



# FOX TALES *quarterly*

A STUDENT PUBLICATION

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# EMPOWER 2018

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- Nine-day Empower2018 program
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# SHAKESPEARE RECITATION CONTEST

BY: GEORGIA BORDEAN



On Wednesday, December 13, multiple students participated in the annual Fox Chapel Area High School Shakespeare Recitation Contest, hosted in a combined effort between the Theater Arts classes and the High School QUEST Department.

The students performed monologues of their choice, including selections from “As You Like It,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Winter’s Tale,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and “Othello,” all written by William Shakespeare. While all participants should be proud of their outstanding efforts, there were three winners in the FC contest: Deirdre Roberts, Sadie Lorence, and Nathaniel Meth. Next steps for all participants include a coaching session by professional actors from the Pittsburgh Public Theater in late January, followed by a chance to compete at the Pittsburgh Public Theater on February 7.

The Annual Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at Pittsburgh Public Theater is expected to host hundreds of other students from regional area schools throughout the first two weeks of February. A panel of judges will be there to score the students as they perform the monologues directly on the Pittsburgh Public Theater stage. The contest is open to students in grades 4-12. Select students will be invited to perform in the Showcase of Finalists, which will be held on February 19 in front of a live audience. The general public is invited to attend the Showcase of Finalists, more information can be found at [www.ppt.org](http://www.ppt.org).





Though this year's fall play was a small production with just twenty cast members, the audience was treated to a captivating show packed with drama and suspense. Based on true events, *Radium Girls* follows the life of Grace Fryer, a young woman working as a dial painter in a watch factory during the 1920s. One by one, her fellow workers become sick and die; their diseases are blamed on the paint used and, specifically, the radium ingredient that gives it a luminous quality. When Grace too falls ill, she decides to take her case to court, fighting for the safety of other radium girls and exposing the corruption of her employers.

The production, directed by Ms. Kristiann Josephs, told Grace's story through several different points of view. Some scenes were no more than a few minutes long, so the actors were constantly rotating on and off the stage. However, the plot was easy to follow and never confusing; the stage was darkened to signal each change in setting, and the minimal set design allowed for quick transitions between scenes.

Kieran Bartels delivered a strong performance as Grace, capturing both the fear and determination she felt throughout the trial. Nathaniel Meth as Grace's boss, Mr. Roeder, did the same, portraying a character whose misguided confidence in radium left him a ruined businessman. Perhaps the most powerful scenes of the play were the ones starring Kathryn, Grace's best friend, and Tom, her fiancée - the former played by Alyssa Melani, the latter by Gabriel Fynsk. The viewer becomes attached to both relationships and their unique dynamics and is left heartbroken along with Grace after the death of Kathryn and the breaking off of her engagement. The rest of the cast: Abby Alexander, Anna Aupke, Adam Holmes, Oscar Izenzon, Emma Lusk, Sadie Lorence, Christiana Paljug, Xavier Perry, Karl Pil, Olivia Pistella, Duncan Reagan, Preston Rowe, Jonathan Stamy, Ella Tramontina, Ameya Velankar, and Danielle Werner - provided perfect splashes of humor and excitement; their roles added twists and turns to the story and kept the audience on their toes.

All in all, *Radium Girls* was a fantastic show and the perfect start to this year's season of theater.





*The Fox Chapel Area High School Vulpes Cantantes women's choir has been chosen to perform at the 2018 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Division Conference. The group will perform March 8 at First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh in conjunction with the organization's biannual conference. The Vulpes Cantantes is one of only three high school choirs chosen to perform from submitted audition recordings. The ACDA Eastern Division includes 11 eastern states stretching from Maine to Maryland and concert attendees will include choral directors and musicians from across the country. The Vulpes Cantantes includes 50 9th-12th grade female students and the choir is under the direction of conductor Benjamin Murray.*



# GLOBAL CRISIS COMES TO PITTSBURGH

BY: BRIDGET WANG



On October 18, ten students attended the 47th annual World Affairs Council hosted at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the Rotary Club, these ten students spent the entire day learning about this year's world affairs topic: Global Solutions to the Environmental Crisis. The day was filled with various different speakers including keynote speaker, Mr. Ken Berlin, President and CEO of The Climate Reality Project. Ken Berlin has "devoted his career to leadership on environment, energy and climate change issues. A trusted advisor to businesses, non-profits and federal and state governments, Ken has been recognized as a one of

the top climate change attorneys in the world and has extensive expertise on international environmental issues ranging from clean energy to biodiversity." Other notable speakers include Dr. Jordan R. Fischbach, co-director of the RAND Water and Climate Resilience Center, Ms. Susan Packard LeGros, President and Executive Director for the Center for Responsible Shale Development, and Mr. Randy Sargent, Senior Systems Scientists for the Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab.

After lunch, students participated in a simulation of the world climate change. Much like Model UN, different students represented different parts of this problem such as the United States, Canada, China, developing nations, the Fossil Fuel Industry, etc. and all worked together to solve the issue that is climate change. The simulation was designed to bring the monumental issue to a smaller scale.

Emelyn Broniek, senior, has attended the World Affairs Council for the past three years and expresses her thoughts on the entire event. As someone who is passionate about the state of our world, Emelyn says that "through [her] experiences with the council, [she has] been able to understand different perspectives and solutions to extremely important questions, like this year's study of climate change and its impact." For more information on how to be a part next year, visit the QUEST Student Center in room 168.



## CRAIG CANNON: THE COMEBACK KID

BY: BRIDGET WANG

Long time (now retired) choir director at Fox Chapel Area High School, Craig Cannon was nominated and set to receive the Elaine Brown Award, the highest award for choral music excellence from the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), on November 10, 2017. During Cannon's tenure as president of ACDA in the 1990s, the group developed the Elaine Brown Award to recognize "choral forefathers." Marvin Huls of Seton Hill University, a colleague of Cannon, nominated him due to his long lasting legacy of influencing the lives of people through choral music. After FCAHS and retiring from teaching as an Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Duquesne University, Cannon continues to encourage the expression of music by serving as the artistic and musical director of Belle Voci of Pittsburgh and of the North Hills-based Pittsburgh Boy Choir as well as the artistic advisor of Perform International LLC. Craig Cannon is honoured to be a recipient of this lifetime achievement award.



# Dribbling on the Way to Victory

By: Claire Fenton



Our FC basketball programs have high expectations going into this season and the potential to achieve them. Despite graduating three starters and sustaining injuries to key players, the team is looking to continue their success from last year. They compiled a 19-4 record and became the co-champions of the Section 3 6-A title before losing in the quarter-finals of the WPIAL playoffs to Woodland Hills, a team they had beaten twice in the regular season. This year, however, the Foxes are back on top. Led by Tufts University commit Carson Cohen, they came in at third in the Tribune Review's Class 6A preseason rankings. Although competition in their section is as tough as ever - Penn Hills, Latrobe, and Woodland Hills who all made deep runs in the playoffs and remaining teams Hempfield, Norwin, Penn Trafford, and Plum who are not to be overlooked – the team is in a position to have a successful 2017-2018 season.

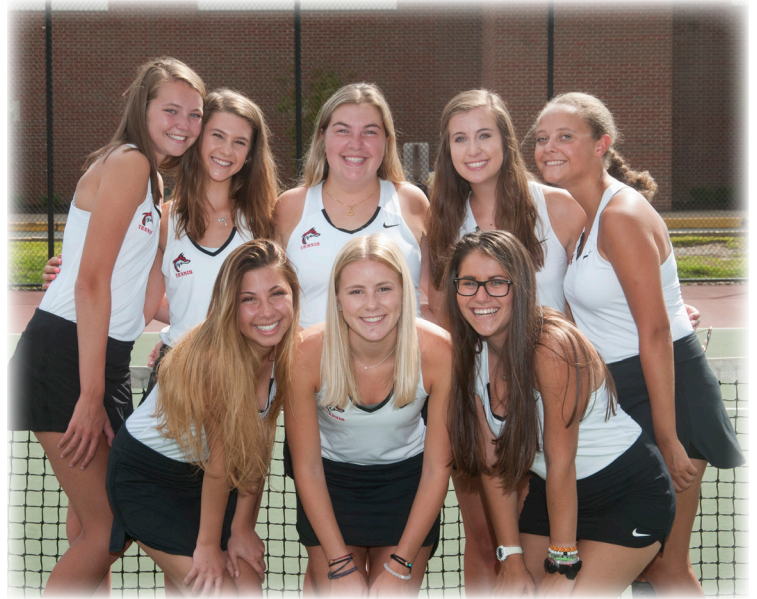
The girls are looking to improve on their performance from last year and continue into the postseason. After battling back from injuries and scoring a few big wins, the Foxes barely missed the playoffs last year following a loss in their final section game. Under the leadership of five seniors, including returning starter Claudia Guerrieri, the team hopes to best the previous season's records, both overall (9-13) and in-section (2-8). As expected, winning games in Section 2 6A will be no easy task since Hempfield and Penn Hills made runs in the PIAA playoffs in the 2016-2017 season, and Latrobe, Norwin, Penn Hills, and Penn Trafford are all capable of putting up a fight.

Good luck to both teams and best wishes for a successful season!



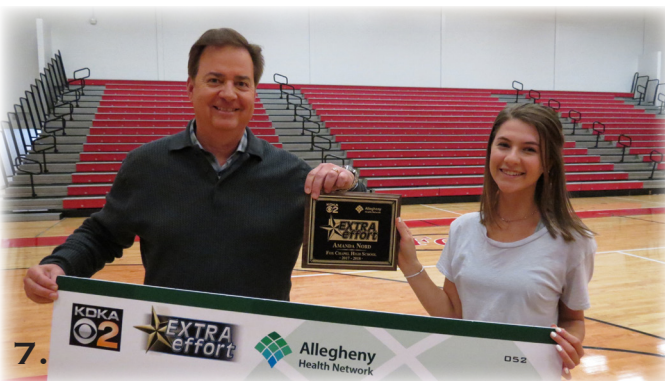
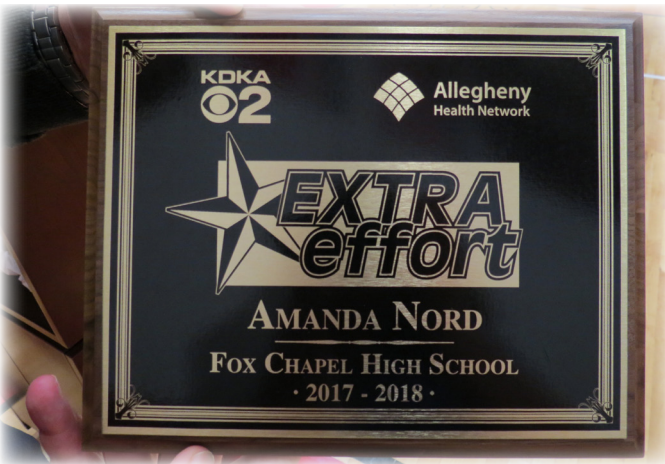
# FC Tennis Aces the WPIALS

By: Tori Crittenden



Amanda Nord and Charlotte James won WPIAL Championship and States in girls tennis doubles for the second year in a row together. They played to victory against Pine Richland this year in the WPIAL Girls Tennis Doubles, beating them 6-0 and 6-2 in just 45 minutes. The girls have worked hard together on and off the court allowing them to win WPIALS and States for two years in a row.

Senior Amanda Nord has also won WPIAL doubles throughout all four years of her high school career and won States for three of them. In November, Amanda also won the KDKA Extra Effort Award, which is given to students who not only excel in the classroom but also in their sport. Amanda has worked hard over the years and is very dedicated to the sport, continuing to play for James Madison University in D1 Tennis next fall. With the Extra Effort Award, the school received a \$200 check from the Allegheny Health Network towards the Fox Chapel athletic fund in honor of Amanda. Congratulations Amanda for your diligence and perseverance to excel in everything you do!





# BIG THINGS COMING UP IN THE FC ORCHESTRA



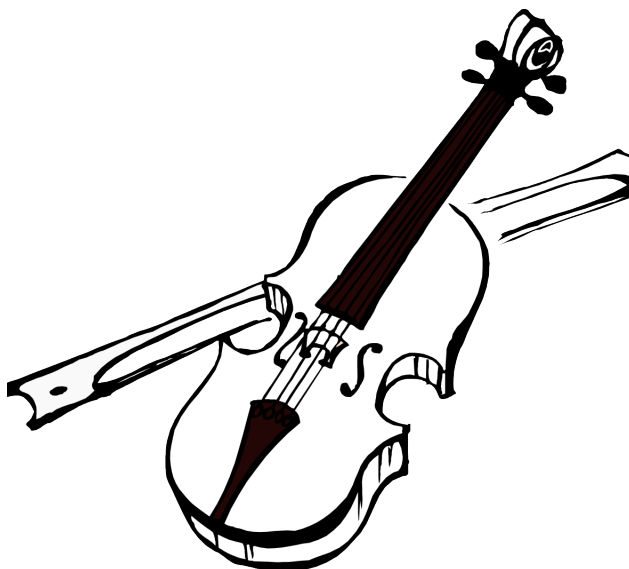
BY: LEAH FETTING



The Fox Chapel High School Orchestra has been more transcendental than ever this year, putting on an amazing fall concert in October and planning for many more in the future. Coming up this winter, the orchestra, led by Briana Warner, Pop-Up Concerts Coordinator, plans to play in admirable venues such as Phipps Conservatory, the Carnegie Science Center, and the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind.

Orchestra director Mauri Copper has allowed all of these events to be organized by the students. These concerts will focus on the four central pillars of the orchestra this year: education, building an audience, access, and the joy of playing string instruments, will allow the orchestra to spread the joy of music in the holiday season, and will provide the public to experience live music through both sight and sound.

Other orchestra events coming up include their annual Disney Concert on February 3rd. The students will dress up as Disney characters and play for kids of all ages to inspire them to play a string instrument. All proceeds benefit the Children's Hospital. Students were also busy with the Festival of Strings concert on December 5th, the Barnes and Nobles fundraiser on December 10th (all proceeds donated to Children's Hospital), and the Ambassador Orchestra's performance at the American Association University for Women on December 9th. The Orchestra plans to continue to teach and learn from others outside of Fox Chapel and to continue to spread the joy of music to as many people as possible.





# INTRODUCING THE NEW BLACK STUDENT UNION TO FCAHS

BY: GRACE HAN

This fall, Fox Chapel Area High School welcomed a new club created and run by William Generett (President), Warner Macklin (Vice President), and faculty sponsor, Mrs. Green. Generett started the BSU so that Fox Chapel Area High School can “give African American students a place to express their feelings,” and also wanted “to give all students the opportunity to learn about African American culture” such as by spreading more awareness and educating the student population during Black History Month. Generett expressed his opinion that while there is not a racial issue at our school, “a lot of kids are uneducated when it comes to race and that can cause a lot of confusion and can make students uncomfortable.” Having a Black Student Union at our school that includes students of all races can help people learn about the black experience and give African American students a supportive platform that allows them to speak out about both the issues they face and the changes they want to make at school.



Here are some questions I asked Will, both about the BSU and how individual students can get involved:

## **How often are meetings and when are they?**

Meetings occur once every other week on a weekday that is subject to change. They take place in room 176 during QRT. By being added to the BSU emailing list, you will be updated on when meetings are and what each meeting will focus on.

## **What does the BSU do during meetings?**

During every meeting, the BSU team members have open conversations about problems they want to address in our community and issues going on in our country. For Black History Month, the BSU is organizing various events to raise awareness.

## **How can students get involved in the BSU?**

Students can get involved by following our Fox Chapel BSU Instagram account @Official\_FC\_BSU, or contacting William Generett or Warner Macklin about getting involved in the club.





# STUDENT NAMED WINNER IN BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ESSAY CONTEST

BY: BONNIE BERZONSKI

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Annika Urban has been named a winner of the Eleventh Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award. Annika was named a third-place winner for her essay entitled, "The Hidden Dangers of Persistence." She will receive a \$2,000 award and be honored at The Pennsylvania Society Annual Meeting June 1, 2018, in Erie, Pennsylvania.

The award is a writing competition open to all Pennsylvania public school juniors in good standing. Students submit an original essay discussing the modern-day relevance of a selected quotation by Franklin. This year's quote was "Energy and persistence conquer all things." Essays are reviewed by judges named by the Pennsylvania Association of School Counselors, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals, and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. The award is sponsored by The Pennsylvania Society, a nonprofit, charitable organization with more than 2,000 members. Its purpose is to honor achievement, reward excellence, promote good will and understanding, and celebrate service to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to humanity in general. Thriving and still growing in its third century of existence, the society is the longest-lived organization of its kind in the country.



## CHARGING OUR WAY INTO THE FUTURE

BY: BRANDON BREWSTER



As our demand for energy around the world increases so does our need for bright students to lead the charge in innovation and technology. Renewable energy is something very new to our school district, and using solar energy, especially, has captured the eye of a few students here at the Fox Chapel Area High School. In order to introduce this kind of technology to the student body, junior Nate Roe, began researching and talking to administration about the possibility and details regarding placement and function during the school year of 2017.

Once Mr. Hower approved of the project, a portable solar panel was purchased and is set up each morning by Nate and a few members of the Environmental club on the outdoor patio above the commons. The charging station for the students to use the solar panel's energy is located at the bottom of the commons stairs and is available for all types of cell phones. "The goal of our project is to introduce students to solar energy on a small scale so they can see the potential it has," Nate said.



# The Telethon

By: Madison Borkovich

On December 22nd, the Fox Chapel Area High School hosted its long-awaited, new and improved annual telethon, which was more modern and exciting than ever. As per usual, the Digital Media Production team was at its helm but with the valuable aid of the student government. The live broadcast took place from 11-1PM and was also live streamed to the community on Swift Fox Media's YouTube channel. If you missed it, head over and watch it now!

For the first time in history, the event took place on not one, but two different sets – a tried-and-true “main set” and a new and separate donor set. The crew, which worked tirelessly for almost two months to make the telethon possible, set up cameras and audio, coordinated orchestrations for both sets, checked background screen and monitor displays, and troubleshooted any issues. Onset personnel also assisted in coordinating and cueing pre-recorded segments and live interviews with various esteemed guests.

In the lead-up to the telethon, as well as on the day of, student government members were responsible for sponsoring and hosting an abundance of fundraisers and overseeing efforts from clubs across the high school. A few of the most well-known events included Fox Fest, pajama day, the junior class car smash, henna tattoos by student artists, the dating auction, and the 3-on-3 dodgeball tournament.

All in all, the telethon exceeded its reputation of years prior, and the teamwork, passion, and grandeur continued to be present in Fox Chapel throughout the month of December. The district was able to pitch in and raised an amazing amount of over \$37,000 to give to Make-A-Wish. This generous contribution will be able to assist 7-8 deserving families in our very own area that are going through the process of getting a wish granted. As for next year? This reporter has a strong feeling that the best is yet to come.











# A NEW CHORUS FOR THE FC ANTHEM

BY: ZEYNEP OZKAYA



Last month, the Fox Chapel Area High School Choir delivered an incredible performance featuring the Fox Chapel Area Orchestra at Syria Shriners. They opened their performance with a breathtaking rendition of Frostiana, which features seven country songs by Robert Frost. The opening song, The Road Not Taken, provided a wonderful opening to this amazing concert. The choir has an amazing vocal range and lovely harmonies, but an added benefit was the addition of the lyrics in the program because it provided the audience a chance to interact more with the music. Though all the songs from Frostiana were wonderful, my favorite was Choose Something Like A Star. While listening, I felt transported to a place of serenity, and it was a spectacular closing to the first part of the concert.

After the intermission, the choir performed Stabat Matter by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, a composer from the 1700s. I was very impressed with the choir's ability to sing such a difficult piece of music in Latin. Their angelic voices filled the vast venue with stunning vocals and beautiful music. In addition to having such a talented ensemble, the performance also featured the exceptional soloists, Meghan Dewald Althouse, soprano, and Daphne Alderson, contralto, who both did an incredible job.

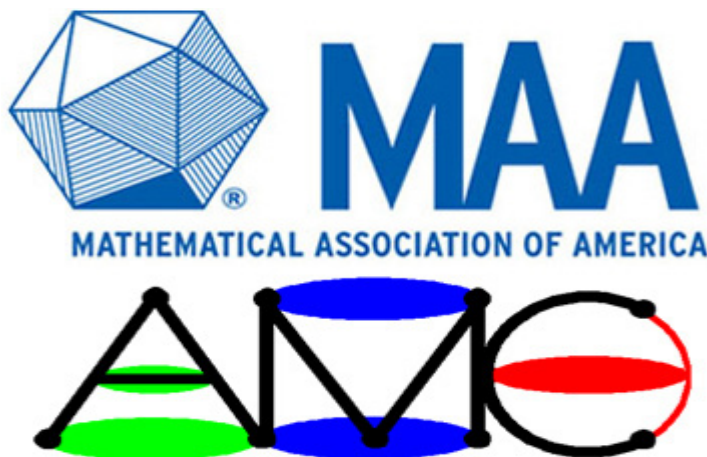
The Fox Chapel Area High School Orchestra, conducted by Mairi Cooper, also did an outstanding job at elevating the choir's performance, and provided a beautiful accompaniment.



# WHAT EVEN IS THE AMC?

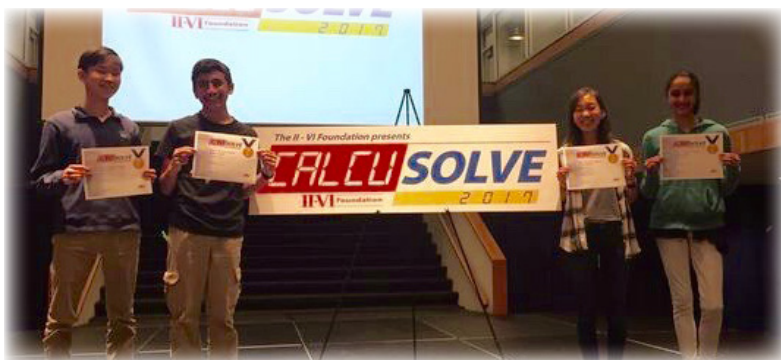
BY: JUSTIN CHOO

The Mathematical Association of America's AMC 10/12 exam is a unique opportunity for students to test their mathematical prowess and qualify for coveted academic avenues. The AMC exam is 25 questions and 75 minutes long, testing for various problem-solving skills including geometry, algebra, and number theory. Juniors and seniors will be tested for more difficult skills than freshman and sophomores. Those who score well on the AMC exam will qualify to compete in the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME), a three-hour mathematical gauntlet of 15 highly-challenging questions



offered at the high school. High scorers on the AMC can also qualify for the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), which is geared toward the brightest math talent in the US.

All students should feel welcome to compete, regardless of mathematical ability or skill. The AMC exam is a short and simple test designed for all high school students. Even for those who won't qualify, the AMC is an easy way for students to push their mathematical horizons and further their abilities. The exam will be administered on February 8, 2018. Stop by the QUEST student center (room 168) to sign up.



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLACE FIRST IN REGIONAL MATH COMPETITION

BY: BONNIE BERZONSKI

Four Fox Chapel Area High School students recently placed in the regional CalcuSolve competition. The team of sophomores J. Oliver “Justin” Choo, Rajeev Godse, and Anzu Sekikawa and freshman Vinisha Sant won first place in the team competition for grades nine and ten. Additionally, Rajeev placed first and Justin placed second in the individual category of the competition for students in grades nine and ten.

The contest was held October 12, 2017. Approximately 280 students from about 40 school districts from across the Pittsburgh area participated in the competition that was held at Duquesne University.

CalcuSolve is a competition that tests students' problem-solving skills related to mathematics. Students compete as part of a group as well as individually.



# Cross Country's Extra Long Season

By: Courtney Kennedy

2017 was an exceptional year for the FCASD Cross Country team. Both the boys and girls team were section champs this year but a special congratulations to the girls team for finishing second in the WPIAL championships, winning first place in the state championship, and winning third in the Northeast regional championship.

Starting the winning streak, both the girl's and boy's cross country team won their section, which is the first time both teams won the section in the same year. A tremendous feat that demonstrates the dedication to the sport by both the runners and coaches, Mr. Moul, recent receiver of the Pennsylvania Track and Field Association Girls' Coach of the Year award, and Mr. Patterson.

After the success of the section win, the boys cross country team had seven runners who qualified to run in the WPIAL race: Jonathan Folkerts, Ian Brown, Avery Bursick, Greg Overbeck, Christian Fitch, Ryan Kenyon, and Shane Funk. Christian Fitch finished in 10th place with a time of 16:25 and Ian Brown finished with a time of 17:03, allowing for both boys to qualify for States. Winning the section also put the girls cross country in the number one slot going into the WPIAL race with runners Sarena Seeger, Annika Urban, Caelan Miller, Grace Sisson, Brooke Krally, Izzy Doerr, and Anna Folkerts. Caelan finished in fourth place, Annika finished in sixth place, and Sarena finished in eighth place. Unfortunately, although some of the girls had their best times of the season, the girls cross country finished in second place behind Oakland Catholic. However this setback only motivated the girls cross country team in their road to gold.

States was held in Hershey, PA, which is considered to be one of the hardest courses the team had to run. With a second place finish at the WPIAL race the cross country was determined to prove themselves. Coach Moul comment-

ed on the girls road to victory saying, "they were a little bit down after losing to Oakland Catholic at the WPIALs, but they showed something in Hershey." The girls cross country team collectively had an impressive race with Sarena Seeger finishing in 11th place in the state with a time of 19:09, followed by Annika Urban, Caelan Miller, Grace Sisson, Brooke Krally, Anna Folkerts and Izzy Doerr. Although none of the runners finished in the top ten, the girls collectively obtained the most points based on the times the girls finished, leading to the impressive first place finish for the girls cross country team. Winning the PIAA championship was a tremendous accomplishment for the girls cross country team and clearly the highlight of their season. Annika, Sarena, and Grace all said, without hesitation, that "the best part of [their] season was winning states." On the boys side of cross country, Christian Fitch and Ian Brown had an impressive race on the Hershey course finishing 30th and 140th in the state respectively.

Finishing first in state qualified the girls cross country team for Northeast Regionals, extending their typical season into the Thanksgiving season. Competing against the top 27 teams in the Northeast, the Lady Foxes ran another impressive race in Wappingers Falls, New York. Caelan, Annika, Anna, Sarena, Brooke and Grace all ran in the regional race in which they were expected to have a seventh place finish. However, the girls cross country team defied expectations yet again when they finished third. Brooke finished first for Fox Chapel with a 34th place finish. Annika finished in 44th, Sarena in 48th, Caelan in 63rd, Grace in 107th, and Anna in 164th. With the Northeast Regional race, the girls cross country team's season finally came to a close; however, throughout the season both the girls and boys cross country team continually impressed and were a source of pride for all of our students.





# Favorite Holiday Traditions and Memories

By: Grace Gackenbach

We asked a few students and faculty here at the high school what their favorite part about the holidays are. Here are their responses.



**Ryan Kenyon (Freshman):**  
“Going to Ichiban on Christmas Eve because I’m Jewish”



**Yezzi Chaudhry (Sophomore):**  
“Seeing my sister when she comes back from Georgia.”

**Julia Kisslinger (Senior):**  
“Setting up the nativity scene with my mom every year.”



**Will Generett (Sophomore):** “My cousins’ coming to town for Christmas.”



**Mr. Norberg:** “Making cinnamon buns on Christmas Morning.”



**Molly Wiese (Senior):** “Going to my grandma’s house on Christmas Eve and eating a lot.”

**George Georges (Sophomore):** “Waking up on Christmas morning to presents.”



**Madilyn Harajda (Sophomore):** “Having a ping-pong tournament in my grandparent’s basement.”

**Nathan Anderson (Freshman):** “Being with family.”







# SAT vs. ACT



BY: BRIAN MULHERN

As early as freshman year, high school students begin to think about their steps toward secondary schooling and tend to place preparation for college as one of their top priorities for the next four years of their lives. A fractional, yet consternating and anxiety-inducing aspect of these preparations, is an idea dreaded by many – standardized testing. Doesn't the name just sound scary to you? Are you a young high-schooler intimidated by the seemingly insurmountable task of going about these tests? Are you a sophomore or junior overwhelmed by the stress of performing on the SAT or ACT? Are you a parent, concerned with the dauntingness of the whole situation? Or are you braver than all of the above, and just would like to know a bit more about which test is best for you? For anyone who answered positively to any question, fear not, we have your answers. In this article, Fox Tales breaks down the differences between the SAT and ACT, providing a few helpful hints along the way. You don't want to miss this.

So what is each test? The SAT, short for Scholastic Assessment Test, is created and distributed by College Board, a private nonprofit corporation formed in 1899 to expand access to higher education. The Scholastic Assessment Test was recently revamped in 2016, essentially making it more alike to its counterpart, the ACT. The ACT is an acronym for American College Testing, an exam administered by another nonprofit with the same name as the test itself. The two tests are scored differently. The SAT uses a composite score, the sum of your score in math (200-800) and your score in reading (200-800) out of 1600 possible points, and the ACT uses the average of each section after each section has been scaled to be out of 36 possible points.

Should you even have to choose which test to take? That's up to you. Depending upon your skillset, you may choose to focus on one test more heavily than the other, or choose not to attempt the other test entirely. But be warned about taking both tests, as your studying will be spread out to cover twice the amount of studying in the same amount of time, as opposed to focusing that study time and energy upon the one test that's best for you. Often, which test is most heavily advertised to take has less to do with which test is more beneficial to you, and more to do with where in the country you live. For example, Fox Chapel High School offers a free Prac-

tice SAT to all freshman through junior students, but high schools elsewhere, such as schools in the Midwest, give students opportunities to take a Practice ACT.

What separates the two tests more than their background, is their content and how each is administered. The SAT has four sections: reading, writing, and math with and without a calculator. The grand total is a sum of 154 questions in 3 hours, as well as one (optional) writing prompt, to be completed in 50 minutes. The ACT also has four sections, including math, reading, english, and science. The grand total is a sum of 215 questions in 2 hours and 55 minutes, as well as an optional essay, which you are given 40 minutes to complete. The material is the same, and the formatting is very similar. However, the tests are definitely not equivalent. The first major difference between the two assessments is that the ACT is far more time sensitive – more questions to complete, with much less time to complete them.

From experience, the ACT science section is less rote memorization than it is pure data analysis, but depending upon your personal preference, this may be the deciding factor for which test you choose to take. The essays are also different as the ACT asks you to write and support your own argument, whereas the SAT asks you to support an argument that has already been formulated. In addition, the ACT does not have a math section where you are not allowed a calculator, however, this section on the SAT doesn't demand the use of difficult arithmetic, so it's not that big of an issue. Personally, I found the reading comprehension questions to be much more straightforward and less confusing on the ACT than on the SAT, and many of my peers feel the same way, though I'm sure I could find someone that disagrees.

Overall, it seems like the SAT is objectively easier, and I have to agree. But before immediately choosing the SAT, consider the fact that when you take either test, you are competing with everyone else who took it. I encourage you to take whichever test gives you the best competitive edge in your college applications. If focused, fast-paced testing is no problem for you, take advantage of what the ACT has to offer. But if you're the type that needs more time to finish each problem, focus your studying on the SAT. Happy testing!



# STEMing the Interests of Our Students

By: Helene Tracey



To give students a chance to immerse themselves in the diverse STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), the Fox Chapel High School held a new event, the STEM Junction Symposium. This event was organized by Shania Khatri, a senior at Fox Chapel this year. Sponsored by many prestigious biomedical programs and companies, such as Carnegie Mellon's Department of Computational Biology, the event drew in students from various schools in the Pittsburgh area. In addition to a free shirt and lunch, students attended to gain further knowledge of STEM careers and to gain perspective on the copious number of fields available to them.

The day started off with a introduction speech led by Robert Murphy, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Murphy gave insight on cell and computational biology and the fascinating topics he is presented with at his job. Every 25 minutes, students had a new guest speaker to choose from. Presentations available for students ranged in topic from cancer research and precision medicine to biomarkers and genome sequencing. Due to the bountiful options, each student could find a captivating session to attend. After each presentation, speakers were jovial and answered any questions students had. When the rotating guest speaker presentations were over, a whole group question and answer session was held with Carnegie Mellon University students. Also, two students presented projects they had been working on, one of them being a freshman at Fox Chapel, Amulya Garimella. To end the event, a presentation was given by Brian Liu of the University of Pittsburgh's Biomedical Department.

Although the event was limited in time, students had ample opportunities to receive an introduction to varying fields. Be sure to attend in the coming years and check out the QUEST office for any upcoming STEM opportunities available!



# A MUSICAL TRIFECTA



CAHS sophomore Justin Oliver Choo was recently honored by being invited to perform as the guest artist at the Youngstown State Keyboard Festival. He played a Chopin Ballade and wowed the audience with his amazing musical talent. Justin has been playing the piano since the age of six. He won the gold medal in the level 9 concerto division of the World Piano Competition, which led to a performance with the World Festival Orchestra. In 2015, he was a Pittsburgh Concert Society winner and in 2016, he became a Steinway Society Young Artist. In 2017, he won first place in the Lois Streater Competition.

Justin is also a composer and has won the PA Music Educators Association (PMEA) Composition Contest three times, with his works showcased at the PMEA annual conventions.

His greatest privilege has been being part of Tanglewood's Young Artists Piano Program (2016), and Young Artists Orchestra (2017) as a violinist.



# Sadie Hawkins: The December Dance

By: Claire Katz



On Saturday December 9th, over 100 Fox Chapel High School students from all grades attended the Sadie Hawkins dance in the FC auxiliary gym. This winter dance was a very fun time, and also raised lots of funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. A ticket cost \$10, and all proceeds were donated to the charity.

Sadie Hawkins puts a twist on traditional high school dances in that roles are reversed, with girls required to ask boys for a date. Plus, it is informal unlike Prom, so people eat at different types of restaurants and take pictures at their houses instead of a special location. This was the first time for a Sadie Hawkins dance in three years, and students were excited to boogie





# Hidden Gems of FCAHS

By: Courtney Kennedy

You may think you know Fox Chapel Area High School like the back of your hand, but our beloved high school has some hidden gems you have to see yourself to believe.



## The Fab Lab

Many of our students have seen the mini house parked outside of the school filled with awesome high-tech equipment. However, many students don't know that we have a full-size lab right in our school. The Fab Lab is a MIT certified lab that allows students to learn and innovate. It is equipped with a laser cutter, a 3D printer, and essential high-tech tools that allow students to play, create, learn, invent, and mentor other students. This workspace was designed by FCAHS students and the decor in the room is made of repurposed materials from the renovation of the school.

## The Pond

As many know, we have a beautiful gardens surrounding our school, but did you know we also have a pond? Located right outside of the art wing is a beautiful pond that was installed by FCAHS students, teachers and alumni in 2002 and has been faithfully maintained by Mr. Frank since it's installment. The Pond is in memory of Mary who was a student at FCAHS. She unfortunately passed due to ovarian cancer, but rather than an impersonal piece of art, Mr. Frank was able to convince the borough to install a beautiful pond in her memory. The pond is now the home to many fish and beautiful plants making it a prime location for taking photos or just relaxing. Last year, the new, interactive art installment was erected at the pond. It is a must-see. Grab a book and soak up some sun when the weather gets warmer next to another one of FCAHS hidden gems.



## Digital Media Lounge

Transformed from an outdated control room to a work of art, the Digital Media Lounge is truly one-of-a-kind. At the end of the 2017 school year, artist Baron Batch, came in and painted a mural representing not only Pittsburgh, but also FCAHS. Assisted by some FCAHS students, Baron Batch used paint to create a masterpiece located in our school. It is something you need to see to believe, so head to the TV studio and check it out.



## Biking and Hiking Trails

Unless you have taken adventure sports it is easy to miss the next hidden gem of FCAHS. Located in the woods next to the staff parking lot, there is a set of beginner mountain biking and hiking trails. With minimal incline and relatively clear pathways, these trails are a great way to practice your mountain biking skills or go for a walk. They also have a nice view of the football field and school!



# FC Photography AP Class Shows Initiative

By: Elizabeth Kauma



The AP Photography class partnered with Foxes Den to offer a professional holiday photoshoot to members of the community in November. Foxes Den students handled the scheduling, advertising, and finances for the customers, while Mrs. Wickman's AP Photography class created the sets, took and edited the photos. Participating families paid \$50 for five high-quality photographs. They came to the high school photography classroom at a pre-scheduled appointment time for a twenty-minute shoot split between two studios. The student photographers were paid for their hard work and additional proceeds were reinvested into the Foxes Den and also used to subsidize the costs of the Photography AP test.

The photo shoot was a huge success for both the business students and the AP Photography students. As one of the photography students I learned the complexity of specifically the taxes involved in paying employees. It gave business students a better understanding of the complexities of business outside of the closed market of the high school and AP Photography students a greater understanding of the business aspect of being an artist.

A possible spring photo shoot is in the works. Be on the lookout for a notification about a spring family photo shoot.



*Senior Sydnee Pilarski earned a full-ride, worth \$125,000, to Thiel College! Representatives from Thiel surprised her at school on December 15. She won the scholarship "as a result of her exceptional performance in high school and at a scholarship competition held Dec. 2." Best. Surprise. EVER!!!! Congratulations Sydnee. We are so very proud of you!*





# Powderpuff 2017

By: Daniel Andrud

Powderpuff was a great success this year, drawing out students and parents alike to watch the junior and senior girls battle it out on the football field. The inclimate weather lead to a hazy but intense football game. The game was a struggle between the teams for the lead, but ultimately the seniors pulled out in front and stood their ground, defeating the junior girls by a wide margin.

While the juniors played a good game, the seniors showed their skill and superiority on the football field. The male cheerleaders also strutted their stuff during their halftime show, encouraging their female counterparts to finish the second half strong.

Don't worry junior girls, there's always next year with the class of 2019 and 2020 going head to head next fall.





# DECODING THE AP COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES

By: DANIEL ANDRUD

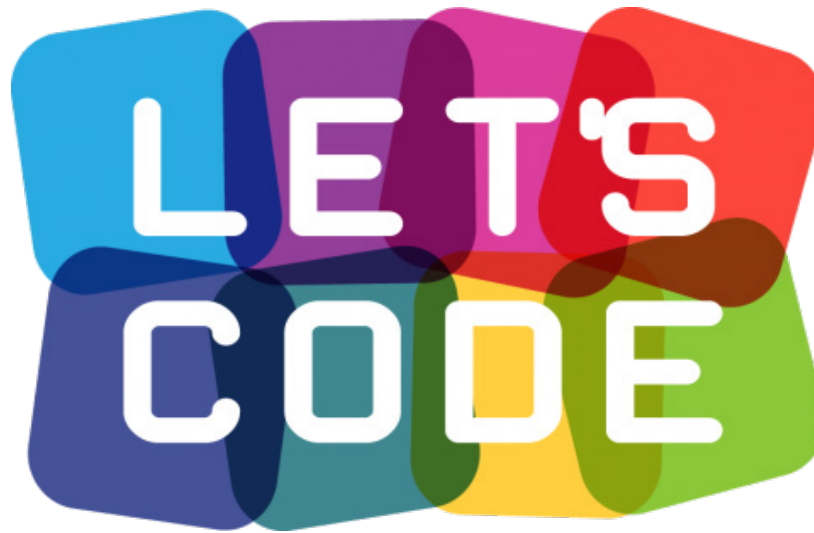
Computer Science is a rapidly growing field that will continue to be in great demand in the job market. Most students would find it in their best interest to take at least one computer programming course prior to college. At Fox Chapel Area High School, we are fortunate to have multiple computer science classes available for scheduling. Two such courses – AP Computer Science and AP Computer Science Principles – are getting much increased attention and rightfully so. With similar course titles, the two can get easily confused and it can be hard to determine which class to take. The scheduling time of year is quickly approaching, so here is what you need to know when deciding which of these courses is the best fit for you.

Advanced Placement Computer Science is taught by Mr. Klipa. This class is more focused on coding in multiple computer languages, including visual basic and JavaScript, and has a prerequisite of either an 83% in Algebra II or just Algebra II Acc. Students who have taken the course describe it as obviously challenging, but very rewarding and a great way to be introduced to the field of computer science. It is also one of the few AP classes that are open to all students, including freshman, making it a great way to start off high school with a weighted GPA. Taking this course also prepares students to take the AP Comp Sci test in May, with a possibility of earning college credit. AP Comp Sci is also a five-day the first semester and a two-day trailer second semester.

After taking AP Computer Science, you become eligible to take Data Structures and Algorithms, the equivalent of a second-level college course with a

curriculum curated by Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science. The topics in the course are the same that would be covered in a college-level Data Structures and Algorithms course, but without the formal level of mathematical proofs that would be present in such a course. The course also continues the study of Javascript and other advanced topics in order to produce a final project. This course is taught by Mr. Klipa, and is a five-day one semester block course, with a prerequisite of a 83% in AP Computer Science.

Another computer science course Fox Chapel offers is Principles of Computer Science Advanced Placement, taught by Mrs. Hollern. If you don't know Mrs. Hollern, she's a very energetic and engaged teacher who is very flexible with students and is always willing to help students do their best. This course is more fo-



cused on fundamental computer science theories, with a moderate amount of coding as well and more theory-based and macro concepts. AP Computer Science Principles is a five-day, one semester block and has a prerequisite of at least a 83% in Algebra II.

As a student currently enrolled in AP Principles of Computer Science, I have found the course to be really interesting and demanding, with a rare assignment needing to be completed outside of the classroom. Mrs. Hollern ensures that students are progressing at a steady pace through the course and that everyone is understanding the material. I highly recommend that students take this course as colleges look very favorably at computer science courses, and the fact that it's an AP with minimal homework is a huge positive.





# Foxes Tumble Into New Season

By: Caroline Green



While there is a good chance that you are upright on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, there is also a good chance that the girls on the Fox Chapel Area High School gymnastics team are not. Tumbling into their 2017-2018 season, the girls are all about having fun. They are coached by Nadine Buchanan and practice at Trinity Gymnastics. Even though they don't compete until January, they have already started practicing twice a week.

The high school girls gymnastics teams compete in four events: bars, floor, beam, and vault. This season, the Foxes would like to improve their team bars scores, since they are already strong on floor and beam. So far, two meets have been scheduled and the team is ready to compete.

Although they definitely work hard, there are more important things to the girls than getting perfect scores and always winning. The no-tryout team competes with a relaxed attitude. Himmel states, "We have fun with it as a team, [and] don't let bad scores get to us."



# CASH FOR COLLEGE

BY: CLAIRE FENTON

Finding the college that's right for you can be a difficult process; the location, campus, and academics all have to be a perfect fit. While you're probably worried about the size of the dorm rooms, your parents are concerned with something else – the cost. College is expensive, and whether you're a freshman or a senior, it's never too late to have a couple scholarships under your belt to help pay for your education. Here are some scholarship opportunities that will keep the dollar signs from getting in the way of your dream school.

1. **Unigo.com** - This website is a fantastic resource not only for researching colleges but also for earning scholarship money. It has thousands of different scholarships totaling billions of dollars - if you create an account, you can filter through all of them and find ones that suit your interests, grade, gender, and more. Additionally, Unigo holds monthly 250-word essay competitions with prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

2. **Raise.me** - What do good grades, accelerated courses, volunteer work, sports, school activities, and college events all have in common? They can all be cashed in for scholarship money at Raise.me! By creating an account on their website and logging your data, you can earn a "microscholarship" for something as simple as getting an A in a class. Although not all schools are partnered with the program, some notable local ones are, including Denison University, Gannon University, Temple University, Washington & Jefferson College, Westminster College, and West Virginia University.

3. **Prom Pics** - It can't get much simpler than this scholarship from Savvi Formalwear: enter photos from your prom night to win a \$250 Visa gift card. Awards will be given in the promposal, pre-prom, dance, and post-prom categories.

4. **Chegg Monthly Scholarships** - What part of college are you most looking forward to? If you could create an ice cream flavor, what would it be? Each month, Chegg.com awards \$1000 to the person who best answers prompts like these in a 600-character essay. Participants must be at least 16 years old to enter.

5. **Courageous Persuaders Video Contest** - If writing essays just isn't your thing, this contest may be for you. Create a 30-second commercial warning against the dangers of underage drinking or texting while driving for a chance to win up to \$2,000. All high school students are eligible to enter; the deadline is February 9, 2018.

6. **Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation** - Participants take an multiple choice test online and are scored on time and accuracy. The quizzes cover a wide range of topics, from specific school subjects to books and movies. Winners can receive anywhere from \$250 to \$2,500. To enter, you must register at cksf.org.

7. **Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship** - This contest is open to all high school students and offers \$1000 to one winner. Contestants choose an essay prompt - either why they deserve the scholarship, their academic goals, or a topic of choice - and answer in 250 words. Competitions are held every six months.



*January 3rd was past-graduate visitation day when some of our recent grads come back to talk about their college/university experience and to share what they've been up to since graduating. They get to see old friends, including their teachers. It's a great time and a wonderful way for our current students to hear about where their friends are now.*



# TIERS OF THE TV STUDIO: WHAT'S NEW WITH SWIFT FOX MEDIA

BY: MADISON BORKOVICH

Swift Fox Media and the FCTV studio's curriculum has been revamped and reinvented. This school year, Video Production has officially become Elements of Digital Video, and the class formerly known as Advanced TV is now Digital Media Production. Student focus is on uncovering the basics and essentials when it comes to multimedia. They learn about the mechanics of the green screen process, explore editing software, finetune filming and camerawork, and discover how to create and publish quality content geared towards reaching a target audience. Many members of the Elements of Digital Video course aim to soon progress to Digital Media Production.

About a dozen members of Digital Media Production are responsible for the execution and production of the annual telethon. About one quarter of these elite students have also been cross-trained, meaning that they partook in both Video Production and/or TV Production and On Camera Performance, giving them a broad spectrum of skills both behind the scenes and in front of the camera. Few viewers truly realize all of the hard work and prior planning that goes into the two-hour live production. These experienced folks not only film and account for audio, organization, and more during the third-period block, but also create pre-recorded packages, conduct interviews, edit photo and video montages, select music and sound effects, create and construct the sets, and switch from live broadcast to previously recorded projects. Though the annual telethon is a monumental task, it is very worthwhile and rewarding.

The Digital Media Production team also creates videos for their YouTube channel, titled "Swift Fox Media," with the link to the channel being <https://m.youtube.com/c/swiftfoxmedia>. Subject matter spans throughout student and teacher features, a 360 degree tour of the school, informational promotions and interviews, and challenge and trivia videos.

In order for the Digital Media Production team to continue its expansion and distribute more content to the masses, it needs more outstanding members, so stop by the freshly redesigned TV Studio or talk to your guidance counselor to begin your journey into the world of multimedia!

27.





# FOX CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL IS RESOURCEFUL

By: ELIZABETH KAUMA



High school can be tough, especially when you have a math test and don't understand the content or when you have a Kirk essay due tomorrow and only have one word written. All of this may make you feel as if high school is impossible. Fortunately at FCAHS, we have so many resources to help you accomplish the impossible.

The best resource the school has to offer is its wonderful teachers. If you're having trouble understanding class material, there are no people better than those who taught it and want to help students understand. Teachers are also the easiest people to contact, whether that be during QRT or by email.

Guidance counselors are one of the more underappreciated resources this school has to offer. Scheduling is only part of what they do. They are great resources for information about college, scholarships and career decisions. Fostering a good relationship with your guidance counselor is also a good idea not only because they are needed for college recommendations but also because they are nice people that can really help with your academic career.

QUEST stands for Quality Enrichment Studies, and that is just what is offered in the QUEST Student Center, room 168. This is a great place for any student to visit for opportunities to extend what is being learned in the classroom, to showcase your talents, build your resume, and start career building. The opportunities offered are open to ALL students, including apprenticeships, competitive academic challenges, field experiences to the World Affairs Council events, open heart surgery observation, and theatrical performances. The QUEST

teachers are also available to mentor you with individual initiatives you want to pursue as well. All of these options are great if you're a student who isn't sure about what career is right for you, or if

you just want to experience new and thrilling opportunities.

For those who struggle with all things writing, Manuscript, in room 176, will be your saving grace. Manuscript is a group of advanced writing students who make themselves available to help peers through every stage of a writing task, from drafting to revisions. This resource is particularly helpful because assistance can continue through Google docs after the initial meeting.

In the age of technology, the library might seem like an outdated resource, but the library is actually wonderfully helpful. They have more than enough books to help any student with the ninth grade Pennsylvania Project, as well as fast printers and computers. The library is a well-used commodity for anyone looking for research or wanting a quiet place to study.

The Math Help Center is exactly what it sounds like—a resource for math help. In room 251, Mr. Morley and others offer help every QRT to any student of any math class who might need it.

The technology help desk is located in the commons and is the best place to go for all of your technical issues. It always has experienced personnel to help with all tech problems from school devices to personal devices.

Whether it be navigating English, Calculus or Schoolology that makes high school seem impossible, FCAHS has ways to make it easier. These resources are available to all students, so don't be afraid to get help when you need it!





# Ready to Make a Splash!

By: Madison Borkovich

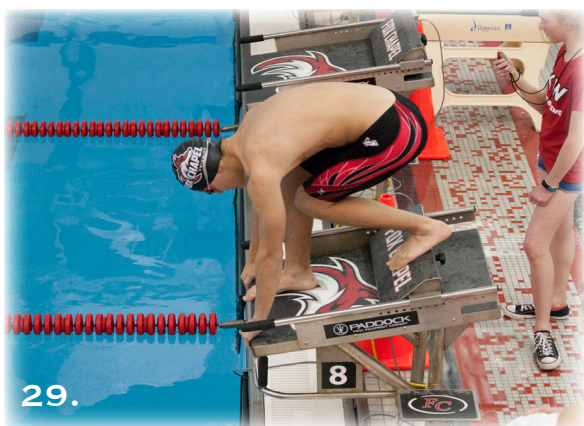


The Fox Chapel Area High School swim team is looking forward to another season full of intense competition. The 2017-2018 swim team consists of dedicated teammates full of motivation and drive. They practice for up to six days a week and three hours a day, pushing themselves to become better with each stroke. The girls are led by captains Joslyn Filo and Molly Wiese, and the boys are led by captains Brandon Brewster and Liam Botos.

The overall goals for the teams this season are to win the section for both the girls' and the boys', send a couple of relay and individual swimmers to WPIALS, and have those relays and individuals make it to States. In order to achieve these goals, the team is intensively training for their meets.

Important meets this season include Shadyside, Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic. The swimmers look forward to these meets not only for the intense rivalries, but the events often reunite them with teammates from other swim clubs in which they participate. In previous years, the Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic meets have been ones to watch, because they often determine the winner of the section.

For the seniors, it is their last year with the Fox Chapel Swim team before they move on to their next endeavor. The seniors include Joslyn Filo, Molly Wiese, Julia Kisslinger, Becca Polcyn, Sadye Miller, Morgan Green, Brandon Brewster, and Liam Botos. Senior and captain Molly Wiese, reflected on her love for the swim team. "I like the swim team because it's one of the very few sports at Fox Chapel where the boys and girls are on the same team, training and competing with each other. We challenge each other more and more every day. Swimming is a really challenging sport, being in the pool for nearly three hours a day, six days a week. But with that, the team gets really close and awesome friendships are made." We wish our swimmers all the best as they enter the season!





# FOX CHAPEL CREW MEMBER NAMED TO SCHOLASTIC HONOR ROLL

BY: BONNIE BERZONSKI

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Helen Paulini, a member of the Fox Chapel Crew Team, was recently named to the 2017-18 USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll. Helen is one of only 34 students from across the nation to earn a spot on the Honor Roll. The students were chosen from 114 nominations received from athletes representing 62 clubs and school programs across the U.S. Applicants are selected based on high Grade Point Averages (GPAs) and test scores, as well as their rowing accomplishments.

The USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing. Applicants must be USRowing members, have rowed or coxed at least one year, and successfully competed at or above the league or regional level.



*Photo Courtesy of FCASD Athletics*



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