



FOX TALES

Quarterly

A STUDENT PUBLICATION

IN THIS ISSUE

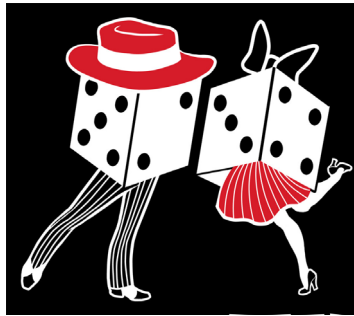
2. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

FC Welcomes 129 New Members



4. Spring Musical Announcement

It's Gonna be a Show Stopper!



5. Student Spotlight

Meet Alex Navas

6. Student Government Working to Build School Spirit

8. AP Scholars

9. National Merit Semifinalists

10. Head of the Ohio

FC Crew Achieves Impressive Results



12. Fostering Felines

13. Next Steps for Girls Soccer

14. Fall Sports Retrospective



15. Fall for New Seasonal Traditions



16. Homecoming 2022

*A Full Week of Celebrating
Everything Fox Chapel*



18. Shooting for the Moon

*A Sneak Peek of Pittsburgh's
New Moonshot Museum
at the Carnegie Science Center*

20. Nobel Prize Winners

*Check Out This Year's Winners
and Learn More About Their
Amazing Accomplishments*



22. Boo Bash

*Tricks, Treats, and
Help for Families
in Our Community*



129 New Inductees for National Honor Society



Fox Chapel Area High School held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) induction ceremony on September 13, 2022.

This year, 129 students were inducted into the Fox Chapel Area High School NHS. Those inducted were seniors Ishaan Acharya, Luke Curran, Kaiji Dehus, John “Jack” Delaney, Aiden

Dorneich, Jonathan Farah, Sean Feczko, John “Cooper” Friday, Nathaniel Green, Katherine Hallman, Nicholas Harris, Talis Jacob, Samuel Kuhns, Grace Lowe, Matthew Lu, Alexander Macek, Silas Owens, Owen Patel, Santino Pistella, Luka Romero, Keagan Royal, Thomas Selwood, Salvatore Smith, Dylan Srodes, Cooper Stevens, Matthew Veltri, and Jack Wilk.

Juniors inducted were Gabriella Abdalla, Jacob Anthikad, Isabella Barbour, Annalese Bartolacci, Mackenzie Ben, Molly Ben, Caroline Berger,

Dylan Berman, Tess Bursic, Mira Busch, Micah Cagley, Jack Cannon, Carolyn Caracciolo, Lily Clump, Joshua Correnti, Maria Costantino, Amelia Costello, Grady Cullen, Nicholas Cusano, Eliza Davis, Anna Dering, Rocco Didomenico, Logan Dressman, Camryn Eisner, David Feder, Adam Ferris, Jack Filter, Katherine Friday, Sophia Gass, Emmett Gillespie, Rowan Gladwin, Nicholas Goodman, Lucas Gravina, Katherine Haas, Emily Harajda, Eileen Healy, Porter Hill, Aiden Hirsch, Anna Iasella, Madeleine Ivanusic, Darren Jayaratnam, Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Alexander Kaufmann, Clara Kelley, Chloe Kim, Emma Kim, Henry Koloc, Mikayla Korczynski, Kathleen Krebs, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Lucy Larsen, Jenna Lazaro,

Colin Lazzara, Owen Levy, Justin Ling, Harry Littwin, Rebecca Lokshanov, Maria Marasco, Connor Mazzoni, Ava McCaffrey, Jacob Milgrub, Andrea Motschman, Megan Mulhern, Rose Mullan, Benjamin Myers, Ellie Nawrocki, Keya Patro, Kaeden Pekarcik, Tess Petrucelli, Eduardo Phelan-Vidal, Mia Pietropaolo, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi,

Sophia Rike, Sophia River, Lucy Rygelski, Michael Shin, Jacob Siddons, William Siegel, Nora Siri, Sarah Slember, Claudia Smith, Jadyn Smouse, Emily Staud, Safiya Stewart, Madeleine Stone, Troy Susnak, Adhitya Thirumala, Kieu My Tong, Emily Torbert, Anna Troutman, Caitlin Troutman, Gabriella Urso, Lila Valkanas, Andrew Wagner, Gloria Wen, Ella Werner, Abraham White, Isabella White, Dylan Work, Bridget Yun, and Zachary Zornan Ferguson.

The Fox Chapel Area High School National

Honor Society officers are seniors Lawrence Liu (president), Elijah Conklin (vice president), Zoe Fitzimmons (secretary), and Luiza Weissmann (treasurer).

Students in their sophomore year who have an unweighted cumulative Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or higher are invited to apply for membership in the NHS. Applicants must also have a minimum of two service activities and be involved in at least two additional clubs and/or groups. They must exhibit leadership qualities and provide character references. Once they are inducted, they must maintain their QPA and continue their community service work through NHS-sponsored projects and other organizations.



The FCAHS Nation Honor Society officers for the 2022/2023 school year are (left to right) seniors Luisa Weissmann, Lawrence Liu, Zoe Fitzimmons, and Eli Conklin.



Spring Musical Sure to be a Show Stopper

By Lindsay Scheffler

Fox Chapel Area High School is celebrating its 50th year of musical theater this school year. Guys and Dolls by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling has been the show chosen to mark this impressive milestone in the spring. The show will be performed in the high school auditorium from March 2nd to March 5th, 2023.

The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center described Guys and Dolls as, "A musical romantic comedy involving the unlikelyst of Manhattan pairings: a high-rolling gambler and a puritanical missionary, a showgirl dreaming of the straight-and-narrow and a crap game manager who is anything but." On Broadway, the show received

rave reviews and ran for 1,200 performances when it first opened in 1950. Guys and Dolls also won plenty of awards including Tony Awards, Drama Desks and Oliviers. With such an outstanding history this show is set to be another successful performance for the high school music departments.

Currently, the students and faculty involved with the show are just getting started. Auditions are set to start on November 14th for general auditions and end on November 17th with callbacks. The preparations for this

year's musical will be faster than usual with about only eight weeks of rehearsals, once they get started, before the curtain goes up on opening night. Due to this time crunch, it will be an all hands on deck preparation with students needed to help with everything from set painting to stage lighting.

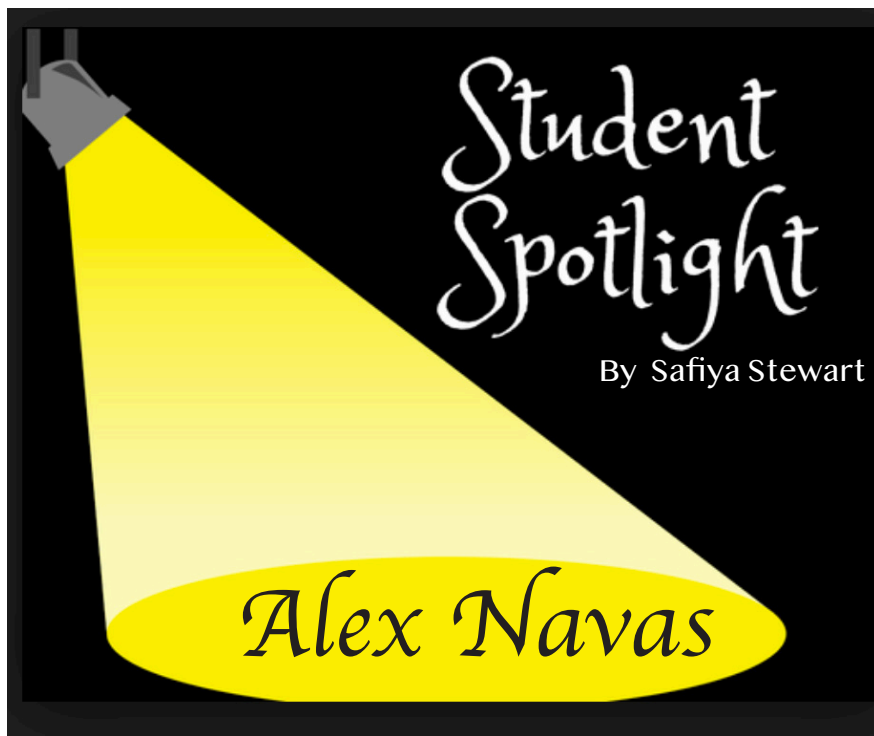
Going back to the beginning, Fox Chapel's first musical was Bye Bye Birdie, performed in 1974. Since then, there

have been productions of so many shows including Annie in 1992 and Funny Girl in 2010. When making the musical announcement, the music departments wanted to highlight the school's musical history by including a

list of all previous musicals, videos from past shows, and even a few words from former cast members. Appearing in the video was recent 2022 graduate Jack Lorence, 2014 graduate Dan Krackhardt, 2008 graduate Sarah Ivins, 1995 graduate Robert Boldin, 1986 graduate Alice Wink, and 1980 graduate Dave Bellmer. The connection between past and present participants of the musical is a unique feature of Fox Chapel's productions that will be even further highlighted this year due to this year's significance.



Join Stand Together (a student-led group that works to decrease the stigma surrounding mental illness and/or substance use) for their first event on 11/4 all day in the DEI room. They are collaborating with the Positive Painting Project (www.paintpositive.org) to offer all-day canvas painting. The Positive Painting Project's mission is to honor Katie Whyson's memory by encouraging and facilitating positive mental health with beautiful art. You can sign up to attend during QRT, lunch, or study hall. Scan the QR code or go to <https://forms.gle/Vge73BFhw8b64ymK9>



Instead of the usual report on school events I thought it would be fun to interview one of my friends, and have them share their personality with the rest of the student body that might not have gotten the chance to know them. For this Student Spotlight I chose Alex Navas class of 2025.

Have you always lived in PA? – “No, I was born in Guatemala. I moved here when I was two years old because my dad got an offer to work at CMU on a start-up that they were working on called Duolingo ”

What's your favorite thing to do outside of school? – “Probably hangout with friends, but I like to read occasionally, go on walks, do pottery, and workout at Lauri Ann West.”

What's your favorite school subject? – “History, because it's a good class, it's good for college applications, and I find it interesting.”

If you could have any superpower what would you have? – “I'd be invisible, because I could do whatever I wanted. I would secretly go everywhere. I would sneak into celebrity events, and could just listen to people talk without them knowing I was there.”



What's your favorite food to have for breakfast? – “Avocado toast, with egg and feta.”

Do you have any pets? – “I have a two-year-old shih tzu that I got during quarantine, so she is really antisocial. Her name is Bunny because she hopped like a bunny when she was little.

What do you want to share with the student body at Fox Chapel? – “Don't do drugs. Dress up for Halloween, you're not too cool.”

Do you play any sports? – “As a child my parents exposed me to a lot of sports and I just kind of sucked at all of them. I would do gymnastics at soccer and at gymnastics I would do anything but gymnastics. I did soccer, ballet, hip hop, musical theater, and then quit all of them and started taking private tennis lessons. Sucked at it! So I was like, “kind of love it, kind of hate it.” I did

track, I liked that. Now I do tennis and track.

Tell us a childhood story! – “Ok, I'll tell you a spooky Halloween story that's true. When I was little I used to live by the city in a duplex, and they gave us pumpkins to carve in preschool. I brought home a pumpkin, and I told my sister I wanted to carve it. We all went out to the porch with a big knife, and started trying to carve it. This man came

up to us and he started lurking around the house and asked us for money. He was wobbling, looking like he was drunk. He asked us for money and he wouldn't go away, so my sisters said, “OK, fine. I'll give you money. Let me just get it.” So we went back into the duplex and my sister closed the door. She closed it half on him. One of his legs was in the door. My sister had a knife in her hand the whole time and didn't use it! The door wouldn't close so we just ran to our front door. They opened the front door then they closed it, and they closed it on me!

I was in the hall and the guy was about to get me and right before he did, they pulled me in. We called the cops but they never found him.”

Student Government Working Hard to Build School Spirit



By Megan Mulhern

At Fox Chapel Area High School, student government plays a large role in making the high school experience most enjoyable for students. Especially after having a few years of online school, it is more important than ever for students to experience the true “fun” of high school. This includes having many student events such as the pep rally. On Friday, October 14th, Fox Chapel Area was able to have its first pep rally since 2019! The fun and spirited event included introducing the Homecoming court, the cheerleaders performing a routine, and the football players performing – well, trying to perform – a routine of their own. Also included in the pep rally was an intense game of musical chairs, and dancing from some of the schools’ favorite teachers, along with their very own principal, Dr. Hower! Fun activities like this are what make high school an enjoyable and memorable experience for all. Now, while getting to sit and enjoy the pep rally was fun, it is interesting to look behind the scenes at some of the people who are able to make these events happen. I had the opportunity to interview two students in particular, to ask what student government is really about. Juniors Michael Shin and Lila Valkanas are both members of student government this year, and they had a lot to say about the position.

“How long have you been in student government?”

Michael: I’ve only been in student government for one year prior to this year as a QRT rep.

Lila: I have been in student government for two years, just joining last year as a sophomore. My freshman year was the 2020 Covid year, and being a freshman during that time made it difficult to become involved in the school. To be quite honest, I really did not know much about student government, until the end of my freshman year when things became more “normal.” People were coming back to school five days a week, and that’s when I realized student government was something I wanted to be a part of. I remember, I was in my ninth grade English class with Mrs. Polsiak, and my peer who was in student government was talking about a Chipotle fundraiser that they were organizing. After having a conversation with them about it, I decided I wanted to become more involved in the school, and this was a great opportunity to do so.

“What is your role in student government?”

Michael: I am now the Student Body Treasurer.

Lila: Currently, my role in the student government is that I am the class of 2024 senator for the Fox Chapel borough, and am also class president. These roles are separate, but I could not be in one position without the other. When I joined last year, I ran for senator of the Fox Chapel borough for my grade. How the elections work are that there is an executive branch for the whole school, and then each grade has senators for each part of the district: O’Hara, Fox Chapel, Sharpsburg, Aspinwall, and Blawnox. Also a part

Building School Spirit, continued...

of student government is each caucus, meaning each class. Anybody can be a part of their caucus council, and for my class, 2024, we decided to have our own executive branch. This is when I decided to run for president of my caucus, and I won the election. My job is to look over all of the fundraisers, activities my grade does for the student council, and the school in general.

“What is one positive impact student government plans to have on the school this year?”

Michael: Student government plans to get everyone back on track for a regular experience of high school by putting Covid behind and resuming traditions that we used to do.

Lila: A positive impact student government plans to have on the school this year is to bring some school spirit back. After the pandemic, I feel as though less students were inclined to get involved in the school because of all the privileges we lost. Throughout my years being in high school, I can tell more and more people are becoming interested in more school related activities. I think the student government wants to keep this trend going by hosting small events for the students. An example of this was about a month or two ago when we had Patio Palooza. We had music playing during lunch, and were giving out hot dogs and chips. Events like this are small and easy to plan, but get students more excited about coming to school.



*Lila Valkanas, Class of 2024
senator for Fox Chapel Borough.*

“What is one important change that YOU want to make to the school this year, or in future years?”

Michael: Personally I want to get more students involved in student government to help out with what I had said previously. With more people, we are able to easily create more change. It is also easier to spread relevant information quicker, rather than to use Instagram.

Lila: An important change I want to make this school year, and moving forward, is similar to what I said earlier. I want our school spirit and pride to reach a much higher level than it is right now. The “high school experience” is something people should want to remember, and my goal is to have that happen. For example, homecoming, which happened in October, is one of our biggest events during



*Michael Shin, Class of 2024
Student Body Treasurer.*

the school year. In years past we had a spirit week, a big pep rally, and students were so excited about it. During Covid those events were taken away, so now that we have them back, I want to make them better than ever. Roman, our student body president, and I created the Spirit Committee to plan our pep rally, and get more students involved in our event. We created a spirit week, and held our first pep rally since 2019. I am not asking for everybody to be 100 percent involved with the

school all the time, but I want more students to appreciate the opportunities we have these fun activities.

The students at Fox Chapel Area High School are more than grateful to have such an incredible student government this year, and I am excited to see these big changes in upcoming years. Remember to keep an eye out for more fun events, like the pep rally coming up this year, and never be afraid to GET INVOLVED!



Students and Graduates Named AP Scholars

A total of 154 current Fox Chapel Area High School students and 2022 graduates were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations taken in May 2022. The College Board recognizes three levels of achievement based on the number of courses and exams.

•The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: 2022 graduates Patrick

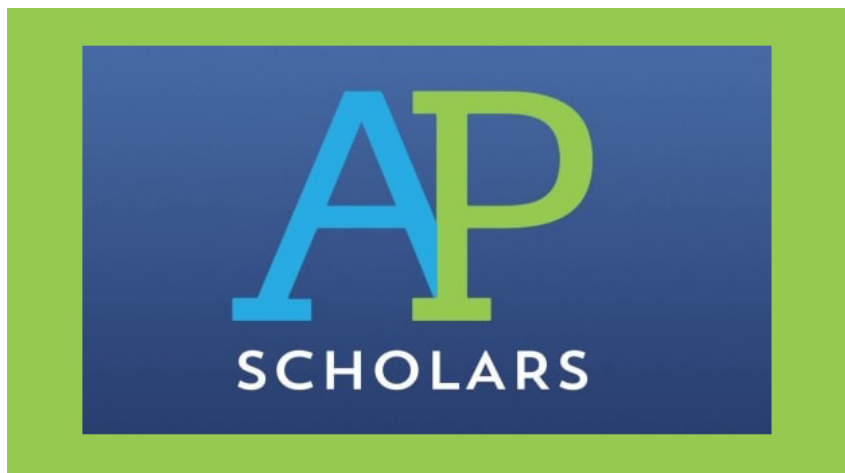
Alexander, Salim Bastress, Gabrielle Bell, Vasileios Benos, Alexa Berman, Noah Bradley, Nina Busch, Andrew Byersdorfer, Zhiyi Chen, Quentin Cook, William Cooper, Elizabeth Crookston, Shea Davison, David Dering, Justine Eng, Russell Fenton, Anna Ferris, Mona Gerges, Maia Gravina, Jordan Gwin, Claire Hamilton, Thomas Healy, Owen Hershey, Jonah Hertzman, Danielle Horne, Sydney Inglis, Nabeela Islam, Riley Johnson,

Alaina Kaslewicz, Brett Kaufman, Sydney Kennedy, Janise Kim, Laura Klamut, Esther Ko, Zoe Lakkis, John Lorence, Hope Matthis, Nathaniel Mueller, Uma Muzumdar, Simeon Owens, Sangmin Park, Hannah Poole, Miguel Quemado, Lauren Rabbitt, Carter Rowe, Ashton Schutzman, Omar Shalaby, Annabel Siddons, Samuel Slember, Holden Smith, Emma Szymanski, Daniel Thomas, James Trageser, Beata Turnquist, Kaylee Uribe, Benjamin Veser, Eduardo Weissmann, Lance Wilhelm, Siddharth Yende, and Ann Yonas; and 2022-2023 seniors Delaney Asbury, Maya Bradley, Davina Chang, Elijah Conklin, Luke Curran, Aiden Dorneich, Matthew Fiedler, Zoe Fitzsimmons, Arjun Golla, Zachary Gordon, Nathaniel Green, Helia Hamidi, Ananth Kashyap, Paul Kullmann, Jonathan Li, Lawrence Liu, Matthew Lu, Silas Owens, Mahitha Ramachandran, Stephen Santilli, Thomas Selwood, Arvind Seshan, William Smith, Prajval Sreenivas, Sasha Tan, and Daniel Wang.

•The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: 2022 graduates Justine Bennett, Lidia Cavicchioli, James Dockey, Aidan Gleason, Samuel Henry, Max Johnson, Bridget Kilmer, Allison Monroe, Izabella Stern, Shrivardhan Thada, Anushka Vis, Ava Vita, and Alex Zatman; and 2022-2023 seniors Abigail Boleng, Talia Bugel, Caleb Hahl, Sonny Hur, Nora Johnson, Trevor Katz, Daniel Kim, Nathania Lingam, Charles Lusk, Rachel Persichetti, Kevin Quinn, Diya Reddy, Sophie Shao,

Dylan Srodes, George Tabor, Blaz Vavpetic, Lydia Weidner, Luiza Weissmann, and Bowen Williams.

•The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar award by receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams: 2022 graduates Carlie Barnett, Owen Carter, Iona Clark, Julia DeMarco, Alicia Gu, Gabrielle Kline, Ian Mackey-Piccolo, Luke Murray, Ethan Napolitan, Esther Nawrocki, Enzo



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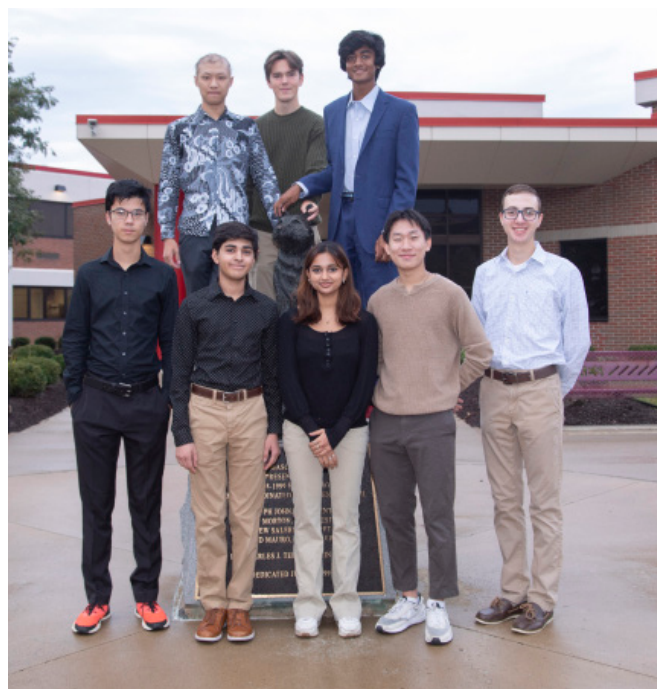
Rotunno, Finnbar Ruff, Tristan Sacco, Aurora Sauereisen, Oliver Smith, Rei Sperry, Sadie Terrick, Nicole Trasatti, Lydia Turnquist, Katherine Voigt, and Ryan Zatman; 2022-2023 seniors Ishaan Acharya, Siheng Chao, Aura Chuck Hernandez, Christopher Ernharth, Talis Jacob, Leah Kenyon, Matigan Kirk, Mia Lynch, Aadil Pattada, William Rice, Luka Romero, and Lindsay Scheffler; and 2022-2023 juniors Lucas Gravina, Henry Koloc, and Madeleine Stone.

Advanced Placement exams are graded on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest. Most of the nation's four-year colleges and universities award credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Every year, AP examinations are offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions.

2023 National Merit Semifinalists/Commended Students

Nine Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 16 have been named Commended Students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are Elijah Conklin, Aiden Dorneich, Arjun Golla, Lawrence Liu, Silas Owens, Mahitha Ramachandran, Arvind Seshan, Dylan Srodes, and Sasha Tan. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are William Fera, Zoe Fitzsimmons, Zachary Gordon, Nathaniel Green, Ananth Kashyap, Paul Kullmann, Matthew Lu, Kevin Quinn, Diya Reddy, Luka Romero, Thomas Selwood, Sophie Shao, Prajval Sreenivas, Blaz Vavpetic, Daniel Wang, and Bowen Williams.

All of these students were selected based on their 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year, more than 1 million juniors complete the PSAT/NMSQT and are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and the Commended Students scored in



Pictured above are Fox Chapel Area High School's National Merit Semifinalists: (top row) Sasha Tan, Silas Owens, Arjun Golla, (bottom row) Aiden Dorneich, Arvind Seshan, Mahitha Ramachandran, Lawrence Liu, and Elijah Conklin.

the top 5%. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million to be offered in the spring of 2023.

Marching Band Wins First Place in Two Competitions



The Fox Chapel Area High School Marching Band recently won first places at its first two Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) competitions of the school year. The band competes in the Class AA division and won first place at Yough High School with a score of 81.2 on September 24, 2022, and first place at Deer Lakes High School with a score of 77.25 on October 8. The band also received awards at both competitions for the highest music, general effect, and visual scores in its division. The final competition of the season is the PIMBA Championships that will be held Saturday, October 22, at Norwin High School.

The Marching Foxes are under the student direction of drum majors senior Joseph Thomas and junior Chloe Kim, and band directors/teachers Daryl Lesnik and Evan Hertrick.



Head of the Ohio

By Ian Wellman

During the first weekend of October, the Fox Chapel Crew Team rowed into the area's history when they competed in the Head of the Ohio.

The Head of the Ohio is an annual regatta in which rowers row down the Allegheny to the head of the Ohio river in as little time as possible. What the FC Crew Team lacks in people, they make up for in determination and practice. The women's novice four — coxed — placed second (the coxswain is the person who is in charge of steering and directing a boat), the women's novice eight placed fourth, the men's novice four — uncoxed — placed second, and the men's novice eight placed second.

Before the Industrial Revolution, Pittsburgh had around two dozen boathouses and competitions attracted thousands of spectators. After the Industrial Revolution, rowing lost its popularity until the first Head of the Ohio regatta in 1986. Since then, rowing has increased in popularity. This year, schools, clubs, and colleges from many states competed in the regatta. There were boats from states as far away as Kentucky, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Illinois. Yale, Carnegie Mellon, and other colleges sent

boats to compete in the adult category. The course is around 2.6 miles long and ends near The Point in downtown Pittsburgh.

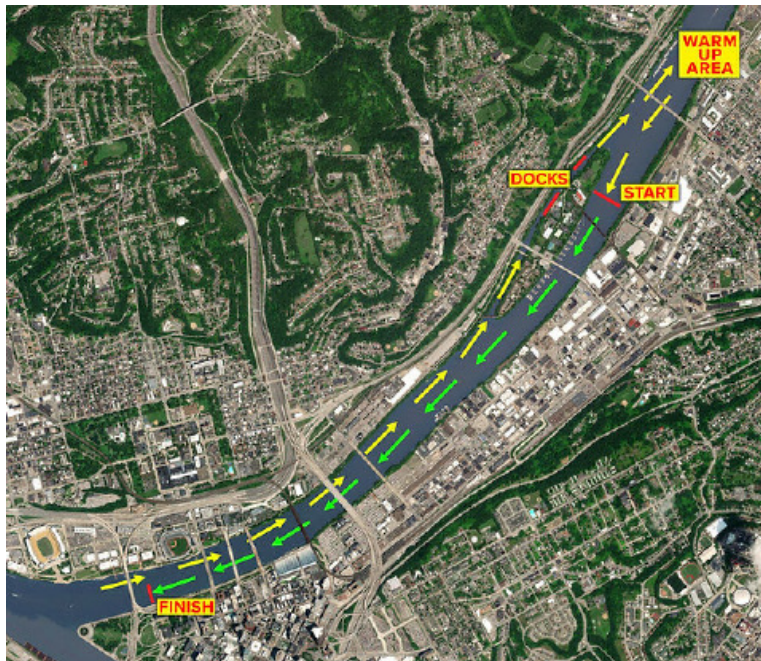
The entire crew team did well in the regatta, especially the novices. The women's novice eight rowed against 11 different teams, and lost to third place by .8 seconds after rowing for 16 minutes. Coxswain Sophia Feng said, "I'm really proud of my rowers." She thinks they would have done better if they had had more time to practice in their boat. The men's novice four, without a coxswain, placed second out of six boats. They missed first place by 12 seconds and beat third place by almost 50 seconds. The women's novice four, with a coxswain, placed second out

of 14 boats. Coxswain Morgaine Dudek thinks they would have done better if the race had been their first event and if she had decreased the number of strokes per minute. The men's novice eight finished 2.7 seconds out from first place and lost because one rower's shoe fell off the footplate halfway through the race. The other boats held their own against schools and clubs with significantly larger teams, such as North Allegheny, Three Rivers Rowing Association, Indianapolis, and Steel City Rowing.

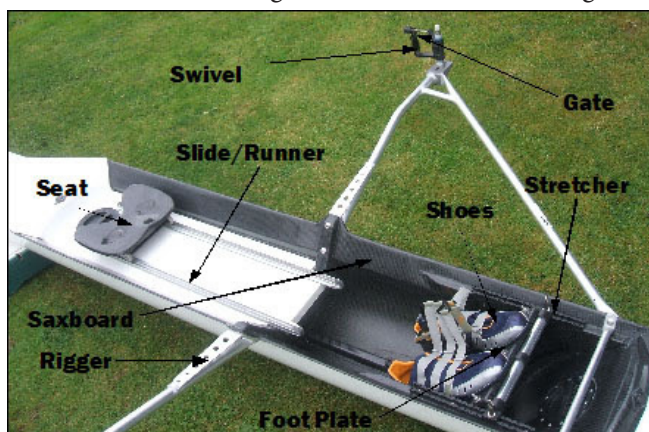
Both the rowers

and coxswains are proud of how hard everyone trained. Coxswain Ella Werner said, "I think we did really well, and I am really proud of everyone." Rower Emma Donovan said, "I'm proud of how all the rowers pushed as hard as they could, and I am so happy to be a part of such an amazing team." The rowers enjoyed the regatta and are thankful to the parents who volunteered for their help. Ella Werner said, "I want to say thank you to Robin McGuire, Coach Katie, Coach Steph, and Coach Ryland for all their support."

If you are interested in joining for the spring season, go to <https://sites.google.com/fccrew.org/fcc/home> or email secretary@fccrew.org. There are currently 17 members on the boys' team and 29 on the girls' team. Please consider joining the FC Crew team and be a part of Fox Chapel's rowing history.



Head of the Ohio route.



Positive Team Environments



Though Fox Chapel Area High School is often praised for its challenging academics, diverse opportunities, and high-level sports, there is less talk about the student population that makes up this school. The interactions between students in and out of the classroom define Fox Chapel's healthy environment. After all, what is a school without its student body? There is no better way to dive deep into student interaction at Fox Chapel than to hear from the students themselves. A variety of athletes at Fox Chapel were willing to describe their teams' environments, demonstrating exactly what makes the Foxes so special.

First, stellar swimmer Christain Dantey was interviewed about what he thinks makes Fox Chapel's swim team environment so special. "I think what makes this team so special is its ability to push people beyond their limits in the sport. Most people on the team have similar goals, creating a sense of unity. The mixture of a shared drive for success and being able to express yourself to your peers creates a healthy balance for our team." Being a high-level swimmer on the Foxes team, Christian has pushed himself to be the best athlete he can be through the support and demonstrated work ethic of his peers. The Fox Chapel swim team has obtained its great success from the past years not only through the high-level coaching staff and athletes, but also the innate desire for greatness and unity of the team as a family.

This positive environment is cultivated throughout many other athletics programs at Fox Chapel, especially with the rowing team. Junior Lucas Gravina has

encountered examples of leadership throughout his frequent practices. "Since rowing is extremely physically and mentally challenging, everyone on the team has an opportunity to be a leader by setting an example for others. Giving your all 100% of the time has a greater impact than words," says Lucas. This opportunity for leadership helps shape the young minds of Fox Chapel with useful life skills and bonds that will last through adulthood. The Foxes' strong leadership will take them to great places on and off the river.

Finally, the girls soccer program has not fallen short of Fox Chapel's legacy of a close knit team. Upperclassmen team member Megan Mulhern was asked to describe the girls soccer team. "I feel as if I'm playing next to a second family every day that I come to practice. I can truly depend on my teammates to have my back and motivate me whenever I need it." As one of the top motivators of the team, Megan describes her deep connection with her sport through the positive environment of her team. High performing athletes always work best in supportive environments, so Fox Chapel soccer team pushes its girls to be the best players they can be.

Though the swimming, rowing, and soccer teams are prime examples of the healthy environments at Fox Chapel, there are many more teams at our school that go above and beyond just excelling in their sport. Fox Chapel's student body's unique supportiveness and responsibility is shown through our student athletes' experience with our teams.

Fostering Felines



By Karsten Buchert

Freshman Emiko Brasfield and her family have always been around animals. In 2019 they decided to begin fostering cats for a local shelter. Currently they have two litters of kittens, which, at the time of writing this, at least according to Emiko, may be up for adoption within two months. The family often takes in animals with complications due to Emiko's mother possessing experience as a vet tech. During the summer, it's common for the Brasfields to have more than ten cats in their home at once! They even have had a polydactyl cat! This means the animal has a genetic mutation that gives it more toes than usual. I decided to talk to Emiko and the shelter she uses about the fostering experience as well as what others should know if one would wish to foster a cat themselves.

One of the first reasons that came into my mind as to why someone would consider being a foster is to see what caring for a pet is like. Emiko thinks fostering animals would be a lovely option for those who want to get a sense of what the responsibilities of taking care of a cat are like. However, if you are doing it to test the waters, Emiko advises that you take in a young or adult cat with no complications at first. Otherwise, she highly recommends providing a foster home for shelter animals and believes it's a great way to do good in the community. She told me that "you're the reason the animal gets to be happy, and they owe their life to you." The shelter that the family uses is called Just Fur the Love of Cats. I know, the pun is lovely. According to Emiko, they do a good job and

provide food plus other essential materials for cat care. Veterinary care as well as spay and neuter costs are generally covered by the rescue. Since Emiko's mother is trained in facilitating veterinary care, they often handle the medical issues themselves. For people who do not possess that level of expertise or are taking in their first foster animal, it is recommended that the cat be free of complications.

Of course, someone could be worried about getting too fond of the foster cat and having feelings of disappointment about it getting adopted. Emiko's personal experience is that yes, sometimes she is sad to see the cat go, but at least she can be assured that it now has a loving home. When not taking care of the cats, Emiko and her family show great enjoyment in hiking.

For further information, I reached out to Just Fur the Love of Cats. Their organization has no physical building and is actively looking for fosters. The representative that answered me confirmed that all veterinary care and supply costs are covered by the organization. Additionally, the representative brought up the idea that fostering a cat could hypothetically provide excellent mental health benefits for a high school student such as controlling anxiety or depression. If one was to encounter any issues with their temporary furry friend, Just Fur the Love of Cats offers round-

the-clock support and even does house-calls. If you happen to be interested in feline fostering and are willing to make the commitment, please visit their website here: <https://justfurtheloveofcats.com/foster-a-cat%2Fkitten>

11 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD FOSTER



- ① Fostering Saves Lives!
- ② Fostering Brings Families Together
- ③ Fostering Teaches Responsibility
- ④ Rescues Pay For All Expenses
- ⑤ Fostering Increases Adoption Rates
- ⑥ Fostering Helps Socialize Animals
- ⑦ Fostering Gives Animals Time to Heal
- ⑧ Fostering Opens Shelter Space
- ⑨ Fostering Provides Personal Enjoyment
- ⑩ Rescues Take The Animals Back
- ⑪ Fostering Makes You Part of Something Bigger Than Yourself

Next Steps for Girls Soccer Seniors

By Madeleine Stone

This year, the Fox Chapel Area Girls Soccer team was equipped with eleven seniors to lead the team. From keeping track of the statistics to starting on the field for each game, they embraced the new season with excited enthusiasm and ushered in the freshmen with open arms. Each senior was celebrated on October 3rd during Senior Night. A ceremony was held before the game where they announced their plans for the future as they walked down the field with their parents at their side. At the start of the game against Pine Richland, all the seniors took the field, and at the end of the game, they sat down together to share dinner.

Lily Claire Adams, vice president of Foxes Boxes, plans to attend a university on the pre-med track to become a pediatrician. Delaney Asbury participates in track for the high school and will attend a four-year college. Zoe Fitzsimmons, the secretary of National Honor Society, will go to a university to major in bioengineering. Mia Fortun, a Medallion Ball

candidate, will attend the University of Alabama to study Interior Design and Architectural Engineering. Lilygrace Goodworth participates in the National Honor Society and will major in business law at a university. Lauren Johnson participates in softball, hockey, golf, and archery, and is interested in exploring health care or constitutional law. Molly McNaughton, a captain of the team, will be attending the California University of Pennsylvania to study Criminology and Psychology while playing for their Division II women's soccer team. Makayla Muholland, the other senior captain of the team, has signed with

Appalachian State University to play Division I soccer. Mia Nury, a member of Future Business Leaders of America, will go on to study marketing at a university. Molly Piper, part of the Best Buddies club, will finish her last year of cosmetology school and get her license before going to college to study business. Last but not least, Lindsay Scheffler, the president of Foxes Boxes, will attend a university and then a law school.

The seniors will miss the team and its dynamics but are thankful for the time they have had on it. Mia Nury stated, "The thing I enjoyed most about soccer was all the team bonding and memories that were created. When I think

back to last season and how far we got, it was all down to the team and the bond we had!" Molly Piper commented, "One thing I enjoyed most about soccer was the team. My first year of FCAGS I immediately felt welcomed. There is such a great mix of girls on the team that you get to interact with. There is nothing better than a supportive team that feels like



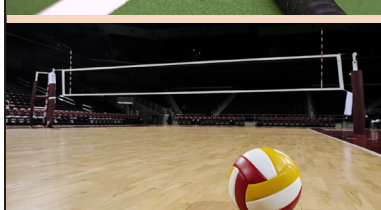
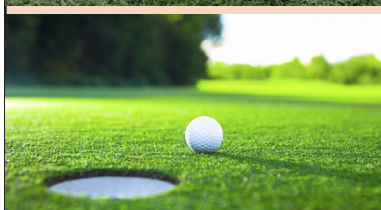
From left to right, top row: Mia Fortun, Lily Claire Adams, Lindsay Scheffler, Lauren Johnson, Lilygrace Goodworth, Mia Nury. From left to right, bottom row: Delaney Asbury, Makayla Muholland, Molly McNaughton, Molly Piper, Zoe Fitzsimmons. Photo Credit: Gordon Snyder

family." The girls on the team all mentioned the success they had through their teammates. As a player makes it from a freshman to senior, the bonds created with others are some of the most important and are an indispensable parts of the team. The seniors continue to help ease the transition from grade to grade as role models and leaders for the younger girls.

Congratulations to the Seniors: Lily Claire Adams, Delaney Asbury, Zoe Fitzsimmons, Mia Fortun, Lilygrace Goodworth, Lauren Johnson, Molly McNaughton, Makayla Muholland, Mia Nury, Molly Piper, and Lindsay Scheffler!

Fall Sports – A Retrospective

By Leah Kenyon



Fall 2022 continued the tradition of success, improvement, and teamwork in athletics. Our fall season offers varsity sport opportunities for 12 different programs. We reached out to each, looking for who showed the most improvement, what made the team special, and what the season goals or accomplishments were. Collectively, what shines through is the respect and admiration our athletes have for their teammates, the level of dedication shown through commitment, endless hours of training and the countless goals and achievements from this fall. Here's a recap:

Cheer: Sophomore Gretchen Shelestak was a star player this fall because she was attentive and persistent when trying a new stunt. Even when she got hurt she got right back up to try again. Freshman Trista Jackson made the most improvement and has grown into the team, showing determination and tenacity. The cheer team has been working hard, putting in a lot of time since June in hopes of placing in WPIALs. As a team, they protected and looked out for each other. Through their long season, they have become close, creating memories with all grades on the spectrum and lifelong friendships.

Crew: The novices of the crew team really stood out this fall as they placed several boats, had a great season, and had success in winning their races. Crew has been working on building a good team bond and hope to have even more competitive boats for their main racing season in spring of 2023. The team works hard to create a great environment for rowers to grow and develop their abilities and they work just as hard bonding together as teammates.

Cross Country: Juniors Clara Kelley and Rowan Gwin are this year's star runners, placing high in several meets. Boys Cross

Country won their section! A lot of the top seven runners are likely state qualifiers at the upcoming WPIALs, including Clara, Rowan, sophomore Ethan Vaughan, and freshman Marin Airik. The sophomore boys, including Nicky Clump, have improved tremendously since last year. Having a good group of people to run with is important to maintaining motivation and the teams have bonded over their shared pain during training runs. The team hopes to end on a high note as many look to improve on their times at CalU and have some qualifiers for states.

Field Hockey: After working hard on conditioning in the summer off season, the team had some great successes this year. Several seniors stood out: Aly Solomon, Anna Drum, and Caroline Bonidy. The team was lucky to have great depth at so many positions. Gina Fitzsimmons, Ridgley Boychuk, and Kenzie Ben really stepped up when the team was in need of goalies. They took on a new position, and even a new sport for Kenzie, and excelled in helping lead the team to victories. The team worked on capitalizing more on the plays in the offensive zone and having good clears out of the defensive zone throughout the season. The team's good bond made the great moments so enjoyable and the hard moments easier to get through. Although their loss wasn't the outcome everyone wanted, the team still ended with a great season.

Football: Tyrese Samuels really stood out this season by showing up to every practice, even while injured. He led the team by example, doing the right warmups, demonstrating the right attitude, and working to become a better person. Overcoming discouragement, continuing to persevere, and getting ready to face challenges are great personal skills that the

(continued on page 19)

Falling for New Seasonal Traditions

By Annalese Bartolacci

It's sweater weather! That means it's time for fun cold weather activities to enjoy now that the leaves have changed colors and fall is in full force. There are countless things to do after school and on the weekends, both outside and indoors. "Fall" into autumn and experience the natural beauty of this time of year!

A great way to get into the spirit of any season is by enjoying food that features the flavors of the season. Big fall flavors like pumpkin, apple, and cinnamon are the basis of many delicious foods! Pumpkin spice is sold everywhere, so don't forget to check your favorite place to get food or drinks, as they are bound to feature pumpkin-spice-something! Even better, try making soup! It's the perfect comfort food for cold days or just relaxing in the warmth of the indoors. Easy recipes for beginners include chicken noodle (always a classic), or something like tomato soup, because it is so simple to make and it tastes great with grilled cheese for the perfect afternoon meal. On a different note, if you are a candy person, Halloween candy seems to slowly pile up during this time of year.

Speaking of Halloween, the fall holidays are a time for family and friends to come together and eat great food, whether it be trick-or-treating candy or Thanksgiving turkey. Everyone has their own favorite fall traditions: dressing up for Halloween, trick-or-treating, and traveling

to visit friends and family members over Thanksgiving. Maybe you enjoy playing a friendly game of flag football or watching the parade. The traditions are endless. You could decorate your house for the festivities as well. A fall scented candle can make the room smell cozy and warm; a wonderful sensory element in your house.

There are so many things to do outdoors that are worth trying as well. Pick a pumpkin and carve it later! You can roast the seeds or have a competition to judge who can carve the coolest face. Apple picking is a similar activity that is available at some local farms. A favorite in our area is Sorgels, which has an array of harvest related activities in autumn. They've got a pumpkin patch, an apple orchard, gourds, hay, and cornstalks. Let's not forget a walk around the neighborhood to experience the leaves, or driving around to see more of the landscape. You could plan a picnic while the weather is still nice to really get into the feeling of fall in our area. The possibilities are endless!

Enjoying this fantastic season through food, spending time outdoors, and with family and friends is a great way to offset school and relax. Whether you are an indoor person or love the outdoors, get into decorations, or would be perfectly content with good food, this season has a myriad of opportunities to get out and enjoy where we live. Try some of the activities on this checklist...can you do them all?



HOMECOMING

By Maria Stiger

Homecoming is a week-long celebration of school spirit and high school life. The 2022 Fox Chapel homecoming celebration, like previous years, did not disappoint. The week kicked off with spirit week at the high school. Students and teachers dressed up as bikers and surfers on Monday, Adam Sandler on Tuesday, in PJs/comfy clothes on Wednesday, denim on Thursday, and on Friday they dressed in their corresponding class colors: green for freshman, blue for sophomores, pink for juniors, and red for seniors. The highlight of the week took place on Friday, when the pep rally made its comeback for the first time since 2019. Excitement was in full force as the students and faculty cheered on each of the fall sports teams, the cheerleaders gave their lively performances, and the marching band filled the gym with music to get everyone pumped up for the game. Special performances by some of FC's favorite teachers and a lively game of musical cheers were fan favorites.

When school was finally let out, the festivities really kicked into high gear. The annual homecoming carnival was held on the front lawn of the high school and was as lively as ever. Elementary through high school students, parents and teachers, as well as community residents packed onto the pavements to experience all the activities the homecoming carnival had to offer. From the school-sponsored activities to club-run booths, there seemed to be a little bit of everything offered: a petting zoo with

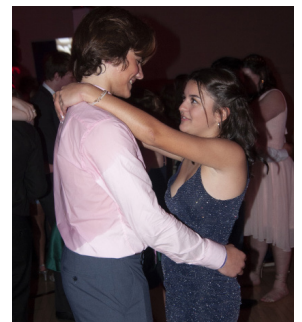
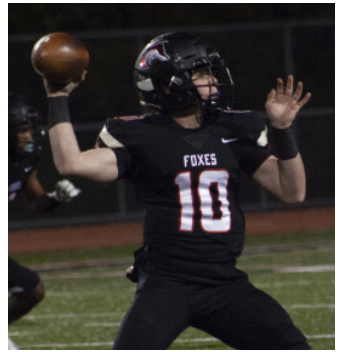
a camel, goat, and zebra, blow-up bouncy castles, face painting, balloon animals, caricature drawings and food trucks were all big hits. The club-run booths were abundant with food and snacks, FC merchandise, and so much more. The busking club also provided live music during the homecoming carnival.

After three hours of bustle, the carnival wrapped up and the fun continued at the game. Both students and alumni dressed in the "blackout" theme and crowded around the track for a good view of the members of the homecoming court: freshmen Charlotte McLeland and Elliot Broyles; sophomores Rachel Pegher and Kai Edwards; juniors Anneliese Pham and Jack O'Brien; and seniors Lilly Adamo, Eleanor Fox, Cali Johnson, Zoe Fitzsimmons as well as Enzo DeCecco, Roman Mason, Jack Resek, and Oliver Stephany. Ultimately, Roman Mason and Cali Johnson were the crowned king and queen of the night.

The grand finale of the homecoming festivities was the disco-themed dance on Saturday night. Everyone arrived dressed in their best and ready to dance the night away in the high school's gym. When students needed a break, they could change up the pace with a game of ping pong and corn hole or stop by the photo booth to pose with their friends or their dates.

Overall, the festivities were all wonderful and we can't wait to do it again next year!





Shooting for the Moon

By Mahitha Ramachandran

It is an exciting time to be a space-enthusiast in Pittsburgh. On October 15th, the Moonshot Museum opened in Pittsburgh's North Side, and just down the road from Moonshot, a new permanent exhibit titled "Mars: The Next Giant Leap" will soon be opening at the Carnegie Science Center.

The Moonshot Museum is an amazing new space for Pittsburghers and tourists alike to learn about current

and specialists are actively building lunar spacecrafts such as Peregrine that will soon be traveling to the moon. Moonshot's focus is not just on one spacecraft or company – the museum instead has a strong emphasis on Pittsburgh as a new hub of the space industry as well as on the diverse interests, fields, and people that are needed for space innovation and exploration. In this way, the museum aims to inspire science-lovers and artists alike to see themselves



One of a series of images from the Carnegie Science Center website of what the Mars exhibit will look like when it is finished. You can find more at <https://carnegiesciencecenter.org/exhibits/mars/>

efforts to take humans back to the moon and Pittsburgh's role in the future of space exploration. What makes this museum unique is that it really is much more than a museum: along with information about the history of humanity's journey to the moon, Moonshot offers its visitors a glimpse into the future. Throughout the exhibit, visitors are challenged to think about what a future lunar settlement might look like, urging them to consider the legal, ethical, and cultural questions that may be involved. The museum also highlights the spacecrafts and rovers that will be taking humans back to the moon in the coming years as well as the diverse group of people who are making it happen. In fact, Moonshot shares a building with Astrobotic, a private space robotics technology company that is currently working with NASA to engineer spacecraft for the next lunar missions. Inside the Moonshot Museum, a series of glass windows along one wall allows visitors to actually look into Astrobotic's clean room, where engineers

not only working in the space industry, but doing so in Pittsburgh. After all, the upcoming missions to the moon are stepping stones to the greater goal of eventually taking humans to Mars, an endeavor that will become the work of today's young people. Starting on November 19th, you will not have to travel far from Moonshot to learn more about this future Martian expedition.

On the second floor of Pittsburgh's famous Carnegie Science Center is the Buhl Planetarium. Since 2009, the Planetarium has shared this floor with Roboworld, an exhibit all about robots which included visitor favorites such as Andy and the air hockey and basketball robots. However, it is time to say goodbye to Roboworld and say hello to the new exhibit that will be permanently replacing it – "Mars: The Next Giant Leap." Featuring expansive images of the Martian landscape, a Martian garden, and several interactive screens, the exhibit will teach visitors about everything from the history of our understanding of



Moonshot of the Astrobotic clean room that is visible through the Moonshot Museum.

Mars to the science of growing food on the Red Planet. Science Center visitors will be able to envision what a future Martian settlement might look like and explore the challenges that humans will face living there. In addition, the exhibit will discuss how research about climate, sustainability, and resource management involved in the mission to Mars is equally impactful in fighting climate change right here on Earth. The Carnegie Science Center is working closely with the Moonshot Museum to ensure that both exhibits promote Pittsburgh as an emerging center for space research and exploration as well as inspire a diverse group of young people to pursue work in the space industry.

Although astronomy lovers might have to travel outside of Pittsburgh to escape light pollution in order to look up at the night sky, they certainly will not have to go far to immerse themselves in the excitement of space exploration. Thanks to the efforts of Moonshot Museum, the Carnegie Science Center, and educators throughout the community, the next generation of space industry experts may just be emerging right in our city.

Fall Sports Retrospective, continued...

players have gained over the season. They have worked hard to represent Fox Chapel and not give up in the face of adversity.

Golf (boys): Seniors David Fuhrer and Andrew Begg played really well this year with consistently good scores, and were often the best on the team. Being on the golf team gave players the awesome opportunity to play on golf courses to which they would not normally have access. The team enjoyed playing on new and challenging courses, being representatives of FCAHS, and of course winning their section.

Golf (girls): With golf, every score is very important, so when this team won (which was a lot considering they won their section), they won as a team. With no seniors, this supportive team was a great group who made a point of positively supporting each other and had season long goals of bringing down their scores and improving for the next season as they keep their eyes on the prize and became more competitive for a WPIAL championship.

Soccer (boys): George Tabor, Dylan Work, and Pablo Linzoain really stepped up this season with their attacks, intensity, moves and consistency. Captains John Paul Brach and Colin Westerberg also had a big impact. Sophomore Kellen Bleier made the most improvement, playing almost every minute of JV games and also proving he could play against even the best teams in the section when given some varsity playing time.

Soccer (girls): Captain, junior Sydney Schutzman, gave it her all both on and off the field, leading by example and helping the team bond. The team never gave up and continued to work hard all season and stay positive. Bella Urso showed tremendous improvement by adjusting to a big switch from outside back to center back due to team injuries early on. Tough games and challenging practices were handled together because of the amazing team environment and bonds.

Tennis (girls): Sophomore Sienna Siegel qualified for the WPIAL singles tournament. The other singles players, Chanel Brun and Sophie Carvelli, had great seasons and the team benefited from strong doubles players including Diya Reddy and Lucy Larsen. Sophie and Lucy really showed improvement this year. This team balanced having fun and being successful. They created an enjoyable team culture and everyone contributed. While they fell just short of qualifying for states, they had a great season.

Volleyball (girls): With only two seniors, Alina Stiger and Peyton Shema, this was a young team but one that loved the sport and brought out the best in each other through their hard work and shared passion. The team gained chemistry as they continued to work together and learn how to use the height of some of the younger players. They look forward to evolving into an even more competitive team.

Nobel Prize Winners: Why Did They Win?

By Mia Costello

On October 5th, 12 individuals were awarded the Nobel Prize for groundbreaking achievements in one of six different fields: physiology/medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace, and economic science. Since their achievements are so complex, I'll briefly name the winners and try to explain their work in simple terms.

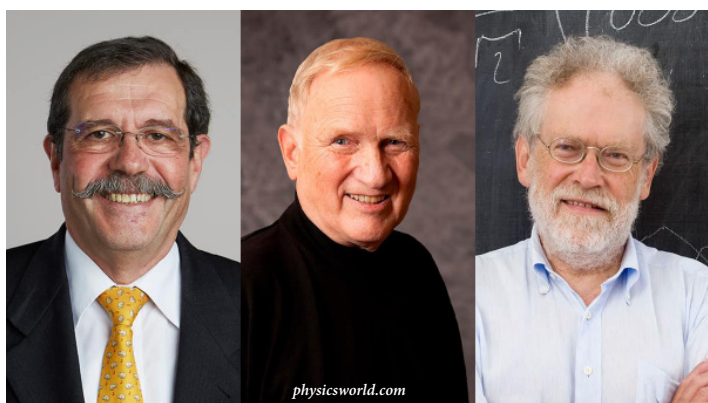


Dr. Svante Pääbo, a Swedish geneticist, was awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine for using a 40,000 year old fragment of a finger bone to sequence DNA. Sequencing the Neanderthal genome is particularly challenging because contemporary DNA consists of bacteria and other chemicals that have altered DNA of the early human race (*Homo sapiens*). With this genome, a new field called paleogenomics was established to help us better understand human evolution.

specifically using entangled quantum states, in which two particles behave as a unit even when they are separated. These three individuals conducted experiments and developed new ways to use entangled quantum states as technology, one example being quantum teleportation that allows a quantum state to be moved from one particle to another at a distance.



The chemistry winners, Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, and K. Barry Sharpless (pictured above, left to right), won for developments in click and bioorthogonal chemistry. Meldal and Sharpless used click chemistry, in which reactions occur quickly and without unwanted by-products, to come up with copper catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition, a reaction now used in pharmacy, mapping DNA, and more. Bertozzi used click chemistry to map biomolecules on the surface of cells to develop reactions inside organisms without harming the cell, a process that can improve certain cancer treatments.



For physics, Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser, and Anton Zeilinger (pictured above, left to right) were all awarded the Nobel Prize for their discoveries in quantum mechanics (think protons, electrons, and smaller),



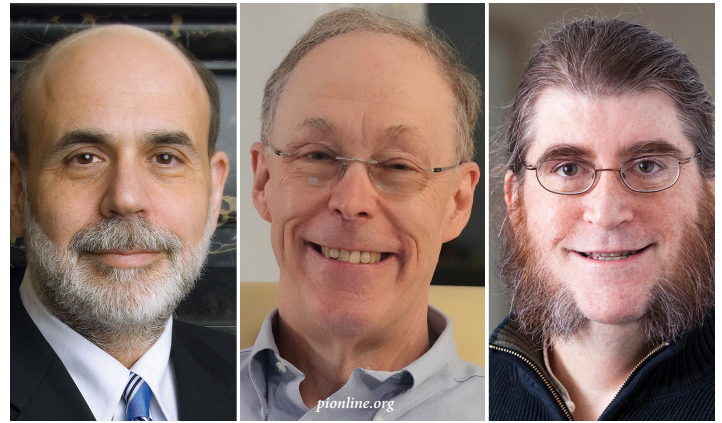
According to the Nobel Prize Committee, French author Annie Ernaux was awarded the prize in literature for her "clinical acuity" when writing about her very own life as a young woman, and making a statement to "the

Nobel Prize Winners, continued...

roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory”. Her novels such as “A Man’s Case” and “Shame” stood out with their unashamed and clear tone in which she explores women’s rights, her sensibility, and her desires.



The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Ales Bialiatski (above), Memorial, and the Center for Civil Liberties. Bialiatski is a human rights activist who initiated the democracy movement in Belarus and founded Viasna, an organization fighting the abuse of authority. Memorial is the largest human rights organization in Russia, and works to compile information on political oppression to promote a law-based government. The Center for Civil Liberties also pressured authorities to make Ukraine a democracy, and is actively working to hold groups accountable for recent war crimes.



Finally, the Nobel Prize for economic sciences went to Ben S. Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond, and Philip H. Dybvig (pictured above, left to right) for their research in banking systems and financial crises in the 1980s. Diamond and Dybvig developed a theory that banks offer easy access to money and long-term loan options, but are vulnerable if too many people withdraw money at the same time. In times such as the Great Depression, Bernanke found that people’s ability to put savings into productive investments was severely reduced. With this information, people can better avoid financial catastrophes.

All winners are incredible pioneers in their field that have gone beyond the boundaries of their areas to contribute developments to society, so be sure to check them out if one of their works interests you!



The Nobel Prize is any of six international prizes awarded annually for outstanding work in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, economics (since 1969), and the promotion of peace. The Nobel Prizes, first awarded in 1901, were established by the will of Alfred Nobel and are traditionally awarded on December 10, the anniversary of his death. (Source: Oxford English Dictionary)

Boo Bash Delivers Spooktacular Delights!

By Josie Giguere

On Thursday, October 28th, the halls of the high school bustled with hundreds of excited children and parents for the National Honor Society's fifth annual Boo Bash. This hauntingly fun community celebration offered children in pre-K through third grade a safe and interactive way to celebrate Halloween. Participating families were asked to consider donating much



These elementary-aged sisters, dressed as the Sanderson sisters from the movie Hocus Pocus enjoyed all of the activities the high school students organized for them at the 2022 Boo Bash.

needed food, toiletries, and money for two

local charities that help families in our area, Backpack for Hunger and the local community food bank. Upon arrival, families were greeted by a spooky performance by the FCAHS orchestra, led by Mrs. Mairi Cooper. They then

proceeded through the auditorium entrance where student volunteers, dressed in a variety of costumes, hosted trick-or-treating stations throughout the business hallway. At the turning point before entering the aux. gym, participants could visit the baking club's booth to purchase some scary-good treats and check out the Foxes Den to purchase new spirit gear.

In the aux gym, more than 30 different clubs hosted Halloween-themed crafts and activities, including pin the hat on the witch, feed the monster, face painting, ghost bowling, an egg hunt, and pictures with the fox. The Fearless Bible Club has participated in the Boo Bash every year since its inception. Senior club member, Eli Conklin, helped to organize a mummy wrap game. "It was great to see so many kids having fun with their families," he shared, "and



Before entering the school, guests enjoyed Halloween-themed musical selections performed by the high school orchestra students.

there were some cool costumes, too! With around 300 kids coming through the trick-or-treat line, the night was full of great interaction with the community."

National Honor Society sponsor, Mrs. Lisa Gibson shared

that she and co-sponsor, Ms. Suzanne Miller were so happy to be hosting the Boo Bash again this year. "Nearly 100 high school students volunteered," Mrs. Gibson said. This seemed to be the most well-attended Boo Bash – by families and volunteers – yet. Mrs. Miller and I are looking forward to watching it continue to grow in popularity in the years to come!"



Students help to sort and pack food donations so that they could be delivered to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Backpack for Hunger charities.

(Continued on page 24)

Boo Bash, continued...

Nearly \$1,000 in cash donations were raised and carloads of food were collected for the charities. Mrs. Rachel Machen, sponsor of the Community Outreach club helped to sort and deliver the food donations to the appropriate locations. "Donations from the Boo Bash were split between the Backpack for Hunger program and a local pantry housed at the Three Rivers American Indian Center located in Indiana Township," she said. "The Backpack for Hunger program provides children in the Fox Chapel Area School District with food bags to ensure that no child goes hungry over the weekend. The local food pantry in Indiana Township is part of the larger Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and provides food for those in the community that may be in need." To learn more about these programs, you can visit backpackforhunger.org and pittsburghfoodbank.org.

Overall, this year's Boo Bash was another great success not only for the National Honor Society but all of the groups that participated.



Hard Work Pays Off for the Marching Foxes

By Katie Haas

A few weeks ago, the marching band wrapped up their very successful season. Led by drum majors Joseph Thomas and Chloe Kim, the band competed at the Norwin 2022 PIMBA championships in a culmination of all their work throughout the season. Starting in August, the band spent hundreds of hours developing and perfecting their seven-minute show, entitled Levels. Composed of three acts and four musical numbers, Levels tested the dynamic range of the band, forcing its members to go above and beyond to give the show a "wow" factor.

This dedication ended up paying off in the long term, with the band winning the awards for music, visuals, and overall general effect in the first two scored competitions at Yough and Deer Lakes. On top of this, the band also came in first place in both performances, with scores of 77.25 and 81.2, respectively.

As the band approached the final competition of the season, an emphasis was placed on consistency. The band worked for hours on end trying to nail the choreography and sound quality, all meant to make the show more powerful and to give a final product the band could be really proud of. At the final practice before championships, the staff members told the band that they were confident in the show they were going to see as a result of the focus on minute details and memorization. "All of us felt very confident and ready to give it our all," says Marci Fraga-Ruiz, a color guard member.

The band ended up coming in third place at the 2022 championships, snagging the highest score of the season at 84.35 points. With 200+ hours of practice, ten football games, and four competitions, it's safe to say that all the work put into the season ended up making the show one of the most memorable yet. To quote trumpeter Kathleen Krebs, "We are all so proud of our performance. This entire season really has been next level."

Congratulations to the Marching Foxes!



What's to Come for Pickett?

By Trevor Katz

As the Steelers entered the 2022 offseason, one of the most difficult tasks in nearly 18 years loomed over the organization. How does this team move on without Big Ben Roethlisberger under center? There were many different solutions fans and the media proposed to solve the issue: trade for a big name quarterback on the move such as Deshaun Watson or Russell Wilson; sign a free agent quarterback, which the Steelers did with Mitch Trubisky; or draft a quarterback. Going into draft day there was a lot of debate which way the Steelers should go, should they take an offensive lineman to protect the newly signed Trubisky? Should they take a cornerback to bolster a weak corner room? Or should they draft a quarterback?

Most agreed the Steelers should draft a quarterback, but the question became, who? In a comparatively weak quarterback class, many were split between the otherworldly physical talent of Malik Willis, and the exceptional football IQ of hometown kid, Kenny Pickett. Obviously, the Steelers decided on Pickett, but how has the decision played out as the team approaches the quarter way mark of the season?

Many in the media thought the Steelers should have started Kenny Pickett from the get-go, as he was the most pro-ready quarterback and had very well-developed

mental skills. The Steelers decided to start Mitch in week one, which ended in the Steelers beating the reigning AFC champion Bengals, with absolutely stellar defensive play, but overall a lackluster offensive showing. After two straight losses, and down at half against the Jets in week four, it was officially “Kenny Time.”

Although eventually losing, Kenny threw 13 passes, and had 13 completions (although three of his passes were caught by the Jets defense as he finished with three interceptions). He shows extreme poise and patience in the pocket, not scared to use his legs, or stand in the pocket with pressure in his face. Pickett has shown his ability to read the defense and hit the open receiver. The only large knock on Pickett thus far, is his deep game. He has shown very little deep ball skills. It may be a product of the poor play calling, but there could soon be rising concern if Pickett can't let the ball fly down the field.

There is much to be hopeful about in the Steel city, but as the Steelers play through the season, the clock is ticking on a turn around. Without T.J. Watt, the defense is struggling immensely, and the Steelers are facing their first losing season since Mike Tomlin was hired as a head coach 16 seasons ago. Can Kenny Pickett turn it around?

College Debt Forgiveness

By Nia Lingam

Is College Worth the Cost?

Hint: there's no right answer. Depending on who you are and what your calling is, the answer may vary. In the midst of rising tuition fees, increasing student loan interest rates, and high housing fees, many students are questioning if a degree is even in their cards. As we enter the last quarter of 2022, 45 million Americans are about \$1.75+ trillion deep in student debt, with the average bachelor's degree recipient owing \$28,400. At the moment, future college students are looking at \$27,330 over four years at in-state public universities and \$55,800 for the same amount of time at in-state private universities. Yikes.

As of late August, in response to the national student debt crisis and the lasting financial burdens of the pandemic, Biden has developed a three-part plan to tackle three leading issues that pose threats to current and future borrowers.

Breaking it Down

Phase 1: Providing targeted debt relief.

The Department of Education is planning on providing up to \$20,000 in debt forgiveness to Pell Grant recipients. These recipients come from families with incomes of < \$60k and can contribute only \$6k yearly to their college education. In the past, Pell Grants would cover up to 80% of the cost of attendance at a four-year public in-state university, but today, they only cover 33%.

For those that do not qualify for Pell Grants but have individual incomes less than \$125,000, the Department of Education will cancel up to \$10,000 of debt. Federal student loan repayments are currently on a pause that will be extended until December 31, 2022, to safeguard against any defaults.

Phase 2: Mending the student loan system.

For current and future students, the Department of Education will half monthly undergraduate loan payments. This measure will protect those from lower tax brackets by ensuring that monthly payments don't pass 5% of a

borrower's income. The average student loan payment for current and future borrowers will be lowered by over \$1k as an effect.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which has forgiven loans for hundreds of thousands of public workers, will also receive some modifications. Those who have worked at nonprofits, in the military, or in federal, state, local, or tribal governments will be eligible to receive credit toward loan forgiveness.

Phase 3: Expanding Pell Grants and keeping College fees down

Biden pledges to double the maximum Pell Grant amount, currently around \$6,495, to make up for lost coverage as mentioned above. In addition, President Biden is also working towards making community college free.

Biden's administration also promises to hold colleges responsible for increases in fees

and make sure that borrowers receive the proper resources for which they are paying.

Best Case Scenario

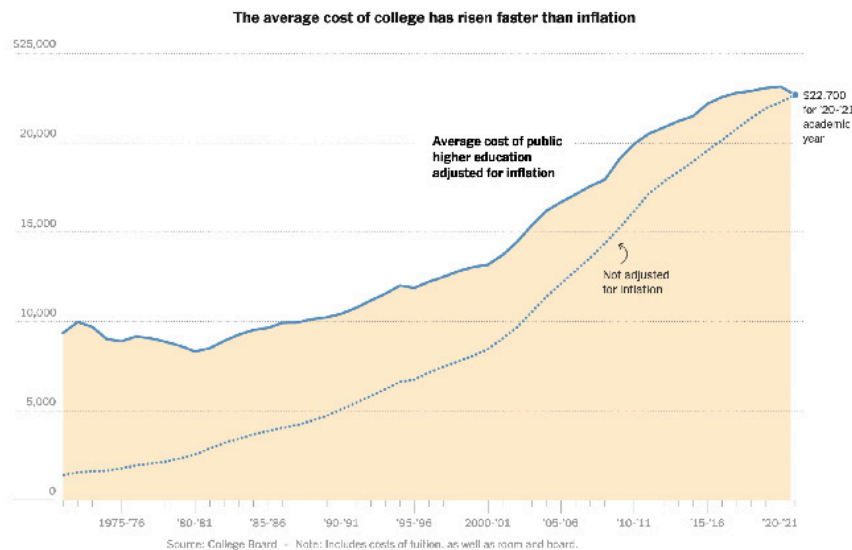
Assuming that all borrowers will fill out the loan forgiveness application and claim relief available to them, about 20 million will walk away debt-free. Additionally, many hope that debt forgiveness will give racial minorities a foothold, as student debt disproportionately affects black students.

On the other hand, Biden's plan has faced much backlash, as loan forgiveness will cost America upwards of \$400 billion. Opponents fear that taxpayers will be put in an unfair position of putting tax dollars towards this debt. Many also question how effective Biden's plan will impact the economy in the long run, and whether it will make a difference at all.

Sources:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/24/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-student-loan-relief-for-borrowers-who-need-it-most/>

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>



The amount of student debt held in America is roughly equal to the size of the economy of Brazil or Australia. More than 45 million people collectively owe \$1.6 trillion, according to U.S. government data. (nytimes.com)

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

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

TODAY'S TOPIC: 007 - A World of Espionage

I've always been interested in secret intelligence. I don't know why, but ever since I was in third grade and stumbled upon the Spy School series by Stuart Gibbs, I got addicted. I always wanted to be the gal that gets stuck in an impossible situation and somehow manages to get out of a near-death scenario, but I've resigned myself to a desk job, as I could never have the courage or athletic ability to do so. But...it would be cool to build spy gadgets that would make me superhuman (or at least super cool)!

Alex Rider Series
by Anthony Horowitz



Photo: books2door.com

It all started when fourteen-year-old Alex Rider woke up at three in the morning to the ring of the doorbell. When his housekeeper, Jack, opened the door, she was greeted by police

officers, and alex immediately knew something was wrong. Hold on. Let me backtrack for a second. Alex's parents died in an airplane crash when he was just a baby (or so he was told). He currently was staying with his uncle, Ian Rider, and his housekeeper and best friend, Jack Starbright. Ian worked at an international bank (or so he told Alex) and was often sent out of the country for various meetings. When Alex went downstairs to see what the commotion was about, he did not expect to hear that his uncle had been killed in a car crash. Shocked by the news, Alex knew something was wrong, so he decided to investigate. If your uncle never drove above the speed limit and always made you keep your seat belt on, it would certainly not make sense for him to get into a car accident due to speeding. After investigating, Alex finds out the truth – his uncle was a spy for MI6 – the British equivalent of the CIA (think James Bond). And so it begins; MI6 begins a new strategy of manipulation - using Alex to complete missions and go undercover. As Alex undergoes these missions, old enemies surface, and new enemies come into the picture – will Alex be able to handle the mental and physical actions necessary to survive? Read the series to find out!

Young Bond Series
by Charlie Higson and Steve Cole



Photo: justkidsbooks.com

Speaking of James Bond, this series takes place years before he joins MI6. You cannot imagine young Bond as Sean Connery or Daniel Craig or anyone in between,

because James Bond is still in school. As a young boy, he always spent time with his aunt and uncle, as his parents had passed away. As an Eton schoolboy, he manages to get into all sorts of fun - including befriending Pritpal, the son of an Indian maharaja, and meeting the school's bully, George Hellebore. He learns that Hellbore's father, Lord Hellebore, knew his father, Andrew Bond. During his spring break, Bond visits his aunt and uncle in Scotland. While traveling, he meets a young boy by the name of Red Kelley, who helps him stand up to George Hellebore, who, coincidentally, is riding the same train. James and Red stumble upon a years-long mastermind plan in the making. The question is, will they both make it out alive? I suggest this series because it is humorous while thrilling - the perfect book to read on a rainy day. The next couple of books in the series are just as good - James gets caught up in a major art heist (which doesn't seem that scary, but it takes a ruthless turn for the worse), a kidnapping (involving lots of threats), and a deadly chase through Mexico (involving a terrifying hungry crocodile). If you are looking for the thriller of a lifetime - check these books out!

Bringing the Heavens Closer



By Abe White

If you have looked up at the night sky recently you may have noticed a pinpoint of light that looked considerably brighter than the rest. That is Jupiter, at its absolute brightest since 1963. Two separate astronomical phenomena overlapped, making the gas giant stand out. Firstly came opposition. Jupiter reached opposition about a month ago. Opposition is when a celestial body is directly opposite the sun, relative to Earth. This is the point where it reflects the most light in its orbit. Oppositions aren't hard dates; as more days pass since the peak of opposition, the celestial object will appear to dim. This process can take months, so you have plenty of time to observe it.

Second, Jupiter was at its closest to Earth two days after its opposition. At a distance of roughly 367 million miles, Jupiter is not by any means close. But when opposition and orbital paths line up, planets become a thing to behold. Jupiter was, and at the time of writing, still is, the second brightest natural object in the sky, the moon being the first.

Jupiter is still shining bright in the night sky, so get out and take a look! If you can't find it, try downloading a planetarium app such as "Skyguide." This links the compass in your phone to a global database to help quickly identify celestial objects. Saturn is also currently visible to the naked eye. While several magnitudes dimmer than Jupiter, anyone with relatively good eyesight or a pair of binoculars can make the ringed planet out. Small telescopes can resolve detail in Saturn's rings.

The night sky is in constant flux. Constellations vary by location and season. Planets rise and set earlier or later depending on the time of year. These events are predictable with modern mathematics, so mark your calendars.

Nov. 7-8: Total Lunar Eclipse – A lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves into Earth's shadow. This happens only when the Moon, Earth, and Sun are precisely aligned. The Moon and Earth must be on the same orbital plane as the Sun for this to occur, meaning that we only see true lunar eclipses once or twice a year.

Nov. 8: Full Moon

Nov. 17/18: Leonid Meteor Shower – The peak of this meteor shower is visible on the night of the 17th and the morning of the 18th. Locations with somewhat dark skies (little light pollution) will see around 16 meteors an hour.

Dec. 8: Mars at Opposition – Mars will appear at its brightest this year around this time. Mars only reaches opposition once every two years. It will be visible to the naked eye, but even a decent set of binoculars can resolve the red color of its surface. A medium-sized telescope will reveal surface details and its polar ice caps.

Dec. 8: Full Moon

Dec. 13/14: Geminid Meteor Shower – This spectacular meteor shower reaches its peak on the night of the 13th and in the early hours of the 14th. However, it should be visible for the ten days preceding and the seven days after these dates.

Dec. 21: Winter Solstice – The shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Consequently, the longest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

Dec. 22/23: Ursid Meteors

Dec. 23: Super New Moon – The New Moon is extremely close to the Moon's perigee, or the point where it is closest to the Earth. The moon will appear brighter and closer. Happy stargazing!

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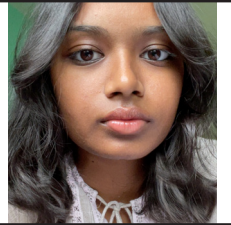
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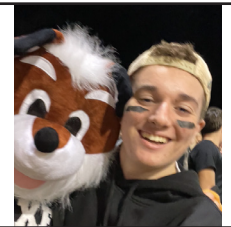
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Fox Tales

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Fox Chapel Area High School

First Quarter, 2022/2023 School Year

Fox Tales is a quarterly news publication created by the students of Fox Chapel Area High School. The mission of this publication is to showcase the many positive happenings in the Fox Chapel Area School District and surrounding community. Fox Chapel Area School District is comprised of six municipalities: Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel and Sharpsburg boroughs, and Indiana and O'Hara townships. To contribute articles, photographs, or letters, please contact the Fox Tales faculty sponsor, Lisa Gibson, at Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu or 412-967-2479. Letters should not exceed 350 words.



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