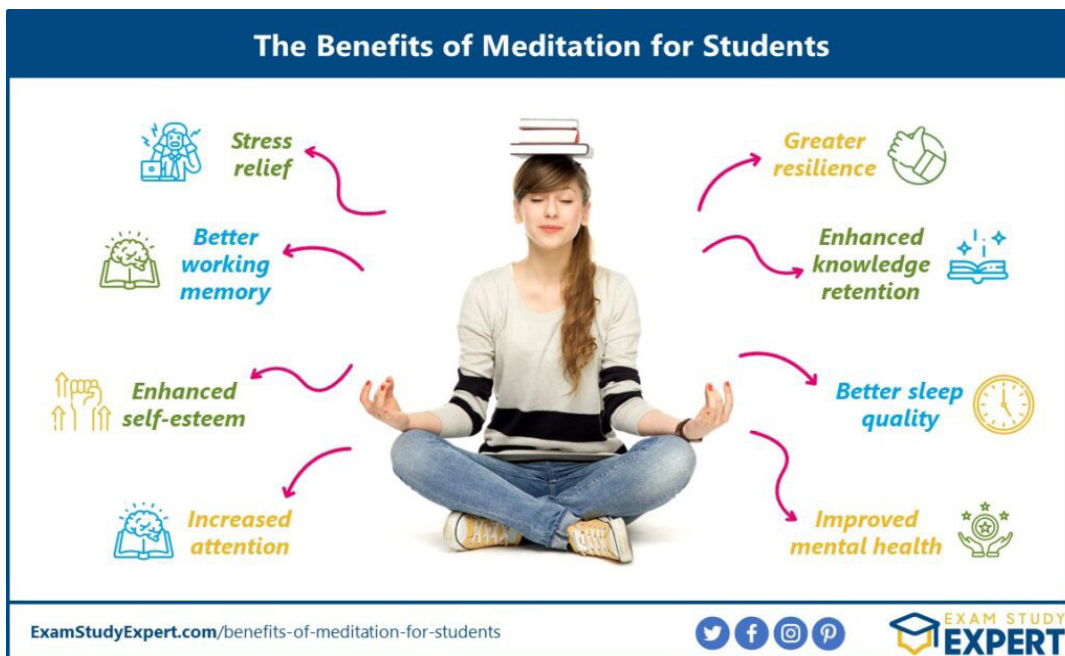
emotions. The club additionally goes the extra mile by bringing in fresh fruit, healthy juice, and baked goods like muffins for their club members. As soon as participants enter the Zen Den for a club event, they can't help but feel at peace due to the dim lighting and the subtle aromatic smell of lavender. Simren Sahni, a student who attended the Zen Den for the first meeting shared her positive

experience. "It was really nice to have a place to relax and get a bite to eat and drink. I don't always have time to do things like this on top of school, sports, and other extracurriculars, so it was nice being able to focus on me and not on everything going on around me."

Clubs like this one are successful in making a positive impact on our students and high school as a whole. To be a part of Zen Club, email Alex Navas (navasgrijalva\_salom@student.fcasd.edu) or Ava Condrón (condron\_ava@student.fcasd.edu) to join the Schoology page that will provide information on future meetings. Meetings often take place every couple of weeks primarily during super QRTs.



FC Zen Club members start off their day with a morning meditation.





# Everything, Everywhere, All at Once Sweeps the 2023 Oscars

By Mia Costello

The 2023 Oscars were historic on many accounts with studio A24 sweeping the top six awards, Michelle Yeoh becoming the first Asian woman to win best actress, Ruth E. Carter becoming the first black woman to win two Oscars, and many more moments. Winner of the 2023 Oscars are listed below:

- Best Picture - *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Actress in a Supporting Role - Jamie Lee Curtis, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Actor in a Supporting Role - Ke Huy Quan, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

- International Feature Film - *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Germany
- Documentary (Short) - “The Elephant Whisperers”
- Documentary Feature - “Navalny”
- Original Song - “Naatu Naatu” from “RRR”
- Animated Feature Film - Guillermo del Toro’s *Pinocchio*
- Adapted

Screenplay - *Women Talking*

- Original Screenplay - *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Actor in a Leading Role - Brendan Fraser, *The Whale*
- Actress in a Leading Role - Michelle Yeoh, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Director - Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Production Design - *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Cinematography - *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Costume Design - *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*
- Achievement in Sound - *Top Gun: Maverick*
- Animated Short Film - *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*

- Live Action Short Film - *An Irish Goodbye*
- Original Score - *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Visual Effects - *Avatar: The Way of Water*
- Film Editing - *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Makeup and Hairstyling - *The Whale*

The main story was the huge sweep of main awards

from *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, the first science fiction film to be awarded Best Picture. The movie follows a woman named Evelyn Wang (played by Michelle Yeoh) who struggles to keep both her family laundromat and marriage afloat under her father’s disapproving watch. As she and her daughter Joy clash, Evelyn stumbles upon the multiverse, in which she lives as one of many Evelyns that all coexist, but she is the only Evelyn in all of the universes that can save her world. The directors, collectively known as the Daniels, constructed their take on the multiverse as similar to the

constantly evolving internet. Daniel Kwan said that they realized the internet had begun to craft alternate universes for people to live in, often moving rapidly from “techno optimism” to “techno terror,” and created a movie depicting that chaos.

On another note, a more indirect result of the context of the movie, *Everything*



Cast members of *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* celebrate their 2023 Oscar victory. The film made history for being named the first science fiction film to be awarded Best Picture. (Photo credit: axios.com)

*Everywhere All at Once* speaks for many immigrant families that hit home for both the directors and the cast. Many Americans come to the US in hopes of finding a better life for themselves as well as setting their children up for success. Yet, the struggle in effective communication between Evelyn and her daughter demonstrates the fact that many immigrant parents struggle to expand their worldview to allow their children the choice to go onto different career paths. In this movie, the multiverse forces Evelyn to look at the universe in a different way, making it a bit easier to understand her daughter.

Primarily, the creativity of the film is what set it apart from many others. Despite having odd and confusing images at times, the directors set out to make the audience feel a sense of hope in the possibilities that the multiverse represents. Kwan says, “We need to be looking at all the possibilities, not just the one we think we’re in... and we definitely shouldn’t be looking backwards.”



# Binge Worthy TV – *Will and Grace*

By Kent Baker

Ever heard of *Will & Grace*? It's been canceled twice, and spans a decade and some. A show that came out in 1998, *Will & Grace* used to consist of eight seasons and a finale, with the eighth season airing in 2006. Eleven years after it was canceled, the show returned. *Will & Grace* ('17) had three seasons, airing between 2017 and 2020 before the show was canceled once again. Intrigued yet? Here's an overview of the show:

Will Truman (Eric McCormack) and Grace Adler (Debra Messing) have been best friends since college. Will is gay and Grace is straight, although Grace has the "power" to turn straight people gay because every man she dates ends up wishing that he was gay after they break up. Will and Grace live together in New York City, where Will is a lawyer. However, when he decides to quit his job, Will begins to work with Grace, a designer with her own company, Grace Adler Designs. Other fun characters in this show include Grace's assistant, Karen Walker (Megan Mullally) and Jack McFarland (Sean Hayes).

Karen works with Grace, but she doesn't actually work. Being rich and married to a wealthy man has its perks,

after all. Karen, married to Stanley Walker, ends up facing some drama with her husband in later seasons, but I'll save you from any spoilers! For now, Karen and Stan are living happily in a mansion, being waited on hand and foot by their staff. Karen is especially close to one maid. Rosario Salazar came from El Salvador to the U.S. because Karen "ordered" her. Rosie's relationship with Karen adds humor and sarcasm to the show.

Will, Grace and Karen are best friends with Jack McFarland, who is also gay. Jack makes huge random entrances into Grace and Will's apartment, acting as the comic relief. Jack is full of energy and is funny. He and his husband, Estefan, got married in an airport! Half the guests that were there were just people waiting for their flight, but when an announcement came on the PA system about the change in the flight gate, they left.

This is just one of the many laugh-out-loud moments that make this show worth watching.

So, buckle your seatbelts and jump on board this wild rollercoaster of laughs and drama. See you at the end of the ride!



*Eleven years after its cancellation, Will and Grace has made a comeback. All seasons are available to enjoy from Hulu and other streaming outlets (photo from hulu.com).*

## National History Bowl Qualifiers

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students were recently named semifinalists in the 2023 Western Pennsylvania History Bowl tournament. The team of seniors Elijah Conklin, Nathaniel Green, Arvind Seshan, and Prajval Sreenivas, and junior Logan Dressman placed third, making them semifinalists in the varsity division. The team has now qualified for the National History Bowl that will be held in Arlington, Virginia, at the end of April. All five of the students are members of the Fox Chapel Area High School History Club.

As part of the competition, students answered questions about world and United States history.

The Western Pennsylvania History Bowl tournament was held at South Side Area High School January 21 in Hookstown, Pennsylvania. A total of 11 teams from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia competed in the tournament. The contest was sponsored by International Academic Competitions IAC.



*Fox Chapel Area High School's National History Bowl qualifiers are, from left to right, Nathaniel Green, Elijah Conklin, Arvind Seshan, Prajval Sreenivas, and Logan Dressman.*



# Helping to *Bake* a Difference

By Laila Golla

Baking is definitely one of my favorite stress relievers. Throughout quarantine, I baked for my family every weekend and would try out every new dessert recipe I could find. Once I started to embrace my love for baking, my parents would have me bake whenever they had people over, and they would always volunteer me to bring desserts to whichever get-togethers we attended. I loved it so much that I wanted to think of how I could expand baking to reach people who might not have the privilege of receiving homemade baked goods. I brainstormed ideas on who could be recipients of these



collaborate so that our baked goods could go to people who are experiencing hardship in their lives. We currently have a baking day set up in which Cakes for Care volunteers go to Family House and bake in the kitchen for the families and patients that have returned from the day's appointments. I

am so excited to make these days more routine so that our impact is maximized and I feel as though Family House is the perfect recipient for our project.

Through my research I also discovered the Children's Institute, an incredible organization that provides various services to children,

and originally thought about people who were going through or had just finished chemotherapy treatment. However, I later realized there was so much more potential for this initiative to reach a greater number of people by donating goods to homeless shelters, baking for people who have



*Student members of the Cakes for Care team gather to prepare baked goods to be dropped off at a local charitable organization. If you would like to become part of this club, simply email [Golla\\_Laila@student.fcasd.edu](mailto:Golla_Laila@student.fcasd.edu). Students who volunteer are reimbursed for the cost of baking supplies and can also be awarded volunteer hours for their time!*

experienced a major accomplishment/milestone, and also for people who have dealt with hardships.

After receiving advice from teachers, parents, and lawyers on how to establish this initiative, I reached a conclusion to have volunteer bakers and myself bake for organizations that help individuals. We could then coordinate drop offs to deliver the baked goods. I decided to call this initiative "Cakes for Care." I reached out to various organizations that could help us accomplish our goal of making a difference in people's lives through baking.

Among these, I found Family House – a lodging facility for families receiving medical care in Pittsburgh. Once I learned about what they do and their amazing project, I immediately sent them an email asking how we could

can help as many kids as possible. On another note, I am so grateful to the countless number of people who have supported me from the very beginning and I cannot wait to see this play out and "bake a difference" in people's lives.

If you are interested in helping us with baking, transportation, or have any suggestions - please let me know! I welcome any and all feedback as I truly want to make this the best initiative it can be. (email: [golla\\_laila@student.faced.edu](mailto:golla_laila@student.faced.edu))



including behavioral, autism-related, educational, and physical health services. I recently just facilitated the first drop off to their building, and hope to make this more routine as well. I am planning on having biweekly drop offs there so that we





# Setting the Game Plan for Success

By Laila Golla



Fox Chapel is excited about a newly-developed program that grew from an idea proposed by recent graduate Zachary Sullivan. Zach attributed his success in high school to the mentorship and advice he received from his older brother who guided him on everything from study habits,

training in the fall with a group of peers and after a number of meetings, brainstorming and planning, they hosted their first outreach event at Dorseyville Middle School on March 13th. A group of 11 high school football team members invited the middle school football team members to a mentorship luncheon in the middle school library.



*Junior Troy Susnak explains to the eighth grade students the mission of the Students 4 Success initiative during their first meeting at Dorseyville Middle School on March 10.*

More than 25 students participated in the event, and sports was not the topic of conversation at this meeting. For more than an hour, the high school guys spoke to the eighth graders about what they wished they had known before coming to high school and answered all of their questions, from how to manage time properly to what the best lunch offering is. The hope is that the group will increase its members next year and they will meet monthly to discuss topics relevant to achieving their goals in high school. As time passes, this year's mentees will be expected to become mentors during their junior and senior year of high school and continue to pay it forward.

to what clubs to join, to just getting through everyday life as a high school student. Knowing that not everyone has the benefits of an older sibling, Zach felt that developing a program in which older students could offer advice to younger students on a regular basis would result in increased confidence, resilience and achievement for all involved. Pair that with a few days of leadership training by Crisis Center North's Peer-to-Peer Empowerment/Coaching Boys Into Men program, and FC's Students 4 Success was born.

Now that Zach has graduated, Students 4 Success is being led by junior Troy Susnak, with the help of faculty sponsor Anthony Griggs. Troy attended the leadership



*After lunch, the high school students took the time to answer all of the eighth graders questions about high school and offered valuable advice.*



# FBLA Week Boosts Interest in Club

By Sienna Siegel

The week of February 13, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organized a variety of interactive activities for the entire school. FBLA week was led by business teacher and club sponsor Mrs. Christina Congalton with the help of club president Diya Reddy. Many other student officers put forth the extra effort to make the week's activities a fun and engaging way for all Fox Chapel students interested in business to learn about this club. Students who join FBLA work on projects and tests based on the topic of their choosing.

Schools all over the nation celebrate FBLA week during the month of February. On Monday, free hot chocolate was provided to all students. On Tuesday, Valentine's day, SweetHeart Candy Grams were sold at all lunches for \$1. On Wednesday, students were encouraged to dress up for "What NOT to Wear to an Interview Day." On Thursday, a post secondary planning seminar was held by Diya Reddy during QRT. This seminar helped students to learn about life after college, the interview process, and life planning skills. Finally, on Friday, a group trivia contest was conducted in the commons area.

Fox Tales spoke with Mrs. Congalton to get more information for students who might be thinking about joining FBLA but need more information. Here's what she had to share:

## *Why should students join FBLA?*

Students should join FBLA to potentially find an area or areas of career interest they can pursue during and after high school. FBLA welcomes all students: programmers, graphic and web designers, mathletes, economists, public speakers, current event gurus, stock market aficionados, and more! Students have the opportunity to meet new people and develop their leadership and communication skills with the various events we participate and host throughout the year. There are also other programs within

FBLA where students can gain a competitive edge over others for college and career success including the National Business Honor Society, Big 33 Community Service, and the Business Achievement Awards.

## *What is the most popular FBLA event?*

Mostly group projects - Website Design, E-Business, Business Financial Plan, and Business Plan are always filled first!

## *What are three characteristics you believe that someone must possess to be successful in business?*

The three that come to my mind are love of spreadsheets, attention to customer service, and interpersonal skills since you are dealing with all types of stakeholders (employees, current/potential investors, customers, clients).

## *What should one do to prepare for an interview?*

Research the company - what does the company do? Look at current events, names of leaders in the company. Know the job description for the role you want and tailor your resume and cover letter and interview responses to it. Dress professionally - contact HR to ask about acceptable attire. Some places can be business casual while others still expect a suit.

## *How can you join FBLA?*

Stop by room 120 or email Mrs. Congalton for more information! Students can join officially during the first nine weeks of each school year.



*Participating students and teachers showed us what NOT to wear to an interview during FBLA week.*



*FBLA president, Diya Reddy held a post-secondary seminar for students during QRT.*



## IMPORTANT DATES:

April 3-7:  
Spring Break

April 12:  
DESI Night

April 19:  
Opportunities Fair

April 28:  
Senior Breakfast

May 1:  
AP Exams Begin

May 6:  
Prom

May 16:  
Primary Election  
Day

May 22:  
Keystone Exams  
Begin

May 24-26:  
Spring Comedy

May 26:  
Move-up Day

May 29:  
Memorial Day

May 31:  
Kennywood Day

June 1:  
Graduation Practice

June 2:  
Last Day for  
Students



*Congratulations to senior Madisyn Ellwood who earned a Silver medal at SkillsUSA Districts in the Medical Assistant competition! Madisyn is a second-year student in the A.W. Beattie Career Program's Technical Health & Nursing Sciences program. Great job Madisyn!*

### Sprinting into the Fourth Quarter

Madeleine Stone

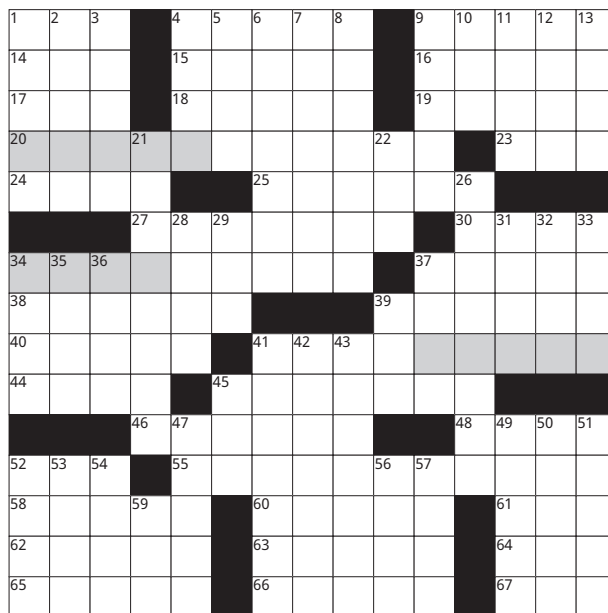
#### ACROSS

- 1 Be able to
- 4 City in Italy with a name similar to a cheese
- 9 Found on the corner of a letter
- 14 A Q&A on Reddit
- 15 "That's \_\_\_ point"
- 16 Up and about
- 17 Three short, three long, three short
- 18 Plant again
- 19 Like the population of an empty city
- 20 Past history?\*
- 23 ER workers
- 24 Market
- 25 Toss into action
- 27 "I just wanted to know what would happen!"
- 30 A couple
- 34 Fixing stalls?\*
- 37 "Don't make \_\_\_!" (Freeze!)
- 38 Pass by
- 39 Hansel's partner
- 40 A group against something
- 41 Where shocking things come from?\*
- 44 Palindromic bread
- 45 Three options for it at FCAHS: Adventure, Recreational, or Team
- 46 Type of eyes
- 48 Some, in Spanish
- 52 Measurement of a car or baseball

- 55 What Baseball and lacrosse both are. \*Along with the title of the puzzle, 55A is a hint to the shaded letters.
- 58 To jeer
- 60 Phantom of the \_\_\_
- 61 SOH-CAH-\_\_\_
- 62 Known for falling on Newton's head
- 63 Big name in blenders
- 64 Dreaded exam for high schoolers
- 65 Handle
- 66 Number 10 for Argentina
- 67 Source of metal

#### DOWN

- 1 Sends out a fishing line
- 2 Love, Italian style
- 3 Type of spray for decongestion
- 4 Dog's favorite place
- 5 Abb. of the A in U.S.A
- 6 \_\_\_ Stone, made in Egypt
- 7 Freeloader
- 8 If everything goes wrong
- 9 Smooths
- 10 General on a Chinese menu
- 11 Smallest particle
- 12 A terrible thing to waste
- 13 Exec. leader
- 21 How the audience responds to a good show



- 22 Place where people get stuck.
- 26 "Pencils down!"
- 28 Snake noises
- 29 Had dinner
- 31 Bag
- 32 Professional stunt performer
- 33 To mix or merge
- 34 Song by Michael Jackson: Billie \_\_\_
- 35 Radius' neighbor
- 36 \_\_\_ Hari (W.W. I Spy)
- 37 Dog noises
- 39 Video game involving stealing cars
- 41 What airplane seats lack
- 42 When the moon passes through earth's shadow

- 43 Keeps bugs off
- 45 Soda, as called in Pittsburgh
- 47 Bony prefix
- 49 "That's false!"
- 50 Loud, like a stadium
- 51 Pennsylvania, Maryland, or California, for example
- 52 CEO's degree
- 53 VIP of the Vatican
- 54 Wish earnestly
- 56 Exams for uni. seniors
- 57 Delhi dress
- 59 Key on computer

*Answers on  
page 24.*



# A Little Literature:

## A quarterly blurb about books you might not have heard of...YET!

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

### TODAY'S TOPIC: Ahoy Matey! Sailing the High Seas!

Imagine life on the high seas. The sweeping tides, the billowing sails, and the unmistakable sound of sword fighting.

Yup! It's your turn to walk the plank! The clichéd idea of pirates has been a long time coming for this column.

I think I read my first pirate book when I was in fifth grade or so, and since then I've become a pirate myself! Arr!

From Cap'n Book herself, at the bottom of the article, you will find a list of extra book recommendations.

So what are you waiting for? Join me and my crew as we sail into the horizon!

#### *Seafire* (Series)

by Natalie C. Parker



Photo: amazon.com

Sailing the seas and keeping your crew alive and safe from a ruthless warlord is hard on its own, but even harder if said warlord killed your family and is out looking for you. Such is the situation of Caledonia Styx, captain of the Mors Navis. The warlord in question? A man by the name of Aric Athair, who conscripts young children and gives Silt, a substance that will provide the

conscripts with strength. However, Silt is a highly addictive substance, and the withdrawal can be extremely painful, if not fatal. Aric uses the conscripts to make himself an army of "Bullets." Caledonia's intent is to weaken Aric before moving in for the kill. For now, she destroys his transports of Silt, killing Bullets along the way. On one such mission, Caledonia's second-in-command, and best friend Pisces, is almost killed by the Bullets. However, when Caledonia learns who was to be thanked, she instead puts him in the dungeon. Oran, a defected Bullet, saved Pisces because he wanted to escape the horrors of Aric Athair's rule. Caledonia reluctantly lets him out of the dungeon, only so she can pump him for information about Aric, but also one of Aric's most trusted warriors, Lir. The man who stabbed her in the back and disclosed the location of her family's ship, leading to a mass murder. Intrigued yet? Join Caledonia as she seeks her revenge - this book is filled with swashbuckling sarcasm, action-packed fight scenes, and more!

#### *Daughter of the Pirate King* (duology)

by Tricia Levenseller



Photo: amazon.com

Alosa, the daughter of the pirate king, purposefully gets captured by the enemy. Would you? Let me backtrack for a minute. Alosa is the daughter of Kalligan, a ruthless pirate king. He has tasked her with retrieving the last piece of an ancient map, which will (supposedly) lead to a mysterious isle and a trove of treasure. So, Alosa creates a plan to infiltrate the enemy ship, namely

by getting captured. But she's prepared, as always. Armed with handy lock picks and a secret, Alosa begins her master plan. The victims? Captain Drexel, and his first mate Riden. Alosa, however, brings a whole new level of humor to the story. She acts all high and mighty, giving each and every crew member a hearty dose of sarcasm. But she also hides an ability, which could compromise her, her mission, and most importantly her crew. As she fights against time to find the map and return victorious to her father, Alosa must keep control of her ability and track down a spy who could jeopardize her mission, once and for all.

Other recommendations:

*Fable* by Adrienne Young, *Dark Shores* by Danielle L.

Jensen, *Tides of Mutiny* by Rebecca Rode, *All the Stars and Teeth* by Adalyn Grace.



# Model UN Conference Award Winners

Five Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at two Model United Nations (UN) Conferences.

•Duquesne University High School Model UN Conference: Three Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the annual Duquesne University High School Model UN Conference. Junior Connor Mazzoni was named the Outstanding Delegate (first place); and junior Isabella White and sophomore Swati Mylarappa both received Excellent Delegate awards (second place).

The conference was held February 17, 2023, at Duquesne University. Approximately 300 students from 24



public and private high schools from Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and West Virginia participated in the event.

•American University Model UN

Conference: Two Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the annual American University Model UN Conference. Junior Logan Dressman won a Diplomacy Award (first place). He was selected as a delegate who exemplifies the attitude of an individual who prioritizes learning, mutual understanding, and respect over winning. Additionally, senior Davina Chang won an Honorable Delegate award (third place).

Approximately 900 students representing 55 public and private high schools from 15 states and four countries (Canada, Costa Rica, Italy, and the United States) participated in the American University Model UN Conference. The conference was held February 3-5 at American University in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the Model UN conferences is to enable students to role-play and simulate the countries in the United Nations. As a part of the conferences, students debate and try to solve global problems from the perspectives of other countries.

## Students Place at Regional PJAS Competition

Eleven Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students recently won awards as part of the 89th Annual Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). A total of seven of those students qualified for the state competition.

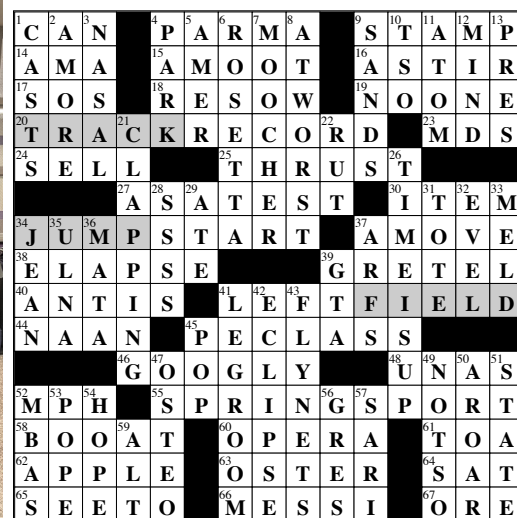
Fox Chapel Area first-place winners were seniors Lawrence Liu and Arvind Seshan; juniors Lakshanya Rajaganapathi and Adhitya Thirumala; sophomores Etash Jhanji and Rohit Velankar; and eighth-grader Param Thawani. The first-place winners qualified for the state PJAS competition which will be held May 15-27 at Penn State University, Main Campus. Second-place awards went to junior Gabriella Urso, sophomore Varnujah

Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, eighth-grader Rachel Kim, and seventh-grader Divya Thirumala. Additionally, Arvind Seshan won a Perseverance Award for his years of participation in the contest, and Divya won a special award from the Society of Women Engineers.

The participating students (from several schools from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties) researched their science projects for several months. During the competition, each of the students was required to make a presentation in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held February 4, 2023, at Baldwin High School.



Right: Participants break for some fun and laughs during the PJAS competition.





# A Reflection of Tutoring

By Madeleine Stone

When I entered my first year of high school, I didn't think I would spend at least an hour of almost every school week tutoring. If I had known, I probably would have tried to do anything possible to avoid the experience. I thought tutoring wouldn't be a good fit for me because I wasn't the most comfortable with children. However, I've found tutoring to be a worthwhile experience for me. It has taught me how to improvise, explain myself in different terms, and communicate abstract concepts.

My first experience was in eighth grade, when I tutored about once a month for forty minutes. Looking back at it now, it was obvious that I had no idea what I was doing. I had failed at the main concept of tutoring – accounting

for how the student understood each topic. My explanations were backward and they only made sense to me. Even though I was not very helpful, the rare occasion that a student understood a new concept made me enjoy the sessions. I left with the idea that I could tutor (to an extent) and that the act of it wasn't as painful as I thought it would be. That's how tutoring started for me. I tried something new in hopes of it sticking and it did. However, by March, school was online due to COVID-19 and I was unable to tutor for the rest of the year.

Unfortunately, freshman year wasn't much different than the rest of eighth grade. I was online and tutoring was left in the back of my mind. However, an unexpected opportunity presented itself. While I completed my work in my room, my younger brother was downstairs struggling with distance learning. One afternoon after an unusually frustrating math class, I offered to help him with his homework. He didn't seem to be as on board with the idea as I was. Eventually, he accepted. We made it through his work but I was unsure whether he actually learned anything from the experience. Nevertheless, his homework was done and I had gained more knowledge on how to tutor – I was only able to work with a student when they felt comfortable and collected. Trying to force more math on him after he felt as if he didn't understand anything was not going to make learning easy. Along with other mini lessons I learned along the way, it seemed that tutoring's learning curve was smoothing out from under me as I entered my sophomore year with confidence.

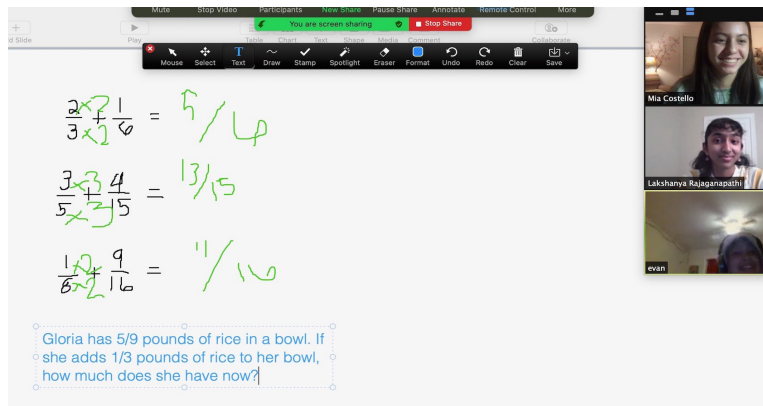
I continued tutoring my brother in the first semester, tailoring what I said to him every time we met. If he needed more energy to stay focused, I gave it to him. My analogies and explanations were tuned for a sixth grader, not for me. The second semester rolled around and a new club, Children of Steel, was created with a goal to tutor elementary students through Zoom for nine weeks, one hour each week. It was my first experience tutoring a student with a partner. I quickly realized that the student was much different than my brother. He was more reserved and already seemed to have a strong grasp on the topics being taught, meaning my typical tutoring would be ineffective on him. While the first few weeks

were rocky, we started to make progress by explaining connections between what the student was learning and applications to the real world and other mathematical concepts. Working with a new student and in a different setting made for a unique combination of skills to stretch.

This year I am tutoring again for Children of Steel. I have a new student with different needs, but without

a doubt, it's been my best tutoring experience yet. I'm more engaging to younger students. Had I not been willing to leave my comfort zone I would not have improved certain speaking and teamwork skills. Tutoring provided me a way to enhance these skills without having to deal with the stress of public speaking or messing up in front of a large crowd. It allows me to slowly integrate myself into larger groups more confidently and be willing to explain my ideas in various ways to reach a bigger audience. I can better myself at my own rate while also benefiting someone else which is why tutoring remains one of the best decisions I've made in my high school career.

If you're interested in participating in tutoring or giving back to the community, Children of Steel is always looking for more tutors. They are in their second year of being a club and if you're interested, they offer two different tutoring seasons to participate in, one in the fall and one in the spring. If you don't want to tutor academically, you can reach out to your local recreational sports community and offer to be an assistant coach. No matter what community you are in, there are plenty of opportunities to tutor in school, out of school, or even on the playing field.



*Children of Steel tutors Mia Costello (top) and Lakshanya Rajaganapathi (middle) join forces to help a student.*





Photo: cnn.com

By Nia Lingam

As of March 13th, Biden's administration has signed off on the "Willow Project," a massive, \$7 billion oil drilling project and a critical turning point for our country's environmental future.

### *What is the Willow Project?*

First proposed by Alaskan oil conglomerate ConocoPhillips, the Willow project is a drilling proposal with the goal of releasing 600 million barrels of oil from the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. Put into perspective, 600 million barrels of oil is currently more than the amount of oil held in the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve: America's emergency oil reserve.

After being implemented, it will generate up to 260 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses over 30 years, a figure that speaks for itself. This statistic can be equated to the pollution emitted from 56 million cars in a year, according to Earthjustice.

While the project was approved during Trump's administration, an Alaskan federal judge reversed the decision and asked for further environmental analysis to be conducted. After aggressive lobbying from ConocoPhillips and the Alaskan bipartisan congressional delegation and a tense state of legal gridlock, today, Biden's administration has been swayed to approve an updated version of the project. This revision will include three drill sites, as opposed to the proposed five, and 68,000 fewer acres than what ConocoPhillips outlined.

The administration claims that the downscaled version of Willow can reduce the heavy environmental cost. However, when observing the facts, only 2% of the original emissions will be reduced. The downscaled project will still be the largest greenhouse-gas producing project in America.

### *The Debate*

The approval of the Willow Project and its implications have been hotly debated for these past few months. Alaskan officials stand strongly in favor of the project as Alaska's economy is heavily dependent on the oil drilling industry,

and oil production has been on the decline since 1980. ConocoPhillips has claimed that this project would deliver up to \$17 billion of profit to local Alaskan communities, state, and federal governments. Alaskan lawmakers claim that Willow will create millions of jobs and also mitigate America's dependence on foreign oil. Furthermore, a coalition of indigenous Alaskan communities have also expressed their support for Willow while looking ahead to the bolstering of social services which would come with the revenue boost.

Willow's opposers however are deeply concerned about the environmental and health impacts that the millions of tons of carbon pollution spell out. Indigenous Alaskans of the Nuiqsut tribe who live closer to the project area have especially spoken out about their worries for the drilling. With the increasing number of oil wells being constructed in their vicinity, the Nuiqsut tribe has seen a 20% increase in respiratory illness.

In a letter directed to Interior Secretary Haaland, Nuiqsut Mayor Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk asserted that other "villages get some financial benefits from oil and gas activity but experience far fewer impacts than Nuiqsut (does)". Many environmentalists question Biden's decision in the context of his campaign promise to end oil and gas drilling on public land as well. Up until the signing of the project, dissenters had garnered up to 2.8 million signatures on a Change.org petition and had sent another 1 million letters to the White House directly, calling for change. A total of 5.6 million people had unified in calling for a stop to the passing of the project.

In an effort to mitigate the future impacts of Willow, White House announced on Monday its plans to declare the US Arctic Ocean as "off limits" for future fossil fuel extraction and protect over 13 million acres of land in the National Petroleum Reserve, the region where Willow is planned to take place. However, these protections will not undo the damage caused by Willow as noted by various environmental groups.



### Looking Ahead:

#### *What Willow means for the Environment:*

The fact of the matter is that the Arctic is already warming at a rate four times faster than the rest of the planet. The immense quantity of greenhouse gasses that Willow will release will only expedite climate change and endanger hundreds of arctic wildlife species. Even before drilling commences, the noise, pollution, and traffic caused by the implementation of the project will disrupt ecosystems and communities nearby.

The Willow Project could lock America into oil drilling for another 30 years at the very least. And now that the project has been signed officially, the avenues for action that we can take are heavily limited.



*The portion of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska designated for the Willow Project.*

Special interest groups like the Sierra Club recommend continuing to sign petitions and send messages to the federal executive branch to encourage the transition to clean energy policy. Other environmental groups are gearing up to take legal action against the project as well, meaning the board is not completely set yet.

Until further news of the Willow Project comes out, it's crucial that we educate ourselves on the Willow Project and stay updated. The most effective action you could take today is to talk to someone about the project and spread the word. We NEED to speak up, because our futures depend on it.

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## Speech Results for the PHSSL State Championship Tournament - 2 State Champions

On Friday March 17 and Saturday March 18, ten students from the Fox Chapel Area High School Speech and Debate Team competed at the annual Pennsylvania High School Speech League Championship Tournament, hosted on the Bloomsburg University campus of Commonwealth University. They were among 569 students representing 78 public, private, and charter high schools from across Pennsylvania who competed in 18 different speech and debate events. This was our first in-person state championship tournament since the spring 2019.



In the event of New Broadcasting, the team of 12th grade student Sonny Hur and 10th grade student Swati Mylarappa advanced to the final round of competition and placed 6th overall in the state.

In the event of Commentary, 11th grade student Isabella White advanced to the final round and won 1st Place. She is the 2023 State Champion in that event. (As an aside, this is her 2nd State Championship - she was 1st Place in Lincoln Douglas Debate in 2021.



In the event of Policy Debate, the team of 11th grade student Adhitya Thirumala and 10th grade student Moonyoung Hwang advanced to the final round of debate. In a closely contested debate (it was a 3 -2 decision by the 5 judge panel), Adhi and Moonyoung defeated the team from Unionville High School.

They are now the 2023 State Champions in Policy Debate.

When you see these students in school this week, please congratulate them on their extraordinary performances.



# The Ongoing Fight for Reproductive Justice

By Mahitha Ramachandran

Since the overturn of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court in June of last year, a variety of restrictions to reproductive rights have been introduced in state legislatures or upheld by courts across the nation. Currently, according to the Center for Reproductive Rights, more than half of states in the US have failed to protect or have actively restricted or eliminated the right to an abortion following the Supreme Court decision. From limiting access to accurate abortion information and contraceptives to criminalizing healthcare providers who provide abortion care to implementing total abortion bans and more, the right to choose is being stripped away or restricted by policymakers and judges in many states. As people and organizations nationwide fight back against these injustices and work to protect reproductive rights, it is a more critical time than ever to understand what reproductive justice is.

Reproductive justice is about more than just the right to an abortion; it is the right to choose whether, when, and under what circumstances to have a child, which involves sex education, family planning, affordable and accessible healthcare, access to contraceptives, abortion access, and more. But it is also about addressing the extra obstacles that factors such as race, income, gender identity, ability, and immigration status can present in accessing these resources and care. Even before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, reproductive injustice was prevalent; the legal right to an abortion did not remove the systemic health inequities that leave marginalized groups less able to access high-quality and affordable care. The Guttmacher Institute reported that in the US, both Black and Hispanic women have higher rates of unintended pregnancies and abortions than white women, describing the lack of access to healthcare and effective contraceptive methods as well as institutional racism in healthcare systems as causes. In addition, Black and Indigenous women experience pregnancy-related deaths at at least twice the rate of white women. On the other hand, a report by the Center for American Progress detailed how abortion and healthcare access for young women experiencing early unwanted pregnancies increased their chances of entering and completing college as well

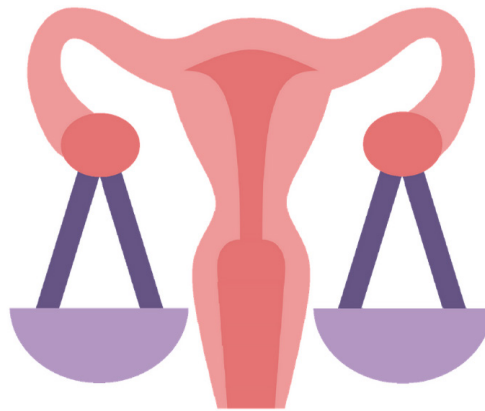
as their economic security later in life, a difference that was especially true for Black women. It is indisputable that legal restrictions on abortion access affect low-income communities and people of color disproportionately, exacerbating already existing issues; thus, policymakers working to restrict reproductive rights are perpetuating systemic inequities. The issue of reproductive justice is so important because it is fundamentally tied to racial and economic justice.

When talking about reproductive justice, the adverse health effects on pregnant people and their children when they are denied access to abortions is only the start of a much larger discussion – the impacts of reproductive injustice span a wide breadth. Reproductive justice also involves the ability to choose to have a child and to raise that child in a safe environment. Too often, people of low socioeconomic status and people of color are discouraged from or face judgment for having children rather than being provided with the education, resources, and autonomy to decide.

True reproductive justice means that everyone has the right not only to choose whether to have children, but also to equitably access the healthcare and resources necessary to take whichever path they choose. This is the future that activists, advocates, communities, and organizations around the country are fighting for. It is the future we deserve.

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*Reproductive justice is about more than just the right to an abortion.*



# MEET THE STAFF



Annalese  
Bartolacci



Andrew  
Begg



Karsten  
Buchert



Mia  
Costello



Josie  
Giguere



Laila  
Golla



Katie  
Haas



Helia  
Hamidi



Trevor  
Katz



Leah  
Kenyon



Shriya  
Krishnamurthy



Henry  
Koloc



Nia  
Lingam



Megan  
Mulhern



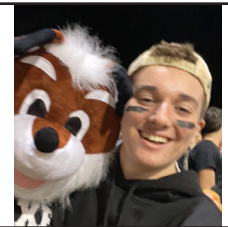
Alex  
Navas



Mahitha  
Ramachandran



Safiya  
Stewart



Abraham  
White

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## Fox Tales

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