

FOX TALES *Quarterly*

A STUDENT PUBLICATION



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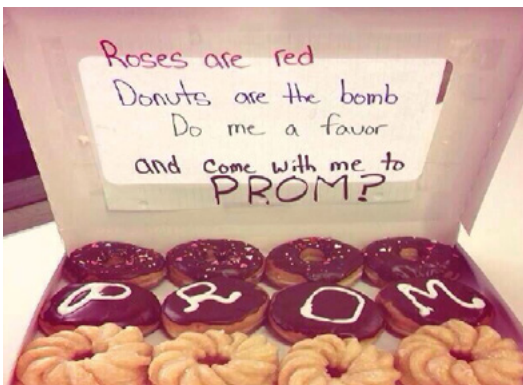


Every year in the months leading to Prom, girls and boys of Fox Chapel Area High School stress and worry about who they're going to dance with, take pictures with, and maybe even get a special midnight kiss from. But none of that can happen without a successfully played promposal. The promposal has to be clever, with an element of surprise. It should be everything that your intended date ever could ever dream of, right? Actually, no it doesn't.

The promposal, by definition, can be very nerve-racking, but if done right, it doesn't have to be. The promposal is important to your date, but at the same time, it's not the end-all-to-be-all. The key to a good, nay, a great promposal, is to be clever, maybe use an inside joke, or give your promposal a theme that your date will find funny and relative to them. Another important factor is to plan out your promposal so that your date is mildly to wildly surprised when you do it, and maybe even a little surprised that you asked him or her. That is all part of the magic of the promposal.

Promposal is all about being well-thought out, and maybe even a little heartfelt. You should want your date to feel the appreciation that comes with being asked to Prom. Your promposal can be anything: a sign, a video, a pizza, a watermelon with "Prom?" written on it, but it has to be well-thought out. For underclassmen, prom might seem like just another dance, but for the class of 2017, it's important. Senior prom symbolizes many things, but mainly it symbolizes the end: the end of an athletic career, the end of high school, the end of childhood, or maybe even the end of one's time in Pittsburgh.

Look, I'm no doctor, but I'm am 99% sure that Prom is all about having a good time, and enjoying those last few weeks of high school before summer begins, or maybe, the rest of your life begins. So make your promposal one to remember! Also, don't forget that Fox Tales holds a yearly promposal contest. The winner gets two free prom tickets, so make it count and be sure to enter the contest! More details are available in room 168.



Past-Graduate Day Provides Insight About Life After High School

Alex Smolar

On January 14th, members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2016 took time from their precious winter breaks to return to the high school to discuss their college experience with current students for the eighth annual Past-Graduate Day. These alumni spoke to students during all lunch periods, offering great advice and insights to the high school students. Seniors who have already been accepted into college could go and discuss their school with a current student, and other seniors who are waiting to hear back from schools could discuss colleges with a wide variety of students. In addition, the event allowed all high school students to see some old friends and gave college students the chance to see their old school, say hello to teachers, and see other former classmates. All in all, it was a very informative and fun day for everyone involved!



The college students who attended are:
Brittney Beighley: Carlow University
Elena Berg: Rochester Institute of Technology
Jessica Berg: Swarthmore College
Eli Berman: Princeton University
Hansen Bursic: Temple University
Maya Clark: Duquesne University
Lia Crocker: University of Arizona
Joseph Desmone: American University
Darrian Difatta: Slippery Rock University
Libby Friend: University of Colorado - Boulder
Ishan Khatri- University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Noah Khorey- Point Park University
Sarah Kitner- University of Dayton
Jake Kronman- Cornell University
Fiona Marree- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Maggie McIlroy- Southern Methodist University
Molly Mendelson- Miami University of Ohio
Shaina Munn- Johns Hopkins University
Samantha Olbrich- Wheeling Jesuit University
Holly Painter- CCAC
Bethany Pollock- Gannon University
Becca Salamacha- Ohio State University
Priyanka Shah- Drexel University
Jess Shodipo- Harvard University
Lauren Stankovich- CCAC North Campus
Olivia Stevenson- CCAC North Campus
Thada Manasa- Ohio State University
Maya Weis- Connecticut College



One of the more popular clubs offered at our high school is the Model UN/Forensics Club. With over 150 members, students have the option to sign up for various MUN and Speech and Debate competitions over the year. In the past few months, our students have been doing exemplary work at these competitions.

With 340 students from 21 schools in the Ohio State region competing at the John F. Kennedy High School Invitational Forensic Tournament in Warren Ohio, these students won the following awards: Madeleine Doerr – 6th Place in Original Oratory; Ellen Pil – 2nd Place in Student Congress.

With 160 students from 16 schools attending the M & M Lake Erie Invitational Forensic Tournament on November 5th, these students won the following awards: Jackson Boychuk and J. Oliver Choo – 6th Place in Public Forum Debate; Sara Puthenpurayil and Jonathan Monroe – 2nd Place in Policy Debate; Darwin Leuba and Mihir Garimella – 3rd Place in Policy Debate; Joshua Cagan – 5th Place in Impromptu Speaking; Madeleine Doerr – 1st Place in Original Oratory.

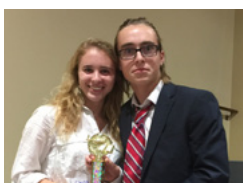
In addition, both our policy and speech teams won 2nd place overall in the team sweepstakes! With almost 500 students representing 24 schools in the University of Pittsburgh MUN Conference on November 7, the following FCAHS students won the following awards: Darwin Leuba and Tristan McClelland (ASEAN) – 2nd Place in Ad-Hoc Crisis Committee; Emelyn Broniek and Sara Puthenpurayil (China) – 2nd Place in Social & Humanitarian Committee; Jonathan Monroe and Clare O'Connor (China) – 1st Place in United Nations Development Programme; Rajeev Godse and Felix Vesper (Turkey) – 1st Place in Organization for Islamic Cooperation;

Mihir Garimella and Suvir Mirchandani (China) – 2nd Place in United Nations Security Council.

Additionally, in the Position Paper writing category, Jonathan Monroe and Clare O'Connor, representing China, won 1st place. In the Large Delegation category, the team representing China (Darwin Leuba, Tristan McClelland, Mihir Garimella, Suvir Mirchandani, Karissa Becer, Albert Liu, Andreas Paljug, Tao Sheng, Jonathan Monroe, Clare O'Connor, Sara Puthenpurayil, Emelyn Broniek) won 2nd place overall and the team representing Turkey (Jeremy Rodrigues, Rohan Chalasani, Ryan Santilli, Braddock Lalor, Omar Abdalla, Eli Izenzon, Ziya Xu, Felix Vesper and Rajeev Godse) won 1st place overall.

The Patriot Games Forensic Tournament hosted by George Mason University on December 3-4 drew over 3000 competitors from 113 schools across the Eastern United States. Ellen Pil deserves mention as our semifinalist in Student Congress. Finally, our high school students competed in the annual Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School Invitational Forensic Tournament on December 10. They competed against 360 other students from various high schools in Pennsylvania and won the following awards: Suvir Mirchandani, Madeleine Doerr, and Rajeev Godse each won an Outstanding Performance in Student Congress, Original Oratory, and Impromptu Speaking respectively. At this tournament, places weren't given, rather an "outstanding performance" was given to the students who ranked in the top 5 of their event.

Wow! Congratulations to all the members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Model UN & Forensics Club for all your amazing achievements!



Another Excellent Performance at University of Virginia MUN

-Elias Izenzon-

Students from the Fox Chapel Area High School Forensics & Model UN team competed at the 26th annual University of Virginia Model United Nations Conference on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday November 18-19-20 in Charlottesville, VA. They were among more than 1,000 students representing 53 schools from the eastern United States who competed on 18 different committees concerning historical crises, international relations, and human rights.

The 36th Annual University of Virginia Model United Nations Conference took place on the weekend of November 18 - 20. More than 1,000 students from 53 schools across the eastern United States were on hand as University of Virginia Professor and Nobel Peace Laureate, Jerry White, opened the conference in Charlottesville, Virginia. Students had the opportunity to compete in 18 committees, summits, conventions, and crisis simulations. These ranged from representing the Aztec Empire in 1519 during the Spanish invasion under Hernan Cortes, to a meeting of the Japanese War Board, set during the months leading up to the end of World War II. Students also had the opportunity to participate in less serious committees like The Fédération Internationale de Football Association committee, which addressed controversy in the world cup location selection process, and corruption under former FIFA President, Sepp Blatter. Students

also had the opportunity to participate in more serious committees like the United Nations Women Summit, which addressed issues of women in society across the globe.

FCAHS students did well at the convention, with seven out of fourteen students placing, or earning honorable mentions. The following students were recognized for outstanding performances:

- International Atomic Energy Agency 1970 the team of seniors Omar Abdalla & Lee Beasley representing Cuba won a Verbal Recognition (the equivalent of 4th Place)
- United Nations Security Council the team of juniors Emilia Bianchini & Bridget Wang representing Indonesia won a Verbal Recognition (4th place)
- Aztec Empire 1519 senior David Han portraying Tlacateccatl, Member of the Supreme War Council, won a Verbal Recognition (4th Place)
- Wilson Global Systems Simulation: Congo Crisis 1964 sophomore Tristan McClelland portraying Andrei Gromyko of the KGB won a Verbal Recognition (4th Place)
- Indian Parliamentary Session 2012 sophomore Diana Crookston won an Honorable Mention (the equivalent of 3rd Place)

Please congratulate these students when you see them in school!





This school year brought, among other things, some confusion to FCHS students.. The continuous inquiries of "What happened to FCTV? Where did the morning announcements go?" and the like filled the halls. Well, FCTV has been completely rebranded, courtesy of the school principals' excellent idea! The name of our school's multimedia program (and new YouTube channel) is now Swift Fox Media. The title was selected by a majority vote from the multimedia students.

During the rebranding, a new logo for our Youtube channel was created, as well as a new symbol for the TV studio's posters. All videos made are filmed and edited by the multimedia students. The channel's next goal is to obtain 100 subscribers, so a customized URL can be created; it has 73 currently. When the video "Principal Carpool Karaoke" launched, it received over 1,000 views in less than 48 hours. It is the most watched video thus far, now standing at a total of over 1,500 views. The media

department's main objective is to create engaging videos that can be viewed and shared with people not only in the FCA community, but also worldwide. The account is verified, since our school is a Google school, which means it can post longer videos.

At the helm of the improved multimedia program is new head teacher, Mr. Ryan Devlin. After the retirement of former instructor, Mr. Doug Martin, a lot has changed in the TV studio. Advanced TV student Katie Palumbo commented that though Mr. Martin was more familiar with how things run in a TV studio, and primarily focused on news. Mr. Devlin is very goal oriented, and committed to all types of diverse media. Katie feels Mr. Devlin exposing the students to more variety, such as TV shows, movies, and small comedy videos is beneficial. She concluded that each is an experienced teacher who teaches in very different ways.

Mr. Devlin remarked that the media department's new goal is to manufacture creative content that will gain hits and expand its audience. He also gave us a sneak peek of projects in the works. At the start of next year, the prime minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, will be interviewed by a multimedia student via Skype. The students are also in the process of creating and releasing 360 videos along with more Car Ride Karaoke videos. Swift Fox Media's studio is in the midst of being remodeled, and new equipment will be added, the old will be removed, and the process will be complete by the next school year.

There are three new multimedia courses that students can elect for next year: Broadcast Journalism, for students interested in news, Elements of Digital Video, for students who want to learn how to record and edit high-quality videos, and lastly, Digital Media Production (for students who previously took Elements of Digital Video)!. There is also a spring video contest at the Digital Media Consortium at RMU. If you like what you see on Swift Fox Media, then consider adding one of these exciting classes to your schedule!





MRS. YACAMELLI RECEIVES AWARD FROM UCHICAGO

-Bliss Uribe-

Fox Chapel Area High School AP Calculus teacher Mrs. Yacamelli was selected to receive the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award this past year. The award recognizes teachers who have changed their student's lives through being a great teacher and mentor. Mrs. Yacamelli was nominated by her former student, 2016 graduate Anja Schempf, who now attends the University of Chicago.

Each year, the university invites entering first

year students to nominate an educator who has influenced them, challenged them, or helped them along the path toward intellectual growth. The university receives hundreds of letters from students inspired by teachers who have changed the course of their lives. Mrs. Yacamelli received an engraved glass award and a congratulatory letter from the University of Chicago as a token of congratulations.

The FCAHS Election Results

-Alex Smolar-

Another Presidential Election season has come and gone, and with a high number of voting-eligible students in the district along with politically active minors, FCAHS students were extremely involved. Students volunteered for candidates of all political ideologies for a variety of political offices, from our congressional candidates to our presidential candidates. Students from Ms. Klein's AP Government class were encouraged to get involved in the political process, as many students went door-to-door for candidates, attended rallies and debates, went "phone-banking," and volunteered in field offices. One student in said, "I loved the opportunity to volunteer for a wide-range of campaigns. It felt extremely rewarding to get involved in politics and try to make a difference." The week before the November 8th election, Ms. Klein organized a high school mock election. The election allowed students of all ages to vote, and included the Presidential Race, Pennsylvania Senatorial Race, and the 12th District Congressional Race.

Democrats Hillary Clinton, Katie McGinty, and Erin McClelland all won their respective elections, however this result was not in line with the certified election results.

Republican Donald Trump won the Presidency with an Electoral College victory of 306 to 232, and Republican Incumbent Pat Toomey was able to barely hold on to his Senate Seat in his tight race against Katie McGinty. Incumbent Congressman Keith Rothfus was also able to win an overwhelming victory to win his third term in office. In addition, Democrat Josh Shapiro won his race for the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office. Democrats Eugene DePasquale and Joe Torsella were able to win their elections for Auditor General and State Treasurer, respectively. No matter how you feel about the election results, it is always a good idea to get out there and volunteer for campaigns, learn about the candidates, understand the important roles of our elected officials, and be involved in the political process.

Apprenticeship Program - Spotlight on Opportunity

-Madison Borkovich-

Of the many rewarding opportunities offered by Fox Chapel Area High School, one of the largest and most diverse is its apprenticeship program. Sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, the apprenticeship program offers sophomores, juniors, or seniors the opportunity to choose from more than 50 career paths to explore in-depth. The process is quite simple: create an account on the AIU's website (<http://apprenticeships.aiu3.net>), complete the short online application, obtain a teacher's recommendation, and bring the completed parent signature page to Mrs. Gibson in the QUEST Student Center (room 168) so that she can take care of the rest. Opportunities are offered in many diverse fields, including communications, performing arts, visual arts, science and technology. You can be admitted into various specific topics, including architecture, nursing, voice coaching, teaching, engineering, and, in my case, writing.

The Writing for Publication Apprenticeship spans a four-month period, from October through January. Each session covers a

different topic: poetry, essays, short stories, and screenplay. All of our works are discussed broadly in small groups, and many are sent to various writing contests and publications afterward. The submission process allows many aspiring writers to showcase their talents. The variety of the sessions ensures that each and every participant will have a time period to explore both new areas as well as their areas of interest. The majority of participants in the past have enjoyed seeing their writing published and/or honored in well-respected local and national competition.

Whether it be zoology, advertising, bio-engineering, or photography, students are sure to find an area that excites them. Be sure to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!



WHY JOIN FOX TALES?

-Senior Staff-

Good morning, scholars! The Fox Tales Quarterly is always looking for new, young writers to join our group. From an academic standpoint, being part of the high school student news publication shows a desire to apply your literary skills on a platform beyond the classroom. From a social standpoint, it is a great way to collaborate with members of other grades and become exposed to various different writing styles.

As members of the senior staff, we can say that covering important issues and publishing our writing to the larger community is very rewarding. Although we do get awards such as first place recognition from the American Scholastic Press Association, the bigger reward is the intangible pride of spreading and recognizing the accomplishments made by the students of our district. If you want to become a part of this interconnected web of writers, see Mrs. Gibson in room 168 or Alex Smolar, the current editor-in-chief during any QRT.

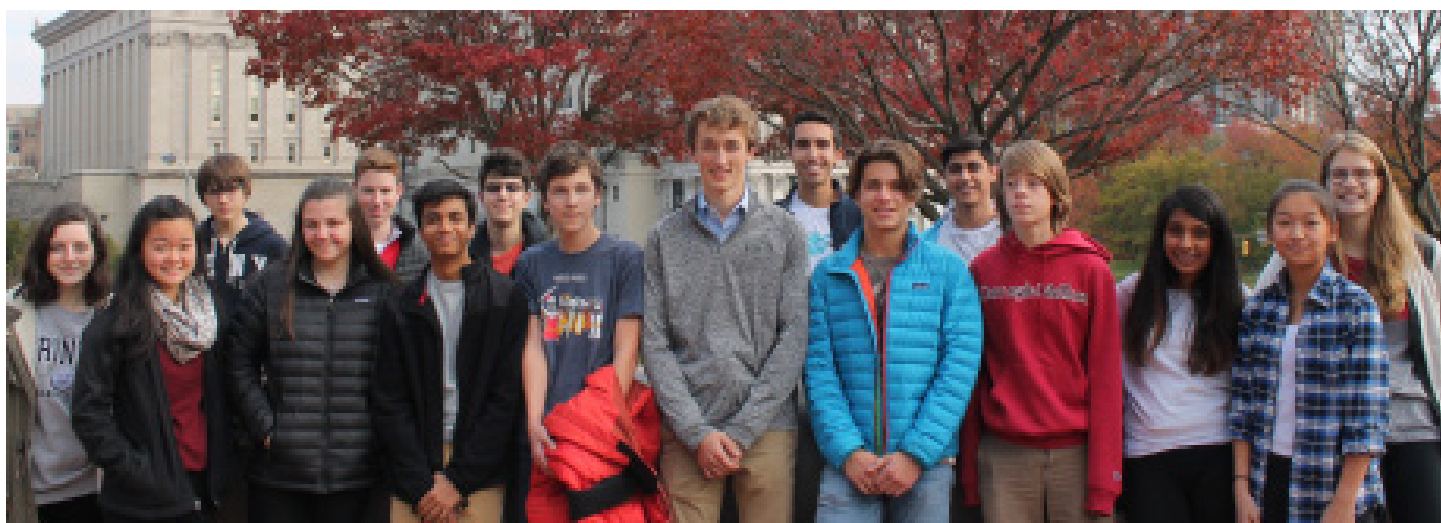
FARADAY? MORE LIKE A CHEMISTRY FAIR-ADAY

-Bridget Wang-



Lee Marek, a well known chemist and guest on the David Letterman show, arrived in Oakland for the annual Faraday Lecture. The lecture is named after Michael Faraday, an English scientist who contributed to the field of electromagnetism and electrochemistry, which is just as fitting since this was a science lecture. The basis of this lecture was simply to demonstrate the various types of explosions one can make with certain everyday elements, though not to be tried at home. Subtext: Science is cool.

With over 1,000 attendees from over 100 schools, Lee Marek travels from state to state to entertain students across the country with his beyond cheesy puns and good-natured benevolence. Being an attendee myself, the lecture was definitely memorable, and I would definitely recommend going to it when you get the chance. The opportunity to attend was made available through the QUEST department. Any student (whether they have participated in QUEST events in past years or not) are invited to take advantage of the many opportunities available through the QUEST department. Just stop by the QUEST student center, room 168, to get involved!





"Our Town" Brings Fresh Perspective on Life

-Marty Taxay-

FCAHS students performed the classic American play "Our Town" for the 2016 Fall Play. Our Town, originally written by Thornton Wilder in 1938, is a three-act drama which focuses on the lives of George Gibbs and Emily Webb, played by Gabe Fynsk and Kieran Bartels. "Our Town" also featured Brooke Echnat as Mrs. Webb, Alyssa Melani as Mrs. Gibbs, and a strong ensemble throughout the show. Directed by local actor, director and choreographer, Kristiann Josephs, "Our Town" uniquely tells its story through the eyes of the stage manager, portrayed by Thomas Swigon. Thomas's character frequently breaks the fourth wall to interact with the audience and comment on life in the fictional town Grover's Corner. The play featured a minimalist set and limited usage of props.



"Our Town's" seemingly simplistic plot explores complex yet universally shared themes. The first act, entitled "Daily Life," focuses on just that – daily life. The history of Grover's Corner is described in addition to the presentation of various every day events. This act is centered around introduction to the main characters, specifically



George Gibbs and Emily Webb, as they embark on their way to school.

The second act, "Love and Marriage," moves forward to three years after the first act. George and Emily prepare to wed through a stressful day. After an awkward run in with his fiancée's parents, George's

day is interrupted by the Stage Manager taking the audience back to the couple's school days. Their plans for the future and the love shared by the couple is described in great detail. Back in the present, despite last second reservations about the wedding, the couple continues with their day and complete the ceremony.

The third act, "Death and Dying," takes a dark turn for the remainder of the show. Nine years have passed since the wedding and dozens of characters and citizens of Grover's Corner have died from various causes. The audience learns that Emily died giving birth. Despite warning from the others who have died, Emily returns to Earth to relive the memory of her 12th birthday. Emily realizes that every moment of life should be treasured and that nobody understands the true value of life before it is lost.





-Bridget Wang-

After the movie was released in 2014, "Into the Woods" has gained even more popularity. This musical is about the world of fairytale characters, all living in one shared world and how events would play out if that were to happen. Characters are taken from "Little Red Riding Hood," "Rapunzel," "Cinderella," "Jack and the Beanstalk," and several others, and the musical travels from theme to theme. And like any good fairytale story, there should be a happily ever after, right? Join us March 16-19 to become wrapped into this world pulled together by the hard work of over 100 students under the direction of Benjamin Murray, Bill Ivins, Dennis Emert, Kathleen Nicholas, and Cara Coulter.



-Bridget Wang-

The Ambassadors for Children's club is an open invitation for all those invested and dedicated to spreading the music to a wider audience. Our goal is to use music to reach out to members of the community who are less fortunate than us, specifically patients at Children's Hospital. So far this year, the Ambassadors for Children's club, in correlation with the Musical Outreach club, hosted a concert at Cooper Siegel on November 20th. It was a small, fun event for all who attended and performed. All donations collected were given to Children's Hospital. Donations collected from the Festival of Strings concert were also donated to Children's Hospital. In addition, the Ambassadors String Orchestra played holiday music at Children's Hospital on December 8th. It was very joyous to bring holiday cheer to the children right before the holiday season.

Our big December project was the Book Drive. For two weeks, we collected books donated by students and teachers around the community to be donated to the hospital. Last year we did the same, and it proved to be very successful. This year we were able to collect over 50 books to be donated to the hospital! Next year, we plan to do the same and hope to collect even more. Fantastic job to the involvement of all our students.

Save the date: June 3. We plan to be doing a Walk for Children's in Schenley Park. Follow @FCam4childrens on Twitter for more details and information.



FCAHS Music Department - Season Review

-Margaret Edgecombe, Anna Paviglianiti, Bliss Uribe, Bridget Wang-

As always, the music department keeps students busy showcasing their talents. In case you have been living under a rock, here's what they've been up to in recent months!

On October 30th the choirs stood together in Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church performing Pittsburgh native Joe Negri's "Mass of Hope." It was a short concert but filled with songs about hope, unity, and peace. The mass was filled many soloists including: Thomas Swigon, Chris Bonavita, Nadia Dandashi, Jeremy Platt, Serena Smith, Kieran Bartles, Dierdre Roberts, Oscar Izenzon, Will Schwartzman, and Carlie Platt. Mr. Negri, the composer of the piece, was present at the concert and gave Concert Choir high praise for the beautiful performance of his life's work. On the evening of November 15, the FCAHS Orchestra performed in their first concert



for the year. For all the students involved, this concert featured all the hard work of the past year on perhaps the most famous piece of the past 200 years – Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. People of all ages know this piece just from those first four notes which defined a change in music.



The FCA Ambassadors Honors Orchestra also performed for the first time this year.

Conductorless, the students played the first movement of Mendelssohn's String Symphony No. 6 in E-flat Major. They also played the Haydn Cello Concerto No. 1 in C-major, with Senior Tim Sutton beautifully soloing on cello. For the students, this was a culmination of work of the past year, and was truly rewarding to hear the positive reviews from the audience members and the faculty staff.

Our district orchestra program introduces students to strings in third grade, and to many, the Festival of Strings concert is the pinnacle of childhood talent and a timeline of the student's school orchestral career. It demonstrates the development of how students interpret and play the music. Over 150 students were involved this year, being as memorable for fourth graders as it is for seniors. Senior Elizabeth Heidenreich, recalled how this concert inspired her when she was a beginning violinist. "I couldn't believe I could play music like that if I worked hard enough! I hope I am able to inspire younger children to become fascinated with music and continue playing their

instruments for years to come. The concert unites the string players and celebrates the power of music in education."

This article wouldn't be complete without talking about the band. After a fantastic season for marching band, both the high school and middle school bands joined together for a wrap up before the winter break. That night, we heard from the marching band, the middle school band and honors band, the jazz ensemble, the symphonic band, and two pieces played by both the high school and the middle school. The marching band opened the concert with a few numbers from their show "Innovations of Song & Dance: The Music of the King of Pop" which featured renditions of several Michael Jackson songs.



The middle school band then treated the audience to several holiday songs, followed by the consistently excellent high school jazz band. The high school symphonic band played "Fusion", featuring soloists Hannah Kim on flute, and Zach Zytnick and Glenna Van Dyke on clarinet. They also played "Metroplex", a piece they had been working on with student teacher Kelsey Benigni, and "Toboggan Ride."

More than 500 community members attended the spectacular annual Sounds of the Season concert at FC Presbyterian Church on December 21. The concert opened with the whole choir coming together singing "Personent Hodie." The Pittsburgh Brass joined the choirs for many songs. The Father and Son's choir also put on a performance filled with laughter from the audience that will not be forgotten. To close the concert, all Fox Chapel Choral alumni were invited to sing Handel's "Hallelujah Concert."

The Fox Chapel Area Music Department gives the Fox Chapel community the greatest gift of all – the gift of music.



DIAMONDS - A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND? CLAIRE KATZ SELECTED FOR ACCLAIMED SHOWCASE TEAM

-Madison Borkovich-



Many have heard the expression, "diamonds are a girl's best friend." Well, freshman Claire Katz, proved just that as she was selected a member of the Queen of Diamonds Showcase North. The event took place on December 3-4 in Akron, Ohio.

The Queen of Diamonds North has just concluded its 21st season, and is also the biggest fastpitch showcase event in the United States, as players from 21 states and two Canadian provinces compete for a prestigious place. Players are selected based upon athletic ability and potential, academics, and coach referrals. I got a chance to interview Claire, now in her sixth year of playing travel softball for the Pittsburgh Predators, about her softball career and coveted spot.

Claire has been playing softball for nine years. Her dad and sister, Grace, who also plays, got her interested in the sport. She has been on both Passion and Predators for travel softball, playing mainly outfield, but also second and third base. She applied for the Queen of Diamonds showcase hoping to gain experience in the process of recruiting, as well as to showcases work. To be chosen for the showcase, candidates are evaluated based on athletic ability,

academics, and coach referral. There are 12 girls on Claire's team and the coach for both her travel team and Queen of Diamonds team is her father, Peter Katz. Claire said that she likes having her dad coach her because he gets to see her play all the time. She also gets to learn a lot from him and have all her best experiences with him. Claire thinks that softball has strengthened the relationships within her family because of the time spent practicing and playing together. Her favorite part of the experience as a whole was all the new girls that she met, and feeling like she knew them forever though it had only been two days.

The Queen of Diamonds showcase consists of both cage games and regular games. The cage games included two teams hitting off of each other against live pitching. If interested in applying, coach referrals and applications are directed to Kurt Whitesides, who is in charge of the event. Candidates must answer a written portion with questions that discuss their abilities, as well as ask about college plans. Also, applicants' GPAs must be above 3.5 to be accepted. Congratulations to Claire and the Queen of Diamonds Showcase North teams!

McRandal Tries Out for National Baseball Team, Commits to Mercyhurst

-Hannah Mueller-

FCA baseball player Nick McRandal spent four days in August trying out for the USA 18U National Team. After clearing the regional tryouts at Pitt, he had a chance to show off his skills at the national tryout in Cary, North Carolina. Before trying out, McRandal, a shortstop and pitcher, spent his summer playing for the Foe Ohio 18U team based in the Cleveland area.

Despite a strong showing at the national tryouts, McRandal unfortunately did not make the national team. However, he told the Tribune Review that trying out was a great experience. "I've enjoyed every minute of it and I want to thank my parents and all of my coaches who have made it possible."



McRandal has committed to Mercyhurst to play baseball in the fall. A Division II school in the Pennsylvania State Athletics Conference, Mercyhurst ended a respectable 2016 season with a record of 43-14.



FIRST MEET IN THE NEW POOL

-Bliss Uribe-

On December 13 the Fox Chapel Area High School Swimming and Diving team competed against the Shady Side Academy Indians for the first meet in the brand new pool. Both the girls and boys teams put up a fight against SSA, and both were victorious. The final score for the girls team was 98-85, and the boys team was 102 - 75. The swimmers of this meet (picked by this year's captains: Nathan Wecht, Alec Eckman, Maia Pauley, and Megan Wiese) were freshmen Jackie Filo and Will Wang.

The season started off very strong and has continued on this path, as both teams are currently undefeated in their section. Several swimmers (Bohan Yao, Maia Pauley, Joslyn Filo, and Jackie Filo.) have already qualified for the WPIALs meet. The team this year is much stronger and larger than in years past, and with our new home pool brought an increase in practices. During the winter break, Fox Chapel hosted a friendly swim meet invitational in which Bethel Park, Moon, and Seneca Valley were invited. Senior Night is January 26th, so come support the swimming and diving seniors as they finish up their final season!



POWDER PUFF

-Elias Izenson-

This year's powder puff game was really something special, with the class of 2017 girls putting on an absolutely stunning performance behind some great running from Deena Debaldo, Madeline Lucey, and Dixon Veltri. Ursula Meyer also played a strong game. The Class of 2018 did their best with touchdowns from Maddie Lucey. On the 2018 side of the ball, there was also a lot of running the ball. The juniors established an aerial attack early, but had to shift focus to the running game to match crucial touchdowns from Deena Debaldo on the ground and Maddie Lucey in the air. The junior girls finished the game with Rachel Miles bringing the 2018's to within one score with a long touchdown run. As always, passions ran high, and fun was had by all.

Sophomores Chosen to Participate in HOBY Leadership Conference



Two Fox Chapel Area High School sophomores have been selected to receive the distinguished Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) award. Courtney Kennedy and Ryan Setzenfand have been

chosen to attend the Pennsylvania HOBY Leadership Seminar June 9-11, 2017. The three-day HOBY Seminar will be held at Washington & Jefferson College. Along with other outstanding sophomores from throughout the state, these students will participate in seminars to help them enhance their critical thinking skills and leadership skills and help them develop goal-setting skills and realize the importance of leadership.

Founded in 1958, HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop a global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. HOBY programs allow youth selected by their schools to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning, and motivation-building experiences.



FC/Falk Spanish Collaboration

-Hannah Mueller-

This November, students from Señora Scigliano's Spanish IV class collaborated with students at the Falk School, a K-8 campus laboratory school affiliated with the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Sophomores and juniors narrated Mayan folktales that they had prepared for the younger children. The Falk students also participated in assessments and activities created by the FC students. The students interacted in Spanish the entire time. The Falk teacher, Ms. Diana Gómez, shared that "to [her] Spanish heritage language students, this was an eye-opening experience." Now, the Falk students are eager to learn about the Mayans and how they influenced hispanic culture. They have already made plans to work on creative writing in Spanish by designing Mayan legends which will then be narrated back to the high school students.



FCA Students Named to Sharpsburg City Council

-Alex Smolar-

Senior, Amber Petrelli, and freshman, Jordyn Helgert, are looking to make a big difference in their community. These two FCAHS students are the newest members of the Sharpsburg City Council, and they decided to join the council to try to become more involved in their community. Amber, who also volunteers for the Sharpsburg Fire Department, said, "We wanted to try to help people in the community and thought that the best way to do that was to serve on the council and try to initiate our own projects."

Both girls agreed that the most rewarding experience they have had on the council has come while planning their youth group. The group's goal is to take younger

children off the streets and into playgrounds and schools. Specifically, Amber and Jordyn have organized movie nights and craft nights with the Sharpsburg Police Department and "Public Allies," a similar volunteer program. "I feel like the youth in Sharpsburg needs to get more involved in the community, and this program is a beneficial way to do this. Ideally, we could even try doing this program for the high school as well," said Jordyn.

All in all, these proactive students are taking action in their community and government to make important and real changes in the lives of others.



A Little Stress Relief...

Animal Friends brought dogs from their Therapets program to visit with Fox Chapel Area High School students. The Therapets visited to help the students during the stress of Keystone Exams



and school finals. The dogs were brought to the high school by Animal Friends volunteers. All were official therapy dogs that have completed intensive training and certification. School counselor and student government community outreach coordinator Rachel Machen arranged the event.





The 27th annual Fox Chapel Area School District telethon aired on Friday, December 23, the final day of classes before winter break. The telethon raised money for Live Like Lou, established in 2011 following Neil Alexander's diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The foundation seeks to raise awareness of the disease, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, support cure and treatment research and provide care to ALS patients and their families throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Organized by the marketing and management business classes and produced

by Fox Chapel's "Swift Fox Media," a record \$73.183 was raised over the course of this year's events and donations. This year's contributions make the total telethon donations over \$765,000 in the 27 years since its inception.

All six schools in the district participated in the telethon through various fundraisers. While events took place throughout the day, a few large events attracted the most donations. During QRT and first period, the movie "Home Alone" was shown to a sold out crowd in the library. Second period brought the annual student/teacher basketball



game. Victor Marculescu and Billy Myers coached the teacher time to a late game victory over the Mr. Hower coached student team. Fan favorite big man Mr. Klippa led the teacher team in scoring throughout the game.

Third period brought several smaller events held in the commons during lunches. These events included pictures with Santa and his elves, a basketball mini hoop, and various food sales. Finally, fourth period brought the largest event of the day. Fox Fest raised more money than any other fundraiser. For \$2 a ticket, students could watch the concert for the remainder of the day. Performances from senior Alex Barcic, junior Liam Botos and the all teacher band "Two Hour Delay" highlighted the 80 minute show.



While the telethon itself was held on December 23, the entire month leading up to that day saw plenty of creative fundraisers. From a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament to the annual dating auction, every student could find something to support. The first hour of Telethon week alone saw \$880 in donations. 100% of this year's record donations will go to the Live Like Lou Foundation. To find out more about Live Like Lou or make a donation, visit the website <http://www.livelikelou.org/> and click on "Donate".





One of the events that contributed to the success of the Live Like Lou telethon was the Student/Teacher Lip Sync Battle. The Lip Sync Battle was created by Amanda Nord, Molly Kelly, Julianna MacDonald, and Kristen Cuda. Audience members donated \$1 to attend the event that was held in the commons area on December 12th.

The first event opened the Lip Sync Battle with great energy. Paul Cullen and Nate Good performed "Breaking Free" from High



School Musical. These guys were the image of Zach and Gabriella in the movie, with Nate even lifting Paul in the air. Truly hilarious. The next event was an old-school rendition of "Ice Ice Baby" lip synced by Jack Mosey, A.K.A. "Funk Fresh" who was oftentimes accompanied by the enthusiastic crowd.

The third event was "Fergalicious" performed by Jocelyn Eckenrode and Paige Wilson, two girls who know how to give a fantastic performance. Onlookers felt like they were at a legit concert!





Next up was Mary Ellis, Lizzy Giuffre, Brooke and Devon Clark who lip synched "We R Who We R" by Kesha. These girls brought the party. Ronald Tran and Alan McIvor warmed us up with their rendition of "Baby it's Cold Outside" and Ivory Eddins and Julia Cody matched their duet with "You'll Be Back." Things then got a bit emotional when Tommy Fite delivered "Firework." He lip synched the living daylights out of the song.

The brave Mrs. Capek showed some serious swagger during her performance of L.L. Cool J's "Around the Way Girl" and even got backup from the crowd. "Stay Alive," performed by Zachary Gorczyne,

pumped up the audience in preparation for the final performance of "Getcha Head in the

Game," which Charlotte Landman delivered like a pro. How ironic that the battle started and ended with a High School Musical song.

There can be only one winner and Mrs. Capek certainly earned her title since she was the only faculty member brave enough to participate. The event was a huge success and made a strong contribution to the Live Like Lou benefit. Hopefully it is a tradition that will carry on and grow in future years.





FCASD Placed on AP District Honor Roll

The Fox Chapel Area School District is one of 433 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll. Schools included in the AP (Advanced Placement) District Honor Roll had to show significant gains in students access and success. To be included, the district had to, since 2014, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that the Fox Chapel Area School District is successfully identifying motivated, academically-prepared students who are ready for AP. Districts on the honor roll are also committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

"Congratulations to all the teachers and administrators in this district who have worked so tirelessly to both expand access to AP and also to help students succeed on the AP Exams," said Trevor Packer, the College Board's head of AP and Instruction. "These teachers and administrators are delivering real opportunity in their schools and classrooms, and students are rising to the challenge." Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors.

In 2016, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admission process.

FC's "Tapestry" Wins State and National Awards

Fox Chapel Area High School's 2015-2016 literary arts magazine "Tapestry" has received two major awards. The magazine received a "Superior" ranking in the 2016 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. Only five student magazines from across the state received this ranking. Additionally, the magazine was also named a first place winner in the 2016 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers.

The 2015-2016 student editors of "Tapestry" were 2016 graduates Sophie Rodosky (editor-in-chief), Eli Berman, Maria Burns, Joseph Desmone, Che Esch, Jessica Hertzberg, Emma Lloyd, Joshua Manuel, Nina Mulroy, Stephen Polcyn, Alisa Quemado, Emma Regan, Kristen Scipione, and Bailey Yousem; and current 2016-2017 seniors David Han and Emma Paulini and juniors Shania Khatri and Helen Paulini. The students' advisor is Fox Chapel Area High School language arts teacher Jessica Green.



Spanish National Honor Society Induction

A total of 21 Fox Chapel Area High School seniors will be inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society January 12, 2017. The students are Marissa Albrecht, Jared Cohen, Ariam Colan, Mikayla D'Cunha, Andrew Fugh, Sarah Hamilton, Nadia Islam, Grace Kerr, Kevin Kilmer, Alyssa Kozer, Moira McCormick, Hannah Mueller, Mary O'Connor, Maia Pauley, John Rezzetano, Jung An "Anna" Shin, Alexander Smolar, Martin Taxay, Nathan

Wecht, Elizabeth Woodwell, and Gabrielle Young.

The students will be inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society January 12 in a ceremony at Fox Chapel Area High School. The students qualify based on their achievements in the Spanish language classes at Fox Chapel Area High School. This year marks the 16th year for the induction ceremony at Fox Chapel Area High School.



Congratulations, Early Graduates!

-Marty Taxay-



January 19th the final day of high school for 18 proud seniors and a short early graduation ceremony was held to celebrate each student. Mr. Hower and Dr. Lentz gave speeches summarizing the journey from the students' first days in high school to their last and also noted the added difficulties of going through the process during years of construction, unexpected fire alarms and other distractions. As part of the ceremony, each graduate shared with the audience the following upcoming plans:

Charles Okunewick: Attending CCAC before transferring to St. Bonaventure University;
John Ramassini: Working until classes begin at the Rochester Institute of Technology;
Andres Salinas: Attending CCAC before transferring to a university;
Kayleigh Balzer: Entering the workforce, pursuing a career working on a beach school in addition to working;
Ashanti Booker: Attending cosmetology school and working;

Kristie Claus: Attending Slippery Rock University in addition to working;

Aubrey Cullinan: Partaking in online classes before attending either Syracuse or Ohio State University;

Joseph Daniher: Planning to join the workforce;

Samantha Fabiszewski: Attending CCAC before attending a university to study architecture;

Alyssa Kasper: Attending CCAC before transferring to the University of Pittsburgh to study business;

Austin Klinge: Working while attending CCAC before attending Penn State University to study biology;

Kayla Lees: Pharmacy Technician program at Bidwell Training Center;

Geneeva Morgan: Moving to California to work before attending a university;

Zachary Popovich: Enlisted in the Armed Services;

Alanna Rygelski: Working while completing an internship before attending Slippery Rock University to pursue a double major in dance and business;

Ashlyn Spencer: Working before pursuing a career in pharmacy;

Harry Wetmore: Attending CCAC while working;

Ryan Zakin: Working in Pittsburgh before attending a university in New York State.

