

FOX TALES

Quarterly

A STUDENT PUBLICATION

2016

MEET
THE
NEW GUY

Welcome to FCAHS!

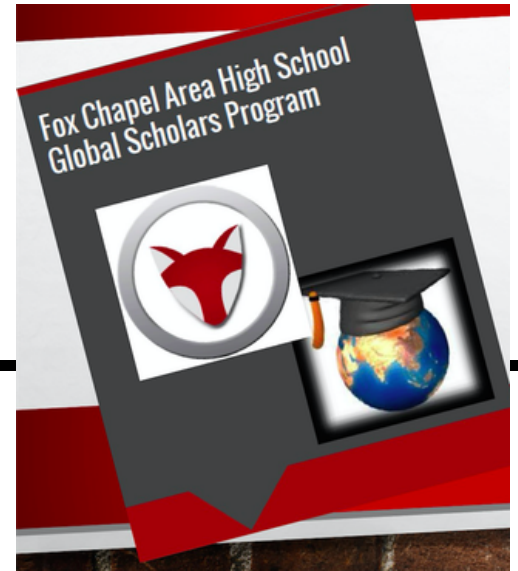
MEET
THE
NEW GUY

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Page 24

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

HIGH SCHOOL TO GIVE GLOBAL SCHOLARS RECOGNITION



Fox Chapel Area High School students now have the opportunity to participate in a Global Scholars Program. The high school's world languages department will be offering the program through the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) and the program will recognize students who complete global studies and activities. Students who meet the requirements of the program will receive Global Scholars recognition upon graduation.

In order to achieve global scholars recognition, students must meet the following requirements: successful completion of several academic courses, including levels one through four of a world language; participation in at least four extracurricular activities, including world language clubs; completion of at least 20 hours of community service related to world languages; read and review books pertaining to world languages, including one in the student's target language; completion of a culminating project; and completion of an application.

The PSMLA Global Scholars Program is a new initiative that was piloted during the 2015-2016 school year. The purpose of the PSMLA Global Scholars Program is to provide high school students the opportunity to select interdisciplinary studies and activities, develop global awareness and competency, and to

better prepare students for personal and professional success in an increasingly global society.

According to Fox Chapel Area High School German teacher Tanja Koller, this program will offer many benefits to Fox Chapel Area students, including motivating them to seek courses that are global in nature and giving them the opportunity to be honored for their efforts. "We want to recognize our students who are involved in interdisciplinary studies and activities that are global in nature, promote student development of global awareness and competency, and prepare students for professional success in an increasingly global society." It will also help connect global opportunities to the classroom, as well as connecting the classroom to the real world and improve students' marketability for postsecondary education and employment, Koller said. "Our department sees this as part of our vision of growth and strengthening connections outside of the classroom."

According to the PSMLA, "While Global Scholars Programs exist on the university level, there are currently relatively few such programs for high school students."



This year, club week took place from September 19th-23rd. Over the course of five days, students had the opportunity to join and learn about a variety of clubs and initiatives, from the newly-established Birding Club, which lends members the opportunity to spend time in nature, and to learn about the many native birds of Western Pennsylvania, to the Stress Relief Club, in which students perform guided exercises in order to reduce the stresses of daily life.

This year, sixteen new clubs were created: Cartoon Club, Computational Biology Club, DECA, Drama Club (Spring Production) FC Meets World, Fox Chapel Area Ballroom Club, Helping Children Tomorrow, Music Production Club, Political Discourse Club, Pre-Med Club, Slam Poetry Club, Vote16 Pittsburgh Club, Birding Club, Women's Issues Today, and Jewish Student Union. Club Week this year was a great success, with clubs like Ski Club, and the Jewish Student Union receiving well over 100 signees, and with many other clubs receiving high amounts of sign-ups. FCAHS's great diversity of clubs, like the Jewish Student Union, are very interesting for the reason that they attract students of all creeds because they are not solely focused on religion, but on education, and creating meaningful dialogues as well about what religion is, and the affect it has on the world.

The propensity for students to participate in our many clubs is a key reason behind why clubs like Best Buddies, Distinguished Ethnic Society of India, Future Business Leaders of America, and many others are so large and successful. With growing rates of student participation each year, it is easy to see why so many new clubs are receiving positive responses from the student body, and growing in number every year.

Club Week

BY ELIAS IZENSON



At Fox Chapel Area High School: 2016 graduates Christopher Esch, Elliott Norman, Priyanka Shah, Jesuloluwa Shodipo, James Thomson, Konrad Urban, Spencer Williams, Xi Xu, and Elaine Yates and 2016-2017 seniors Rohan Chalasani, Mihir Garimella, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, Suvir Mirchandani, and Kai Shaikh qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

AP SCHOLARS

A total of 147 current Fox Chapel Area High School students and 2016 graduates have been named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board by demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations taken in May 2016. Only about 20 percent of the more than two million students who took AP exams in May 2016 performed at a sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of courses and exams. At Fox Chapel Area High School:

2016 graduates Christopher Esch, Elliott Norman, Priyanka Shah, Jesuloluwa Shodipo, James Thomson, Konrad Urban, Spencer Williams, Xi Xu, and Elaine Yates and 2016-2017 seniors Rohan Chalasani, Mihir Garimella, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, Suvir Mirchandani, and Kai Shaikh qualified for the National AP

Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

The following 84 graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of 3.5 or higher on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: 2016 graduates Isabel Acevedo, Jessica Berg, Lydia Beyer, Michael Bonavita, Christina Brown, Amy Burke, Maria Burns, Madelyn Coulson, Christopher Esch, Benjamin Friedland, Conor Gaffney, Chi Gao, John Gurklis, Matthew Hardiman, Jessica Hertzberg, Ryan Humbert, David Humphrey, Kathleen Kiszka, Julia Lynch, Joshua Manuel, Glenn Matamoros, Nathan Matisko, Caitlin McEvoy, Ciera Miller, Nina Mulroy, Shaina Munin, Elliott Norman, Kristopher Penner, Joshua Pogue, Amanda Puthenpurayil, Alisa Quemado,





Siddharth Rajupet, Sophie Rodosky, Rebecca Salamacha, Benjamin Santilli, Grace Sauereisen, Margot Savin, Anja Schempf, Priyanka Shah, Jesuloluwa Shodipo, James Thomson, Emily Trageser, Daly Trimble, Konrad Urban, Freesia Vettier, Christopher Vielott, Carlo Vignali, Spencer Williams, Xi Xu, Elaine Yates, and Megan Zonker and 2016-2017 seniors Rohan Chalasani, Jared Cohen, Alec Eckman, Mihir Garimella, James Gilmore, Sarah Hamilton, David Han, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Nadia Islam, Sophia Lee, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, William Marsh, Moira McCormick, Alan McIvor, Tanvi Meringenti, Suvir Mirchandani, Jonathan Monroe, Grace Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Mary Clare O'Connor, Emma Paulini, Ellen Pil, Kristen Rabbitt, Kai Shaikh, Ayan Sinha, Caroline Smith, Philip Swigon, Thomas Swigon, Bliss Uribe, Nathan Wecht, Bohan Yao, Houruiyang Zong,

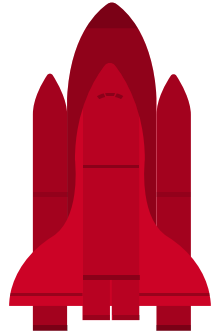
The following 22 graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: 2016 graduates Kelly Arel, Eli Berman, Thomas Fennell, Ian Patterson, Katherine Peterson, Arlene Sisson, Jacob Smith, Jennifer Snyder, Vishal Soman, and Emilie Yousem and 2016-2017 seniors Gregory Banizs, Lee Beasley, Austin Fisher, Gabrielle Hollander, Katherine Kauma, Sean McCoy, Jenna McKinley, Lochlainn Renfrow, Jeremy Rodrigues, Jung An Shin, Martin Taxay, and Gabrielle Young. The following 41 graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams: 2016 graduates Katherine Costanzo, Elizabeth Crittenden, Erin Curry, Kavya Darapuneni, William Feczko, Clara Ferreira, Claire Fortier, Aaron Ivie, Ruth Kollar, Jacob Kronman, Genevieve Laymon, Nicola Lee-Oesterreich, Emma Lloyd, Vincent Mason, Jane Millard, Ryan Morrissey, Samantha Olbrich, Dylan Oliver, Hannah Schaffer, Iris Schaitkin, Matthew Shaw, Laurel Shymansky, Manasa Thada, Thomas Troyan, and Matthew Wilk and 2016-2017 seniors Joshua Cagan, Brooke Echnat, John Feczko, Donovan Gorgas, Allison Gould, Nina Khorey, Maxwell Lucas, Victor Marculescu, Anna McDougall, Solana Morningstar, Daniel Paviglianiti, John Ramassini, William Schwartzman, Alexander Smolar, Waleed Tariq, and Elizabeth Woodwell.

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

FCA Students Help In Mission to The Moon

BY MARTY TAXAY

Earlier in the school year, several Fox Chapel Area students were selected to rocket several items into space through the Carnegie Science Center's EarthCapsuleOne project. District director of instructional and innovative leadership, Megan Cicconi, helped to drive the students through this process with assistance, saying, "It is such a cool and rare opportunity." The capsule is designed to withstand over 500 years of radiation and damage to preserve 1,000 gigabytes of data. The data includes pictures, writing, sounds and video from more than 1 million students from more than twenty countries.



Suvir and Nadia Win Award from Asian American Heritage Committee

BY ALEX SMOLAR

Fox Chapel Area seniors Suvir Mirchandani and Nadia Islam were named Outstanding School Students by the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board's branch of the Asian American Heritage Committee. The committee is designed to promote and celebrate Asian culture around the world and in schools. Nadia won the award from the Bangladesh delegation and Suvir won his award from the India delegation.

Congratulations to Suvir and Nadia on this accomplishment!

Girls Rock Science

BY REBEKAH POLCYN



On September 24th and 25th, a group of Fox Chapel Area High School STEM-enthusiasts, boys and girls alike, traveled to the Carnegie Science center for the Girls Rock Science event. The event aimed to expose young girls to opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Representatives from Fox Chapel Area Technology Student Association and the Combat Bots team brought eight student-made robots to the science center to showcase. They battled the bots for spectators, then explained the controllers and taught the kids how to operate the robots. High school participants shared that they found the experience to be fulfilling because they were engaging younger kids in topics about which they were passionate.

David Han Chosen as Yosemite Alcoa Scholar

BY MADISON BORKOVICH

David Han was recently chosen to be a 2016 Yosemite Alcoa Scholar. A senior at Fox Chapel Area High School, David was chosen to participate in the NatureBridge Alcoa Scholars program. He spent 12 days in the field at Yosemite National Park in Yosemite, California. David was one of only 100 students chosen worldwide. His selection was based on his passion for the environment, experience in giving back to his community, and desire to learn in a team setting. Participants were educated about environmental science through hands-on learning in Yosemite National Park this August. The program was designed to enhance students' abilities to address environmental challenges facing our world and community.





TANVI MERIGNENTI ROCKS AT THE NATIONAL FBLA COMPETITION

BY BRIDGET WANG

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is known for being one of FCA's most participated in clubs. Every year, participants take a test to determine if they qualify for states, and then nationals. At the 2016 FBLA National Leadership Conference, junior, Tanvi Meringenti, placed seventh in Insurance and Risk Management at Nationals. More than 9,380 competitors from across the United States participated in the competition, and over \$179,000 was awarded in cash prizes. The FBLA national conference was held in Atlanta June 29-July 2. The conference is a national competitive events program that recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. In addition to competitions, the students immersed themselves in interactive workshops, visited an information-packed exhibit hall, and heard from motivational speakers on a broad range of business topics.

To get involved in FBLA, students should contact Mrs. Shanko.

For high schoolers, junior year is by far the most stressful. The thoughts of college selection and application tends to instill apprehension and stress amongst juniors. Not because of our academic standing, but because of the myriad of prerequisites that "better" colleges have for aspiring students. While sorting through these bewildering array of requirements, I came across an eye-opening article.

"Turning The Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good Through College Admissions" was the outcome of an exploratory meeting hosted by the Making Caring Common project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. It was attended by all the key stakeholders, from a variety of colleges, who influence the admissions process. The purpose was to take a deeper look at the current admissions process and consider how to improve it in order to promote ethical and intellectual engagement.

The recommendations emerging from this meeting have been implemented by numerous colleges in the country and are something about which all college-bound students should be aware. Many high school students all are inundated with pressure from cultural and communal expectations to emphasize personal success. This can cause us to perceive the colleges as only valuing our achievements and not our responsibility for others and to our community. Various colleges, as a result of this meeting, are sending a compelling message to erode this misperception among students. They're highlighting that the ethical engagement-concern for others and the community should be regarded with equal merit.

This historic meeting made specific recommendations to reshape the admissions process in three areas. Firstly, to promote meaningful contributions to others, community service, and engagement with public good. Students should engage in services that align with their passions, not ones that look "impressive" on the resume. Community service is a great way for students to emphasize ethical engagement. From curbside clean-up to care for senior citizens, any service in this field is a huge

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR COLLEGE HOPEFULS

BY ROHAN PATIL

plus in a college application. Secondly, to assess student's ethical involvement that reflects contributions across race, culture, and class. The admissions process should send a clear message to the students and parents that apart from community engagement, the students' family contributions, such as taking care of the younger siblings and working to supplement family income are highly valued. Thirdly, to redefine achievement in ways that both level the playing field for economically diverse students and reduce excessive achievement pressure. The applications should not require the students to narrate more than two or three extracurricular activities and the quality should be emphasized over quantity.

Applications should reflect authenticity in the student's original voice. Admissions officers and guidance counselors should also challenge the misconception that there are only a few excellent colleges that can ensure the path to success. The students and parents should be more concerned about whether a college is a good fit for the student, not the other way around.

These recommendations are only one of the starting points to initiate a paradigm shift needed to reform college admissions. Unless the colleges and the community confront the deeply troubling and worsening trend of the current admissions process, we the students, will continue to divert our time, energy, money, and all the resources at our disposal in the pursuit of an illusion. To read the article in its entirety, visit <http://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/collegeadmissions>



CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS VISITS FOX CHAPEL

BY ALEX SMOLAR

Erin McClelland, the Democratic Party's nominee for Congress in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, visited Fox Chapel Area High School to talk to AP Government classes. Her social media consultant, senior Darwin Leuba, introduced Ms. McClelland to the group of students with a great story about her and why she is the best candidate for congress. Ms. McClelland, who also ran for the House seat in 2012, then fielded questions for more than an hour from seniors who are still trying to make up their mind on their choice for congress in November. The discussion revolved around topics such as dysfunction in Washington, Ms. McClelland's past career in the medical field, the growing deficit, and the 2016 presidential race.

This meeting served dozens of unsure students by providing a clearer picture of the issues of this campaign and the issues that face the 12th Congressional District. As one participant stated, "I didn't know much about the congressional race before, but getting to meet Erin McClelland really helped me to understand the impact that a good congressman or woman could have on our lives." After the discussion, Ms. McClelland stayed in the library to take pictures, recruit volunteers, and pass out information about her campaign. Her opponent, Republican Congressman Keith Rothfus, is expected to visit the high school after the race in November.



NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER

*The
Mockingbird
Next Door*

LIFE WITH

HARPER
LEE

Marja Mills



LIFE WITH MARJA MILLS

Author Marja Mills visiting Fox Chapel Area High School on September 30. Mills is an author known for her first book, "The Mockingbird Next Door: Life with Harper Lee," which chronicles her friendship with the Lee sisters, including Harper Lee, the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Mills' book debuted at #4 on the New York Times bestseller list. She is a former reporter and feature writer for the Chicago Tribune where she was a member of the staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for a 2001 series about the O'Hare Airport entitled "Gateway to Gridlock."

During Mills' visit to Fox Chapel Area High School, she conducted a large-group discussion with the ninth grade students who are currently reading or will be reading "To Kill a Mockingbird." She also held a smaller group discussion with Fox Chapel Area High School Book Club members, and any other interested sophomore, junior, and senior students.

Mills' visit is being sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area High School Book Club, the Fox Chapel Area High School PTO, and the Cooper-Siegel Library.

FCAHS STUDENT ROHAN CHALASANI RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGHS IN CLIMATE CHANGE



BY MADISON BORKOVICH

Rohan Chalasani, a student at Fox Chapel Area High School, was one of ten national awardees of the President's Environmental Youth Award for 2015. He received the honor due to a study he performed on the impact of energy consumption reduction on household carbon footprints.

Rohan conducted the experiment when he was only twelve years old.

Despite his young age, he was thinking about climate change, and how if everyone did what he did in his trial, the United States could be up to a possible 4% closer to its emission targets. For his middle school science project, Rohan recruited his parents to assist in a ten-week period of performing energy-saving measures, such as dropping the thermostat temperature in his home,

ensuring that all lights were off when a room was vacated, and reducing shower times to ten minutes. In addition, his family unplugged appliances including phone chargers, microwaves, and the television nightly.

Albeit a difficult adjustment, the experiment took place in fall 2013, with alternating control and energy saving weeks. At the conclusion of the ten week time period, Rohan deduced that the family achieved a 23% decrease in their carbon footprint. He used data from the U.S. Census to extrapolate the emissions that would be avoided if half of all households in Pittsburgh did the same, followed by half of homes in Allegheny County, then Pennsylvania, and finally, the United States as a whole.

The largest scenario amounts

to a 200 million ton reduction in total carbon dioxide emissions.

This is about 4 percent of the nation's total carbon footprint. Rohan began his research after he noticed that most of the talk about energy conservation and emission reductions was aimed at large industrial polluters, not at individuals and families.

Rohan, now 16 and a senior at Fox Chapel Area High School, has made sure to practice what he preaches. He and the members of the Chalasani family have tried to keep up with energy reduction strategies, as well as spread the important message to friends and members of the community. So, next time you want to do your part, get inspired by award-winning student and environmental activist, Rohan Chalasani.

FCA STUDENTS NAMED 2017 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS/COMMENDED STUDENTS

Fourteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 18 have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are Rohan Chalasani, Mihir Garimella, David Han, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, William Marsh, Tanvi Meringenti, Suvir Mirchandani, Grace Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Mary Clare O'Connor, Ellen Pil, and Kai Shaikh. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are Jared Cohen, Alec Eckman, John Feczko, Katherine Kauma, Sophia Lee, Victor Marculescu, Sean McCoy, Jonathan Monroe, Emma Paulini, Avalon Perdriel-Arons, John Ramassini, Bryce Ryan, Caroline Smith, Philip Swigon, Martin Taxay, Nathan Wecht, Bohan Yao, and Houruiyang Zong.

All of these students were selected based on their 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year college-bound 11th grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. About 1.6 million juniors who take the test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program and approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and the Commended Students represent the top five percent. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million to be offered in the spring of 2017.

The NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.



Nov 12 - 16, Chicago
AMIA 2016 Annual Symposium

CHICAGO



Shania Khatri to Present Her Breast Cancer Research in Chicago

BY HANNAH MUELLER

Shania Khatri, an FCAHS junior, was chosen to present her research this November in Chicago at the American Medical Informatics Association. This prestigious event is the premier informatics conference for scientists throughout the country. Khatri qualified for this honor through AMIA's 2016 High School Scholars competition.

The AMIA 2016 Annual Symposium provides opportunities for high school students to learn from and network with biomedical informatics researchers from across the United States.

Additionally, student's presentations will be judged for competition.

Khatri's project is called Discovery Novel Genes Using

Bayesian Network Modeling.

She completed it over the summer at the University of Pittsburgh's Cancer Institute Summer Academy, working closely with Dr. Vanathi Gopalakrishnan and doctoral student Brian Liu in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. She created a methodology to find genes relevant to breast cancer progression through a Bayesian computer network, which includes a literature search based network to target specific genes. She concluded that a novel breast cancer gene, Claudin-11, causes breast cancer progression and, if present in a patient, should be further tested in a lab.



INFORMATICS PROFESSIONALS. LEADING THE WAY.

Fox Tales Staff

Editor-in-Chief:
Alex Smolar

Layout & Design:
Nina Stumpf

Staff Writers:
Eli Izenson
Hannah Mueller
Marty Taxay
Bliss Uribe
Bridget Wang
Micah Ziff

Contributing Writers:
Madison Borkovich
Rohan Patil

Faculty Sponsor:
Mrs. Lisa Gibson

NSCDA: JACOB KLEIN WRITES CHAMPION COMPOSITION

BY MADISON BORKOVICH

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Jacob Klein was named a national winner in The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) Essay Contest. Jacob is one of only approximately 50 winners from across the nation, and the only one from Pennsylvania. The essay topic was: "2016 Marks the 240th Anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights Penned by George Mason of Gunston Hall; Why Does This Historic Document Remain Relevant Today?" Essays were judged locally, regionally, and nationally.

Jacob earned a \$250 cash award. He also received a full scholarship to attend a Congressional Seminar Workshop in Washington, D.C., held June 18-24, 2016, and stayed at American University. The Congressional Seminar engages high school students in a legislative simulation with a model Congress. The students play the roles of representatives, speakers, lobbyists, and caucus leaders, and participants draft, revise, and hopefully pass a bill through a vote of their peers. Winners experienced lectures, site visits, and personal interactions with Washington, D.C.-based policy makers, professionals, and representatives.

Congratulations Jacob!



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

GRADUATES/ STUDENT NAMED WINNERS IN ESSAY CONTEST

Two 2016 Fox Chapel Area High School graduates and a Dorseyville Middle School student were recently named winners in the 2016 Founding Freedoms Essay Contest. First place in the twelfth grade portion of the essay contest went to 2016 graduate Ryan Humbert and second place went to 2016 graduate Conor Gaffney. Second place in the eighth grade portion of the essay contest went to 2015-2016 eighth grader Jessica Klein.

Ryan received a \$2,500 cash prize and a trip to Philadelphia in June where he was honored as part of a special awards ceremony. Conor won a \$1,000 cash prize and Jessica won a \$500 cash prize.

The Founding Freedoms Essay Contest is sponsored by the National Constitution Center and funded through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The contest is designed to increase awareness of the rights set forth in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence, and to engage students to think creatively about our nation's history. It is open to students from across the mid-Atlantic region (which includes seven states and the District of Columbia) in grades six, eight, and twelve.



MEET

THE NEW GUY

BY MICAH ZIFF

2013 PA teacher of the year, Mr. Ryan Devlin is the newest member of the Fox Chapel Area High School staff. He moved to Pittsburgh to join FCAHS as the new media and T.V. Production teacher and is really excited to start his work here at FC. While at Waynesburg University, Mr. Devlin studied secondary English education while also captaining the Cross Country team and participating in Track and Field.

When Mr. Devlin won Pennsylvania teacher of the year in 2013 and became a state finalist in 2014, he took advantage of some special experiences. Attending President Obama's State of the Union Address was a once in a lifetime opportunity that he is thankful for. One of his hardest classroom transitions took place when he taught second grade in Australia for a whole year. "The culture shock was the hardest to adjust to, some of the kids laughed at me when I didn't know some of the ins and outs of Australian culture." In his classroom he had students from 14 different countries, making a connection with each one was his biggest challenge.

Going from small town English teacher, to teacher in Australia, to meeting Oprah, Mr. Devlin has really seen it all. His ability to adapt and create classroom bonds has really helped him fit in at Fox Chapel. With no more announcements or live television broadcast Mr. Devlin is responsible for building the multimedia department from ground zero.





MARCHING FOXES WIN SECOND PLACE

The Fox Chapel Area High School Marching Band recently won second place at a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) Competition. The Marching Foxes placed second in their division at the competition which was held September 24 at Norwin High School.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Marching Band is under the direction of high school band director Daryl Lesnik and assistant directors Evan Hertrick and Clarissa Stewart. Senior drum major JP Ramassini provides field direction.

Four members of the Fox Chapel Crew Team were recently named to the 2016-2017 USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll. The students are seniors Sarah Hamilton, William Marsh, Alan McIvor, and Elizabeth Woodwell. They are four of only 36 students from across the nation to earn spots on the Honor Roll.

The students were chosen from 120 nominations received from athletes representing 64 clubs and school programs across the U.S. Applicants are selected based on high 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.



FOX CHAPEL CREW MEMBERS NAMED TO SCHOLASTIC HONOR ROLL



FCAHS GIRLS TENNIS

BY MICAH ZIFF

After breezing through the first round of the state playoffs in Erie, PA, the FCAHS girls tennis team are heading to the finals in Hershey, PA. Coach of the Year, Alex Slezak, credits the huge success to the team's dedication and hard work all the way throughout the season. Junior Amanda Nord and freshman Charlotte James won Class AAA doubles championships. This is nothing new to Nord, who has been there before, winning the state title in doubles the past two years. After being the understudy, Nord has finally assumed her much deserved leadership role on the team. Another key player on the team is sophomore Kristen Friday, who went 13-1 in singles play. Junior Abbe Cohen said the team has had a great season both on and off the courts, winning matches and becoming best friends. "We go into every match laughing and having fun, which is important." She also said she thinks the team has a good chance of going far at states. Good luck to the Lady Foxes as they aim to cap off the already successful season on a high note.





MR. DEAL CELEBRATES WITH THE PANTHERS

Mr. Deal had the tremendous opportunity to celebrate in the Pitt locker room after the Panthers' big win over Penn State on September 10th. Mr. Deal, one of our beloved Physical Education teachers, is also a former football coach for the Pitt Program, and is pictured with two Fox Chapel Area alums, Quintin Wirginis (#58) and Adam Bisnowaty (#69).

MR. SLEZAK WINS COACH OF THE YEAR

Alex Slezak, FCA's boys' and girls' tennis coach, was awarded Coach of the Year in the Allegheny Mountain District by the United States Tennis Association. This past season, the FCA High School boys' tennis team battled their way through the state tournament all the way to the finals! Congratulations, Mr. Slezak!

BOTH ARTICLES BY ALEX SMOLAR



ANOTHER GREAT SEASON FOR THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

BY ALEX SMOLAR



The Fox Chapel Area boys and girls cross country team has finished another great season for the fall of 2016. Coached by Mr. Moul and Mr. Patterson, the team participated in a total of eight meets along with a trip to the WPIAL championships on October 27th. Both the varsity boys and varsity girls claimed second place in the section this year with a record of 7-1 after a long season that began with training in June.

The boys varsity team included seniors Adam Cook and Alec Eckman, junior John Folkers, sophomores Ian Brown, Greg Overbeck, and Avery Bursick, and freshman Christian Fitch. The girls team included Annika Urban, Sarena Seeger, Caelan Miller, Brooke Krally, Megan Stafford, Anna Folkerts, and Margaret Edgecombe. Both teams had some tremendous individual performances at highly competitive meets this season as well, with Adam Cook, Sarena Seeger, and Annika Urban all receiving medals for their top 20 finishes in their respective races at the statewide Foundation Invitational in Hershey, PA. In addition, Christian Fitch finished in 30th place, making him the top placing freshman in the entire race. Some of the team highlights and victories include first place finishes for the boys and girls at the Gateway Invitational and a first place finish for the boys team at the Mack Cooper Invitational in Slippery Rock.

Overall, the season was an amazing success for all runners involved, so be sure to tell any cross country runners congratulations on a spectacular season.



Fox Chapel Boys Golf Tee Up a Spectacular Season

BY MARTY TAXAY

Fox Chapel Area Boys Golf has become one of the most consistently great teams in high school athletics. The team has been named section champions ten times over the past twelve seasons. The eight-time WPIAL finalist and four-time winning team has continued their winning tradition most recently in the Richard Cullinan Invitational. On September 9 at the Pittsburgh Field Club, the annual event was held in memory of former FC golfer, Richard Cullinan.

The FCA Red Team was led to

victory by seniors Trey Kelly, Alex Lawson and Anthony Cordaro.

The varsity program also defeated seven teams to make it to the WPIAL Team Finals at Oakmont Country Club this year, the site of the 2016 U.S. Open, and brought home several awards. Sophomore Gregor Meyer won the 2016 WPIAL Individual Championship. Along with Senior Anthony Cordaro, Meyer has helped to bring the prestigious award back to Fox Chapel for the second time in last three years.





FOX CHAPEL FOOTBALL

BY MICAH ZIFF



After a slow start to the season and a recent shakeup at both quarterback and running back respectively, FCA Football has really hit its stride. Micah Morris (#36) and Nick Gizzo (#11) have exploded onto the scene. After starting the season on the bench, juniors, Nick and Micah have filled in nicely.

On Homecoming night, Micah Morris eclipsed the 1,000 yard mark and Gizzo is soon to follow with just under 900 rushing yards. GO FC!





All Fox Chapel Area students were able to enjoy and participate in another great Homecoming weekend. The weekend began with the annual carnival, which showcased great food and fun activities. Food Trucks from Nakama, BRGR, Spun Sugar, Oh My Grill, and Mission Mahi Fish Tacos even came to add to the enjoyment. The Carnival included the famous Homecoming petting zoo, spectacular inflatable obstacle courses, and face painting. Also, some of the high school's best student-run clubs had booths and were able to showcase their skills and interests. The Spanish Club sold Walking Tacos, the Italian Club sold Rita's Ice, and the Jewish Student Union sold Rugelach. All in all, the rain could not dampen a wonderful afternoon.

Later that afternoon, all grade levels in the high school were able to perform their Homecoming skits. This year's theme was superheroes, and this surely did not disappoint. Freshmen were the Hulk, sophomores were Spiderman, juniors were Batman, and the seniors were Captain America. For the second year in a row, the Class of 2017 took home first place, much to the delight of the senior class. As one performer in the senior skit said, "Hearing that we won through those speakers for the second time was such a rush and made me so proud to be part of the class of 2017." Great job to everyone who participated in this year's skits! Fox Chapel Area took on Chartiers Valley in a rainy, but exciting, game that resulted in dominant 51-12 win. At halftime, seniors Phillip Swigon and Delaney Mills were named King and Queen. At the dance the next night, students were able to hang out with friends, relax in the cafeteria, or dance in the gym. There was a great activity for every type of student this weekend, and everyone was able to take advantage of the fun and have a great time!

Homecoming 2016

BY ALEX SMOLAR

TIPS FOR FRESHMEN

BY BLISS URIBE & HANNAH MUELLER

So, you've survived your first nine weeks at Fox Chapel Area High School. Congratulations.

Here are a few tips from us SENIOR citizens that will help you to survive the rest of freshmen year:

- Freshman year grades do matter to colleges, so don't slack off! Your GPA is cumulative for all four years, so a D in 9/10 Phys. Ed. WILL hurt your chances of getting into Harvard. But seriously, from personal experience, it sucks to know that your freshman year grades are what lowered your GPA.
- Don't be that person who walks so slowly in the hallway that everyone is stuck behind you and ends up late to class. Seriously. Don't do it.
- Attend school-organized events! It's true what they say—high school does fly by. Whether you believe it or not, you'll regret skipping out on those Friday night football games. Also, go to fall play, spring comedy, and the musical. There are so many talented people who deserve to be recognized. Who knows, the next Jennifer Lawrence could be at FCAHS right now! Bonus tip: Student sections have themes. The freshman who dress the best will definitely become a favorite among the seniors.
- Talk to the upperclassmen. We don't bite! You never know when you might need some advice from people who have experienced what you are currently going through. Most of us have taken similar classes and are happy to help (plus – we can drive).
- Get involved in clubs, music programs, and sports. You never know what you might like, so don't be afraid to try something new. It is the people who have been committed to a club since freshman year who become its officers in the later years.
- Always compost in the cafeteria. The Earth is dying and we're probably all doomed, so let's try to make a difference. FC's colors may be red and white, but we can be green, too. P.S. – Mr. Schubert WILL find you.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help from your teachers. It is literally their job and their pleasure to help you. It might not always feel like it, but teachers DO want you to succeed!
- Get to know your guidance counselor. Don't forget that they write your college recommendation letters! Senior year might seem far away, but before you know it, you will need them to write a letter explaining to colleges why you are the perfect fit and you want your guidance counselor to actually know who you are. They also have all the info. about scholarships, internships, job openings, you name it.
- Challenge yourself. While some of us get a little carried away with the APs, it is always a good idea to challenge yourself! Colleges want you to see that you are trying your hardest and pushing yourself beyond your limits. You might even surprise yourself and find out that you are good at something you didn't expect!
- Join Fox Tales. All the coolest kids do it (positive peer pressure in action)!



common
sense
education™

Certified School
Digital Citizenship

SCHOOL DIGITAL COMMON SENSE DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP CERTIFIED

The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified School District. As a certified district, Fox Chapel Area has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying.

The designation means that each individual school in the district has received this special certification. The district's schools are Fairview Elementary School, Hartwood Elementary School, Kerr Elementary School, O'Hara Elementary School, Dorseyville Middle School, and Fox Chapel Area High School. A total of 24 school districts across the nation have received this designation, and only five in Pennsylvania.

"We applaud the faculty and staff of the Fox Chapel Area School District for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Rebecca Randall, vice president of education programs for Common Sense Education. "Fox Chapel Area deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

Common Sense is the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of digital media and technology. Fox Chapel Area School District has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with Dr. Howard Gardner of the GoodPlay Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to Internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, managing online relationships, and respecting creative copyright. The free resources are currently used in more than 90,000 classrooms nationwide.



NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

BY BRIDGET WANG

National Honor Society, or NHS, is an aim for most every motivated high school student in the country. It is a prestigious organization intending to help students become better leaders in modern society. Open to juniors and seniors, entry is based on the following four qualities: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. At Fox Chapel Area High School, NHS is sponsored by Mrs. Lisa Gibson and Mrs. Suzanne Miller. Both make it their goal to encourage students to challenge themselves and aim high.

On September 27, the 2016 NHS induction ceremony was held in the auditorium. The ceremony was primarily led by the four senior officers: President Suvir Mirchandani, Vice President Harper Bennett, Secretary Jared Cohen, and Treasurer Nathan Wecht. At the ceremony, keynote speaker, Mrs. Suzanne Alexander, the founder of the Live Like Lou foundation, gave a very powerful and moving speech that encouraged students to pursue personal happiness, move forward when faced with difficult challenges in life, and leave behind all the negative that can be toxic and detrimental to achievement and fulfillment.

132 students became newly inducted into the society, reaching a total of 235 students who are in National Honor Society at our school. Congratulations to our students for upholding the idea of hard work and perseverance at our school. Onward.



