

# FOX TALES *Quarterly*

A Student Publication

New Teachers at  
the High School  
*pg. 14*

Students Present  
Fauré's Requiem  
*pg. 20*

Successes of the  
Girls' Tennis Team  
*pg. 24*

FEATURING

Homecoming  
2015  
*pg. 18*















# FCA Gets Creative: Artist in Residency Project

*Daly Trimble*

Fox Chapel Area High School is building its own giant. With the help of local artist Laura Jean McLaughlin, more than 400 students in the FCA Art Department are planning to spend months creating an interactive, outdoor, and playful statue that will tower at 11 feet tall. Its installation by the campus fish pond will be the culmination of an almost year-long program that allows aspiring young artists to interact with a successful professional.

The process began on October 27th in the large group instruction room, where students played a game traditionally known as "The Exquisite Corpse." This creative exercise was inspired by artists from the Surrealist Era. It begins by folding a piece of paper into four sections. One person draws a section of the body, head to shoulders, shoulders to waist, waist to knees, or knees to feet, and then passes the folded sheet. After all four sections have been blindly drawn, the paper is unfolded to reveal an eclectic "person." The game was played multiple times until the art department staff had enough illustrations to choose the best twenty. From there, students took a vote on their favorite sketches and have started bringing their ideas to life with the help of Ms. McLaughlin.

Ms. McLaughlin then spent 20 days in the fall

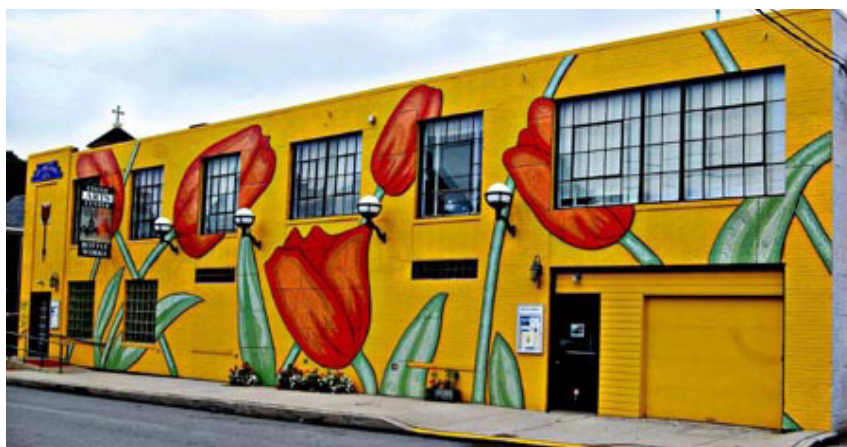
with the school's art classes to help the students create the components required for installation. The statue is planned to be four large cubes that will rotate on a concrete base. Each cube side will feature either a mosaic that depicts one section of the drawings or a mirror. While the

meticulous work of creating and mounting large mosaics has the potential to discourage experienced and new artists alike, Ms. McLaughlin says the project has been very rewarding so far. "It's just a wonderful art program. There are teachers who are really knowledgeable...and the students have been fun to work with. It's been a positive, nurturing environment."

Additionally, when asked who would be most amused by a piece suited for a funhouse, Ms. McLaughlin attested, "Anyone would enjoy it! People like to interact with things. It's a different experience every time you turn it." She contends that "this process is the perfect example of community" because everyone in the school district, regardless

of their role in the statue's creation, will be connected by mutual enjoyment.

Readers can learn more by following #FCArtAlive on Twitter or by visiting [www.fcasd.edu/high-school-home.html](http://www.fcasd.edu/high-school-home.html).



*A tile mosaic by Laura Jean McLaughlin in Johnstown.*



*Laura Jean works with students to create distinctive mosaics.*







# AP Students Getting Recognition

Alex Smolar

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses dedicate themselves to some of the most challenging aspects of education, such as in-depth analysis, critical thinking, and the tough task of self-improvement. There are more than 20 AP courses offered at the high school. The completion of an AP course and the ensuing AP exam are truly daunting assignments, but the gratification is well worth the effort. To celebrate and recognize the students who continually push themselves academically, FCAHS has created a recognition system this year in order to more formally recognize AP students for their achievements.

The new program was launched in September with an AP Scholar breakfast that gave students some time to relax and enjoy time with friends. Mr. Hower, Dr. McCommons, and Mrs. Colvin each gave a brief speech of encouragement and congratulations. Then, Dr. Freeman, our superintendent, spoke to the students about the importance of a challenging course load. Next, students laughed at the expense of their AP teachers in an entertaining video, and some received specific awards for their accomplishments. Lastly, the students eagerly trekked to the cafeteria



*These juniors are all smiles after being commended by Principal Hower for participating in the AP Scholar Program.*

(Photo credit Bridget Wang)

for a delicious and much anticipated breakfast of bagels, egg sandwiches, coffee, fruit, and more.

All AP students recognized took a large group photo; separate group photos were taken for those who have completed three to seven AP exams. Students that completed their first AP exam last spring were given an honorary certificate as well. In addition, a plaque honoring the AP scholars will be hung in the hallways of Fox Chapel Area High School. The plaque will divide the scholars into multiple categories; Platinum, Gold, and Silver AP scholar recognition will be bestowed to those who have completed eleven, nine, and seven AP exams respectively with a minimum GPA of 4.0.

In short, the district has acknowledged that AP students deserve recognition for their intense studies and desire to gain a depth of content in specific areas of education. Students work at rapid paces in those classes and must balance their course loads with extra-curricular activities, sports, and social life. Successful completion of these fierce, college level courses prepare students to become tremendous workers in college and beyond.



*Teachers and students were treated to a buffet breakfast following commendation for high achievements as AP students.*

(Photo credit Bridget Wang)

## fox tales staff

Maria Burns (Head of Layout)  
Ishan Khatri (Staff Writer)  
Amanda Michalowski (Layout Assistant)  
Alex Smolar (Staff Writer, Editor)  
Marty Taxay (Staff Writer, Editor)  
Daly Trimble (Editor-in-Chief)

Marjorie Trimble (Chief Photographer)  
Bliss Uribe (Staff Writer, Photographer)  
Bridget Wang (Staff Writer, Photographer)  
Micah Ziff (Staff Writer)

Ms. Lisa Giguere (Sponsor)





# Summer Seminar Program Creates Better Freshmen

*Helena McDonald*

While the transition from middle to high school is sometimes a considerable paradigm shift for upcoming freshmen, Fox Chapel Area High School does its utmost to ensure that incoming students feel welcomed and secure in their new environment. Some ninth graders do not need much assistance and adjust well to the transition from middle to high school. One freshman even shared that the transition "isn't as bad as everyone says it is. The only major difference is the larger workload." However, others feel that the move across the two schools is challenging. "I had trouble adjusting to the early start time and all the homework," one student said. "I felt really overwhelmed at the beginning." In an effort to make certain that all students feel confident, the high school has introduced the Freshmen Summer Seminar.

Freshmen Summer Seminar is a transition program that has been recently implemented at the high school in order to better prepare middle school students for life at the high school. Fox Chapel Area has offered the Freshmen Summer Seminar course multiple times over summer break for the past three years, with individual seminars lasting for four three-hour days. This year, sessions were offered from 9 a.m. to noon July 13-16, 20-23, 27-30 and on Aug. 3-6. There was a cost associated with the program; students paid a flat fee of \$75 in order to attend. Financial assistance was also available for any student in need.

The core purpose of the Freshman Summer Seminar program is to prepare students for a curriculum more rigorous than that of Dorseyville by focusing on the improvement of executive functioning skills. Program attendees spend their sessions determining strengths and weaknesses in their study habits and working to improve classroom and homework skills. Dr. Cowles, director of the seminar program and a social studies teacher at FCAHS, remarks, "students who understand how they learn and use decisive strategies to comprehend information should perform well in challenging high school level courses." This was evident in the seminar's main lessons, which covered basic reading comprehension, note taking strategies, and the analytical writing process in an effort to provide students with a skill set that could be taken into any classroom. As Dr. Cowles attests, "This program will afford students the foundational academic learning skill sets to perform at the high school level upon entering on the first day."

# Career Club Allows Exploration

*Stephen Polcyn*

The FCAHS Career Club is focused on providing opportunities for students to learn about different careers that they are interested in and to discover careers that they didn't know about earlier. To achieve this goal, the Career Club brings in guest speakers monthly during a designated "Career QRT," in which students are able to gain passes to listen to the speaker talk. Speakers come from many different areas, ranging from software developers to zookeepers to Peace Corps volunteers. We have already hosted the following speakers: Satya Venneti, a Senior Software Developer at Software Engineering Institute, Emerging Technology Center; Mrs. Bobbi Battista, Talent Management/Human Resources at Denali Group, and Dara Himlehoke, a Veterinarian at Harts Run Veterinary Hospital.

See Mr. Baxter in the guidance office for a pass to see one of these upcoming career speakers:

- December 11<sup>th</sup> : Selina Matis, LCSW, Instructor and Field Coordinator at Seton Hill University
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Adrian Fontes, Peace Corp Volunteer with the Peace Corps.
- January 29<sup>th</sup>: Aparna Gupta, CRNP, MSN, ANP-BC, Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, and Certified Nurse Anesthetist at UPMC



*Mrs. Bobbi Battista talks to students about talent management, leadership development, performance management, and more during a Career QRT.*





# How To Make the Best of High School

Priyanka Shah

High school is quite daunting at first glance. Even as a senior, I still remember my very first day of freshmen year clearly. Different place, new faces, seemingly strange schedules...everything was unfamiliar. I felt so overwhelmed! Freshmen, I understand. So let me ease your worries by giving you some wisdom that I have gathered as I embark on my fourth year of high school.

1. **Be yourself.** It's important to stay true to yourself and your personality. You will make new friends and form stronger bonds with your old friends.
2. **Branch out socially.** From my experience, social groups start to blend in high school. You can embrace these merges by stepping out of your social comfort zone, meeting new people, and making new friends.
3. **Get involved.** There are so many ways to get involved in high school: community service, sports, language clubs, writing clubs, Forensics; the list goes on and on. I highly encourage you to immerse yourself in high school by joining clubs and playing sports. Not only do they look phenomenal on your resume, but they are great ways to make new friends.
4. **Get to know your guidance counselor.** All of the guidance counselors are nice and very helpful. They are there for you and want to know you on a one-on-one level. Take the time to meet with your counselor about course selections, scholarships, SAT and ACT information, and more. Talk to him or her about hobbies, books, movies, anything!
5. **Grab opportunities and run with them!** Start a new club. Volunteer outside of school. Apply for scholarships well before you have to. I highly recommend visiting the QUEST office on the first floor. You can find multiple opportunities there, such as essay contests and apprenticeship applications.
6. **Work hard.** Study! You'll feel good when you do well in your classes. But academics isn't the only part of school you should put effort into. When you're at your sport's practice, focus and try your best. Put in effort even for the little things, like working a fundraiser table for a club during lunch. Sheer determination will take you far in life.
7. **Push yourself, but know your limits.** Your dedication and motivation will all pay off in the end. If you work right up but not past your limit, you're doing just what you should be doing.
8. **Jump into the deep end and just keep swimming!** There will be times in your high school career when you will just feel swamped. If you have tackled obstacles in the past, then you must trust yourself that you will overcome obstacles in the future. It's all going to work out in the end.
9. **Laugh a lot.** When the work begins to pile on and days get shorter, you may feel down in the dumps. When you feel as though you need a break, take the time to relax, enjoy yourself, and laugh. Not only will laughing relieve stress, but it will make you an overall happier and healthier person.
10. **Finally, please walk correctly in the hallways!** If you haven't already realized it, there is an unofficial student body understanding that students should follow the flow of students in between classes. Everyone tries to walk on the right side and cross the student traffic only when necessary.



I doubt that these ten tips will solve every single problem that you will face in high school. But I certainly hope that they give you a general guideline on how to make your high school experience unforgettable. Good luck! I wish you all the best!





# High School Club Week a Big Success

Karissa Becer

Throughout the week of September 14, the students of Fox Chapel Area High School were exposed to a myriad of diverse clubs offered by the school. Many pupils had been looking forward to the lunch periods in anticipation of meeting others with the same interests. While many of the clubs were returning, having been handed down from last year's students, new clubs were also successful in recruiting members.

Monday's clubs included Best Buddies, a program designed to increase interaction and create friendships between special needs students and their peers, and Mu Alpha Theta, a competitive math club. As the first day of Club Week, Monday held the smallest amount of clubs, although both generated plenty of interest throughout the lunch period.

The second day of Club Week continued to encourage students pursuing their interests. Many of the clubs, such as the National Geographic Club and Baking Club, were returning for their second year. Students leisurely browsed clubs while their fellow pupils pitched their ideas. A pair of rats displayed by the Psychology Club pulled lunchers' interest into the commons area, while the consistently popular DESI Club table was swarmed.

By the third day, students, especially freshmen, admitted to feeling overwhelmed by the number of groups. Although students showed interest in clubs, many were afraid of spreading themselves too thin and lamented that they would have signed up had they not already joined many other clubs. Fortunately, Wednesday's tables were filled with many of Fox Chapel Area's well established organizations, such as Model United Nations and Forensics

(FCMUN), Technology Student Association (TSA), and the School News Source (Fox Tales), all of which can be joined at any time.

Thursday's recruiting period, which occurred at the end of the day due to an Open House early dismissal, contained prominent clubs such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and German Club. Students swarmed the Commons, eagerly learning about all of the societies present at Fox Chapel Area High School.

Friday brought plenty of new and returning organizations. Older students interested in what new groups

had to offer browsed the tables for Mock Trial Club and Italian Club. Returning groups, such as the Busking Club, provided live music while the students browsed to perfectly end Club Week.

Tactics to generate interest varied, and the majority of clubs chose to use brightly colored poster boards. Some groups, such as the Comedy Club, employed handouts (or in this case, potatoes) in order to attract their peers' attentions. The Psychology Club brought in a pair of rats to create enthusiasm, which proved

to be an effective tool. More established and official clubs let their posters do the talking for them. Their colorful pictures of students participating in past years alongside student award displays provided a steady flow of admirers throughout the lunch period.

For the student body at Fox Chapel Area High School, Club Week allowed them to get immersed in school activities. It also provided the opportunity for pupils to make new friends and share their interests with other students.



Students sign up for various clubs during their lunch period in the Commons. (Photo credit Hannah Mueller)

## upcoming *a*cademic events

- December 23<sup>rd</sup>: Telethon and Fox Fest
- December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>: Winter Break
- January 5<sup>th</sup>: Past Graduate Visitation Day
- January 10<sup>th</sup>: High School Blood Drive





# Camp Allegheny Cultivates Great Memories

Sarah Hamilton

The month of October is equally exciting for the fifth grade campers in each of the four elementary schools and for the high school students who get to serve as counselors. This is the month when these students take a four day trip to Camp Allegheny in Stoystown, PA, where they have an exciting week filled with hiking, learning about nature, and even singing. I was fortunate enough to learn about what happens throughout the week from three Fox Chapel Area High School seniors, Katelyn Essey, Veronica Sacco, and Emily Kiehn, who have attended as counselors for the past three years.

The expedition began on Tuesday with the bus trip to camp, which involved stops along the way at Fort Ligonier and a windmill farm. Each day, everyone woke up around seven o'clock and went to breakfast to fuel up for a day of activities. Each evening, campers gathered outside of the dining hall to sing songs before dinner, which



*The high school Camp Allegheny counselors outside of Fort Ligonier.*



*The Camp Allegheny experience takes place in October and is exciting for both elementary and high school students.*

seemed to be a favorite part of the week for many. The most notable memories are created outside, on different types of hikes, and at campfires every night with all of the students, counselors, and teachers. The fifth graders also spend an hour in their quiet spots every day with their teachers while the counselors get some time to relax or do homework. Each day consists of multiple intriguing activities and unique adventures in the woods of Western PA.

After hearing all of the stories about the fun things that go on at Camp Allegheny, I can almost guarantee to any past, present, or future parent that your child had or will have an amazing time at camp, while exploring and learning about our planet's ecosystems. These students were in excellent hands and most likely came home with a plethora of new memories and stories to tell.

- January 18<sup>th</sup>: No School
- January 21<sup>st</sup>: End of First Semester
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>: No School
- February 11<sup>th</sup>: High School Open House (1pm Dismissal)
- February 15<sup>th</sup>: No School





# FCAHS Students Compete in Calculusolve

Bridget Wang

Seven students in grades 9 and 10 travelled to the Soldiers and Sailors Museum in Oakland for the annual Calculusolve competition, a math competition designed to challenge individuals in complex math problems. The competition is composed of nine rounds of problems for the students to solve in a certain amount of time. Two of the rounds are to be solved in groups in fewer than ten minutes. Ten points are awarded to groups who submitted a correct answer. The other seven rounds are designed for individual students to solve in under five minutes. At the end of five minutes, those who have not submitted an answer are provided a hint and provided an additional three minutes to give an answer to the judges. Five points are awarded to the individuals who submitted the correct answer in the original time allotted. Three points are awarded to individuals who submitted the correct answer after receiving the hint. A maximum of 35 points could be gained by individuals, which could count toward the team's score. At the end of the competition, certificates and trophies are awarded to the top three teams as well as the top three individuals.

The student competitors from Fox Chapel Area were Wonho Kang, Sarthak Navjivan, Albert Liu, and Arnav Gupta, Bridget Wang, Chris Bonavita, and Brandon Wei.

The first round was a question for the team:

If  $a + b = 1$  and  $a^2 + b^2 = 2$ , then  $a^3 + b^3 = ?$

Both teams were given ten minutes to solve this problem, and both teams answered with a correct answer of  $5/2$ . The next seven rounds were for individuals, in which FCAHS's students performed very well.

The final round was for teams:

@ is defined as a set composed of {15, 115, 215, 315... 2015}. If two numbers were pulled from set @ and set as the ordered pair of  $(x, y)$ , then how many pairs are there where  $x < y$ .

Both teams answered with the correct answer of 210. Unfortunately, neither team placed in the top three nor did any individuals make honourable mentions or top three. However, one of our teams did place sixth, and the other did place tenth. Regardless, events such as Calculusolve are a great way to engage in friendly competition with like-minded peers from other schools and help to build the skills and confidence needed to succeed in subsequent competitions.



Yelim Lee, Conor Gaffney, Won Jun Kang, and Konrad Urban take some time to rest their brains after the Calculusolve Competition.

## Students in Action

Che Esch

On October 16, the Fox Chapel Students in Action Team attended the 2015 Pittsburgh Regional Fall Leadership conference. Students listened to guest speakers and participated in activities dealing with a variety of topics, including leadership, working together as a team, choosing areas of focus for public service projects, fundraising, and creating action to impact plans. Speakers included Justin

Forzano of the Cameroon Football Development Program, the Students in Action team from Brownsville Area High School, Patrick Mulvihill and Helen Fallon of Point Park University, and Leah Lizarondo of 412 Food Rescue. Students who would like to learn more about getting involved in the FCASH Students in Action team should email Che Esch (esch\_christopher@cl.fcasd.edu).





# Middle School Tutoring Project Launched by Students

Alex Smolar

On Wednesday, November 4th, the Language and Writing Tutoring Program (L.A.W.) conducted its inaugural session at Dorseyville Middle School. The monthly program, designed to help middle school-aged students improve their writing and grammatical skills, has eight dedicated high school students acting as mentors. Alex Smolar, Will Schwartzman, Bliss Uribe, Hannah Mueller, Jared Cohen, Ben Rosen, Marty Taxay, and Nadia Islam, all AP English students, sacrificed their busy afternoons to travel to DMS and to individually work with middle school students on a writing assignment. Mr. Studebaker, a long-time seventh grade Language Arts teacher, supported the program by recruiting DMS student participants and overseeing the tutors at the L.A.W session.

The DMS students, representing an array of ages, were very appreciative of the help and enjoyed their one-on-one time with the more skilled writers. "Today was helpful and fun," said one DMS student. "You guys were really fun and I know how to better write my essay now," mentioned another DMS student.

Eleventh and twelfth grade students are strongly encouraged to sign up for the L.A.W. tutoring program, as the process of helping younger students is a truly rewarding experience. In addition, National Honor Society homework helper hours will be granted to all hard-working volunteers. Please email Alex Smolar at alex.smolar2027@gmail.com or visit QRT 168 to sign up for future sessions of the Language and Writing Tutoring Program.

# Students Shine at Forensics Tournament

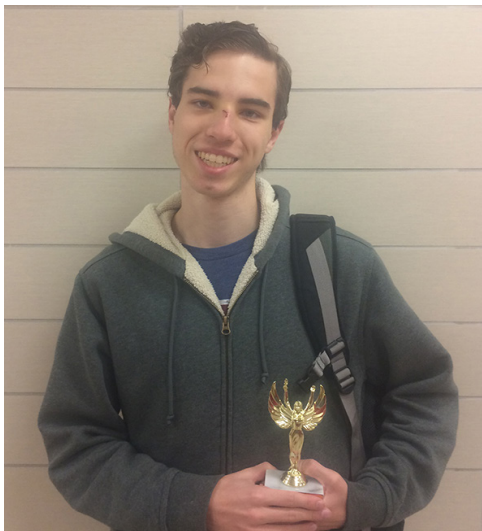
Albert Liu

On the weekend of October 24, members of the FCA Forensics Club traveled to Warren, Ohio to exhibit their speech and debate skills at the JFK Forensics Tournament. Forensics is a competitive speaking league where competitors debate issues, write and deliver speeches, and give Oscar-worthy performances. To prepare, students prac-

ticed speeches, arguments, and articulation, and worked with Coaches Mr. Matusiak, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson to hone their craft as a public speaker in the weeks leading up to the competition.

The tournament consisted of two main categories: interpretive speaking and debate. Students in interpretive speaking used their memory and gravitas to write, practice, and perform literary works before panels of judges. Some of the students who attended this tournament included Madeleine Doerr, delivering an original speech in Original Oratory and Joshua Cagan and Austin Fisher who performed a scene, in Duo Interpretation. Students in debate used speeches and arguments already prepared as well as quick thinking to debate issues relevant to today's political climate. These included Emelyn Broniek, Albert Liu, Jeremy Rodrigues, Lucy Stone, and Sara Puthenpurayil debating bills and resolutions in Student Congress, Jonathan Monroe and Clare O'Connor discussing policy and logistics in Public Forum, and Delaney Roberts arguing the morality of current policy in Lincoln Douglas. Forensics is not only competitive speaking but also a test of wit, work ethic, and determination, all of which were exemplified by these Fox Chapel Area students.

Junior Jeremy Rodrigues recently placed at the John F. Kennedy High School Invitational Forensic Tournament. Jeremy won fourth place in Student Congress. Approximately 270 students from 18 schools from Pennsylvania and Ohio competed at the event.







# An Alternative, Well-Paved Route for Students at A.W. Beattie

*Madison McCleese*

The A.W. Beattie Career Center in Allison Park offers some amazing opportunities for high school students that few people are aware of. Beattie was established in 1965 by Alfred Beattie in order to get students involved with trade education. At that time, Alfred realized that four-year college was not the best option for everyone and wanted to give students an outlet to explore another path. Today, many of the programs at this technical school are actually fast-tracking students to their four-year degree!

In the year 2020, most of the United States current trades workers will be approaching retirement. This will leave thousands of job openings in various trades for the current generation to fill. A.W. Beattie Career Center offers such a wide range of programs that students are able to find the trade that best suits their personalities, interests, and plans for the future. Some of the more popular programs include Introduction to Pharmacy, Dental Careers, Agile Robotics/Advanced Manufacturing, and Health & Nursing Sciences. Each program involves 50 percent classroom instruction and 50 percent hands-on



*This Automotive Technology classroom also serves as a full-service garage for community members in need of car repairs.*



*Beattie is a great choice for students who learn by doing.*

activities in program labs. Beattie offers top-notch learning equipment in classroom settings as well as the latest and most updated equipment for program labs.

Upon graduating from A. W. Beattie, many graduates are able to enter the workforce immediately with state certifications. Other alumni further their education by attending a college with the possibility of already having earned college credits due to articulation agreements between Beattie and certain universities. Even if a student chooses to explore a different career option, they have gained worthwhile, practical experience in a trade field.

Through student volunteering and fundraising, A.W. Beattie is quite active within the community. Additionally, locals have the advantage of enjoying Beattie's fully operational restaurant or getting a haircut in the cosmetology salon. If you would like to experience a different type of learning, A. W. Beattie Career Center is a good option for you.





# Encouraging the Spread of Creativity

Bridget Wang

Ms. Mairi Cooper, elected Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year, fully deserves this title and has not given anyone a reason not to elect her. Recently, she has been dedicating her time to helping a school in Louisiana that has limited resources. Ms. Carol Schoenecker, long time friend of Ms. Cooper, became part of the organization Teach For America, a nonprofit group whose mission is "to enlist, develop, and mobilize as many as possible of our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence" (<https://www.teachforamerica.org/about-us/our-mission>). By recruiting individuals to become teachers for low-income school districts, education can be guaranteed to many young individuals across the country. Ms. Schoenecker joined this organization and began teaching at a low-income school in Louisiana.

Over the course of a month, Schoenecker brought and bought supplies for her new students to be utilized in the classroom. It only took one week for most of her supplies to be used by other teachers. Within the course of a day, Ms. Cooper and the students of the music department decided to take action to help. Students brought in paper, coloring books, reading books, pencils, markers, art supplies, board games, educational posters, and many other types of supplies to be mailed to Louisiana.

Further action to help school districts similar to the conditions of Ms. Schoenecker's is being taken for a school district in Tennessee, where another friend of Ms. Cooper taught for the organization of Teach For America.



Ms. Mairi Cooper's students brought in art supplies to send to schools in Louisiana. Above, her QRT organizes the materials.

# Be a Buddy

Stacie Dojonovic

Fox Chapel Area Best Buddies is a club for all middle school and high school students with and without disabilities who want to increase friendship opportunities for all students in their schools. We are dedicated to ensuring that all students in our schools are included in not just the general education classrooms but social activities. Currently we have over 150 active members who are dedicated to creating true friendships outside of the classroom setting. This is an opportunity for all students to participate with peers in social activities.

Faculty Advisors, Anna Hopper and Stacie Dojonovic, along with student leaders, work to match groups of students with similar interests and personalities in social activities. Fun monthly high school social activities are planned for students to participate in together. Additional time together may be determined on an individual basis that may include studying, working out at the fitness center, and eating lunch or dinner together. Additionally, students are on a group text in order to remain in contact with each other. Healthy relationships are encouraged with support of the faculty and student leaders.

## Want more information?

Please feel free to contact the Faculty Advisors: Stacie Dojonovic at [Stacie\\_dojonovic@fcasd.edu](mailto:Stacie_dojonovic@fcasd.edu) or (412) 696-1412

Anna Hopper at [Anna\\_Hopper@fcasd.edu](mailto:Anna_Hopper@fcasd.edu) or (412) 967-2430



Best Buddies has over 150 members with and without disabilities who want to create new friendships.





# Welcome, New Teachers!

Daly Trimble

Three new faces are gracing the halls of FCAHS this year. Fox Tales interviewed them to find out who they are, what they stand for, and how many times they have gotten lost.

## **Ms. Krista Matonak, Math Teacher**

Ms. Matonak grew up in Butler, PA. She completed her Math degree as well as a Masters of Education at Slippery Rock University. Prior to arriving at FCA, she taught for three years at Butler Intermediate High School. She is teaching Algebra I and Algebra II this first semester and is happy to be working so much closer to her home in Allison Park. The biggest difference between teaching at FCA and at Butler is the length of classes (45 minutes per period in a 7-period day). Transitioning to an 80-minute period was an adjustment but she feels it is great in terms of instructional value.

"It is always fun to see personalities show in class and be able to work with that in instruction," Ms. Matonak says. "I can't say that I am nervous about anything specific. I am excited for new surroundings, coworkers, and students. I am happy to be a part of a great district with students who are happy to be learning!"

Believe it or not, Ms. Matonak has not gotten lost yet! She had to reroute herself multiple times prior to students arriving because of construction and flooring changes and has found multiple "long routes" to different locations in the school.



*Ms. Krista Matonak, the newest addition to Fox Chapel High School's math department, previously taught at Butler Intermediate High School. (Photo credit Bridget Wang)*

## **Ms. Lauren Nasser, Reading Specialist**

Ms. Nasser is originally from Kittanning, PA. She attended Saint Vincent College for her undergraduate

degree in Elementary Instruction, and Indiana University of PA for her masters degree in Literacy. She is certified to teach Elementary K-6; Math, Science, and History 7-9; and Reading K-12. She worked for Butler Area School District for three and a half years in various elementary positions and came to Fox Chapel Area last semester to work at O'hara Elementary as a Reading Specialist.

Ms. Nasser enjoys teaching her students and learning about them. She shared that she feels fortunate to work with a great staff that has been incredibly welcoming and helpful. Her greatest fear as a teacher is failing a student by not reaching him/her or helping him/her when he/she needs her the most. She is most excited to help students become more confident readers.

This year, Ms. Nasser is teaching Elements of Literature and Functional Reading. "When I heard that FCASD was hiring a reading specialist, I applied for the position and ended up with the job! It was certainly one of the most exciting days of my life. I still pinch myself to make sure I'm not dreaming."



*Ms. Lauren Nasser worked for the Butler Area School District before coming to Fox Chapel Area to work as a Reading Specialist. (Photo credit Bridget Wang)*

## **Mr. Peter Shiner, Physics Teacher**

While checking to make sure several boxes worth of raw eggs could balance on their ends (it was the autumnal equinox that day), Mr. Shiner explained how he made the jump from being a 22-year veteran of eighth grade science to a regular and accelerated Physics teacher in the high school. While still heavily involved with Dorseyville Middle School as a Cross Country coach, Mr. Shiner is ecstatic that he got a job in the subject he had hoped to teach when he originally applied to Fox Chapel Area. He

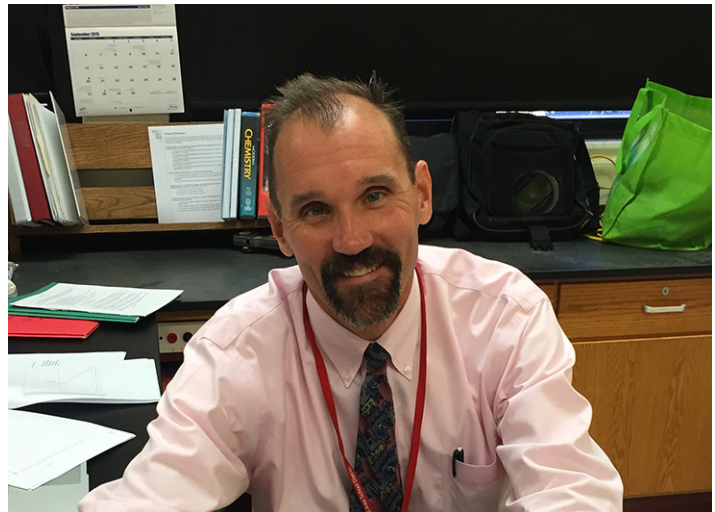




has a double certification in physics and chemistry and expects to spend the remainder of his teaching career at the high school.

"I felt like a brand new teacher again," Mr. Shiner said in reference to his first day at the high school. "You know, I've been teaching for 23 years, and it felt like starting from square one. I was definitely nervous, but excited too." He shared that he is most nervous about feeling like he is adequately prepared for what he is teaching. "You know, I have the degree in physics, but the approach to how you tackle the subject matters. I'm looking forward to how I'm going to adjust things for next year. I think that's the mark of a good teacher; they're always trying to get better."

Mr. Shiner was happy to share thoughts about his transfer from Dorseyville Middle School to FCAHS. "It's been refreshing because I know so many kids from teaching in the eighth grade, cross country, and ski club, so I probably know close to half of the kids up here. Everyone's been extremely welcoming and friendly!"



Mr. Peter Shiner has made the move from the middle school to the high school to teach Physics. (Photo credit Bridget Wang)

## It's MUN Conference Season

*Bridget Wang*

Model United Nations (MUN) conferences have officially started. The Fox Chapel Area MUN team is coached by Mr. Mark Matusiak, and on October 12, Fox Chapel's MUN team travelled to Riverview for their first conference of the year.

A MUN conference is similar to a United Nations conference except the delegates are students taking up the role as if they were actually a delegate from their assigned country, debating on provided topics. Each student is assigned a committee and a country, and at the conference, they are sent to a designated area where they meet with other delegates of their committee.

At this year's Riverview MUN Conference, five committees debated the following topics:

- Security Council: The Danger of Dictatorial Power
  - Arab League: Proposed Iranian Nuclear Agreement
  - Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC): Growing Tensions between NATO and the Russian Federation
  - UNESCO: Promotion of Freedom of Expression and the Accesses to Information
  - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Summit of Syrian Refugees
- Topics were debated by the following students

from FCAHS who became delegates from the following countries:

- Security Council: Angola (Bridget Wang), Jordan (Omar Abdallah), New Zealand (Arnav Gupta), and Russian Federation (Darwin Leuba)
- Arab League: Oman (Karissa Becer)
- DISEC: Angola (Sarah Seay and Trisha Shah), New Zealand (Sarathak Navjivan and Jordan Taxay), and Russian Federation (Tristan McClelland and Andreas Paljug)
- UNESCO: Angola (Alexa Selwood and Emilia Bianchini), New Zealand (Claudia Simon and Serena Smith), and Russian Federation (Anna Shin and Clare O'Connor)
- UNHCR: Angola (Sara Puthenpurayil and Ellen Pil)
- and Russian Federation (Jonathan Monroe and Emelyn Broniek)

MUN Conferences are debates in which the students participating may choose how much or how little they wish to speak. The mornings were filled with friendly debates between the delegates on the topic, and in the afternoon, the chairs announce a world crisis or crises to which the delegates must vote on a solution. The purpose or goal of the delegation is to make resolutions about the topic or crisis and get other countries to help pass resolutions.





# Come to Manuscript!

David Han

The Manuscript writing help center, which is located in room 176, is open year-round for students who seek writing advice and grammar tutoring. Come in if you would like to have a peer's assistance regardless of the stage your piece is in, be it brainstorming, drafting, or revision. Our tutors are dedicated students who have experience with a multitude of writing prompts for various classes and can help students craft effective DBQs, essays, and creative literature.

A typical session is student driven and efficient, and our tutors can proofread, revise, and suggest ideas tailored to the individual's needs. The one-on-one, 30-min-

ute tutoring session can dramatically improve your writing quality and can give your grade a needed boost or help your college essay to better showcase your skills and personality. English students may also find Manuscript's services to be useful as we offer grammar tutoring for every grade level and can alleviate the stress of cramming for tests with examples, explanations, and practice assignments.

We hope that you will take advantage of Manuscript's tutoring program and find it useful throughout your academic career!

## National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students

Sixteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and nine have been named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are: Isabel Acevedo, Jessica Berg, Madelyn Coulson, Christopher Esch, Conor Gaffney, David Humphrey, Nicola Lee-Oesterreich, Shaina Munin, Stephen Polcyn, Sophie Rodosky, Anja Schempf, Sreeroopa

Som, James Thomson, Daly Trimble, Konrad Urban, and Spencer Williams. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are: Maria Burns, Ishan Khatri, Julia Lynch, Levi McCrady, Amanda Puthenpu-rayil, Siddharth Rajupet, Margot Savin, Priyanka Shah, and Emily Trageser.

All of these students were selected based on their 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year college-bound 11<sup>th</sup> grade students complete the PSAT/NMSQT. About 1.5 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 about 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million to be offered in the spring of 2016.

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.



Back row, left to right: Daly Trimble, Spencer Williams, Anja Schempf, Nicola Lee-Oesterreich, James Thomson, Conor Gaffney, David Humphrey, Konrad Urban, Shaina Munin  
Front row, left to right: Che Esch, Jessica Berg, Sreeroopa Som, Isabel Acevedo, Madelyn Coulson, Stephen Polcyn, Sophie Rodosky





# Powder Puff 2015

*Bliss Uribe*

It has been a tradition at FCAHS to have a Powder Puff flag football game between the junior and senior girls using proceeds to benefit the community. This year the senior class hosted a coat drive, and the Community Outreach club organized a canned food drive for local food pantries. Although the underclassmen were not allowed to participate in the actual playing, they organized and ran the event.



*The seniors won this year's Powder Puff flag football game after scoring in the first quarter and maintaining a strong lead for the majority of the game.*



*Although the juniors lost, they put up a strong fight and scored in the last quarter. They'll be back next year!*

# Spanish National Honor Society

A total of 23 Fox Chapel Area High School students were inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society in a ceremony on October 12, 2015. The students are seniors Kelly Arel (president), Jessica Berg, Lydia Beyer (secretary), Francesca Cano-Czagany, Matthew Friday, Benjamin Friedland, Kota Furuhashi, John Gurklis, Mary Humphrey, Melissa Jerpe, Kathleen Kiszka, Julia Lynch, Nathan Matisko, Ryan Morrissey (treasurer), Amanda Puthenpurayil, Siddharth Rajupet, Jesuloluwa Shodipo, Brad Vayonis, Michele Wolff, Emilie Yousem, and Megan Zonker (vice-president) and juniors Nadia Islam and Alex Smolar. The returning members are seniors Elena Berg and Cameron Walter.

The students qualify based on their achievements in the Spanish language classes at Fox Chapel Area High School. This year marked the 15<sup>th</sup> year for the induction ceremony at Fox Chapel Area High School.



*Recently inducted members of the Spanish National Honor Society.*





# Homecoming 2015

Daly Trimble

Fox Chapel Area's annual homecoming festivities took place on the weekend of October 9th, kicking off with a home football game against the Shaler Area Titans. While the Foxes were ultimately outscored on the field, the holiday was still lively due to the all-ages carnival and a student dance the following evening.

Hosted on the front lawn of the FCAHS campus, the community carnival most noticeably featured an inflatable pirate ship, a bouncy house, and an obstacle course. There were also pony rides and a petting zoo that featured both a camel and a baby zebra. Student groups contributed to the efforts, from selling Rita's Italian Ice to performing live music for the crowds. Neighborhood food trucks supplied goods that ranged from burgers to hibachi.

With the Homecoming theme being "Around the World," the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes performed in the annual pre-game skit competition as Jamaica, England, Spain, and the United States. After doing backflips and tossing soccer balls into the crowd, Spain won first place. Halftime also featured the announcement of the Fox Chapel Area Homecoming king and queen. Danny Beluk, president of the Technology Student Association, and Daly Trimble, a percussion captain in the FCA Marching Band, were crowned.



The Homecoming carnival petting zoo had pigs, sheep, llamas, and goats.

Daly Trimble and Danny Beluk, the 2015 Homecoming queen and king.



Left to right: Megan Wiese, Danny Beluk, Daly Trimble, Brendan Whelan, Sarah Supsura, Tommy Smith, Leah Saleone, Ryan Humbert, Katie Costanzo, Brianna Smith, Liam Botos, Kristen Friday, Justine Breen.







The freshman class's country was Jamaica, and the performers used inflatable beach balls and palm trees in their skit.



The sophomores drew inspiration from J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter to present a skit representing an England that was full of broomsticks and spells.



Spain, the country the junior class chose, won first place in the pre-game skit competition by doing backflips and fancy footwork with soccer balls.



The senior class represented the USA and roadtripped across the country, complete with a giant Hollywood sign and Katy Perry-style sharks.



(Photo credit Marjorie Trimble)





# A Musical Night: The Major Works Concert

*Marjorie Trimble*

On October 25, Fox Chapel Area's Music Department brought listeners to tears with the Major Works Concert, a wonderful showcase of the voices and talents of the high school's students, teachers, and friends. Three of FCAHS's ensembles, Vulpes Cantantes, Madrigal Singers, and Women's Choir, were received by a packed audience. Pieces crossed a variety of languages and ages, ranging from "Abendlied," a nineteenth century German composition by Josef Rheinberger to "My Spirit Sang All Day," a twentieth century English poem by Gerald Finzi. The concert featured four soloists: Eli Berman, Leah Saleone, Michael Bonavita, and Isabel Acevedo. The performance concluded with a standing ovation following Concert Choir's performance of Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem in D Minor, Op. 48," accompanied by Fox Chapel Area's Ambassador Orchestra.

The magic that occurred would not have been possible without the direction of Mr. Benjamin Murray and Ms. Mairi Cooper as well as the accompaniment of Ms. Kathy Sutcliffe, Mr. Ben Bliss, Ms. Amber Fantini, and Dr. David Billings. The Major Works Concert was a fantastic showcase of the school's music department.



*Senior Isabel Acevedo accompanied the choir in the Requiem as one of four soloists.*



*Senior Michael Bonavita performed a solo in Libera Me, the fifth movement of Faure's Requiem. (Photo credit Marjorie Trimble)*



*Mr. Benjamin Murray conducts Faure's Requiem. (Photo credit Marjorie Trimble)*



*Vulpes Cantantes, the select women's ensemble, performed at the Major Work concert.*





# Fall Play Impresses Once Again

Hannah Mueller

This fall, the Fox Chapel Area High School's drama department produced George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's comedic play, *You Can't Take It With You*. Set in Depression-era New York City, the show centers around Alice Sycamore (played by freshman Sadie Lorence), a sweet girl from an eccentric family, who falls in love with a banker's son, Tony Kirby (played by sophomore Nathaniel Meth). The differences of the two families come to light when Alice invites the Kirbys over for dinner.

The fall play was especially well done this year due to the hard work of Director Kristiann Josephs, sponsor Ms. Marybeth Dixon, and the dedicated cast and crew. The cast rehearsed three times a week since the beginning of the school year, learning lines and practicing scenes with each other. In addition to a stellar cast, the crew worked hard to build sets and to get ready for opening night.

Leading up to the show, excitement grew around the school. The drama department was successful in producing a show that had the audience experience a variety of emotions between laughing until their bellies hurt and feeling empathetic towards the struggling love of Alice and Tony.

When asked what made the show so appealing to the crowd, junior cast member Brooke Echnat replied enthusiastically, "The audience saw a hilarious show about love and family. Although the Sycamores are not a typical family, I feel like everyone can relate to crazy family antics, falling in love, or even the love that the Sycamores have for one another."



The cast of this year's fall play, *You Can't Take It With You*.



The crew of the fall play built sets and made sure the show was ready for opening night.

## upcoming arts events

- December 10<sup>th</sup>: Festival of Strings Orchestra Concert
- December 16<sup>th</sup>: Sounds of the Season Choral Concert
- December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Marching Band Florida Trip
- January 11<sup>th</sup>: Orchestra Concert
- January 14<sup>th</sup>: Shakespeare Recitation Contest
- January 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>: PMEA District Orchestra
- January 21<sup>st</sup> to January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Allegheny Valley Honors Band



# Student Athlete Spotlight

*Micah Ziff*

In her second year starting as a varsity player, sophomore Paige Ryan is the leading goal scorer in the WPIAL this year with 33 goals and was indispensable to the Fox Chapel Area Field Hockey team's undefeated 2015 season (20-0). Ryan was awarded 2014 All Section Player, 2014 and 2015 Forward of the Year, and Pittsburgh Female Athlete of the Week. Ryan's speed and tenacity as a left forward catapults her past opponents creating many scoring opportunities for the team, which leads the league with an spectacular 141 goals. Ryan also plays varsity lacrosse and is a 2015 Top 10 National Snowboarder (USA-SA). In spite of the demands of her athletic schedule, Ryan has been on the honor roll every semester and is a scholar athlete.



*Sophomore Paige Ryan is a top player for the field hockey team, as well as an honor roll student.*

Senior Kota Furuata is a key contributor to the boys' soccer squad's success. He was last year's recipient of North Xtra Player of the Year and a member of the All State team last season as a midfielder. Furuata has transitioned into a centerback this season. Though he had big shoes to fill, Furuata has done so nicely, leading the team to a 13-1 record while clinching first place in their section. After high school, Furuata plans to continue his education at either Carnegie Mellon University or the University of Michigan.



*Senior Kota Furuata received the North Xtra Player of the Year award last year.*

## upcoming *athletic events*

- December 11<sup>th</sup>: Boys' Varsity Basketball, Girls' Varsity Basketball
- December 14<sup>th</sup>: Boys' & Girls' Varsity Swimming
- December 15<sup>th</sup>: Boys' Varsity Basketball, Girls' Varsity Basketball
- December 18<sup>th</sup>: Boys' Varsity Basketball, Girls' Varsity Basketball
- December 21<sup>st</sup>: Boys' & Girls' Varsity Swimming
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Boys' Varsity Basketball, Girls' Varsity Basketball
- December 28<sup>th</sup>: Boys' Varsity Basketball





The Fox Chapel Area High School Varsity Boys' Soccer Team recently won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 team title, participated in the WPIAL Class AAA championship game, and qualified for the PIAA playoffs.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Varsity Field Hockey Team recently won the WPIAL Class AAA Championship and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 2 Championship, and participated in the PIAA playoffs. The team was undefeated throughout the WPIAL championships, and their overall record was 20 wins and one loss.



The Fox Chapel Area High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team recently won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 team title. The team's overall record was 18 wins and four losses.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Boys' Cross Country Team recently won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 team title. The team's record was seven wins and no losses. Additionally, two members of the girls' cross country team, freshmen Sarena Seeger and Annika Urban, qualified for the PIAA (state) Cross Country Championships!







# Serving Up Wins

Hannah Mueller

The girls' tennis team had a great season this year, crushing opponents like Franklin Regional and Penn Hills. After almost two months of hard work, the varsity team finished with a 6-1 record in their section and an overall record of 10-6, and the JV team won three matches in the season. Unfortunately, varsity lost 2-3 to Moon Township in the first round of playoffs. Top contenders did make it to the PIAA Girls Tennis Championships on November 6 and 7 in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The top singles varsity player, senior Laurel Shymansky, only lost one match in the regular season. On September 15th, she and sophomore Amanda Nord competed in the Section Singles Tournament hosted at Fox Chapel Area High School. Nord took third place in this tournament, defeating the third singles player from Shadyside Academy. After a close match, Shymansky lost in the finals to Ananya Dua, last year's WPIAL champion. Nord and Shymansky went on to be named the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 Doubles Champions, the WPIAL Class AAA Doubles Champions, and the PIAA Class AAA Doubles Champions. There are four additional seniors on the team: Sophie Rodosky, Grace Sauereisen, Anja Schempf, and Hannah Schaffer, all who have helped lead and inspire the team.

Much of the credit for group and individual suc-

cess goes to the leadership of varsity coach Alex Slezak and junior varsity coach Laura Ward. The coaches have a big impact: guiding training during practices, offering helpful strategies during matches, and exerting positive influences on the team. The coaches also have a strong bond with their athletes. When asked why she played tennis, junior Camille Cagley replied, "My inspiration is Coach Ward for always pushing me to be the best I can be!" In addition to bonding with the coaches, the tennis team members are also very close with each other.

Though many people think that tennis is an individual sport, the girls of the Fox Chapel Area tennis team prove them wrong. Plenty of team bonding and trust goes into the game. "It's important to practice with your teammates, especially when playing doubles," said junior Tanvi Merengenti. "Tennis really is a team sport."

"Being on the team is so much fun, and all the girls are super nice," gushed sophomore Molly Wiese. "Also, I love the food tables!" The tennis team has a fun tradition of assigning each player a match to bring snacks to. Some people bring fruit and veggies, while others bring cookies and Capri Suns. The food tables are always a big hit among the girls and contribute to the good memories of being an FCA athlete.

Keep up the great work, ladies!

## Student Chosen for National Indoor Field Hockey Team

Abby Pitcairn, a sophomore and a member of the Fox Chapel Area High School Field Hockey Team, has been named to the USA Women's Indoor National Team, to compete in the 4 Nations Field Hockey Tournament. They will travel to Durban, South Africa, in December. Abby is the youngest member selected for the team.

After making the U17 National Field Hockey Team this summer, Abby was among 60 candidates hoping for a spot on the international tour roster. She is one of only 10 field players from across the country to be named to the 12-player roster. The other two positions are filled by goalies.

In her play with Fox Chapel Area High School this fall season, Abby was instrumental in helping the team win the WPIAL championship and achieve a perfect record until the PIAA playoffs. Their season record through the WPIAL playoffs was 20-0.

Abby also broke her own scoring record from last season with 74 total points – 26 goals and 22 assists.







Top right: Laurel Shymansky and Amanda Nord received first place at the state championships for doubles

Bottom right: Sophomore Maddie Flanagan serves to junior Camille Cagley on their home court (Photo credit Ashley Trusiak)

Bottom left: Sophomore Ashley Trusiak gets ready to play







# Boys' Golf Team's Undefeated Season

Alex Smolar

The Fox Chapel Area Boys' Golf Team has experienced success unmatched by any other team in the WPIAL conference over the past four years. The team's season culminated on October 15th with a berth in the WPIAL finals; juniors Alex Lawson and Anthony Cordaro led the way for the Foxes with scores of 75 and 76, respectively. In addition, under the tutelage of Coach Deal, Alex Lawson obtained an opportunity to compete in the statewide competition.

The team, featuring Matt Friday, Mike Marsico, Anthony Cordaro, Alex Lawson, Grant Thiele, and Gregor Meyer, achieved a record of 16-0 overall, and a phenomenal record of 12-0 in the section, winning the section for the fourth consecutive season.

Coach Deal felt tremendous pride in his Foxes,

especially his seniors, throughout the season. He stressed the pride that he felt towards his nine seniors, stating, "I was most proud of how some seniors who were unable to play handled it maturely and with class." He had great reason to be proud of his seniors, as after four years of representing Fox Chapel Area, they had compiled a stunning 45-1 record and also were the WPIAL runner-ups for two out of the past three years.

After a season of monumental, record-breaking accomplishments, Coach Deal was pleased and delighted. When asked about his favorite aspect of the season, he was very quick to answer, "definitely the camaraderie and chemistry of our 2015 Boys' Golf Team."



Junior Alex Lawson putting.



Back row, left to right: Andrew Friend, Mark Calandra, Alex Lawson, James Braham, Matt Friday, Mike Marsico, Pat Monteverde, Anthony Cordaro, Matt Hardiman, Nate Matisko, Coach Deal  
Front row, left to right: Griffin Bartley Mike Hudic, Josh Meyer, Grant Thiele

## PMEA Honors Band Selects Students

Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students were recently selected to perform with the 2015 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Honors Band. Senior Olivia Van Dyke (oboe); juniors Rohan Chalasani (flute) and Philip Swigon (bassoon); sophomores Benjamin Franks-Meinert (bassoon), Elizabeth Mountz (oboe), and Zachary Zytnick (clarinet); and freshmen Hannah Kim (flute) and Glenna Van Dyke (clarinet) were selected by audition to perform with the band. The band

is comprised of approximately 120 of the best student-musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 Honors Band concert was held on November 22 at Bethel Park High School. The band was conducted by nationally - and internationally - known award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer Brian Balmages.





# National Honor Society Inducts 125 New Members

*Bliss Uribe*

Earlier this year, 125 juniors and seniors and their family members packed the newly renovated auditorium for the the National Honor Society induction ceremony. Eligible students must demonstrate that they value the four pillars upon which the society is based: character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

The highlight of the ceremony was a keynote speech, given by one of FCA's very own parents, Dr. Steffi Oesterreich, the Principal Investigator at the Magee Womens Research Institute who focuses on research areas of Cancer Pharmacology, Hormone Pharmacology, and Pharmacology of Cell and Organ Systems. She spoke about her life growing up in Germany and how success in life is interwoven with the four pillars that NHS reinforces.

Senior, Sreeroopa Som, this year's NHS president, shared why she chose Dr. Oesterreich to be the keynote speaker. "She taught me the value of articulating my thoughts and experiences in the field of science. Through my experiences at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Academy, I had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Oesterreich on a professional, as well as a personal level this summer. She is extremely passionate about her work, offers help and advice to anyone who needs it, and is not afraid to put people on the spot."

There are 255 student members of the FCAHS National Honor Society. For students to be considered for admission to NHS, the first step is to maintain a minimum 3.50 unweighted, cumulative quality point average. Sophomores and juniors who meet that cutoff are invited to apply each spring. In the application, students must provide proof of involvement in community service initiatives, extracurricular activities, and write an essay that details a time in which the student served as a leader in his or her community.



*NHS Vice President, Angelin Lucas, lights the candle of scholarship at this year's induction ceremony.*



*Mr. Hower commends students on their commitment to leadership, scholarship, and service to the community.*

## Cheerleaders Hold Toy Drive

The Fox Chapel Area High School Cheerleaders are holding an upcoming toy drive to bring cheer to kids at Children's Hospital of UPMC. The toy drive will take place at Fox Chapel Area High School on Friday, December 11, before and during the girls' and boys' varsity basketball games. The teams will play Franklin Regional High School. The girls will play at 6 p.m., while the boys' game has a 7:30 p.m. tip off.

Individuals who donate toys will have ticket prices reduced to \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. Donated toys must be new and unwrapped in the original packaging. The following week, the 24-member cheerleading team will visit Children's Hospital of UPMC to distribute the toys and watch a movie with patients. The group will also put on a short performance for the children.



