



FOX TALES *Quarterly*

A STUDENT PUBLICATION



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High School Students Win Regional Scholastic Writing Awards



Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students recently won awards for their submissions to the 2018 Pittsburgh Regional Scholastic Writing Awards competition. The Silver Key winners were seniors Cara Levicoff and Claudia Simon, juniors Margaret Fletcher and Emma Kazmierczak, sophomore Gwendolyn Davison, and freshmen Amara Ostroff. The Honorable Mention winners were junior Margaret Fletcher, sophomores Annika Gleason and Zeynep Ozkaya (2 Honorable Mentions), and freshmen Allison Carey.

More than 400 entries, spanning a variety of different genres of writing, were received from students from across Allegheny County. The winning students will be recognized at the Regional Writing Awards Ceremony February 24 that will be held in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium at the University of Pittsburgh from 2-4 p.m. Excerpts from their work will also be displayed as part of the ceremony.

The local competition is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project. The Project is a non-profit, teacher-centered professional development program serving area schools and students for nearly 30 years. It is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education and is a long-standing affiliate of the National Writing Project. The group partners with schools and community organizations in its efforts to strengthen academic and public literacy.



Students Win Awards at Regional PJAS

Several Fox Chapel Area students recently won awards at the 84th Annual Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). A total of 20 of those students qualified for the state competition.

Fox Chapel Area first place winners were: juniors Vaishavi Agrawal, Zachary Lakkis, Kathryn Schwartzman, Gina Wang, and Ziya Xu; sophomores Rajeev Godse, Zeynep Ozkaya, and Ameya Velankar; freshmen Amulya Garimella, Anthony Nguyen, Jackson Romero, Vinisha Sant, Elizabeth Schwartzman, and Sanjay Seshan; eighth graders Mona Gerges, Janise Kim, Zoe Lakkis, Theodor Urban, and Siddharth Yende; and seventh grader Arvind Seshan. The first-place winners qualified for the state PJAS competition which will be held May 20-22, 2018, at Penn State University (Main Campus).

Fox Chapel Area second place winners were: junior Ji-Yool Moon, sophomores Hanna Chen and Serena Fisher, freshmen Dong Hyun Shin and Nishi Thawani, and eighth graders Nathaniel Mueller and Shrivardhan Thada. The Fox Chapel Area third place winner was eighth grader Connor Zakin.

The following Fox Chapel Area High School students received these special awards in addition to their place awards: Kathryn Schwartzman received a Perfect Score Award and a Duquesne University Provost Merit Award; Gina Wang won a Duquesne University School of Health Sciences Award; Hanna Chen received a Society of Women Engineers' Award; Rajeev Godse won a Duquesne University Program in Forensic Science and Law Award; and Sanjay Seshan won an Innovation Works Award, an American Vacuum Society–Western PA Chapter Award, and an American Society of Civil Engineers–Pittsburgh Section Award.

The following Dorseyville Middle School students received these special awards in addition to their place awards: Mona Gerges received a Perfect Score Award, a PJAS Directors Award for Middle School Biology, and an Allegheny-Erie Society for Toxicology Award; Zoe Lakkis won a Carnegie-Mellon Chapter of Sigma Xi Middle School Researcher Award; and Arvind Seshan received a Perfect Score Award.

The participating students (from several schools from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties) researched their science projects for several months. During the competition, each of the students was required to give an oral presentation on his or her science project in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held at Duquesne University February 3.

Student Places Second in PSA Contest

By: Bonnie Berzonski



Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore Grace Han recently won second place in the FBI Pittsburgh's annual HOPE (Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education) PSA Contest. The competition was sponsored by the Penguins Foundation and the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association. For the contest, Grace created a PSA-awareness video on the dangers of choosing to use opioids in an effort to combat the crisis confronting our region. Her PSA, entitled "Know More to No More," won second place in the "People's Choice" category and featured Fox Chapel Area High School students giving facts and statistics about heroin, fentanyl, and opioid addiction. Grace was awarded a \$2,500 grant to support Fox Chapel Area High School's multimedia program, along with five VIP party suite tickets to attend the January 30 Pittsburgh Penguins' game.

Grace's award-winning video can be viewed on Youtube under the title "Know More to No More."

The goal of the Penguins' and the FBI's partnership is to challenge youth to find creative and innovative ways to raise awareness on the dangers of fentanyl and prescription opioid abuse and heroin use. More than 40 entries were submitted from students from schools across the Pittsburgh area.

FC's Battle Bot Team Excels at Regional Preliminary Competition

By: Ken Grimm



Students from Fox Chapel Area High School placed second at the Southwestern PA BotsIQ Preliminary Competition. The battles were held at the Butler County Community College on March 8th. Fox Chapel Area High School's 15lb battle bot "Reaper" won all of its battles, thus advancing to the finals.

After two great battles with Pine-Richland, the team finished second and qualified for the PA State BotsIQ competition against 72 teams and 65 schools. "I'm proud of the team's hard work at the competition and the team's effort in getting the bot ready for the finals. FCAHS bot "Reaper" and Pine-Richland High School's bot "Cerberus" were in two epic battles," says Jason Hertzberg, a senior battle bot driver and team leader. "Both battle bots did a lot of damage to each other during the 3-minute bout. We were the only two battle bots left and it was a long day of 10 hours of competitions and engineering. We learned a lot about our bot today and what changes need to be made for the state competitions in April. We will be ready!" Fox Chapel's team will be one of the top 6 teams at the state competition, thus increasing the chances of making it to the finals at the PA State BotsIQ competition.

Team members include: Jason Hertzberg, Christian Reiber, Connor McAtee, Graham Childs, Greg Kirklewski, Tyler Rapp, Jacob Keeler, and Samuel Gilmore. The team could not have done it without the help of all of the students in Advanced Robotics Engineering classes.



TAKING THE PLUNGE

BY: COURTNEY KENNEDY

38 Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government students attended the 2018 Pittsburgh Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics Team. On February 23 the group headed downtown to Heinz Field in 40 degree weather. The goal: to jump into a pool of freezing water. With music blaring, the students, Mrs. Butkovic and Mrs. Machen got in line to take the big leap. One after another, the students lost their breath jumping into the pool of ice water. Shivering uncontrollably, each student climbed out and immediately started cheering on the next plunger.

Fox Chapel Area High School was the first group to jump in out of 1,200 participants. Student Government President, senior Justin Breen said, "it was cold, but being able to represent Fox Chapel and support the Special Olympics made the cold worth it."

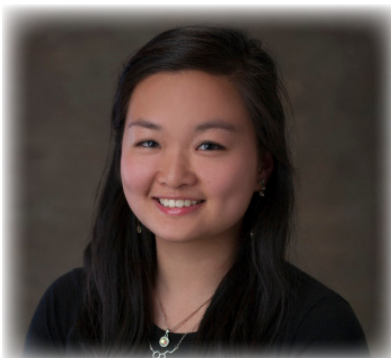
The Polar Plunge this year raised \$450,000 for Special Olympics, and Fox Chapel Area High School was proud to support the cause



On March 19, our high school student government community outreach members visited with veterans at the Heinz VA Hospital. Students greeted visitors to the hospital with homemade brownies, while others distributed popcorn to vets throughout the hospital. Students also worked in the store, refilling stock and interacting with veterans, while some served and cleaned up lunch. Other students spent time sitting with the vets, listening as they shared their important stories. This was another great opportunity for students to reach out to those in our community!

FCA Students Candidates in Presidential Scholars Program

By: Bonnie Berzonski

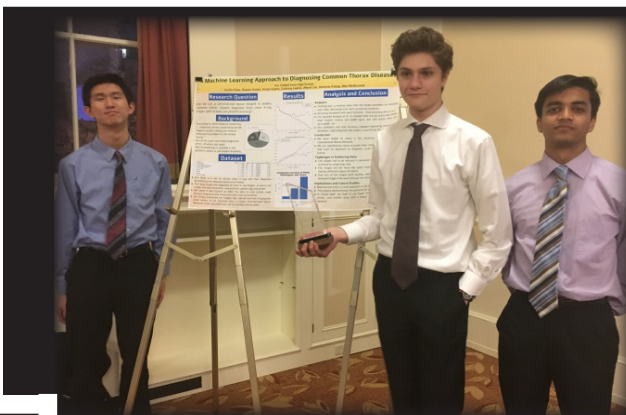


Fox Chapel Area High School seniors Alyssa DiPaolo and Bridget Wang have been named candidates in the 2018 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Approximately 4,000 students from across the U.S., and 103 from Pennsylvania, have been named candidates in this year's program.

Inclusion in the Presidential Scholars Program, begun in 1964, is one of the nation's highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Students are initially selected for the program based on academic achievement and having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or the ACT. The candidates must then complete an application which includes essays, self-assessments, and secondary school reports and transcripts. Candidates are evaluated based on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and the quality and content of their essay.



About 800 students will be selected as Semifinalists in the program and then students chosen as Scholars will be notified this spring. Each year up to 161 students are named U.S. Presidential Scholars. Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., in June for an expenses-paid trip to meet with government officials, educators, and other accomplished people. They will also receive the Presidential Scholars medallion at a special recognition ceremony sponsored by the White House.



Congratulations to Justin Choo, Rajeew Godse, Arnav Gupta, Zachary Lakkis, Albert Liu, Andreas Paljug, and Max Wolfendale for winning their division at the Pittsburgh Data Jam February 27th. They went outside the box and impressed the judges with their machine learning approach to diagnosing common thorax diseases. They competed against other teams from various Allegheny County schools.

A special shout out to Arnav, Albert, and Zach who participated in the presentation component. They were able to take a high level topic and make it relatable to their peers.



Bocce Ball - That's How We Roll!

By: Zack Yonas



Last month, the Fox Chapel Area unified Bocce ball team made history; not just by winning the county championship for the first time, but for being the first unified sports team in FC history. The team was established through the Best Buddies club. Even though it was the team's first year, the athletic department went all out, even supplying the team with new Nike jerseys.

A unified bocce team provides a great way for people with and without special needs, to build self-confidence, form friendships, and compete in a competitive sport. Having a bocce team paves the way for future unified sports teams to be established in Fox Chapel, providing a chance for everyone to take part in athletics at school. The team's success has impressed enough that there are already talks of a unified track team for the spring season!

The Foxes' only home game this year was against the Shaler Titans, and it was a classic. The gym was packed for the team's first game ever, and the Foxes did not disappoint the home crowd, coming out on top in overtime. The win is what helped the team qualify for the county tournament, where the Foxes took home the gold. The team then took on Elizabeth Forward, another county champion, to try to earn a bid to the state competition in Hershey for a chance to win a state title. Unfortunately, the Foxes were defeated and Elizabeth Forward advanced. Fox Chapel's performance still exceeded the expectations of other teams since it was the team's first year. The team is already very excited for next year to compete once again for a chance to go to states. After their performance this year they should be one of the favorites.

Students Selected for PMEA Choirs

By: Bonnie Berzonski



Several Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with prestigious 2018 Pennsylvania Music Educator Association (PMEA) choral groups.

- PMEA District 1 Chorus – Eighteen Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the PMEA District 1 Chorus. The students chosen for the choir are: seniors Kieran Bartels and Julia Szymanski; juniors Anna Aupke, Steven Cano, Gabriel Fynsk, Shan Hassan, Oscar Izenon, Alaina Kotchey, Sadie Lorence, Jeremy Platt, Duncan Regan, and Benjamin Weiss; and sophomores Chloe Bennett, Marilyn Brach, Alyssa Fabian, Anna Meyer, Christiana Paljug, and Karl Pil. The PMEA District 1 Chorus featured students from across the Pittsburgh area and the festival concert was held at East Allegheny High School January 26.

- PMEA Region I Chorus – Sixteen Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the PMEA Region I Chorus. These students are: seniors Kieran Bartels and Julia Szymanski; juniors Anna Aupke, Steven Cano, Gabriel Fynsk, Shan Hassan, Oscar Izenon, Alaina Kotchey, Sadie Lorence, Jeremy Platt, Duncan Regan, and Benjamin Weiss; and sophomores Chloe Bennett, Alyssa Fabian, Anna Meyer, and Christiana Paljug. This choral group included students from school districts in Allegheny, Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. Approximately 180 students were selected for the Region I Chorus and the festival concert was held at Butler Area Intermediate High School March 2.



Congratulations to the 11 Fox Chapel Area High School students who performed with the PMEA Region Band. The ensemble is made up of approximately 160 students from 65 school districts and is under the direction of Mr. Dennis Glocke, the director of concert bands at Penn State University.

Order on the Court - FC Basketball

By: Claire Fenton



This year, the boys' basketball team proved they were a force to be reckoned with, boasting an overall record of 17-6 and earning a playoff spot for the second consecutive year. After going undefeated in section play in the second half of the season, the boys tied for second place in the section, which earned them the #3 spot in the playoff seedings. In their quarterfinal matchup with Pine Richland on February 24, the boys fell just short of a win, suffering a 66-62 loss and the end of their chance at a WPIAL title; however, because Pine Richland made it to the WPIAL championship game, the Foxes earned a spot in the state playoffs. In their first-round game on March 10, they faced WPIAL champion Penn Hills, whose basket at the buzzer sent the Foxes home with another heartbreaking loss, 54-52.

Although the girls' team missed out on a playoff spot, they ended the season on a strong note, winning four out of their last five games. One of the highlights from this winning streak was avenging their loss to Latrobe earlier in the season; Claudia Guerrieri hit a three-pointer as time expired to send the game into overtime, and the Lady Foxes used that momentum to secure a 60-58 victory. In doing so, the girls knocked Latrobe out of the first-place spot in the section, stripping them of the section title. The team finished the season with a section record of 2-8, and went 9-13 overall.

Both teams had players that were recognized by the Big 56 Athletic Conference by being chosen for an All-Section Team. On the girls' side, Claudia Guerrieri was chosen for the Section 2 6A Second Team; Sarah Scherer received an Honorable Mention. For the boys, both Carson Cohen and Dom McGriff were on the Section 3 6A First Team, while Ben Kelly received a Second Team honor.



STEM IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By: COURTNEY KENNEDY



This February, two FCAHS students once again brought their experience and love for STEM to elementary students in our community. Juniors Courtney Kennedy and Theresa Heidenreich lead a class of eight students at Fairview Elementary school. Continuing with the theme of their previous year's classes (Girls Rock Robotics and Cooking with Chemistry), this year's class was entitled Super Crazy Awesome Wild Engineering.

Super Crazy Awesome Wild Engineering was designed to introduce students to the process of engineering and simple machines (pulley, lever, wheel and axle, inclined plane, screw, and wedge). Courtney and Theresa used Rube Goldberg machines to teach these advanced concepts in a fun and engaging way. Rube Goldberg machines are complicated, multi-step machines that use simple machines to complete simple tasks such as stapling a piece of paper or watering a plant. Courtney and Theresa were amazed to see the teamwork and creativity the students had when making their multistep machines. According to Courtney, they were "using the wall to make ramps and using strings to make zip lines across the room. They were coming up with ideas that I had never thought of, and gaining knowledge about engineering at the same time." By the end of the class the students were following the engineering process with ease and using teamwork to make complicated machines.

This STEM initiative has been going on for three years in the Fox Chapel Area. Getting elementary school kids interested in STEM has been a challenge for many years, but Courtney and Theresa are striving to make STEM fun. By making STEM hands-on and including fun activities, students from FCASD become more enthusiastic about STEM. Next year, Courtney and Theresa plan to continue their efforts in introducing STEM to elementary school students.





SO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR TV...

BY: CAROLINE GREEN



A favorite pastime for countless teens today is to sit down and watch shows or movies in some form, whether it's on the ever popular Netflix or just on TV. While all that may appear on the screen are the actors and actresses, there are countless people and careers in the industry. Have you ever been interested in a career surrounding film? Jonathan Green, an executive producer/writer on the NBC show Superstore, can answer some questions about this.

Foxtales: What exactly is your job title right now?

Mr. Green: Executive Producer, Superstore-- "Producer" can mean a lot of things in Hollywood. In this case it means I'm a writer who's gotten old enough that they'll now give me a little more responsibility.

Foxtales: What does a typical day look like in your job?

Mr. Green: I spend most of my day in the writers' room, sitting around a table with 5-10 other writers. When an episode is in its early stages, we're all just discussing ideas, but once someone has written a first draft, we put it up on a screen for the rewrite and everyone pitches ways to improve the story or "punch it up" with funnier jokes. On a typical day, I might also visit the set to check in on the episode we're filming, work with the editors on an episode we've already shot, or meet with various departments (e.g. sets, costumes, props, music) to plan future episodes. And every once in a while it'll be my turn to write a script, so I'll just be holed up with a computer for a week.

Foxtales: What are the best and worst things about your career?

Mr. Green: Best – I get to spend a lot of time joking around with a bunch of funny people.

Worst – The production schedule is pretty demanding, which means the hours can be long and I often have to work nights and weekends. Also, a lot of television shows don't stick around long, so it's not the most stable career – I've had to deal with some long stretches of unemployment.

Foxtales: What advice would you give to high schoolers who are interested in this?

Mr. Green: Write as much as you can, and don't be too harsh a critic of your own writing at first. You get a little better with everything you write. You can also learn a lot by having people perform your writing, whether it's a student play or just a short film you shoot on your phone.

Foxtales: Did you always know you wanted to be in this field? Or when did you realize?

Mr. Green: I've been a huge comedy fan since I was little, and I had a lot of fun writing and performing in college. When I graduated, I decided it was worth at least giving TV comedy writing a shot.

Foxtales: What kind of education did you need to get to this spot? Does one need this or can you be successful without it?

Mr. Green: I have an undergraduate degree in English and Psychology, and most TV writers have a college degree -- but it's often in a field totally unrelated to writing or television. It's definitely possible to become a successful TV writer without a college degree. Good storytelling instincts and sharp observation skills can be just as valuable.

Foxtales: Do you think the outlook for this career is stable? What changes do you predict for it?

Mr. Green: The entertainment business is constantly changing, most recently with the rise of streaming platforms with shows that are often better than those on network or cable. It's hard to predict what's coming next, but I'd imagine that pretty soon the line between television and the Internet will completely disappear. It also seems like virtual reality technology is becoming advanced enough that soon we all might be experiencing entertainment in a very different way, which would demand an entirely different kind of writing. But I think the career is stable in that there will still be a need for writers in some form.

Step It Up!

Students Take One Giant Leap in Walk Across America Challenge

By: Madison Borkovich



Every journey of 2,432.7 miles begins with a single step. From February 1st to mid-March, student participants in the Walk Across America Challenge at Fox Chapel Area High School proved this by walking 12,500,000 steps – the distance from Pittsburgh to Hollywood. Led by teacher, Mr. Zimmerman, the challenge juxtaposed teamwork and individuals' competitive spirits. Competitors attempted to walk as many steps as they could, which were documented and tracked by up-and-coming app Sweatcoin. Once the participants' steps combined to reach the target goal, prizes would be awarded. Mr. Zimmerman walked the students through the prizes: the first place winner was to receive a Fitbit Charge, and second place was to be awarded a giftcard to The Foxes Den.

Like some other students that got involved, I found out about the opportunity from gym teacher Mr. Angelo, at Fitness Club. As a participant in this challenge, I can honestly say that these prizes were not what motivated many of us. It was a combination of motivation from other peers participating and working to achieve one common goal that spurred the majority of students to literally get a leg up on the competition.

From app malfunctions to Pittsburgh's infamous inclement weather, there were several challenges and roadblocks which appeared, but the dedicated students all were able to hit their strides. When the challenge ended on March 13th, Mr. Zimmerman speedily discovered informed me that I had won first place! What was my secret? I walked to and around a neighboring housing plan with my dad multiple times a week, a great way to exercise and build communication that neither of us would have thought of if we hadn't been inspired by Walk Across America.

A big thank you to Mr. Angelo for spreading the word to students, and to Mr. Zimmerman for promoting fitness in such an innovative and successful way!



These fabulous students - Madison Borkovich, Rajeev Godse, and Annika Urban (pictured with teacher sponson Mrs. Gibson of the QUEST Department) crushed the competition for a second time in the semi-final round of Hometown High-Q. Be sure to tune in to KDKA TV on May 5th at 11 a.m. to see the team in action. Good luck in the final round!

FC SWEEPS BOTH SECTIONS OF ENGINEERING COMPETITION

BY: MAGGIE WOODWELL



TEAMS, test of engineering aptitude, mathematics, and science, took place on February 22, 2018. A team comprised of ninth and tenth graders, as well as a team of eleventh and twelfth graders competed in a three-part engineering competition. The teams designed and built a solution to a proposed engineering challenge, such as tower made of straws that must hold a tennis ball. The competitors also solved real world problems in the multiple choice and essay portions of the competition.

The ninth and tenth grade team included Paige Asbury, David Shin, Rajeev Godse, Sina Shaikh, Aaron Wu, Jackson Boychuk, Felix Vesper, and Anthony Shin. These students represented Fox Chapel Area High School, and won first place in the section.

The eleventh and twelfth grade team also won first place in the section, and included Justin Breen, Kristen Friday, Brandon Wei, Ziya Xu, Nathaniel Roe, Annika Urban, Brian Mulhern, and Courtney Kennedy. Both teams displayed immense knowledge and skill in the engineering field.

Courtney Kennedy summarized the competition, "It was a great team building day that also incorporated engineering. It was a valuable learning experience, and I couldn't have asked for a better team to compete with!"

Justin Breen noted, "It was a mentally taxing challenge. However, with our endurance we were able to overcome any challenge we were faced. It was fun!"



FC MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE

BY: BRIDGET WANG

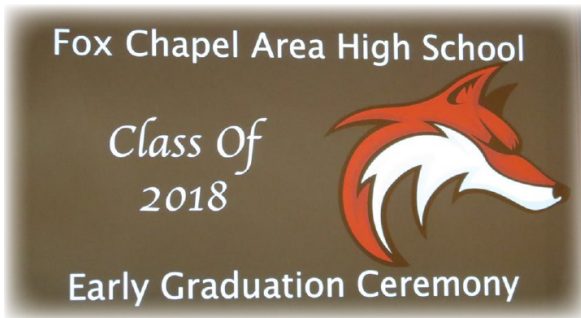
On Sunday, February 25, 2018, students from the high school choir, orchestra, and band joined together for one spectacular Kaleidoscope concert. The purpose of such a concert is to enclose the audience with non-stop music from all different directions. Each ensemble performed individual pieces as well as combined pieces, and some of the ensembles broke into even smaller ensembles. Some of the additional groups that performed were the Fox Chapel Ambassadors Orchestra, Jazz Band, Madrigal Singers, Vulpes Cantantes, Men's Ensemble, Concert Choir, Women's Choir as well as two quartets. The entire performance lasted slightly over an hour with a packed audience. Congratulations to all the students and staff involved in such a tremendous performance.



*Photo Courtesy of
Mairi Cooper*

EARLY GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2018

By: CAROLINE GREEN



On January 18, 2018, eighteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors graduated early. Those students are Break Burkovich, Taylor Grandizio, Hailey Johnson, Ananya Malkani, Madison Marcussen, Shanna McKaveney, Mallory McNally, Kennedie Morris, Katelyn Photopoulos, Adam Skvorak, Anna Troyan, Ruopeng Wang, Victoria Winegarten, Amanda Bozic, Taylor Braun, Troy Hazard, Eliana Tolentino, and Anthony Upton. Students may graduate early for any number of reasons. Some of the benefits include having a window to relax after high school but before college, taking time to travel, finding work or places to volunteer, and starting college early. Students who graduate early also have the opportunity to still attend school events such as prom and senior graduation in June. Congratulations to those students who graduated early!

Any rising senior who is interested in graduating early, please see your guidance counselor for more information.



Sixteen students representing the Fox Chapel Area High School German Club, attended the 18th annual German Day competition at Washington and Jefferson College this March, competing in competitions such as drama, handicrafts, fictional writing, and the most sought after, the musical act. They competed against 15 other schools in this year's competition, and were up to the challenge. It was the club's most successful year, placing in 3 competitions.

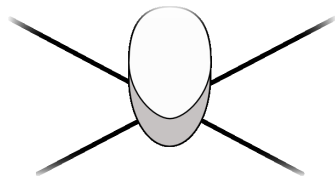
Anna Aupke won second place in fictional writing, Alyssa Mattheis won first in the category of folk art crafts and construction models with an amazing sculpture of Krampus, and the whole Fox Chapel German Club won second place in the musical act category with their performance of GmbH. This year was the first time Fox Chapel has ever placed in the song category, and Frau Koller and Herr Richards, the teacher sponsors of German Club, could not be more proud. "They all did very well, and I think they enjoyed performing, too," says Frau Koller.

Next year Fox Chapel German Club plans to attend German Day again with hopes of do just as well if not better.



Foiled Again?

By: Bridget Wang



To the surprise of many, our school does indeed have a fencing team [under club sports on the athletics website]. To the surprise of many more, both teams placed this year at the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association Championships on March 2, 2018.

The fencing season lasts the entirety of winter with meets and competitions between the local Pittsburgh fencing teams including Oakland/Central Catholic, Alderdice, Pine Richland, Peters Township, Mount Lebanon, Seton LaSalle, Winchester, Bethal Park, Aquinas, and Fox Chapel. After fencing each school during the course of January and February, the top four teams enter the championships. This year for the boys, it was Alderdice, Peters Township, Aquinas, and Fox Chapel. For the girls, it was Alderdice, Pine Richland, Oakland Catholic, and Fox Chapel.

The boys team, led by Captain Nathan Vandemark and by Coach Mark Hirsch, landed at an impressive 4th place in the region against challenging opponents. The boys team had not entered the championships since 2015, and this place was no easy feat.

The girls team, led by Captain Bridget Wang and by Coach Mark Hirsch, also entered the championships this year. Four teams compete but do so in a direct elimination fashion. From the scores and placements from the regular fencing season, the top team and the fourth top team compete, and the second top team and the fourth top team compete. The winners of each match compete against each other, and the winner of that match becomes champion. Fox Chapel (fourth top team) faced Alderdice first and won with a bout score of 5-3. Then we faced Oakland Catholic. With a total of nine bouts, Fox Chapel won with a final bout score of 5-4. The Fox Chapel Girls Fencing team had not won or even been at championships since 2013, but have once again been proclaimed champions.

Congratulations to both teams this year for a stellar season!



Fox Chapel Athlete on the Global Stage

By: Courtney Kennedy

Abby Pitcairn, senior, recently competed for Team USA in the Field Hockey World Cup this past February. As Fox Chapel Area High School Field Hockey's two-year captain, Abby led the field hockey team to two WPIAL championships. She committed to the University of North Carolina during her sophomore year, but she continues to be a star in the classroom and on the field.

Abby was selected to compete as a member of the USA women's indoor team at the World Cup in Berlin, Germany. She has been a member of both the USA indoor and outdoor national teams which has taken her to competitions in South Africa, Germany, Canada, and Ireland.

The USA women's team gave the rest of the world a run for their money winning 1 game 7-2 and tying another. Abby made Fox Chapel proud, representing not only our school but also our country in the World Cup.



The Musical was SHREK-tacular

By: Bridget Wang

Fox Chapel is known for many things, but one of the things that we have been told time and time again is that our musicals are top notch in production, in entertainment, and in quality. Our spring musical production is one of the places where Fox Chapel has never disappointed, and this year was absolutely no different.

A twist on the classic Dreamworks 2001 animated sensation, Shrek the Musical is as outlandish and comedic as one would expect—minus the inclusion of All Star by Smash Mouth in its soundtrack. As Shrek grows accustomed to the big, bright, beautiful world on his swamp, he encounters troubles and tribulations he would never have predicted in his wildest dreams. But then again, troubles and tribulations are the story of his life. Trailed by a talking donkey who can't seem to let him go, Shrek learns many lessons that will stick with him forever and teaching us all to be believers.

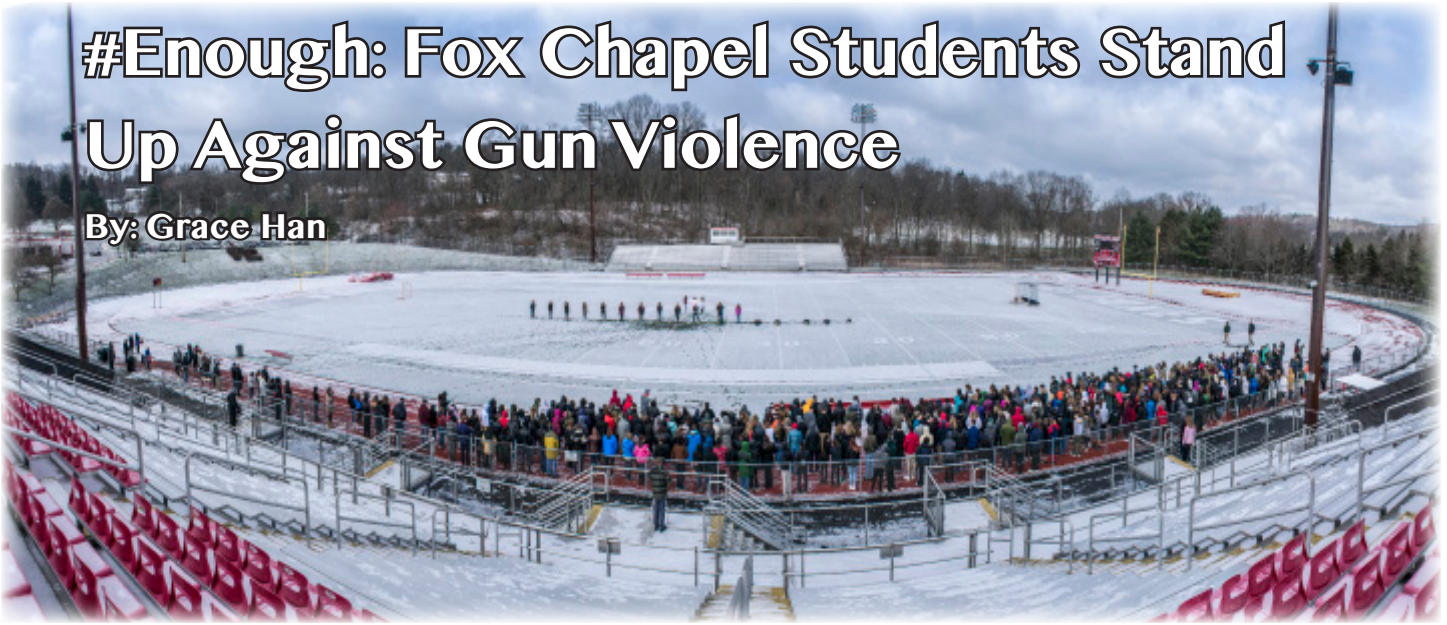
With outstanding vocals and show-stopping dance numbers, Shrek the Musical made its debut on the Fox Chapel auditorium stage on Thursday, March 15 and left the stage on Sunday with sold-out shows both Saturday and Sunday! Congratulations to the over 150 students involved in producing such a quality show.





#Enough: Fox Chapel Students Stand Up Against Gun Violence

By: Grace Han



Within the first 12 weeks of 2018, there have been 1.4 school shootings per week on average. Over 1,000 lives have been taken by gun violence in “mass shootings” from the 1960’s to present. Americans of all genders, ethnic backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses are affected by these repeated acts of terror, and these tragic school shootings have sparked a fire in student bodies throughout schools across the world.

On February 14th, 2018, one of the most horrendous school shootings occurred in Parkland, Florida in Stoneman Douglas High School. In the aftermath, victims vehemently declared that they could no longer wait for change and reform and that they had to be the ones to constitute it. Activism has spread vastly across our schools. Teenagers are making a stand to shake the government, to create change in our gun policies, and to make a safer community. Teens have organized March for Our Lives rallies, along with school walkouts in every state. These events have created a supportive space for youth to stand up for themselves and speak out about these looming issues.

To honor the lives lost at Stoneman Douglas High School, over 100 Fox Chapel Area High School students and teachers participated in our walkout event on March 14th. During a peaceful “17 minutes of silence,” both FC students and staff recited the names of the 17 students, teachers, and civilians who were killed during the mass shooting. These walkouts have captured the attention of politicians, pushing representatives to speak out about gun violence. By taking a stand against the escalating frequency of school shootings and gun violence, we can make our country a safer place to go to school, to grow up, and to live in. The future and well-being of our generation and our country lies in our hands, so by putting our thoughts into words and our words into action, we can change America for the better and ensure the safety of generations to come.



High School Students in TSA Dominate at Regional Competitions

25 students from Fox Chapel Area High School recently competed at the TSA Region 1 and 6 Leadership Conference at Black Hawk High School. The TSA Regional Conference offered more than 31 state qualifying events. The conference culminated with an awards presentation and closing ceremonies at which time the following students were recognized for their achievements:

First Place

System Control Technology (Robotics): Nathan VanDemark, Jorgen Wu and Aaron Wu

Music Production: Nathan VanDemark, Jorgen Wu and Aaron Wu

Second Place

Music Production: Elizabeth Mountz

Third Place

Future Technology Teacher: Nikita Bargaje

Fourth Place

System Control Technology: Jacob Kosak, David Shin and Joe Johnson

Prepared Presentation: Alaina Kotchey

Fifth Place

Coding: Michael VanDemark

Technology Problem Solving: Alaina Kotchey and Karissa Becer

Sixth Place

Technology Problem Solving: Jake Sperry and Jacob Rendal

Computer-Aided Design (Architecture): Hazel Cline

Eighth Place

System Control Technology (Robotics): Luke Johnson, John Polcyn and Anthony Shin



The Technology Student Association Regional Conference is the first of three levels of competitive conferences. The next level of competition is the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (PA-TSA) State Leadership Conference at Seven Springs Conference Center near Champion, PA. The conference will be held from April, 18 - 21, 2018.



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2018

TALENT

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