

# FOX TALES *Quarterly*

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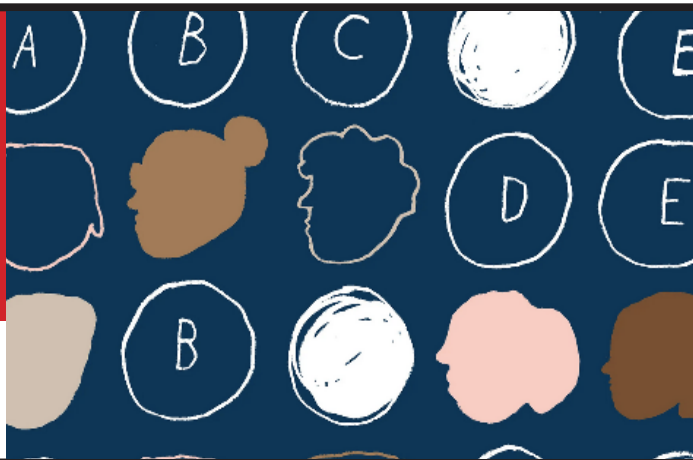
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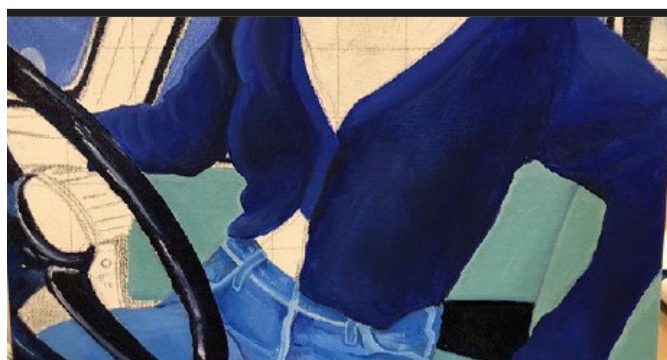
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# LOST IN YONKERS



The fall play is a long time tradition of Fox Chapel Area High School. Though usually short and sweet, the play draws-in theater students who are excited to begin the year on the right foot. This year, however, the fall play looked a little different. The actors were faced with new and intimidating challenges such as time, technology, and temperature. Due to these significant challenges, director Kristiann Jacobs and stage managers Jocelyn Morningstar and Emma Shiner had to make some unconventional changes.

One of the main challenges faced by the actors was time. Usually given up to five or six weeks to memorize and prepare, the actors were stuck with only four this year. Not only that, they had to work around technological



Sophomore Aadil Pattada portrayed the character Uncle Louie in this year's production of *Lost in Yonkers*.

barriers and struggles, seeing how rehearsing in person was not an option. They used Google Meet to memorize and learn stage directions. Instead of the auditorium space that the actors were used to, the production was performed in the Aspinwall Riverfront Park pavilion. Train noise, uncooperative wifi, uncomfortably low temperatures, and one month stood between the seven dedicated

## The Show Must Go On

Fall Play Actors Refuse to  
Let Challenges Set the Stage

By Maddie Muller

actors and a show. In the end, the production turned out to be better than anyone expected, a complete success!

*Lost In Yonkers* by Neil Simon, a play about family struggles and overcoming painful traditions, takes place in New York in the middle of World War 2. Two sons, nine-year-old Arty (played by freshman, Ben Werner), and fourteen-year-old Jay (played by senior, Xavier Perry), are forced to live with their cold and distant grandmother (played by junior, Maddie Muller) and scatterbrained Aunt Bella (played by junior, Gabby Bell) because Eddie (played by senior, Nathaniel Hines), the father of Jay and Arty, has to travel

for ten months to work off a debt. The transition to a completely new household devoid of love started off as very hard on the boys and



Left to right: Xavier Perry (Jay), Gabby Bell (Aunt Bella), and Ben Werner (Arty).

they were forced to work for their grandmother. They found no support from either their Aunt Bella or the rest of their family: Uncle Louie (played by sophomore, Aadil Pattada) and Aunt Gertrude (played by freshman, Emily Harajda). They struggled to keep their spirits up during the difficult stay and in the end they found a way to survive in the new circumstances until they could meet up with their dad at last. Though mainly a very serious play, comedy throughout a tough situation makes this a relatable storyline.

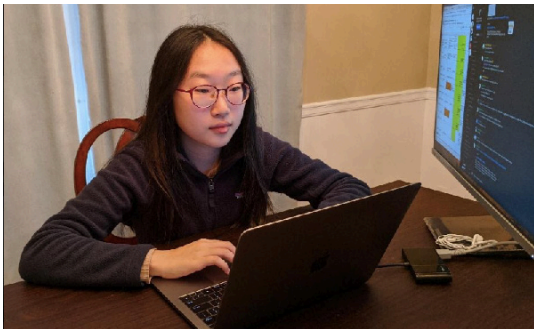
If you were not able to see the play, you missed a wonderful chance to see both the characters and actors work through a series of challenges to get a wonderful end result. However, the challenges were evident and the wind added to the drafty building made hearing extremely difficult. The 30 degree weather was less than pleasant to watch a play in, but nevertheless, the show was exceptional given the circumstances and the actors obviously put their best feet forward. Congratulations to every actor, stage manager, director, and backstage helper!



# FCHacks: Bringing Students Around the World Together



*Sanjay Seshan, Lead Organizer*



*Janise Kim, Co-Organizer*



*Arvind Seshan, Co-Organizer*

On November 13-14, three students ran our school's first ever virtual global hackathon called FCHacks. The student organizers of the 2020 Virtual FCHacks were successful in meeting and exceeding the levels of rigor and engagement delivered in past hackathons. Senior, Sanjay Seshan, served as the lead organizer, supported by co-organizers sophomore, Arvind Seshan, and junior, Janise Kim. The students had support from their science teacher, Mr. Pete Shiner, and Lead Principal, Dr. Michael Hower. The team planned for months to facilitate the event in a virtual platform due to COVID-19 so that participants could compete remotely this year. They even extended the event to students outside the Western Pennsylvania region. They created the website and submission system, coordinated all the volunteers, worked to get funding for the event, and ran the livestream event. In the end, 110 students from 32 schools in 11 countries registered and participated in the 24-hour event.

A hackathon is a competition during which students design, build, and bring to life various projects using technology and code. Unlike previous years, this year organizers decided to present the students with a particular theme, "Hacking Healthcare". During the course of the day, students teamed up to create solutions related to solving problems in healthcare. Teams developed apps, built websites, created robotic inventions, and made physical prototypes – all of which aimed to solve a real-world problem of their choice.

Virtual FCHacks also featured a number of guest speakers and workshop hosts from Emerald Innovations, Microsoft and Carnegie Mellon University. These sessions were designed to inspire and educate students, both beginner and advanced alike. Mentors and judges from Carnegie Mellon University, Apple, Google, Princeton University, PPG, and Uber were available during the event to guide the students and evaluate their projects. The event brought together 22 volunteers from all over the United States. Volunteers were impressed with the quality and organization of the event. A professor from Carnegie Mellon who ran a workshop at FCHacks wrote, "It was a privilege to be a part of the event. FCHacks was a resounding success."

Several teams tackled COVID-19 related problems. For example, Red Team, made up of students from FCAHS, created a web application to improve social health. Their web application allows people to meet online and have conversations in tailor-made groups. Other teams created apps to calculate BMI, track eating habits, or provide exercise recommendations for patients. The top project, created by a team from North Allegheny Senior High School, was designed to help autistic and schizophrenia patients recognize emotions in messages sent to them. The variety of problems and solutions tackled in just 24 hours was impressive. Together, all of the students had fun and "hacked healthcare". Prizes totalling almost \$1000 were awarded to the top five teams for their innovative solutions. The top awards went to four teams from the Pittsburgh region and one in Greece.

Overall, Virtual FCHacks created a sense of community during a stressful time period for our students. The three student organizers had to innovate themselves to convert an event that is usually in-person into an all virtual one. One participant wrote: "Thank you so much for giving me and hundreds of other kids an opportunity to be a coder for a weekend. COVID-19 has affected us all, but this virtual hackathon made me feel like we are all in the same room together."

This event was such a success, that the FCHacks organizers plan to run a Junior Virtual Hackathon for grades 2-6 in the Spring. Stay tuned for more information on how to sign up.



# Managing Peer Pressure

By Beata Turnquist

Certainly most teenagers have been asked by the older generation, “If your friend jumped off a bridge, would you jump, too?” What does this really mean? When does this apply? To summarize, this phrase basically means, if someone that you liked or enjoyed being around was doing something, would you do it as well simply because you liked them? Whether that “friend” is choosing to cheat on a test or take some sort of drug, it is your choice to make those decisions for yourself. Even if you feel as though cheating or drinking will make you seem cooler or help you raise your grade, it is smart to evaluate your choices before you take that jump, per se. It is also important to understand how the choice that you pick will actually make you feel and what effects it may have on your future. In the end, all of this “bridge jumping” and choice making boils down to peer pressure.

Peer pressure is quite prevalent during a teenager’s life and it makes an even greater instigator in a high school setting. In high school, it can feel as if you’re just one small star in a giant solar system and it can be pretty daunting and overwhelming. Some teens just want to blend in and others may want to stand out; but no one wants to be given some sort of negative label or image just because of their choices to not do something or act a different way. In today’s society, there

is a great deal of anxiety about swimming against the stream or marching to the beat of your own drum. A majority of teenagers believe that the best way to fit in is to either blend in to the background or adhere to the social rules that the “leaders” have set. As a result of this desire to conform, students may make dangerous choices or certain decisions that stray from their personal values. These can include underage drinking, sneaking out, experimenting with drugs, or vandalizing property. Now we all know that peer pressure can be dangerous, and it definitely exists in large social environments like school and friend groups, but how can we identify it and then avoid giving in to it?

This starts by identifying what type of peer pressure is occurring in the scenario, and there’s a multitude of ways that these types can interfere with the lives of teenagers. The first, and easiest to identify, is spoken peer pressure.

Spoken peer pressure is when a teenager asks, suggests, or persuades another to engage in a specific behavior. This

can be quite dangerous and manipulating if the influencer is speaking to a large group of people. This creates a greater amount of pressure for the recipient to go along with the instigator and the rest of the group. In order to break free from this type of peer pressure, attempt to move this type of conversation to a one-on-one environment.



*Some teens just want to blend in and others may want to stand out; but no one wants to be given some sort of negative label or image just because of their choices to not do something or act a different way.*

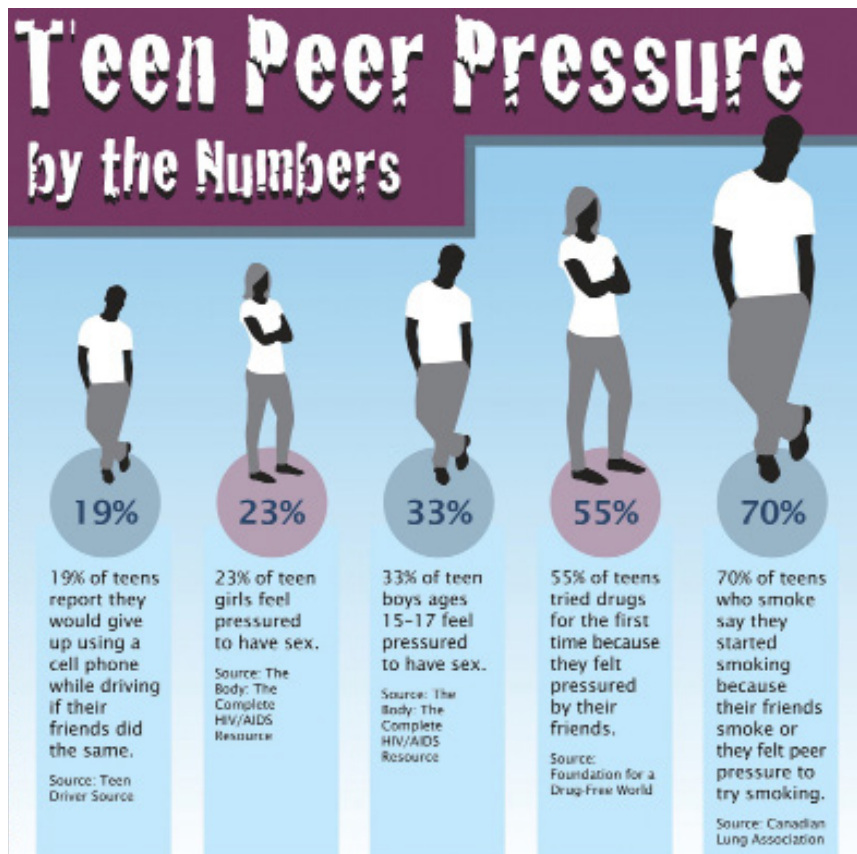


This usually makes it much easier for the recipient to adhere to their core beliefs and not succumb to peer pressure.

Next, unspoken peer pressure occurs due to the fact that many young people lack the mental maturity to control impulses and make wise long-term decisions. That being said, unspoken peer pressure occurs when a teenager is exposed to a certain action that is being performed by a group and is left on their own to evaluate the choice and then decide whether or not they would like to follow along. In order

to avoid falling into this trap, one should identify their future goals and values. This way, when forced to make a rash decision in order to follow along with the crowd, the recipient can reiterate their core beliefs and then make the right choice for themselves.

Direct peer pressure is one of the most dangerous types of peer pressure and keeping yourself from giving in requires a large amount of self control. Direct peer pressure is mostly behavioral and may take place as some sort of sexual advance or literal choice, such as giving someone an open can of beer. In this situation, the teen is put in a position where they must make an on-the-spot decision as they are being tempted or violated. In order to remove yourself from this type of peer pressure, it's best to surround yourself with friends who share the same values as you or understand your choices or actions. By choosing friends who do not drink or who abide by the law, it is more unlikely that they will attempt to pressure you to make bad choices alongside them. Now, take a second and think... have these situations in which peer pressure is used to force



someone to make a certain decision occurred in your life recently?

If the answer to this question is yes, then it is important to follow the examples of how to remove yourself from these situations. First, it is crucial that you identify your own personal values and beliefs. Personally, I know that I want to perform well in school in order to attend a good college and pursue my career and family goals. These goals of mine can not be achieved if I were to start doing drugs or vandalizing private property. I know that if I were to cave into

peer pressure and then make these choices, I would most likely scar my future. This mantra keeps me on the right track and allows me to make my own decisions even when those around me are choosing a different path. Another way to avoid peer pressure is to avoid situations or people that would actually pressure you. For example, I have a great group of friends that all believe in similar values and ideals. This means that I never feel pressured to make rash decisions when I am with them, and I can hang out with them and know that I will never feel pressure to make any sort of undesirable choice. By choosing a good group of trustworthy friends, I avoid putting myself in situations where peer pressure may be prevalent. Peer pressure is dangerous even if it may seem to be a minor inconvenience at the moment. Choices you make now may impact your future, either positively or negatively. If you are still confused by the concept of peer pressure or feel as though you are being pressured and are unsure how to handle it, please feel free to contact the guidance department. They would be eager to sit down with you and help.

### Strategies to Handle Peer Pressure: The Short List

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Confidently walk away                           | Look for positive peers    |
| Develop strong decision-making skills           | Set limits and say no      |
| Consider the consequences                       | Regularly ask questions    |
| Use strategies like blaming parents             | Speak with a trusted adult |
| Remind yourself that it is OK to make mistakes! |                            |





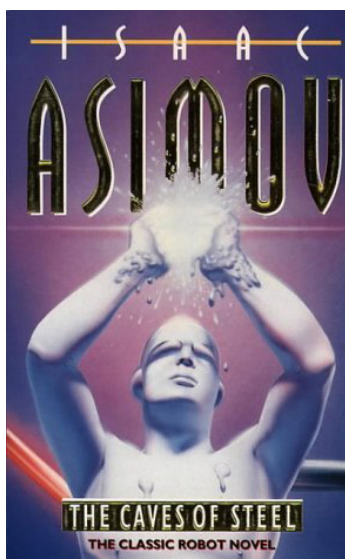
# A Little Literature

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

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

## The Past, the Present, and the Future Meet - NOW! The Robot Series by Isaac Asimov

Okay, okay. I know you probably hear the name Asimov and think, “Nah, that’s for adults” or “No thanks - I don’t want to read a dusty paperback.” I can relate. I have been in this exact situation multiple times, and I can assure you, once you get started, you will not be able to put these books down! This futuristic series from the last century dives into the inner workings of humans that we can relate to now! Most people think that this stuff is boring or that machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the three laws of robotics are what robots are all about. Not in this series - they are murder mysteries.

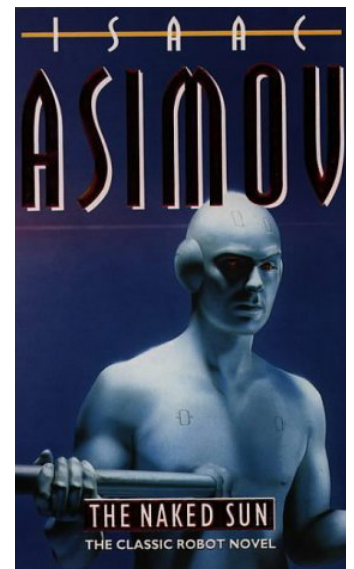


The first book, *The Caves of Steel*, follows detective Elijah Bailey, a human, who like others from Earth, is afraid of open space. You may pass this off as agoraphobia or the fear of open spaces, but that is not the entire story. Humanity now lives in caves of metal, more specifically, steel. They do not roam “outside” unless by plane, the very thought of which makes them sick. Today some of us are sick because we cannot get out as much. As readers follow Detective Bailey, they meet a new class of people called the Spacers, who think themselves to be superior to humans

on Earth. Bailey is tasked with solving the murder of one of the top Spacer scientists of the era. How would someone be able to kill a Spacer without a weapon, no motive, and under the constant surveillance of robots?

Not only that, in the sequel to *The Caves of Steel*, *The Naked Sun*, Asimov explores a world much like what we are experiencing today. The only differences? There is no pandemic, and people are quarantining - actually avoiding human contact because they are repulsed at even the sight of other people. Instead, they “view” each other through a holographic video call instead of meeting face to face. These people are assigned a suitable partner and spend 99% of their time away from their spouses. Furthermore, these couples create new life the traditional way but promptly send the babies to a ‘farm’ of sorts, where the children are raised and nurtured.

This series helps us to imagine how things may turn out, not unlike our present-day situations, with AI, robots, quarantines, Zoom calls, political tensions, while also adding rich imagination because of the narrative.







By Katie Voigt

Tired of cooking in? If you're in need of new local restaurants that offer take out, you are in the right place. In 2019, Pittsburgh was dubbed Food City The restaurant scene in this city is one of the best in the country and deserves praise and recognition. However, due to the pandemic, many local spots have been forced to restrict the number of customers that can dine indoors. Outside seating accommodations and take out options have been made available in most restaurants so that owners can continue to make ends meet. The best thing we can do is give ourselves a break from the cooking and support a local entrepreneur during these times.

### Chicken & Waffles



[thecooppgh.com](http://thecooppgh.com)

In the mood for a unique twist on breakfast? The Coop Chicken & Waffles located on the North Side is the perfect take out option. Food options include fried chicken tenders, wings, drumsticks paired with sweet and savory waffles. This unusual

combination provides

customers with a perfect sweet and salty balance. In addition to offering takeout, this restaurant also has a food truck that makes appearances around the city.

### Farmer x Baker

Another spot that offers breakfast and lunch options is Farmer x Baker located in Aspinwall's Riverfront Park, overlooking the Allegheny River. Farmer x Baker offers takeout food options only and is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. With the restaurant's diverse menu, Farmer x Baker is the perfect spot to grab a quick bite while exploring the park.



[rootandheartfarm.com](http://rootandheartfarm.com)

### 2 Sisters 2 Sons



[facebook.com/2sisters2sons/](https://facebook.com/2sisters2sons/)

Just a few minutes away from the Riverfront Park, a newly opened spot called 2 Sisters 2 Sons located in Sharpsburg has been a huge hit. Offering take out and delivery options, this restaurant serves classic Caribbean cuisine. Dishes such as goat curry, fried plantains, and jerk chicken are perfect for a comfort meal. 2 Sisters 2 Sons are available to order online by calling or customers can order through companies such as DoorDash, GrubHub, and UberEats.

### Spice Affair



[spiceaffairpgh.com](http://spiceaffairpgh.com)

Another relatively new local restaurant located in Aspinwall is Spice Affair. Spice Affair serves authentic Indian cuisine and offers plenty of vegetarian, chicken, and seafood options from which to choose. This spot offers take out, delivery, and

catering serves. My favorite dish from Spice Affair is the vegetarian Mattar Paneer.

### Millie's Homemade Ice Cream

Craving a sweet treat? Millie's Homemade Ice Cream in Shadyside offers a variety of homemade ice cream flavors that can be paired with their homemade crunchy waffle cones. There is a flavor at Millie's for everyone:

Walnut and apple butter, rhubarb cobbler, strawberry, rainbow cookie, and the best chocolate to name a few. Millie's also offers their gourmet ice cream in pints at local grocery stores such as Giant Eagle and provides delivery services through Postmates.

With so many tasty options just waiting to be ordered, what are you waiting for? Put the spatula away and pick up the phone!



[millieshomemade.com](http://millieshomemade.com)

# Leading the Scene to Keep it Green



## FC's Initiatives Towards Environmental Sustainability

Photo: ecomaniac.org

By Abby Rickin-Marks

When looking at the schools in our districts, one might think of our stellar academics, magnificent music department, and astonishing sport teams and other extracurriculars. Yet one aspect that is often overlooked is our school's emphasis on sustainability. After all, thousands of individuals, students and faculty alike, spend hours in these buildings. So what do our schools do to promote sustainability?

Mr. Daniel Breitreutz, the director of ancillary services. His key responsibilities include overseeing the facilities which include all maintenance workers, custodial staff, and district drivers. He is responsible for all forms of transportation in the district as well as the food service department. When looking at his roles and responsibilities in regard to sustainability, Mr. Breitreutz focuses solely on the infrastructure side, including the building itself as well as the components that the school purchases.

In terms of food purchases, the school is starting to move away from styrofoam trays toward compostable trays and recyclable materials. Recycling efforts are made in the cafeteria when it comes to metal cans and cardboard. The milk and produce are purchased locally, not only to keep tax dollars local, but also to reduce the negative effect transportation has on the environment.

From a building standpoint, Mr. Breitreutz recognizes that many students overlook the simple mechanical aspects. During renovations, the school ensures that proper insulation around the envelope of the building is in place in order to make the building more energy efficient; much energy is lost as it goes through windows and doors. Fox

Chapel Area School District has also replaced some of the insulation on the roof as building codes changed. In addition to insulation around the building, the mechanical system to heat and cool the building has been updated to use variable frequency drives rather than running continuously, which wastes much more energy. The entire district is controlled from one computer, thus there can be one standard temperature for heating and cooling. In the past few years, the building has been kept colder in the winter and warmer in the summer to use less energy.

When lighting is updated, LEDs always replace the old lights. Currently, the high school is in the process of replacing all of the current lights with LEDs. Occupancy sensors have also been placed around the building so lights will only use energy when people are in the room. The district also powers down the building for an hour or so on really cold and really hot days as these are days when there is a tremendous demand on the electric grid. Turning off the district power can help prevent rolling blackouts from New York City to Washington, D.C. to Cleveland.

In the bathrooms, low flow fixtures are used across the board from toilets to faucets. Electronic sensors have also been added to faucets so if someone walks away and leaves the water running, it will turn off relatively quickly.

When it comes to recycling, the district has a single stream, meaning that anything that is recyclable (with the exception of glass) can be thrown into one container. Additionally, yard waste is recycled.

Aside from a building standpoint, what can students do to promote sustainability? According to AP Environmental



Science teacher, Mr. Greg Schubert, taking environmental science can help students understand what is causing the problems for the planets that we, as students, will inherit from earlier generations. As a student, you have the power to talk to faculty in order to maximize the amount of solar energy that the district collects as well as planting more trees on district property to capture carbon. Further, students need to fight for the creation of rain gardens and bioswales to manage water runoff and minimize downstream flooding.



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*Taking environmental science can help students understand what is causing the problems for the planets that we, as students, will inherit from earlier generations.*

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What do seniors Ravi Hughes and Emily Li, co-presidents of the environmental club, have to say? According to Ravi, the conversation on climate change has been flipped to place responsibility on the individual when, in reality, it should be placed on government and industry. Ways to keep government and industry accountable include signing petitions, calling your elected officials, and putting pressure on public officials and industries. However, individual improvements like composting, eating less meat, and reducing consumption of goods are great stepping stones. Similarly, Emily believes that students should start small. Education is the first step: read articles, watch videos, and follow environmentally friendly influencers. From there, buy a reusable water bottle and invest in reusable masks. If possible, try to sustain a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle as much as possible as well as a zero-waste lifestyle.

Together, as both a building and individuals within the building, we can make Fox Chapel a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place!

## Did you know...

-  ***Pittsburgh is targeting emissions from buildings in its effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.***
-  ***Buildings create 81% of Pittsburgh's greenhouse gas emissions as the majority of Pittsburgh homes were built before 1960, before energy efficiency standards were in place.***
-  ***The largest contributor to transportation related emissions in the city are trips taken in single-occupancy cars.***
-  ***Pittsburgh's goal is to actively plant 780,000 more trees by 2030, which would increase tree cover from about 40% to 60%.***
-  ***The total amount of toxic chemical releases from facilities in Pittsburgh has decreased every year but two since 2003.***
-  ***In Pittsburgh, more than 8 in 10 residents hold citizens like themselves responsible for solving environmental problems, yet fewer than 1 in 5 are active in the environmental movement.***

Southwestern Pennsylvania Sustainability  
Goals & Indicators Report (2016)

## Resources...

**Conservation of PA's Natural Resources**  
**[dcnr.pa.gov](http://dcnr.pa.gov)**

**Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection**  
**[dep.pa.gov](http://dep.pa.gov)**

**Pennsylvania Environmental Council**  
**[pecpa.org](http://pecpa.org)**

**Pennsylvania Resources Council**  
**[prc.org](http://prc.org)**

# Global Statements Through Art

By Allison Carey

Being a student of photography for the past three years and an environmentalist for over a decade, the Industrial Scars collection of photographer J Henry Fair speaks to me. Tremendous thought was put into each composition, all of which are amazingly balanced, moving the eye throughout the entire photo with carefully placed lines. Fair is a master of color theory, implementing techniques ranging from monochromatic to analogous to complimentary. The use of a bird's eye view creates a sense of unity in the collection even though the color scheme of each individual photo is strikingly different.

While Fair's expertise in the elements of photography is quite impressive, his ability to make a statement on a global issue through art is what I most revere. At first glance, the abstract shapes and colors of Industrial Scars look as though they have been painted on a canvas. In reality, the photos are aerial views of man-made wastes and ruins. Through

this common interpretation, Fair ingeniously makes a subtle comparison to our consumerist society. The initial beauty represents preliminary thoughts towards industrial advancements. The promise of faster production of goods overshadows any negative consequences. Not until we have damaged our planet to the point of no return do we feel remorse.

I am sickened by the way humans destroy nature without a care for the effect on other organisms and the land itself. Luscious forests and majestic bodies of water are exhausted until deemed no longer useful, then abandoned to become dumps and toxic waste sites. Not only is it devastating to see our stunning world go to ruin; it is unsustainable to continue this way. We need to restrict damage and utilize renewable, green energy sources before it is too late.



*Arsenic And Water – Coal Ash Waste at Electricity Generation Plant – Canadys, South Carolina, USA*

*When coal-fired power plant ash is improperly disposed, contaminants including arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium and others can migrate into groundwater, lakes and streams. This plant was cited by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 2011 as a “proven case” of environmental damage. It is known to have contaminated groundwater with arsenic and is one of the largest emitters of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the U.S. (jhenryfair.com)*



# REFLECTIONS OF A QUARANTEEN



By Calla Truschel Jacobs

Like most of the student body, I was thrilled on March 13 2020 when it was announced that school was canceled for a couple days. I thought about how nice it would be to have a break and get to watch some of my favorite TV shows and hangout with my friends. Now, sitting here writing this with March of 2021 approaching rapidly, I almost want to laugh. Many had looked forward to the two-week vacation, however we quickly learned the situation was much more dire and complicated than first expected. In a way, quarantine led me to some unintentional reevaluations of my life. Looking back I realize that only the things, people and activities that were most important to me stayed with me, leading to me to rethink what I truly valued in my life.

Back in March of 2020, I feared for my future and wondered if we would be in quarantine for a year or more, dreading being locked away in my house for that long. I felt that the famed high school experience that I had anticipated for years was being snatched away from me. I was supposed to be hanging out with my friends, waking up early to go to races, participating in clubs and rehearsing my lines for the spring play. Instead, I spent the days in my house whittling away the hours and hoping that things would return to normal before summer.

I noticed the effects drastically in some places more than others. I observed the strain it put on my parents, (mostly because my brother and I make an incredibly annoying duo) but also because they were feeling the vibrations of the pandemic in their jobs. My mom is a business owner and she felt an intensified fight as she struggled to keep her employees organized. My stepmother is part of a large banking corporation, and she felt the recession ripple throughout her job in a way that only banks feel during times of financial crisis. I saw pain in the loss of final spring seasons and shows in my senior friends who had worked tirelessly for what was supposed to be the best year of high school only to be shut at home with little to no social life.

However, what this pandemic taught me was that what is truly important will always come back to you. I kept in touch with my closest friends over quarantine and even managed to make new ones through social media. My sport is making a slow recovery into what it once was and I am able to practice with some of my teammates. I have been able to join clubs and participate in various extracurriculars that give me a renewed sense of purpose and connection with my peers and community.

Under a common cause, the shared suffering of Pittsburgh has intensified our sense of togetherness down to each single person. There is an old Irish proverb about unity and it says "In our togetherness, castles are built." I applaud the selflessness of the Fox Chapel student body, whether it be freshman who lost out on part of their first year in high school or seniors that lost out on their last year. Your dedication to the overall health of the community has shown unity and quiet strength unlike any previous experience demonstrated by students at Fox Chapel. I must also give immense amounts of praise to the faculty for the adjustment of their schedules to help the students succeed in these unprecedented and unpredictable times. Your commitment to the success of your pupils is inspiring and you truly lead the way and pave the path towards the overall success of the community.

Throughout these strange times, we have hopefully all learned immensely about ourselves and the people in our lives. The pandemic has caused immense waves of suffering, and I am grateful to everyone who put the good of the community above personal enjoyment during the worst parts of this international crisis. Similarly, I am thankful for everything this experience has taught me and I go into our strange new world with a sense of hope for our future and gratefulness for all the experiences I once took for granted. I wish health and happiness to all and hope everyone stays safe and connected as we progress through these difficult times. As the wise Albert Einstein once said, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow."

# Former Grads Place in Mapping Competition

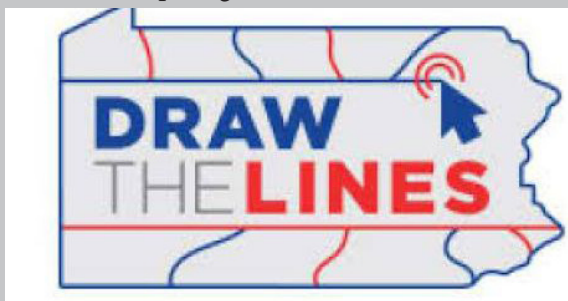
Three Fox Chapel Area High School 2020 graduates placed in the Draw the Lines PA legislative redistricting map competition. Jacob Rendall won first place in the Regional – Congressional Youth West division and was named the runner-up in the Statewide – Congressional Youth division. Honorable mentions went to Julia Cody and Sina Shaikh in the Regional – Congressional Youth West division. The entries were submitted in the spring of 2020 when the students were seniors at Fox Chapel Area High School.

Draw the Lines PA is a civic education and engagement initiative sponsored by the Committee of Seventy, a nonprofit good government group based in Pennsylvania. The group provides teaching resources, digital tools, and data so that anyone can draw their own election maps.

According to David Thornburgh, the president and CEO of the Committee of Seventy, “The winning maps were extraordinary and prove ... young Pennsylvanians want to be engaged in our political system.”

A total of 1,234 entries were received from high school and college students, as well as everyday citizens, throughout the four rounds of the contest which was open to adults, college students, and youth from across the state in their regions. The competition is the largest grassroots election mapping initiative in the nation’s history.

Interested students can enter the 2021 Draw the Lines PA competition by visiting [drawthelinespa.org](http://drawthelinespa.org).



# Eagle Scout Project Makes Aquinas Academy Safer



David Whitmer of O’Hara Township earned Boy Scouting’s highest rank when he successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review in September. The son of David and Allyson Whitmer, David led a team of youth and adult volunteers in constructing a large retaining wall at Aquinas Academy in Hampton. The new, updated wall replaced an old, decaying wall that posed a danger of collapse. The project involved moving several tons of material by hand in the summer heat.

A junior at Fox Chapel Area High school, Whitmer hopes to continue his passion for Robotics. As the leader in his school Robotics team, he would like to hold the same position at the college level where he hopes to study electrical engineering. His leadership skills displayed throughout his Scouting career will help him to that end.

Getting a young person involved in Scouting is as simple as logging on to [beascout.scouting.org](http://beascout.scouting.org)

## Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in Scouts BSA

- In 2019, 61,366 Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank.
- From 1912 to 2019, 2,598,999 Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank.
- In 2019, 8% percent of all Scouts BSA earned the Eagle Scout rank.
- In 2019, the average age of youth earning the Eagle Scout rank was 17.3 years of age.

[www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

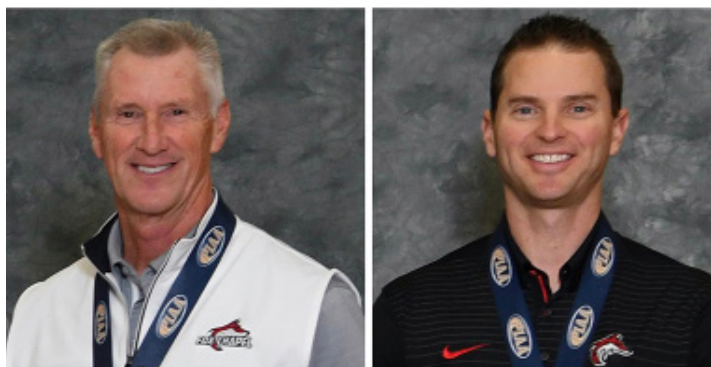


# PIAA Coaches of the Year Right Here

By Russell Fenton

On October 21, the PIAA announced the National Federation of High Schools 2019-2020 state coaches of the year. Among them were Fox Chapel girls tennis coach Alex Slezak and golf coach Bryan Deal.

During the 2019 season, Coach Deal guided the Fox Chapel boys golf team to an 8-0-1 regular season match record. In the postseason, Deal led the team to both WPIAL and PIAA championship victories. Additionally, the team collectively participated in the National High School Golf Association National Invitational at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina this summer and placed fourth out of 27 teams from across the country. Deal has coached the team for nine seasons, winning six section championships, and



Boys golf coach Bryan Deal (left) and girls tennis coach Alex Slezak (right).  
Photo courtesy of FCASD Athletics.

has had three golfers achieve WPIAL individual titles during his tenure.

Coach Slezak helped the girls tennis team achieve an equally impressive level of success. Under his leadership in 2019, the team went 14-1 in the regular season and rode a 9-0 section record to a section title. Upon reaching the playoffs, the team

achieved a clean sweep, winning both the WPIAL and PIAA title. Slezak has coached the girls' tennis team for 11 years. His teams have won six section titles, and have reached five WPIAL and PIAA championships.

Coach Slezak and Coach Deal have continued to build on their past success, with both steering their respective teams to winning records in the 2020 season.

## Staying Social While Social Distancing

By Ann Yonas

From the beginning of 2020, the Coronavirus has overcome people all over the world. People's day-to-day lives have been flipped upside down: working from home, schooling from home, etc. With all of these changes, it is very hard to continue being social while also being safe. Especially coming out of quarantine, people have been eager to get back to hanging out with their friends, but it is important to do so safely. Here are some ideas:

**1. Have a picnic.** Before the pandemic, I always wanted to have picnics. It is so fun to be outside with your friends and/or family and to get to eat. Picnics are more relevant now more than ever, as they are a way to be socially distanced, outside, with your friends, and the best part of all is eating!

**2. Watch an outdoor movie.** This is probably what my friends and I have been doing the most. If you have a projector or just a television that you can move outside, this is a fun way to be with your friends, watch a good movie, and still take the right precautionary measures for the pandemic.

**3. Go on walks.** I know, I know – this is the epitome of quarantine activities, but it really is a great way to get to hang out with people while being safe. You get some good

exercise in and can catch up with your friends. It's also a great way to take care of all of the quarantine pups people have been getting.

**4. Set up video calls.** Another far-from-original idea, but one that has true merit, is video calls. Maybe you have grandparents who are unable to venture outdoors, or friends far away that you can't visit. Video conferencing is

a great way to stay connected and get to talk to people, while being as safe as possible.

**5. Learn a new skill or hobby.** Now I know that learning isn't always what you want to do with your free time, but taking a break from school learning and getting into something you're truly interested in can be a real life-saver, especially if you do it with your friends. Make a plan with some friends to learn something new (a language, an

instrument, maybe even some Bob Ross painting tutorials!) and compare your progress!

Now more than ever it is so important to keep doing things you enjoy, especially while hanging out with friends. However, you need to make sure you do it safely! The bottom line: get creative and continue social distancing, wearing masks, and washing your hands!



# Picture Me 'Ballin'

Taking it to the Court with Baldauf and Schwartzman



By Russell Fenton

The Fox Chapel girls basketball team is looking to make back-to-back playoff appearances this season, and senior Ellie Schwartzman will be key to doing so. Last season, the team found success despite having to compete in a difficult section, finishing with a 13-10 regular-season record and a playoff appearance. Two senior starters have since graduated, leaving Schwartzman prime to make up for these losses. Schwartzman averaged 12 points per game last season and led the Lady Foxes in rebounds. Last season, Schwartzman earned all-section honors, as well as a first-team all-star nod from the Valley News



Dispatch. Schwartzman, a 5'11" forward, often towers over the competition but finds her success as a result of her deft skills near the hoop. She scores especially well from short and mid-range, but can also shoot three-pointers when needed. She is also a gifted passer, often setting up her teammates with assists. This versatility makes her a matchup nightmare and makes her nearly impossible to stop. Ellie's skills can help bring the Lady Foxes another winning season, and possibly a deep playoff run.

The Fox Chapel boys' basketball team had a historic 2019-20 season, achieving an impressive 22-1 regular-season record



and a section title, but four senior starters from that team have graduated, leaving a major void on both ends of the court. Senior Kent Baldauf, a returning top scorer from last year's team, appears ready to have a breakout season.

Baldauf is in his fourth season of varsity basketball for the Foxes. He saw some playing time during his freshman and sophomore seasons but saw an increased role last season, starting in many of the team's games. He averaged around seven points per game, which notched him as the third leading scorer on last year's team. What makes Baldauf stand out on the court, however, is his outstanding three-point shooting ability. Baldauf's strength from beyond the arc puts him among the best in the entire WPIAL and commands respect from opponents, who are often forced to guard him with their best defender.

Baldauf is poised to have a strong individual season, and if he does, the team's success should follow.



# Leading the Way

Each spring, 10,000 high school sophomores from across the country join one of HOBY's 70 State Leadership Seminars to hone their leadership talents and apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace, and community. HOBY's mission is "to inspire and develop the global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. For more than five decades, HOBY has inspired young people to make a difference and become catalysts for positive change in their home, school, workplace, and community. As America's foremost youth leadership organization, HOBY has a long history of successfully motivating young people to develop into outstanding leaders."

The Fox Chapel Area High School QUEST (Quality Enrichment Studies) department hosts a contest for sophomores to win a full scholarship to attend the leadership conference. Many students entered this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership contest, and the QUEST department was able to sponsor seven student ambassadors. Congratulations to Aisling Beresford, Zoe Broyles, Leah Kenyon, Mia Lynch, Laci Toomey, Lindsay Scheffler, and Prajval Sreenivas, who will proudly represent the district at the leadership conference in June!



## Hometown High-Q



Three Fox Chapel Area High School students recently won their round-one competition on KDKA-TV's "Hometown High Q." The team members were seniors Amulya Garimella and Jackson Romero, and sophomore Elijah Conklin. The team competed against students from Upper St. Clair and Valley high schools. The Fox Chapel Area High School "Hometown High Q" sponsor is gifted education teacher Lisa Gibson.

"Hometown High Q" is a Saturday-morning high school academic quiz show presented by KDKA-TV in partnership with Williams, an American energy company. It is open to students from the entire KDKA-TV viewing area (Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia, and Northern Maryland) who compete in teams of three for academic grants and recognition. This year's competition is being held virtually and is hosted by KDKA meteorologist Ray Petelin.

The episode can be found on KDKA-TV's website at <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/hometown-high-q/>, click on "CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE SHOWS," and find the 10/24 episode in four parts. Hometown High Q also airs on KDKA-TV on Saturdays at 11 a.m.



**I look like a cardiologist!**

conducted of transcripts, test scores, and three essays. They will attend four virtual sessions this month and have four meetings with a paired young physician mentor. At the program's conclusion, they will be given a letter of reference for to use for summer programs, internships, or college applications. We are so excited that they decided to apply and were accepted!

Congratulations to Mona Gerges, Nia Lingam, Prajval Sreenivas and Gloria Wen, who were accepted to the 2021 I Look Like a Cardiologist program that is run by the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute. Admission was competitive with over 120 applications for 50 spots, and students were selected after a review of their application that

# Why the SAT is Classist



By Calla Trushel Jacobs

The dreaded SAT and PSAT are something most students in the United States have to face at some point in their high school career. Every year, new batches of students study fervently in hopes of being able to qualify for scholarships and score high enough to get into their preferred colleges. The SAT's numerical score is intended to provide colleges a better understanding of a student's academic potential, but are they truly fair predictors of aptitude?

The SAT was invented in 1926 as an aptitude test (an examination that attempts to determine and measure a person's ability to acquire, through future training, some specific set of skills) and in recent years it has turned into the make or break point for getting accepted into a certain college. Even if one has a relatively high GPA, if their SAT scores are below average, they have a smaller chance of acceptance into higher education at some of the more prestigious universities across the country.

The SAT's classist undertones have been drawn into the spotlight as its scores began to hold more importance, therefore presenting some major flaws. For starters, students whose parents/caretakers generate a higher income

level have more access to educational resources such as tutors, courses, and expensive workbooks that lower-income families are unable to afford. This is the first and most major problem that separates student opportunity for success on the SATs based on factors out of students' control and entirely unrelated to their personal aptitude. Not to mention, it is a known fact that in more affluent households, infants hear more words than those in lower-income households. So from birth, there is an immediate separation based on socioeconomic factors that place lower-class children at a disadvantage. Now, hearing fewer words in infancy does not necessarily set a child up for failure, but it gives them a paltry knowledge of vocabulary, which presents a weakness in terms of comprehending the English content on the SAT.

Not only is there a vocabulary-based disadvantage, but on the math portion of the SAT, measuring devices such as measuring cups can often be found in word problems. This method of questioning could put lower-income students at a disadvantage given the fact that they are less likely to have measuring devices available in their household, and therefore it is more plausible that when said devices are



are referred to they will be much less cognizant.

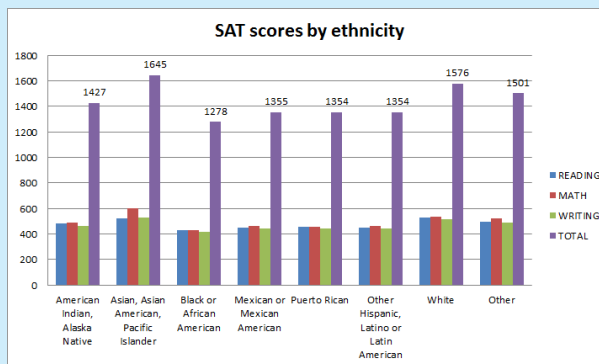
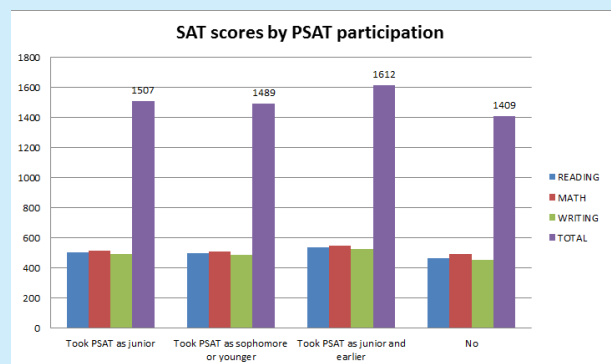
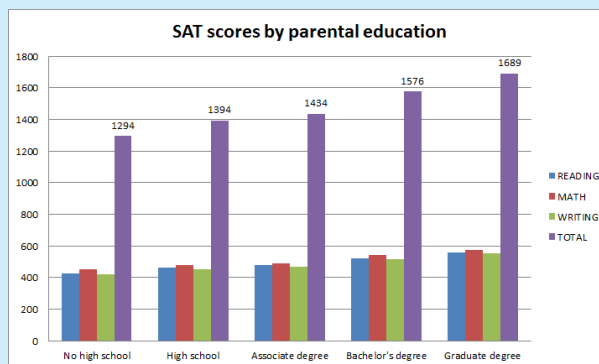
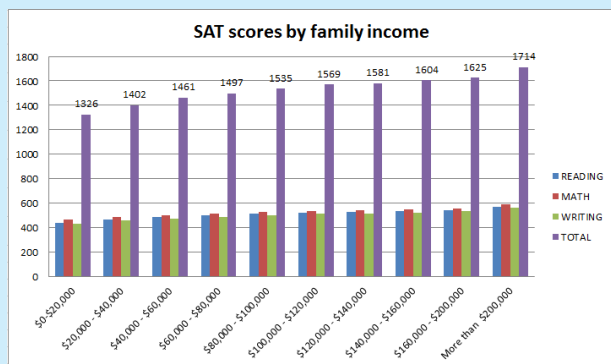
Furthermore, adolescents from low-income families are unable to have the same math and extracurricular support that high-income families are able to provide for their children. Not only are tutors not a viable option, but high-income families often have babysitters or one parent around in the household more frequently than low-income houses can afford, due to the stress of overworking to provide for a child and the inability to pay for a babysitter. This presents a social and economic barrier for children that want to study for the SAT but do not have the tools or supervisory to do so.

The disadvantages of these particular groups have only recently been brought into the limelight with SAT scores becoming increasingly important in college admissions. To continue to administer these aptitude tests we must address the issue in regards to the colossal advantages that some students have over others and adjust our system to either place less importance on these tests or give options for the same after-school resources to all children, regardless of economic standing or class. We can not call this an aptitude test that accurately measures a student's ability if

all students are not preparing for it with equally available resources. It is widely known that equal resources create equal opportunity, so to deny financially struggling students chances for out of school help, the school and college board is denying them their potential and possibly eliminating hard working students from advancing to higher education.

Allowing socioeconomic status to determine success is at the very core of the idea, classist. Allowing a society that perpetuates the idea that to get ahead one must be born into an affluent family setting further dampers progress towards equal education. As a society, it is time we break through the classist demographic of success that has been holding us back from incredible achievement. When we as a nation acknowledge the effect of class on the standardized testing system by putting money into financial aid for amenities such as tutoring, then we can begin to move forward together. Without acknowledging the struggle of underrepresented students that suffer disproportionately from standardized tests such as the SATs we can not truly label these tests as an accurate indicator of aptitude, since they measure more opportunity than personal understanding.

## In 2014, the Washington Post published the following charts, illustrating how the SAT favors rich, educated families:



Note: Opinion articles do not reflect the view of any organization or person except the writer.

# Teachers' pets

We all enjoy the favor of our teachers, but for most, the true teacher's pet has fur (or feathers or scales) and is waiting for them at home while he/she is at school. Here's an introduction to some of our teachers' most beloved pets!

By Safiya Stewart



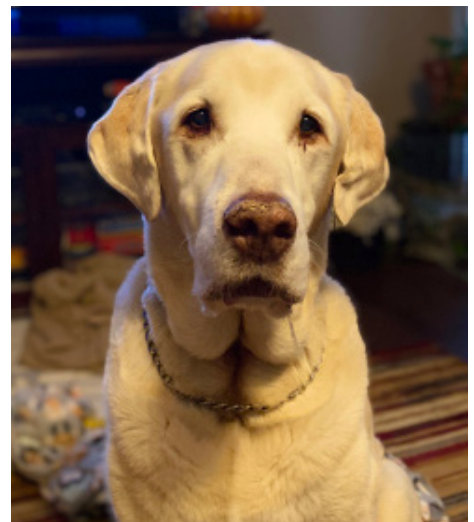
English teacher, Mrs. Polsiak, has two cats. Autumn is the one with white, and Pumpkin is all orange. They are sister and brother. They both celebrated their seventh birthday on October 12th, which was the date they were adopted. Their hobbies are watching the fish tank, playing with catnip toys, trying to escape outside, and fighting with each other. They sleep at Mrs. Polsiak's feet at night, greet her at the door, and let everyone hold and pet them without biting.



Remy is owned by Mr. Baxter, who is one of our guidance counselors. Remy is six years old and a Chesapeake Bay Retriever. He is an officially trained and licensed therapy dog. Remy goes to work in the school counseling office from time to time and loves comforting students who are having a difficult day or visiting classrooms to meet students. Remy loves to ride in the front seat of Mr. Baxter's tandem kayak and enjoys chilling out at home with his cat friends on a couch or in front of their fireplace.



English teacher, Mrs. Rust, has an Aussiepoo named Rollo and a big yellow lab named Diezl. Rollo is six-years-old and pretty neurotic. He likes to sleep with his Shakespeare doll. Diezl is twelve and very laid back. He sleeps quite a bit now, but is always ready for dinner. They both love going to the lake or beach and running in the woods, but catching balls in the field is their favorite activity. Diezl is getting a little too old to run and jump much, but he still likes to tag along and watch Rollo, who happens to be an expert ball catcher. Mrs. Rust loves how loyal and cuddly they are.







Cooper is a four-year-old chocolate lab who belongs to physical education teacher, Mrs. Welty. He was adopted from a lab rescue organization in Maryland when he was eighteen months old. Cooper loves to go for long walks in the woods, and especially loves chasing squirrels and deer (he can smell their fear). Mrs. Welty loves that he enjoys going on walks with her and being cuddled!



Carl Eugene Butkovic is owned by science teacher/student activities director, Mrs. Butkovic. Carl is a three and one-half year-old male buff tabby. Carl was abused when he was a kitten and had to have his eye removed, he has no issues adjusting to the life of a pirate cat. He loves to sit at the window and look for his arch enemy – birds.



Charlie Ann Churchill is a two-year-old English Bulldog owned by science teacher, Mrs. Skillen. Charlie Ann loves to hike, play soccer, eat and snuggle. She gets the zoomies and zips around the house while attempting to leap (which is really awkward for a bulldog). She is a good addition to the Skillen tribe as she is stubborn, spirited and enjoys a well-deserved nap when needed.



QUEST teacher Mrs. Gibson's home is ruled by her bossy English Bulldog named Ginger. Two-year-old Ginger has a larger-than-life personality. Her favorite activity is attending her human sisters' softball games dressed in her custom-made team uniform. She has her own softball fan club and is pretty sure that she is now their official mascot – nobody can convince her otherwise!



verified that sure enough, Peter is a girl. Mrs. Galowski's favorite thing about Peter is that she is the only member of the household who likes to listen to her sing.

Henry is a tortoise owned by our nurse, Mrs. Galowski. Henry was a surprise gift from Mrs. Galowski's parents in 2012. At that time he was only about the size of a golf ball. He's a really cool pet. He eats out of his family's hands and walks all through his house like he owns the place. He and the other pets get along great. Peter the cockatiel was a pandemic acquisition. Mrs. Galowski has always liked birds and decided to get Peter over the summer. Peter was trying to learn how to talk but wasn't having any luck so it was suspected that Peter might be female since they tend to be less vocal. A DNA test



Remington Octavious is the protector of instructional assistant, Mrs. Burns' home. Remington is an English Bulldog who recently turned four. His favorite activities are sleeping, sunbathing and most of all, snacking! Sometimes he stands on the sofa looking out the front window awaiting his chance to

bark at a deer, squirrel or neighborhood cat. Mrs. Burns' favourite thing about him is his unconditional love. He brings so much joy, love and laughter into her home.

Huxley is a six-month-old black and white hound/lab mix. He is named after author Aldous Huxley, who wrote the dystopian novel, *A Brave New World*. Huxley loves to go on walks in the park and play with the other dogs in the neighborhood. Eighteen-month-old cat Rowling is named after JK Rowling, the author of the *Harry Potter* series. Rowling is a tortie which refers to her coloring and also means that she's sassy and has lots of "tort-itude." Rowling's favorite thing to do is torment Huxley and get him to chase her around the house. Rowling and Huxley belong to our librarian, Mrs. Ward.



# Talking Art with Uma



By Justine Eng

Walking into a brightly lit room, there is a white wooden desk on the right with colored pencils sprawled out and a sketchbook laying slightly tilted in the middle of the desk. Sitting at the desk is a girl, attentively sketching out her newest piece of art. Meet one of the best artists at Fox Chapel Area High School: Uma Muzumdar.

In her art, Uma strives to attain a “balance of irregular and beautiful”, which her favorite artist, René Magritte, has influenced. Many of the pieces Uma creates are inspired by emotions, which she believes are a very compelling, yet difficult subject to work with. Emotions, says Uma, have to be balanced between having “a good emotional piece but not romanticizing trauma”. Uma’s favorite medium to draw with are colored pencils, with some of her best works, such as Metro Ride and Global Warming, being drawn in



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*Many of the pieces Uma creates are inspired by emotions, which she believes are a very compelling, yet difficult subjects with which to work.*

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Uma is currently in 11th grade, and in a typical week, she can be seen studying, reading, drawing, and playing with her new cat, Fig. According to Uma, she has “always enjoyed art”, with her parents being one of her biggest inspirations and reasons for continuing her passion for art. She recalled that when she was younger, no matter how the drawings she brought home looked, her mom was always very proud of the artwork she created.

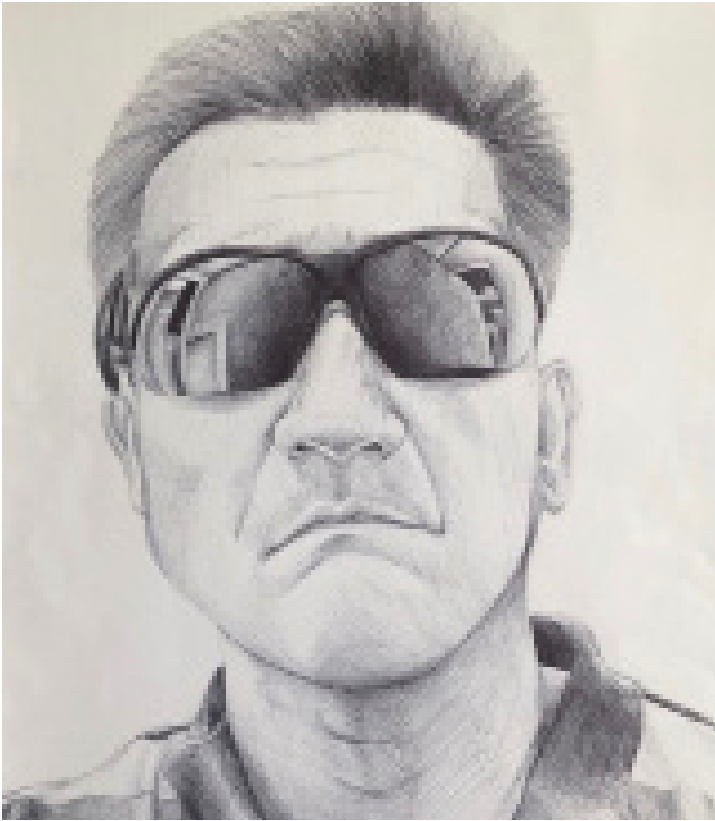


**Global Warming**  
colored pencil

Uma states, “I made this piece to give a visualization of global warming, since Earth is literally melting in it.”

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### My Dad's 54th

ballpoint pen

"I made this piece as a birthday gift for my dad. I typically refrain from drawing family members or people I know, but I'm very glad I tried this – he was elated."



### Mental Growth

colored pencil

"This piece is supposed to be about mental growth, changing and evolving like a plant."

colored pencils. Uma loves colored pencils the most because she is patient with blending the Prismacolor pencils, which she recommends as high quality pencils for artists who enjoy drawing in colored pencils. She also loves painting with oil paints, which she has worked with for more than six years. Recently, she has been working on a new oil painting, which although unfinished, may be one of Uma's favorite works she has created. Another favorite of hers is a portrait of her dad which she drew with a ballpoint pen.

With her beautiful artwork, she has won an art award with Scholastic as well as become the head editor of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Student Art Spaces. Additionally, she produces her own magazine for Student Art Spaces, and in her free time volunteers at Artissima Studio.

When asked for advice for other people who are interested in art, she emphasized to "make sure to prepare yourself for how tiring it can be. It's amazing how deadlines or a fantasy of the final piece will drain your motivation. It takes a lot of patience and a lot of effort to produce pieces you're proud of." And to all artists, she wanted to make sure to emphasize that you should "never feel like animation or digital art isn't as impressive as classical art, because it is!" Although Uma does not plan on pursuing a career in art, she intends to continue drawing and painting as a creative outlet to express her thoughts and feelings.



### Metro Ride

colored pencil

"This piece is just two girls on the subway, which allowed me to practice drawing new fabrics."



# Boo Bash Delivers Treats and Collects Smiles

By Danielle Horne

greeted by eager, dressed-up high schoolers who were exuding Halloween spirit.

Prepared with gloves and masks, the students passed out candy and treats to hundreds of kids. Cars continued coming, exceeding expectations, and some were even decked out with spooky decorations. With such

With the new Covid restrictions placed on Halloween 2020, many eager, candy-hungry children were devastated to learn that the majority of their Halloween activities had been cancelled. With these cancellations, an important



*Juniors Annie Yonas, Janise Kim and Uma Muzumdar await the arrival of trick-or-treaters.*

question arose – would the Fox Chapel Area High School's annual halloween event for kids, Boo Bash, still happen? The answer was undisputably YES!

The Boo Bash originated last year as an event planned by the National Honor Society students in collaboration with multiple other clubs and organizations such as Student Government, Future Business Leaders of America, and Community Outreach. The 2019 Boo Bash was held indoors. Elementary-aged children filled the hallways to collect candy and visit activity booths that were sponsored by the many participating clubs. The 2019 event raised \$370 and a carload of non-perishable food donations for the Backpack for Hunger organization.

Despite not being able to conduct an indoor experience for kids in 2020, the high school adapted to the times by hosting a drive-through event in which cars full of children circled the school to collect candy from high school students in the safety of their cars. An estimated 500 vehicles full of costume wearing, trick-or-treating kids were

a large turnout, an emergency candy run to the store had to be made. Despite this momentary shortage, the entire event ran smoothly and everyone left full of candy, tricks, and treats.

This experience not only brought joy to the kids and highschoolers involved, but also benefited families in need as three carts of food were collected and donated. This food was taken to the Dorseyville food bank at the Three Rivers Council for Native Americans, which the high school has been supporting for ten years. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to bring some joy into the lives of these kids, and hopefully next year we'll be able to see the smiles brought to their faces! To help support the food bank, visit <http://www.cotraic.org/>



*Student Activities Director, Mrs. Butkovic and Student Government President Melina Bradley led the charge in the 2020 Boo Bash.*



# 2020 Telethon Beats the Odds



Every year the school district collaborates on a month-long fundraiser for a designated charity. This year's charity was the Sharpsburg Community Library and the telethon was unlike any other. Over the last 30 years the telethon has raised over \$901,950, not including this year's efforts. With the challenges of the hybrid schedule for students and Covid precautions this year's organizers had a challenge in devising ways for students to stay involved. Students in Mr. Devlin's classes worked hard to create the telethon video which included throwback videos of old telethons, messages from students and teachers, interviews and more. Much like most of 2020, everything about this year's telethon seemed different but with the help of the telethon feed and some fundraisers it wasn't all that different after all. It did force a lot of reevaluating how the telethon is normally run in order to make it work for such an odd time and some of those changes might even stick around for the future.

Student body president and a lead organizer of the telethon, Melina Bradley, said, "There are many clubs that are used to hosting the same activities each year, but weren't able to. For example, Community Outreach typically hosts the movie during first period on telethon day. This year, they designed a virtual 5K walk/run. Through many conversations and brainstorming sessions our students designed new fundraisers that can hopefully continue as new traditions." Usually the telethon is able to gain a lot of fundraising throughout the entire month with things like selling food in the cafeteria during the lunches, but due to safety this year that wasn't able to happen. Club leaders stepped up and took on some new fundraisers this year to take the place of things like that. Some of the fundraisers this year included a raffle for a gift card wreath

and a virtual quiz show with a chance to win a gift card from the National Honor Society and raffle baskets that were created by the student government.

Figuring out the payment also turned out to be a problem as it would be impossible to get the same cash that made up most of the funds raised in years past. "Payment was one of the most difficult things we had to tackle this year. In a normal year, every event is paid for with cash. With students virtual this year and not wanting to handle large amounts of cash to keep everyone safe, we had to

figure out a way to use virtual payment. Mr. Yanizeski and the students from the Foxes Den were a great help with the telethon. They helped us to post and collect money through their website," Bradley said. No matter what challenges arose this year, students were able to think outside the box to solve them and raise money for a great cause.

The Sharpsburg Community Library, like so many non-profit organizations, was hit hard this year. They have had a decrease in book circulation and have had to be creative in making the library still accessible for the community. One of the ways they have done this is by offering curbside pick-up of materials. Last year the funds helped to sustain the library during Covid and keep up normal operations. This year they are looking to be able to increase much needed storage, add signage, and create a team space with the donations. The library has continued to grow through this time in the community by offering virtual programs and they are adding an artist of the month and scientist of the month program starting in February, as well as looking towards making a story walk in Kennedy Park. With the help of the successful telethon this year the library will be able to do all of that and more.

***Thanks to the efforts  
and generosity of our  
schools and community  
members, more than  
\$16,400 was donated  
to the Sharpsburg  
Community Library!***

# All About Diversity Council



By Kaylee Uribe

Disappointed with the injustices of the world, senior Melina Bradley and juniors Nabeela Islam, Gabby Uku, and Kaylee Uribe met virtually over the summer to reflect on how they could help locally. They devised several ideas that could be implemented into the school, and pitched their ideas to lead principal, Dr. Hower. Collaborating with Dr. Hower allowed for progress to be made, including the creation of the Diversity Council and the official position of teacher sponsor being filled in by English teacher, Mrs. Green. A big part of the Diversity Council is that it is more or less student run. The students are the ones developing the ideas, and they are actually giving teachers insight on how they view certain aspects of the school community. This allows for more students to be able to voice their opinions regarding items that they think the school can improve upon.

The Diversity Council is composed of grade-level and school club/organization representatives. Additionally, there are four head chairs of Diversity Council. Currently, the chairs are Melina Bradley, Nabeela Islam, Gabby Uku, and Kaylee Uribe. The Diversity Council's mission statement is "to construct an environment within the high school that is inclusive and collaborative to all races, colors, genders, gender expressions, pronouns, sexual and romantic orientations, ethnicities, religions, cultural backgrounds, physical and mental disabilities, familial status, economic status, and standard of living by educating the student body and faculty through discussion and activities, so that they have the opportunity to discuss these matters and improve the school atmosphere". The Diversity Council has six committees including the Atmosphere Committee, Education Committee, Event Committee, Social Media Committee, Volunteer Committee, and SHOUT (Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment) Committee, which are open to the whole school. These committees

allow students to get a taste of what the Diversity Council is striving for, and hopefully inspires them to apply to be a part of the Diversity Council officially.

Each committee has different purposes and goals:

**Atmosphere Committee:** To develop an inclusive and welcoming environment and to create displays representing diversity, inclusion, and equity.

**Education Committee:** To foster a more inclusive learning environment, to educate the staff and student body on minority groups, and to encourage accountability and creating learning experiences from wrongdoings.

**Event Committee:** To plan in-house and community events to spark discussion and spread awareness on topics relating to diversity, inclusion, and equity.

**Social Media Committee:**

To promote the diversity council through social and traditional media to support the goals of the council as well as publicize events and outreach supported by the council.

**Volunteer Committee:**

To connect students with local organizations, support and give back to the community, and foster a sense of respect and pride in the community.

**SHOUT Committee:**

To uphold the values of the SHOUT organization and collaborate with other chapters on local projects and events.



*The SHOUT program was founded at South Fayette High School, and there are different chapters in different school districts.*



Over the past few months, the Diversity Council has been able to revise some of the dress code, come up with language for a sign that will be placed at all the entrances of the high school, start a SHOUT chapter at Fox Chapel, and recently hosted its first event virtually. The reason behind changing the dress code is because many of the students believe that it is outdated and very unfair to marginalized students. To express to the community our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, we designed signs to be placed at the three entrances to the high school campus. These signs say, "The Fox Chapel Area School District pledges to create an equitable and collaborative learning environment to foster a culture of diversity and inclusion for all students. The district will condemn all acts of bullying, discrimination and harassment based on an individual's race, color, gender or gender expression, pronouns, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural background, mental or physical disability, familial status, economic status, and standard of living. The school community will continue to take proactive steps to keep these values consistent with the school district's vision and mission." Be sure to keep an eye out for new signs!

The SHOUT program was founded at South Fayette High School, and there are different chapters in different school districts. Melina, Nabeela, Gabby, and Kaylee were able to reach out, and founded the Fox Chapel chapter. One of SHOUT's goals is right in its name: Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment. The idea behind this is the same that handprints are the positive steps one makes in the world. If you've heard of carbon footprints, it's the same idea. In this idea, a footprint has a negative impact. Thus, handprints are the opposite and positive impacts one makes. Another goal of SHOUT is to reform education in the schools, and the last goal is to represent the interests of marginalized groups. SHOUT and the Diversity Council are working collaboratively to allow students to make more of an impact in surrounding communities.

A project that the Diversity Council has in the works is designing some of the display cases in the high school. There will be four different display cases. One will show the Diversity Council's mission statement, our pledge (the language that will be on the signs located at the entrances of the high school), and more information about the Diversity



## FC DIVERSITY COUNCIL

Council. The second one will be regarding the council and committee members. Finally, the last display case will be explaining SHOUT more in-depth. Another project that the Diversity Council is working on is having students design ceiling tiles that will be placed in the ceiling throughout the cafeteria. Additionally, every month the Atmosphere committee will keep hosting Processing Hour events (over Zoom). Processing hour is just a way for students to get together (virtually), and be able to talk about anything and everything! There is no judgement at all, and the only rules that apply is to leave out names, and to make sure

**Students can apply every semester to be a part of the council, and are encouraged to do so. If you have any questions, please feel free to email [fc.diversitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fc.diversitycouncil@gmail.com).**

to not talk about something if someone in the group is uncomfortable. Furthermore, the committees are working collaboratively to host virtual guest speakers. Later on in the spring, the Diversity Council hopes to host a Privilege Walk in the high school stadium.

The Diversity Council accepts a total of 15 applicants (these are the grade-level representatives). The application

is a form or a video in which the applicant answers a series of questions. This year, applications are reviewed by the chairs of Council, and then the teacher sponsor has final approval. After this year, the applications will be reviewed by the graduating seniors on the council, followed by the teacher sponsor. Students can apply every semester to be a part of the council, and are encouraged to do so. If you have any questions, please feel free to email [fc.diversitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fc.diversitycouncil@gmail.com).



By Kaylee Uribe

Led by WPIAL Class 4A Section 3 Coach of the Year Peter Torres, the girls soccer team had a very successful season this year. With a record of 11-2, the girls secured the WPIAL Class 4A Section 3 Champions title. In other words, they were section champs! The girls advanced to the quarterfinals of Class 4A WPIAL playoffs, but unfortunately faced a loss with a score of 0-1 against Moon. Even with the final loss, the girls were very grateful to be able to have a season as they know that other sports have not been able to have full seasons this year.

Additionally, to the team's overall success, many individual players were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the team. Senior Lucy Ream was named to the PA Soccer Coaches Association girls soccer all-state team. With fellow teammates Sammi Dunlap and Britta Lagerquist, Lucy Ream was also named to the WPIAL Class 4A Soccer Team. Following that, Makayla Mulholland, Britta Lagerquist, and Lucy Ream were named to the Big 56 WPIAL 4A All-Section First Team. Carlie Barnett, Sammi Dunlap, and Emma Wecht were named to the Big 56 WPIAL 4A All-Section Second team. The Big 56 WPIAL Honorable Mentions were Lizzy McKee and Anna Troutman.

With new guidelines, rules,

and restrictions, it was a different experience for the team, but nonetheless, a very special one. Both Freshman Sydney Schutzman and Senior Lauren Marrotte were presented with the same questions:

1. "What were you expecting coming into the season regarding games (with Covid-19) and regarding the team overall?"

Sydney: "This season I was expecting it to be a little bit more different than usual. For starters, I assumed we would most likely have to postpone our season for a little due to Covid-19, but luckily we didn't end up having to do that. I thought the games would be very different with no fans, so I was very excited when we got to have fans. The team overall was amazing, and although we missed out on some parts of the season, all of the girls and coaches on the team made it super fun and enjoyable through what we were experiencing."

Lauren: "Before Covid-19, I was extremely excited about my senior season. I knew we were going to have a good team, but with dates continuously getting pushed back for the start of pre-season, a lot of us anticipated having no season at all. We had been working out most of the summer and met on Zoom weekly to discuss our fitness progress and set goals. As the season began, none of us knew how long we would be playing, and the worry of having our team shut down was always in the back of our minds."

2. "Were your expectations met or exceeded?"

Sydney: "My expectations were definitely surpassed, because I didn't even expect there to be fans in the stadium at all, and I didn't know if we would be able to do a lot of the

team activities. It was definitely a little different, but the season went way better than I expected, and we were able to do a lot more than predicted."

Lauren: "My expectations for the season were definitely surpassed. Although every aspect of our regular season was modified, we were still able to play all of the games in our section and a few games out of the section. Our coaches took every measure to keep the team healthy and safe and our parents did everything they could to make the season normal for us. The seniors had an amazing senior day followed by a lunch, and throughout the season, the team was able to have meals together before every away game."

3. "How would you describe



*Our coaches took every measure to keep the team healthy and safe and our parents did everything they could to make the season normal for us.*

*- Lauren Morette, #26*



## Girls Soccer, cont.

your experience with the soccer program in 3 words?"

Sydney: "Fun, different, and enjoyable"

Lauren: "Thrilling, memorable, and rewarding"

4. "What was your favorite memory?"

Sydney: "It would have to be the Norwin game when we went into overtime. It was a tough game, and we all fought to the end. The feeling of when we finally scored the winning goal was one of the best feelings, and I remember running up to my teammates full of excitement."

Lauren: "Picking a single favorite memory from all of the years is hard, but I would have to go with our win against Norwin this season. In 2019, we lost to Norwin in the quarter-finals. This year they were in our section, so we were eager to play them. We ended up beating them 2-1 in overtime. Rushing the field and being a part of the game is something that I will never forget."

Lauren also had some advice for anyone interested in joining the soccer program: "For anyone interested in joining the team, I would highly recommend it! Along with improving your soccer skills overall, you will meet some of your best friends and have a second family by your side. We all have so much fun together and I wouldn't trade these past four years for anything".

Although it is always very sad to see the seniors graduate and leave the program, we know that they will represent Fox Chapel very well no matter what they do or where they go. Lucy Ream will be attending Eastern Kentucky University to continue her soccer career, and will most likely pursue sports and exercise science. Emma Wecht recently committed to Denison University, and Britta Lagerquist will also continue her soccer career at Grove City College, majoring in exercise science. We wish all the best to the seniors this year!



# Kashyap Named Winner of Congressional App Challenge

On December 20th, Representative Conor Lamb (PA-17) announced that sophomore Ananth Kashyap, a student at Fox Chapel Area High School, is the winner of the Congressional App Challenge for Pennsylvania's 17th District for their development of the "Covid Scanner" app.

Lamb hosted the Congressional App Challenge in order to give middle and high school students in PA-17 an opportunity to practice coding and computer science skills. A panel of independent judges from the Pittsburgh region chose the winning app which will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for the next year.

"Health and safety are top of mind for all of us during this public health crisis, and the Covid Scanner app is a smart use of technology in these challenging times," said Lamb. "Congratulations to Ananth for winning the Congressional App Challenge. Thanks to all of the talented students who participated and the teachers for encouraging students to pursue and explore STEM skills."

Ananth's "Covid Scanner" app runs on the iOS system, and asks users who believe they have contracted COVID-19 a set of question about symptoms and underlying health conditions to determine if they are experiencing recognized symptoms of the virus before advising testing and listing local testing sites. The app utilizes data and resources from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in its analysis.

The Congressional App Challenge is an annual nationwide competition sponsored by the Internet Education Foundation to inspire students to explore STEM, coding and computer science through hands-on practice.



# Stop the Spread

By Zoe Lakkis

CDC communicated that use of face masks was not necessary to combat the spread of COVID-19. However, we have since gained knowledge about the virus and as of November an order from the secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health requires that all individuals over the age of two

In November 2020, the superintendent announced that the FCASD was considering offering a fully in-person learning option at the middle and high schools. Unfortunately, these plans became infeasible due to increasing spread in the community and the high school has been shut down twice since the superintendent's announcement. COVID-19 cases in Allegheny county are reaching record numbers, with a 7-day average of 673 new cases per day for the week ending January 7, 2021 according to the New York Times. The spread of COVID-19 is currently deemed "substantial" (incidence rate of greater than 100 per 100,000 residents or PCR positivity rate greater than 10%) by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Additionally the new, more infectious strain of COVID-19 originating in the U.K. has already been detected in Pennsylvania. Fortunately, over the last month, vaccines have begun to be administered; as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, currently 19,977 people in Allegheny county have received at least one of the two doses necessary for full immunization. This advancement is extremely promising and will likely diminish the spread of COVID-19 significantly.

However, considering the fact that the COVID-19 vaccination has not yet been approved for individuals under the age of 16, it is still necessary that we as a community do all we can to mitigate the spread of coronavirus and work towards a safe, fully in-person school setting by maintaining the following safety precautions:

**Wear an appropriate face covering.** Back in April, the

wear masks in the presence of people from outside of their immediate households. This applies when indoors, outdoors if social distancing (6ft separation) cannot be maintained, participating in indoor physical activity, waiting in public areas, obtaining medical services, and preparing or packaging food for others. It is also important to note that individuals should still wear masks after being

fully vaccinated. Although the order defines face coverings as any material covering both the mouth AND nose, the CDC recommends that individuals make use of masks that have at least two layers of material, fit snugly without gaps, and preferably contain a filter to be as safe as possible. You can even make masks yourself that follow these recommendations (by following instructions on the CDC website).

## Do not touch your mask.

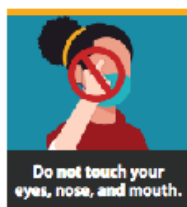
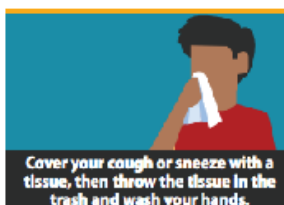
In order to wear a mask effectively, do not touch your face mask while wearing it, as COVID-19 can be transferred from your hands to yourself and others. When putting on or taking off your mask, only touch the ear/head straps. In addition, wash your hands and/or use at least 60% alcohol hand sanitizer before AND after

putting on or taking off your mask.

**Keep your masks clean.** Reusable, cloth face masks can be effectively sanitized using the warmest setting of washing machines or by hand-washing with tap water and detergent. Reusable face masks should be washed daily and disposable masks should be thrown away after one use if possible.

## Stop the Spread of Germs

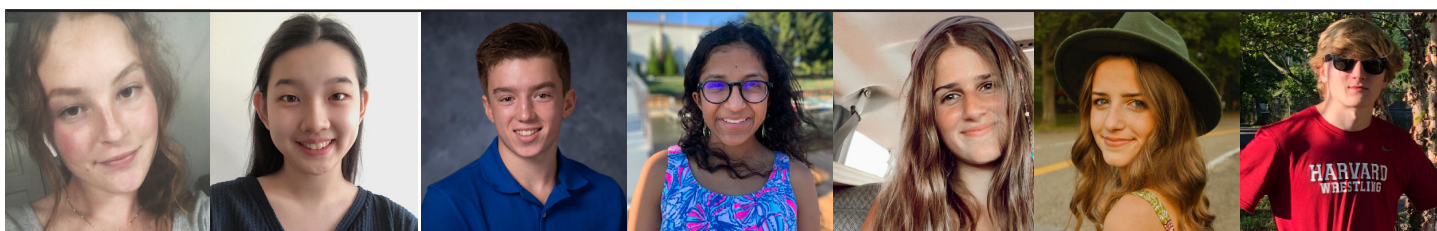
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# MEET THE STAFF



Allison  
Carey

Justine  
Eng

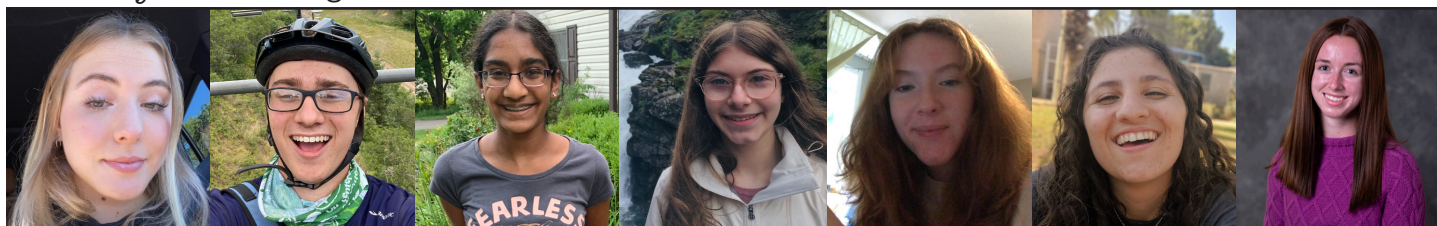
Russel  
Fenton

Amulya  
Garimella

Danielle  
Horne

Rachel  
Horne

Trevor  
Katz



Maggie  
Kelly

Ryan  
Kenyon

Shriya  
Krishnamurthy

Zoe  
Lakkis

Maddie  
Muller

Abigail  
Rickin-Marks

Lindsay  
Scheffler



Safiya  
Stewart

Calla  
Truschel  
Jacobs

Beata  
Turnquist

Kaylee  
Uribe

Katie  
Voigt

Abraham  
White

Ann  
Yonas

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## FOX TALES

Volume 6, Issue 2  
Fox Chapel Area High School  
Second Quarter, 2020/2021

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](mailto:Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu) or 412-967-2479. Letters should not exceed 350 words.



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Daniel Lentz, Ph.D., Program Principal (A-L)  
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# Favorite Winter Traditions

*Winter is the perfect time to stay comfy with a favorite pair of slippers and steaming cup of hot chocolate (don't forget the marshmallows and whipped cream!). Most people would agree that winter is a great time of year because holiday spirits are high and families have an excuse to celebrate togetherness. Need a little inspiration for the upcoming winter months? Check out these favorite winter traditions shared by members of the Fox Chapel Area High School family!*

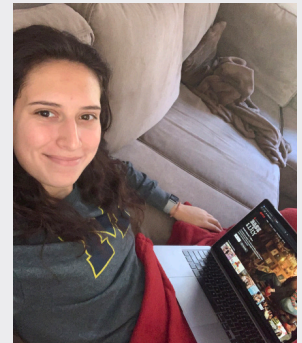


"I enjoy going to Disney with my family every year. It reminds me what it felt like to be a little kid."  
– Mr. Bandurski, English Department



"Sledding has always been a classic thing for me and my family to do in the winter."  
– David Kronman, senior

"I love staying inside, cuddled up and watching Netflix."  
– Lauren Himmel, senior



"I like building an iced-out snowman, both literally and metaphorically."  
– Paige Manges, senior



"I enjoy taking naps during the winter."  
– Joseph Thomas, sophomore

"Every year my family and I visit my brother in Utah and ski in Park City."  
– Eliza Auffenberg, senior



"My favorite winter activity is skiing. I've been doing it since I was six years old."  
– Zain Hassan, senior

"I love decorating our Christmas tree with my three children."  
– Mrs. Buches, Math Department



"Hot chocolate is my favorite drink to help me warm up in the winter."  
– Antoinette Faucher, senior



By Maggie Kelly