



FOX TALES

Quarterly

A STUDENT PUBLICATION

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National Honor Society Inducts 130 Students



Fox Chapel Area High School held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) induction ceremony on September 14, 2023. This year, 139 students were inducted into the Fox Chapel Area High School NHS, bringing the total membership to 241 students. The Fox Chapel Area High School National Honor Society officers are seniors Annalese Bartolacci (president), Gloria Wen (vice president), Mia Costello (secretary), and Owen Levy (treasurer).

Students in their sophomore year who have an unweighted cumulative Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.70 or higher are invited to apply for membership in the NHS. Applicants must also have a minimum of two service

activities and be involved in at least two additional clubs and/or groups. They must exhibit leadership qualities and provide character references. Once they are inducted, they must maintain their QPA and continue their community service work through NHS-sponsored projects and other organizations.



2024 National Merit Semifinalists/ Commended Students

Six Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 22 have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are Lucas Gravina, Chloe Kim, Shriya

Krishnamurthy, Adhitya Thirumala, Abraham White, and Dylan Work. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are Jacob Anthikad, Annalese Bartolacci, Dylan Berman, Joshua Correnti, Amelia Costello, Nicholas Cusano, Eliza Davis, Logan Dressman, David Feder, Adam Ferris, Emmett Gillespie, Darren Jayaratnam, Clara Kelley, Henry Koloc, Rachel Milcheck, Eduardo Phelan-Vidal, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Liviya Rubin, Emily Torbert, Gloria Wen, Isabella White, and Bridget Yun.

All of these students were selected based on their 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year, more than 1.3

million juniors complete the PSAT/NMSQT and are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's



The Fox Chapel Area High School National Merit Semifinalists are, from left to right, Dylan Work, Abraham White, Chloe Kim, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Adhitya Thirumala, and Lucas Gravina.

high school seniors and the Commended Students scored in the top 5%. 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 or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Semifinalists must also participate in school and community activities,

demonstrate leadership abilities, and receive other awards and honors. 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 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million to be offered in the spring of 2024.

Perfect Score on AP Exam

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Anna Delale-O'Connor was among only six students worldwide to receive a perfect score on the Advanced Placement (AP) World History: Modern Exam out of approximately 300,000 students who took the test in the spring of 2023.

"We applaud your mastery of the content and skills of this AP course and wish you many future successes," said Trevor Packer, head of the Advanced Placement program, in an email to Anna congratulating her on her accomplishment.

According to Fox Chapel Area High School social studies teacher Brandon Rios, who instructed Anna's AP World History course during the 2022-2023 school year, her

success is well-deserved.

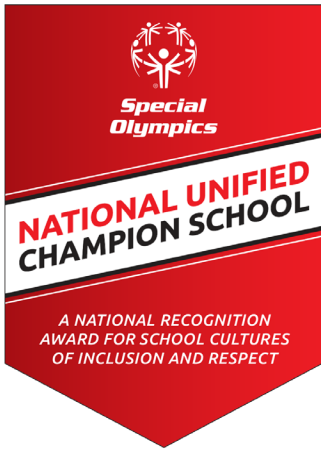
"She did such a wonderful job in class, and her work ethic is amazing," Mr. Rios said. "I told her that she is the first student in all my years of teaching AP classes to accomplish this. I am so proud of her."

Advanced Placement Exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5, and 5 is equivalent to an A in the corresponding college course.



Anna Delale-O'Connor is one of only six worldwide to achieve feat.

High School Recertified as National Banner Unified Champion School



Fox Chapel Area High School has been recertified as a National Banner Unified Champion School by the international headquarters of Special Olympics. Fox Chapel Area first received this designation in 2019.

The honor is bestowed upon a small number of schools that demonstrate a commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence, developed by

a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community, that center around inclusion,

acceptance, and respect.

“We are so proud of the values that are embraced every day by the Fox Chapel Area school community: inclusion, respect, understanding, and empowerment,” says Matthew Aaron, president and CEO of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. “Through the uplifting culture promoted by the students and staff at Fox Chapel Area, everyone is valued. Everyone contributes meaningfully through their unique talents. And everyone is included.”

“We appreciate our partnership with the Special Olympics and are humbled by the recognition,” says Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac, Fox Chapel Area School District superintendent. “We appreciate the efforts of our students, staff, administrators, and school community to provide wonderful, inclusive opportunities for all of our students.”

Krishnamurthy Among Top 300 in National Science Competition

Dorseyville Middle School seventh-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy was recently named one of the Top 300 Junior Innovators in the inaugural Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Thermo Fisher JIC). Thermo Fisher JIC is the nation's premier science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition for middle school students. The Thermo Fisher JIC, a program of Society for Science, seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers, and innovators to solve the grand challenges of the 21st century.

The Top 300 Junior Innovators (including 15 from Pennsylvania) were selected from nearly 2,000 students from 49 states, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico who applied to compete in the Thermo Fisher JIC. Students who are named in the top 10% of their local science fair are eligible to enter the contest. Rishabh was chosen based on his project “Modeling the Detection of Pathogens in Sewage Sheds,” for which he was awarded a first place in the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair in March 2023.

“Congratulations to these exceptional middle school students,” said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of Society for Science and executive publisher of Science News. “Middle school is a pivotal time in the lives of young people – when many make decisions about engaging in STEM

fields. I call on each of these young people to continue down this path, where they have an opportunity to make an impact on our world's most pressing scientific and engineering challenges.”

“We are awed and inspired by this inaugural class of Top 300 Junior Innovators, whose research and innovations reflect a rich diversity of academic and personal experiences,” said Dr. Karen Nelson, chief scientific officer of Thermo Fisher Scientific. “As a global

life sciences leader with a mission to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner, and safer; we especially admire these students' shared passion for using science, technology, engineering, and math to solve problems in their communities and make the world a better place.”



Each of the Top

300 Junior Innovators will receive a \$125 award from Department of Defense (DoD) STEM, as well as a special prize package.

Thermo Fisher was named the title sponsor of the Society's middle school competition in August 2022. It was previously sponsored by the Broadcom Foundation.





Congratulations to Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center senior Christina Panza, who will serve as the P.M. president of the Beattie Assistance Team. The organization helps remove learning barriers to help students succeed academically and in other facets of their lives.



FC juniors and seniors recently attended an assembly for “Taking the Lead: Ford Driving Skills for Life,” a global program that focuses on accident prevention and educates teen drivers on the issues and obstacles they will face when behind the wheel, including hazard recognition, vehicle handling, speed management, space management, and distracted and impaired driving. The program is an initiative of the Allegheny Health Network, CBS Pittsburgh, Ford Motor Company Fund, Neighborhood Ford Store, Allegheny County Pretrial Services, and the Pennsylvania State Police.

2023 Grads Named Global Scholars



Two Fox Chapel Area High School 2023 graduates, Caleb Hahl – German and Blaz Vavpetic – French, have been named 2023 Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) Global Scholars Graduates.

According to Dr. Jan Hostler Stewart of the PSMLA Global Scholars program, 2023 produced the largest group of graduates since the inception of the initiative in 2015.

“Yet, it is still an elite group of schools and students that can boast this achievement with 143 graduates from 20 Pennsylvania public and private high schools (this year),” she said.

The purpose of the PSMLA Global Scholars program is to provide high school students with the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary studies and activities, to develop global awareness and competency, and to better prepare students for personal and professional success in an increasingly global society.

Advice for High Schoolers

Sometimes all you need is a little advice. On my journey volunteering at a local hospital, I have interacted with many patients, from those with neurological issues to those with congestive hearts. I asked them what advice they would give to their younger self or high school students in general. Here's what they had to say:

“Find what you love and continue onward!”

“Explore what your passions are when you’re younger.”

“Keep doing what you are doing”

“Be true to yourself. Sometimes it's better not to go along with a crowd since they don't always lead you down the right path.”



By Lakshanya Rajaganapathi

Release of the Monarchs



Freshman Gianna Metallo bids farewell to one of the last monarch butterflies to be released as part of Mrs. Wolfe's class project.

Mrs. Wolfe's class kicked off the year by raising monarch butterflies! Both the Integrated Science and Ecology classes participated in raising the butterflies, with the objective to enhance awareness of the alarming decline in the population of butterflies - especially monarchs. It also helped students to understand the new state science standards, which pertain to interdependent relationships in ecosystems. Over the past two decades, 90 percent of the monarch population has decreased in returning to their winter hibernation site. This was their first time raising butterflies, but Mrs. Wolfe had the opportunity in a fall festival last year that involved the release of butterflies. During this, she was able to discuss the possibility of organizing a similar activity. When sharing this idea,

she learned that Mr. Neely (a retired DMS science teacher) had successfully raised butterflies annually. He reached out to her and greatly helped her initiate this endeavor by providing all the necessary information and resources. When asked how difficult it was to care for the butterflies, Mrs. Wolfe said it was very easy! She ranked it a 1 or 2 out of 10. The only obstacle she faced was due to the unexpectedly accelerated hatching process of the butterflies, the tags which were purchased to monitor and trace the flight trajectory of butterflies did not deliver in time. Despite that, the students derived great pleasure in observing their growth and relishing their chance to release them. This sounds like so much fun for Mrs. Wolfe's class, and we hope they all got to enjoy their valuable experience.

By Laila Golla

Marching Foxes Place First at Norwin PIMBA Competition



Senior color guard captain Emma Bergerud performs at the PIMBA competition held September 23 at Norwin High School.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Marching Band won first place in the Class AA division at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) competition held September

College Board Honors Senior Safiya Stewart

Senior Safiya Stewart has been recognized with the National African American Recognition Award. The honor is given as part of the College Board's National Recognition Programs that celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. The criteria for eligible students include a GPA of 3.5 or higher; PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade; and attend a school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.



FC senior Safiya Stewart was recognized in honor of her hard work and strong academic performance.

23, 2023, at Norwin High School. Additionally, the band also received the highest scores in both Visual and General Effect. The theme of this year's show is "Cosmos."

The band is under the student direction of drum majors senior Chloe Kim and junior Luca Zgurzynski, and band directors/teachers Daryl Lesnik and Evan Hertrick.



Homecoming 2023: A Winning Bet!

By Annalese Bartolacci

Homecoming 2023 at Fox Chapel “hit the jackpot!” It was a fantastic way to kick off the school year, from great weather to fun festivities.

The week leading up to the homecoming dance was filled with school spirit. It began with a door-decorating contest between all of the homerooms in the high school. Each QRT was tasked with decorating their door to best represent this year's theme - Las Vegas Homecoming! In addition, the students (and teachers) had a blast dressing up in the spirit week themes each day. Tuesday was Pajama Day, Wednesday was Way Back Wednesday - featuring the seniors wearing 70s, juniors wearing 80s, sophomores wearing 90s, and freshmen wearing 2000s - Thursday was Barbie and Ken Day, and Friday



was Class Colors Day.

School on Friday concluded with the annual pep rally, organized by students in the Fox Leadership Council. The fall sports teams were recognized, as well as the marching band. The cheerleaders gave an amazing performance of their routine, and the band played some of their halftime

performance for the crowd. To keep the entertainment going, some students participated in a lively game of musical



chairs, while others competed in the dizzy bat race, and our very own Foxes Den held a t-shirt toss. When the last bell rang, FC was ready for the carnival and the big game.

As is tradition, before the

Homecoming 2023, continued...

football game was the carnival on the front lawn of the high school. It was a huge success for the whole community. Activities included games, a giant slide, and bouncy houses. There was also a petting zoo, including a baby zebra! Live music from the Busking Club was featured, and there were plenty of food sales and even a few food trucks. It was great for the high school clubs to get involved with the elementary schoolers in the Fox Chapel community.

The Foxes fought hard at the football game. Although we didn't win, the student section was very spirited. Sporting all black for the annual homecoming "blackout," the students cheered loudly and supported the players on the field. At halftime, in addition to FC's rendition of Sweet Caroline and the performance from the band, the students got to meet this year's homecoming court. They were introduced prior to the start of the game, but at halftime they were reintroduced and the king and queen were crowned. This year's crown bearers, homecoming princess CeCe Hastings escorted by the homecoming

prince Elijah Jones, brought the crowns onto the field. The underclassmen representatives included: freshmen Sofia Melani and Torrin Gneiwwski, sophomores Nora Kelley and Adison Rimer. Senior members of the court were Alyssa Berardi, Fiona Brown, Dylan Byersdorfer, Alexander Kaufmann, Isabella Marcos, Jack O'Brien, Benedetta Pacini, and Elliott Stephany. Alex and Benedetta were crowned the king and queen. Congratulations!

The Las Vegas homecoming dance on Saturday evening was an excellent way to conclude the weekend's festivities. All dressed up, students enjoyed a DJ in the gym and, for quick dance breaks, games in the cafeteria. By the "luck of the draw," Homecoming 2023 was a complete success!



Lean on Green

Knowledge You Need to Make the Earth Clean

NOVEMBER 2023

Where to Get Involved

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) protects and restores the natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy. PEC believes in the value of partnerships with the private sector, government, communities and individuals to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. This organization's mission statement is that environmental success is built through the work of partners that recognize the inextricable links between the environment, the economy, and our quality of life. For more information on the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, visit pecpa.org.



Latest News in Green Technology



Green Infrastructure is a great step that more cities are starting to take towards a green future. This nature-based solution to removing stormwater in cities has many more benefits than what meets the eye. Structures such as rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavers, and native meadows are engineered to prevent the excess stormwater from entering city pipes by letting native plants absorb the water or by storing excess water in bioretention tanks. Green Infrastructure leads to less combined sewer overflows into rivers which reduces water pollution. Since we live in the "3 rivers city", cleaning pittsburgh water is essential for our future. If you wish to find out more about green infrastructure around Pittsburgh, visit ALCOSAN's website and find the GROW program.

Why Action is Necessary

The World Health Organization reports that global heating will soon reach an all time high of 1.5°C due to greenhouse gas emissions from human activity. If humans do not make an effort increase sustainable practices, every additional tenth of a degree of warming will have a serious impact on people's lives and health. Climate change will affect clean air, drinking water, availability of food, spread of disease, and many more aspects of life. The rapid growth and high stakes of global warming makes saving Earth an issue of utmost importance.

Written and Designed By:
Henry Koloc

Easy Ways to be Green

Being involved in an important environmental project is not the only way to help Earth. You can also make a difference through these changes to your daily routine.

- Recycle paper, metal, cardboard, plastic, and glass
- Eat with reusable utensils and plates
- Shut off lights in empty rooms
- Avoid bottled water
- Thrift clothes
- Buy local and organic foods
- Donate used goods



Osiris-Rex Returns First Samples

By Ian Wellman



The sample return capsule from Osiris-Rex after parachuting into the Utah desert. Photo courtesy: NASA

On September 24, 2023, a seven-year journey to uncover the origins of life on Earth entered a new phase. The Osiris-Rex spacecraft returned the first samples from a carbon-rich asteroid. Osiris-Rex launched from Cape Canaveral just before midnight on September 8, 2016—its mission to study the carbon-rich asteroid Bennu and explore whether a similar asteroid infused Earth with the building blocks necessary for life.

Bennu is an asteroid with an orbit that takes it from inside Earth's orbit to close to Mars's orbit. It is roughly a third of a mile across and is composed of a bunch of smaller rocks and boulders loosely held together by gravity. Bennu is roughly 4.5 billion years old and has remained fairly pristine since it formed. It is classified as a "near earth object" (any object that has an orbit that takes it closer than 100 million miles from the sun), and a "potentially hazardous object" (any object that comes within 4.6 million miles from the Earth and has a diameter greater than 460 ft. An object that comes within 4.6 million miles from the Earth could potentially have gravitational interactions with other planets that put it on collision course with the Earth in the near future. Objects greater than 460 ft. across are large enough to cause massive tsunamis and catastrophic damage should they hit the Earth. Fortunately, asteroid

impacts on this scale are not likely to occur more than once every 10,000 years.)

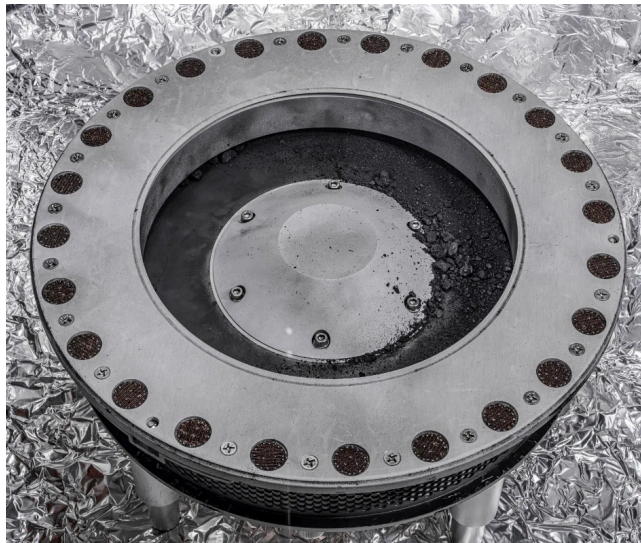
Osiris-Rex embarked with a wide array of spectrometers to analyze the surface composition of Bennu, an altimeter to measure its height above the surface while landing, and equipment to collect a sample from Bennu. The spacecraft itself is approximately 7.5 ft. by 7.5 ft. by 6.6 ft. and is built around a central fuel tank. Osiris-Rex is propelled by 28 engines; four produce high thrust, six produce mid ranged thrust, 16 are used to control the spacecraft's orientation, and two engines are used to land on Bennu then return to orbit. Osiris has roughly 91.5 ft.² of solar panels that generate between 1,225 and 3,000 watts of power, depending on where Osiris-Rex is in its orbit. In order to return the samples to Earth's surface, Osiris-Rex had a sample return capsule with an ablative heat shield protecting the rest of the capsule. Ablative heat shields work by having an ablator, a material designed to burn slowly and have the gaseous

products create a barrier between the majority of the heatshield and the atmospheric thermal shock of reentry.

On September 24, 2023, Osiris-Rex released the sample return capsule, which entered the atmosphere a few hours later. The air around the capsule reached 5,000° Fahrenheit during the capsule's peak heating time period, and had slowed down enough to deploy its drogue parachute less than two minutes later and its main parachute two minutes after that. The capsule landed safely within the landing zone at a final speed of 10 miles per hour, after slowing down from its initial

speed of 27,000 miles per hour.

NASA's goal for the sample return was to collect at least 60 grams of pristine asteroid material. The capsule landed with 250 grams from Bennu. This will allow for easier distribution of samples as well as a larger sample size for future experimentation. So far, scientists have discovered that the samples contain high amounts of carbon, water, and they have the potential of containing organic molecules such as nucleic acid.



A view of the outside of the OSIRIS-Rex sample collector, with material from the asteroid Bennu in the middle right. NASA/ Erika Blumenfeld & Joseph Aebbersold



BOO BASH



By Sienna Siegel

On Saturday, October 28th, Fox Chapel Area High School hosted their sixth annual Boo Bash, sponsored by the National Honor Society. This event allows children ages Pre-K through third grade a safe opportunity to trick or treat and have fun celebrating the Halloween season. Participating families were asked to donate items to local charities in our community: Fox Families Care, Roots of Faith, Second Harvest, and Backpack for Hunger. Costumes were strongly encouraged and participants did not disappoint.

Upon arrival of this spooky experience, families were greeted by the Community Outreach students, who collected the food and monetary donations. As they made their way into the auxiliary gym, they were greeted by balloons, streamers, banners, and an excessive amount of decorations. Fox Tales organized a 50/50 table, and there was also a festive photo backdrop constructed by the Yearbook Club.

Upon entering the gym, families were greeted by dozens of booths filled with candy, activities, crafts, and games. Zen Club hosted toilet paper bowling, with a mini pumpkin as the bowling ball! Ava Condon, the co-president of this club said, "The Boo Bash is a great way to get kids into the Halloween spirit! While running a booth, I could see how much of an impact we made on the kids. The constant smiles and excitement that they had on their faces made spending a Saturday at the high school well worth it."

Health Occupations Students of America club, otherwise known as HOSA, had a craft that involved lollipops, and making ghosts. Gratitude and Compassion

club, had an activity where kids had to shoot a basketball in a bucket, while only using skeleton hands! Best Buddies had a table that was a huge hit for all little ones! They had a hair tinsel station that left kids walking out with glittery

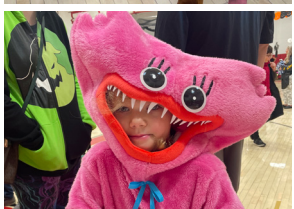
hair of all colors. Claire Fezco, a club member, said, "The day went really well! I think the Boo Bash brought a lot of joy to all the kids who came. I think it's important to participate because the volunteers helped create a fun and safe environment for all the kids who came."

The Robotics Club had a carnival knockdown game that they had made themselves. Future Business Leaders of America had a festive bookmark coloring station. Some of the most popular costumes were police officers, barbies, ninja turtles, and princesses.

After families made it through all of the booths in the gym, they were weaved through the hallways into a trick-or-treating walkthrough. Student volunteers lined the hallways with buckets filled to the brim with candy. This was a great way for the kids to interact with the volunteers and other kids their age. The never-ending decor allowed for every corner to be a photo backdrop, and it helped to direct traffic throughout the school.

There were so many more booths than listed above, and we have the volunteers to thank. Mrs. Gibson, Ms. Miller, Ms. Congalton, and Ms. Antonikas and and more than 200 volunteers worked hard to make this a wonderful event. The school raised \$700, and many bins of food donations. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and put in the extra effort to make the 2023 Boo Bash so successful!





Spring Musical Sure to Make a Splash

By Annalese Bartolacci

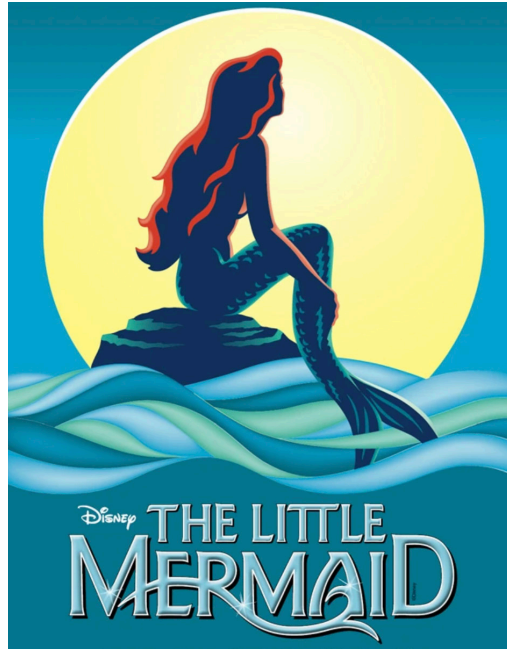
With another school year successfully begun, it is time to prepare for the spring musical! This year's chosen production is Disney's *The Little Mermaid*! It will be performed February 29th, March 1st - 3rd, 2024.

The show is based on the extremely popular story by Hans Christian Andersen, with music from eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken. The story has a long history, as a movie and as a show. Originally, it was written in 1837 by Andersen before it was adapted by Disney. Released in 1989, Ariel made her debut in the animated movie of *The Little Mermaid*, being the fourth princess to get her own movie behind Snow White, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty. Playing Ariel was Jodi Benson, who famously sang "Part of Your World" and whose overall general performance made the movie

so memorable today. The Broadway production opened in January of 2008 and closed at the end of August in 2009.

The musical version features over 10 songs that are not in the movie, including favorites "She's In Love", "Her Voice", and "Positootivity." Recently in May 2023, a live-action version premiered, starring Halle Bailey in the role of Ariel. Fans flocked to the theaters to see the new rendition of an old favorite. The film grossed \$298 million domestically, and \$569 million worldwide.

Now it is FCAHS's turn to create its own version! General auditions will be held November 13th and 14th, and the dance audition will be held on the 16th. Interested students can choose their own song to perform, or pick from "Fathom's Below" or "She's In Love." For more information and required forms, visit the Fox Chapel Area choral department's website.





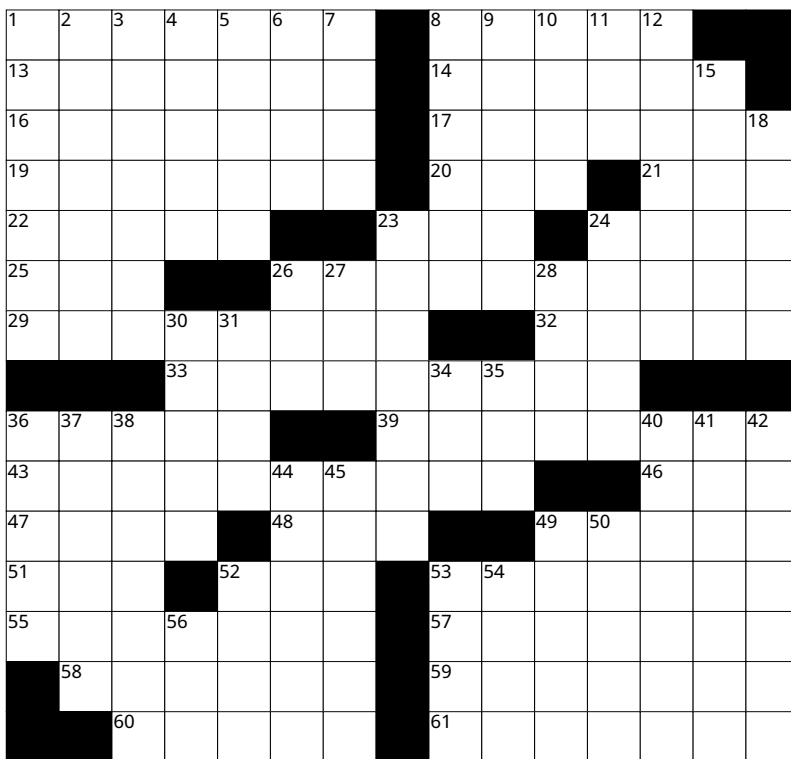
ACROSS

- 1 There, as a police officer
 8 Can be French or Dutch
 13 Middle Age European soldier
 14 Parted body of water
 16 Following secretly
 17 Tribulations
 19 Fire starter (spelling variation)
 20 Common batteries
 21 ___ Augusta Arch
 22 Lions' pride
 23 Prefix meaning "outside"
- 46 Capital of GA
 47 Crooked
 48 Sounds of disgust
 49 Beeper commonly used by doctors
 51 Sandwiched between SD and KS
 52 GPS time measurement
 53 Head wreaths
 55 More savage
 57 Goes crazy
 58 Memory insert for camera
 59 Purrfect yoga stretch
 60 Performs alone
 61 William of "Star Trek"

DOWN

- 1 Best
 2 ___ Falls
 3 Principal in "The Simpsons"
 4 Protagonist in "The Color Purple"
 5 Gives off
 6 Prefix for 10[^]-9
 7 Some M.I.T grads
 8 Bring up, as a topic
 9 Assess again
 10 Opposite of subtracts
 11 British verb ending
 12 Formal letter opening
 15 Graduates of a school
 18 NCO nickname
- 23 Sentence shorteners?
 24 Childish comeback to "Am not!"
 26 Substitutes for Cokes
 27 Surprising expression
 28 Destroyed, as in a video game
 30 "....should there may be none"
 31 Assists
 34 Biblical boat
 35 Lil ___ X
 36 French for "white"
 37 Crew participants
 38 Small headphones
 40 Continues, as a fire

- 41 Catalog, using 11D
 42 Senior, informally
 44 Straight
 45 Earned at competitions
 49 Bow ties or elbows?
 50 Skilled
 52 Israeli airline
 53 Baseball postseason letters
 54 Constructed 34D
 56 Earth friendly prefix



Crossword by
 Madeleine Stone
 Answers on page 28.



Another Successful Season for Foxes Soccer



By Eli Olifson and Joe Yoshikawa

As the season ends, the Foxes find themselves in a familiar place in October – the WPIAL playoffs. The boys team is looking at an 8-3-2 regular season record, a record that they should certainly be proud of and earned. It didn't come easy, though. Nail-biting losses and injuries riddled the varsity roster and forced younger players to step up, and they did just that. Toward the last games of the season with several key players sidelined, the Foxes were able to tie the two WPIAL powerhouses North Allegheny and Seneca Valley, ranked 27th and 47th in the nation respectively. With these showings of competing with the best teams in



Captain, Michael Shin, believe the boys can take this year's team further than they have ever gone before.

Pittsburgh, captain Michael Shin believes the team has potential. "I think our team has the potential to complete the biggest achievement that FC boys soccer has never done before: a WPIAL championship," he confidently says. Shin has been on a winning team every year, but hopes to make his last one truly special. Junior Pablo Linzoain also said, "I knew I could not leave anything on the field. In the last three years of my high school seasons, we have lost in the semi-finals of play-offs. It is my job to first make it there, then exceed the standard

and get us into the championship."

A possible reason for this hopefulness for the playoffs is the unique aspect to the team this year. Aside from

having one of the most talented Foxes teams we have seen in a while, the roster also has some interesting players. In particular, Manasse Sungura is a junior from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa. He moved to Fox Chapel this year and has gotten play time for both varsity and JV teams. Obviously, Manasse has had to adjust to living in a completely new location, especially as a high schooler. "My teammates have helped me with many things. When you move to a new country, you learn many things about that place. They helped me with everything, and I have learned a lot from them. They are good people, and they play very well," he told us.



"My teammates have helped me with many things. When you move to a new country, you learn many things about that place. They helped me with everything, and I have learned a lot from them. They are good people, and they play very well."

– Manasse Sungura

Foxes Soccer, continued...

As for the Girls' team, things are going just as well, if not better. The team ended the regular season at 10-4-2, a remarkable record to say the least. This constant success for the Girls' team does not seem to be ending any time soon, with younger depth in every position. In fact, Freshman Emily McKee is leading the team in goals, averaging 1.1 per game and an impressive 18 on the season.

Not one player was the sole reason for success, and everyone knew their role and played it perfectly. Junior

Alyssa Quackenbush said, "This year the team found a new sense of unity, making it very easy for everyone to work together and be successful as a whole," and claims that in order to have success next year, "we need to carry our improvements from this season and keep working hard to hopefully win the WPIAL". Senior Sydney Schutzman told us, "Our greatest achievement was the team's ability to bounce back from a losing season last year and into the playoffs again, and compete as one of the best teams in our section." Something has definitely clicked in this team this year, as the Foxes have gone from 4-7-1 last season to 10-4-2. Upperclassmen have been a



"Our greatest achievement was the team's ability to bounce back from a losing season last year and into the playoffs again, and compete as one of the best teams in our section."
- Sydney Schutzman



huge part of the teams' success this season, and Alyssa Quackenbush along with other juniors hope to lead the incoming freshman. "With next year being my last year, I am most looking forward to developing a relationship with the underclassmen like the seniors did for me," says Quackenbush, "I am hoping to have a successful season with a good run in the playoffs to end my highschool soccer career".

The Foxes' hope for a successful season were definitely met, as the Girls Soccer Team beat North Allegheny 1-0 to win the WPIAL championship. The lone goal was scored by senior Kate Friday, about a minute into overtime. Needless to say, this was an exciting end to the WPIAL season, but the team coils still have many more games to play if they keep it up in States.

Hopes and expectations are certainly high for both teams next year, but if this season foreshadows anything about what is to come, these expectations may not be too far out.



What to Look for While on a College Tour

By Josie Giguere

Finding the college just right for you can be a long and daunting process. You go through the process of making appointments, long drives, spending a day at a potential school, all with the risk that this college might not be for you. Even these failed attempts help us determine what we want in a college, and what we would like to stay away from. Here are some items to consider when starting your college search.

Location and Distance From Home

The college search isn't only about the college itself, but also the surrounding area. Do you want to be in a big city, or a small town? Do you enjoy cold weather or warm weather? These factors are very important to consider when finding your new destination.

Another important element to consider is how far from home you want to be. Even if you want to be further from home, you may still want to return for holidays and breaks or just to be in a place of comfort. In this case you have to think about travel arrangements, costs, and time.

Costs and Fees

The initial price or the “sticker fee” is not typically what the student will actually pay. There's also factors such as financial aid and scholarship opportunities specific to the college that will waive the costs along with scholarships from outside programs that may apply to the college.

Athletic and Extracurricular Activities

College is a time to explore your interests and develop new skills. Whether you like art, reading, or sports, the right school should have such opportunities for you to take advantage of. These activities also don't have to be directly related to your studies, but can just be something that you enjoy.

Campus Life

The atmosphere on the campus will set the tone for your experience. How many students live on campus and

activities and getaways are items that will impact how you feel towards your life on campus. It's also important to ask about residency halls and first-year programs to get an idea of student involvement.

Academic Support and Internship Opportunities

A college's involvement in a child's academics is a great indication of what kind of education you'll be getting. Some colleges have a more hands off approach to foster an atmosphere of independence, but on the other hand, some colleges take pride in their involvement. The school's rates for placements after college into jobs or grad school will tell you about the success in the school's programs.

Internships, hands-on experiences, and studying abroad are a few of the many opportunities most students look to take advantage of in college. Having experience in the field you're interested in can be very beneficial for future careers and further your understanding of the fields you're interested in.

Safety

Campus safety is a very important aspect of your college search. What is the surrounding area like? What measures does the campus take to maintain safety? Knowing the school's procedures and policies concerning safety is a crucial aspect to your search.

Finding the best college for you is a long and stressful process, but when approached correctly it can provide a lot of information about yourself and your preferences. The most important part about a college is how the school made you feel regardless of all the programs and opportunities. It may be one of the best schools in your area, but if you do not feel that it is the place for you, you won't be able to live your college experience to the fullest.



College App Advice from the In-House Pros

By Safiya Stewart

Applying to colleges can be an unnecessarily stressful experience. To help your application process go more smoothly, our school guidance counselors have offered the following words of advice:

- “Know your deadlines, stay organized, keep your stress level down”. - Mr. McLister
- “Stay patient, stay calm, and trust the process”- Mr. O'Connor
- “Make sure you know your deadlines, have someone review your essays for correct punctuation and grammar, and just breathe because you will get in to where you belong”. - Ms. DeComo
- “Try to use the essay and supplements as a way to tell admissions officers something about you that isn't anywhere else in your application. It can be hard with the pressures of Fox Chapel to not apply to a lot of schools that are popular; try to apply to schools that are a good fit for you”. - Ms. Machen
- “Make sure you're thoroughly checking the application requirements for each of your colleges.”- Ms. Papalia

College in High School Proves Itself Worthwhile

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

If you are taking courses like Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, or AP Government and Political Science, you may have heard the words “College-in-High-School.” College-in-High-School, or CHS, is an alternative to AP exams – essentially, it is another way to get college credit. By signing up for a CHS course, you get a college transcript, with a grade for the college-equivalent of the class you are taking. FCAHS offers CHS courses from two universities: The University of Pittsburgh and Seton Hill University.

You may be wondering, is there any difference between the courses offered by Pitt and the ones offered by Seton Hill? CHS classes are facilitated by the school, but with the university’s curriculum. All of the classes offered by Seton Hill align directly with what is already being taught at the high school. In the case of Pitt, some classes are the same, and others have extra content. Consider the CHS version of AP Statistics (offered by Pitt). For the most part, the class is the same whether you intend to take the AP exam or get credits through CHS. I took AP Stats as a sophomore. At the end of the course, I had to take a different final (but at the same time as the regular final) and learn an extra concept. On the other hand, Argumentation (also a Pitt CHS class) has always been taught with the CHS curriculum, so there is no extra content. As a last example, AP Calculus AB (also a Pitt CHS course), actually requires CHS students to learn two extra units and take two exams after school. An important item to note is that transfer credits often show up as a pass/fail, so even if you end up getting a C in the class you can still get college credits (though I wouldn’t recommend you get a C for the sake of your high school GPA!).



"Colleges are actually more likely to accept CHS credit because it is actually on a college transcript. Some colleges do not accept AP scores unless you get a 5."

One of the biggest concerns about CHS courses is whether the cost is actually worth the benefit. Each CHS course costs somewhere between \$200 and \$350. Of course, compared to the cost of actual college courses (around \$800

per credit at Pitt, and each class is 3-4 credits), it seems like a really great deal. Then you might wonder whether some of the college credits may not transfer. Some of my friends tell me they decided not to pursue a CHS course because they are not going to Pitt or Seton Hill. This is a misconception. College credits CAN transfer to the majority of colleges, especially if they are accredited. It is always a safe bet to check with colleges to make sure the credit will transfer and to check Pitt’s or Seton Hill’s websites to see if they have a list of compatible colleges.

Colleges are actually more likely to accept

CHS credit because it is actually on a college transcript. Some colleges do not accept AP scores unless you get a 5. Even if the credits don’t transfer, you have already taken a difficult course, so taking it again in college will only make your life easier, and you may have an easy course amidst harder ones.

So, as a fellow student, I suggest taking the risk. College in High School opens new doorways and opportunities (such as finishing college earlier!), and most times the credit WILL be accepted. It is a simpler option than AP exams (less studying second semester!) and often does not require extra work. So take that shot, even if you are unsure of where you want to go to college. Check out the list of current CHS classes available at Fox Chapel Area High School. You might already be enrolled in one for the second semester, so it is good to know in advance!

College In High School Courses at FCAHS:

Argument (Pitt, 3 credits, \$225)
AP Government (Pitt, 3 credits, \$225)
Business Calculus (Pitt, 4 credits, \$320)
AP Statistics (Pitt, 4 credits, \$300)
AP Calculus AB (Pitt, 4 credits, \$320)
Precalculus (Seton Hill, 4 credits, \$230)

Precalculus Accelerated (Seton Hill, 4 credits, \$230)
Calculus (Seton Hill, 4 credits, \$230)
Linear Algebra (Seton Hill, 3 credits, \$230)
French III, IV, V AP (Seton Hill, 3 credits, \$230)
German III, IV (Seton Hill, 3 credits, \$230)
Spanish III, IV, V AP (Seton Hill, 3 credits, \$230)

*Currently, FCAO courses are not CHS eligible. For more information on Seton Hill University CHS courses visit: <https://www.setonhill.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/high-school-programs/college-in-high-school/>
For more information on the University of Pittsburgh CHS courses visit: <https://www.chs.pitt.edu/students>*

Athlete Spotlight – Ben DeMotte

By Eli Olifson and Joe Yoshikawa

FC's Ben DeMotte, consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic as a leader in the school's football program. As his time with FC football draws to a close, Fox Tales took some time to get to know more about him and his experiences with the team. Here's what he had to share:

Going into the year, what did this season mean for you?

It meant everything to me. It was my last football season with my guys and we worked very hard all off season. It also was a chance to get the program back on track and start a new winning culture.

How did you stay active on the team after your injury?

It's very hard not being out there with my team and not being able to compete with my guys. To stay active with the team I try to make it out to practice every day after PT, and still help mentor the young guys who are being challenged to step up, and still encourage the old guys.

With this season being your last at Fox Chapel, how would you describe your overall feelings about the past four years, both personally and for the team?

Personally I would say I have learned a lot of important life lessons and even though we haven't had the results I wanted. I love football and Fox Chapel and have enjoyed

these last years. The team over the last four years has had its ups and downs with historic seasons. This last season, I just hope the seniors and I set the standard for the start to a new program and culture.

How do you feel the coaches at Fox Chapel helped you develop throughout your time on the team?

The coaches have helped me develop not only as a better football player but as a better person and man. Coach Leasure this year has made it clear from day one that he wants to build this program with high character guys and I have been trying to be that everyday, not only on the field but in all aspects of my life.

What life lessons have you learned from being a part of this program for the last four years?

There are a lot of life lessons I have learned over the last four years. Being able to handle adversity and how you respond would be a major life lesson

I have learned from playing football. Another lesson that was very important is to always be accountable. Ten other guys on the field rely on you to do your job, and the team relies on you to show up everyday and give 100% effort and that transfers into being accountable to your family, friends, school, and team.



A special food cart was donated to the Fox Chapel Area School District in memory of Elizabeth Manor Eisinger, who was the German and French teacher at the high school, Dorseyville, and O'Hara for nearly a decade. Eisinger was a large proponent of cross-cultural engagement and education, and encouraged all to learn more about the world and the people who live in it.

Eisinger is survived by her husband, William Eisinger, and her daughter, Clara Eisinger. Her siblings, friends, nieces, and nephew also mourn her loss. It is because of her family's generosity that we dedicate a special cafe cart to the high school. This cart is meant to share food from different cultures around the world and promote diversity and inclusion. We hope that both students and staff have fun and learn something new about the world around us.

The cart will be located in our different language classrooms, and come out during cultural celebrations and language events. If you see it around, we encourage you to check it out. If we all help to make the world a more understanding place, Eisinger's mission and memory live on.

By Katie Haas

FCA Students Named AP Scholars

A total of 143 current Fox Chapel Area High School students and 2023 graduates were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations taken in May 2023. The College Board recognizes three levels of achievement based on the number of courses and exams.

- The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: 2023 graduates Ishaan Acharya, Delaney Asbury, Maya Bradley, Talia Bugel, Davina Chang, Siheng Chao, Elijah Conklin, Luke Curran, Matthew Fiedler, Zoe Fitzsimmons, Arjun Golla, Zachary Gordon, Nathaniel Green, Caleb Hahl, Helia Hamidi, James Harris, Nicholas Harris, Sonny Hur, Talis Jacob, Nora Johnson, Ananth Kashyap, Trevor Katz, Leah Kenyon, Daniel Kim, Samuel Kuhns, Paul Kullmann, Jonathan Li, Nathania Lingam, Tyler Miller, Nathan Moore, Silas Owens, Rachel Persichetti, Mahitha Ramachandran, Diya Reddy, William Rice, Luka Romero, Stephen Santilli, Lindsay Scheffler, Thomas Selwood, Sophie Shao, Salvatore Smith, William Smith, Prajval Sreenivas, Dylan Srodes, George Tabor, Ethan Tan, Blaz Vavpetic, Daniel Wang, and Luiza Weissmann; and 2023-2024 seniors Annalese Bartolacci, Jack Cannon, Amelia Costello, David Feder, Adam Ferris, Emmett Gillespie, Lucas Gravina, Eileen Healy, Henry Koloc, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Oscar Ruff, Michael Shin, Madeleine Stone, Adhitya Thirumala, Kieu My Tong, Gloria Wen, Abraham White, Isabella White, Dylan Work, and Bridget Yun.

- The following 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: 2023 graduates Alexsander Kirby, Matigan Kirk, Mia Lynch, Kevin Quinn, Stella Ruane, Oliver Stephany, Jackson Stevens, Joseph Thomas, and Lydia Weidner; and 2023-2024 seniors Jacob Anthikad, Joseph Berger, Dylan Berman, Micah Cagley, Grady Cullen, Logan Dressman, Gabriel Felman, Katherine Haas, Anna Iasella,

Darren Jayaratnam, Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Emma Kim, Kathleen Krebs, Massimo Lagazzi, Lucy Larsen, Jenna Lazaro, Benjamin Myers, Nora Siri, Emily Torbert, Gabriella Urso, and Andrew Wagner.

- The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar award by receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams: 2023 graduates Lily Adams, John Paul Brach, Zoe Broyles,

Philipp Drappatz, Jonathan Farah, Antonio Mantella, Diego Marshal, Aadil Pattada, Hyunjin Ro, Alina Stiger, and Joseph Zgurzynski; 2023-2024 seniors Caroline Berger, Joshua Correnti, Maria Costantino, Nicholas Cusano, Anna Dering, Madeline Fontenot, Evelyn Healy, Isaac Jacobs, Alex Kaufmann, Clara Kelley, Chloe Kim, Mikayla Korczynski, Harry Littwin, Rebecca Lokshanov, John Lynch, Jacob Milgrub, Rose Mullan, Annaliese Pham, Miguel Quercia Marcano, Harlan Sheehan, Micah Shelley, Claudia Smith, Safiya Stewart, and Anna Troutman; and 2023-2024 juniors Murugan Ayyanar, Brooke Fenton, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Arnim Kuchhal, Matus Vecera, and Jin Zhang.

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.



Fishing Club Helps with Trout Restocking



Fox Chapel Area High School teacher and fishing club sponsor Eric Norberg placed trout in the delayed harvest stretch of the creek between Bryant Road and Mt. Royal Boulevard in Allison Park.

Members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Fishing Club recently partnered with the Allison Park Sportsmen's Club and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to stock trout in the Pine Creek Watershed on October 24, 2023. Club members seniors Cian Conry, Jack Lynch, Duncan MacGregor, and Owen Ellermeyer; junior Luca Catone; and sophomores Miles Carey and Gino Pototo all helped with the restocking. The students and



Fall Sports Recap



By Eli Olifson and Joe Yoshikawa

For those of you who may have missed some of the action while chasing pumpkin spice lattes, here's a recap of the 2023 fall sports season:

Golf

Both Varsity Golf teams have been very successful this season, with a combined record of 14-4. The Boys' team started off their season with a loss to North Allegheny, but have gone on to win their next eight individual matchups.



Their best match was against Highlands, with an impressive 194-260 victory. These victories would add up to a 9-3 record, good enough to be first in the section. The team was anchored by senior Davey Fuhrer, junior Davis Kittsley, sophomore David DiGregory, and freshman Carson Kittsley, all of whom

made the WPIAL Individual Championships. Meanwhile, the Girls' team also found itself with lots of success. They started off their season 5-1 and have continued to stay on top since, and finalized a dominant 10-1 record. Senior Lucy Rygelski and freshman Clara Koteski were also invited to the WPIAL Individual championships.



Soccer

The Boys Varsity Soccer Team started right where they left off last season, winning their first three games against Upper Saint Clair, Greater Latrobe, and Canon-McMillan, outscoring opponents 9-2 throughout these games. After dropping one to Seneca Valley in a close 0-1 game, they got right back to winning, beating their



next 3 opponents and outscoring them 14-2. They prevailed throughout and would end with a 9-3-2. As for the Girls Varsity Team, things started off equally as well. They beat Oakland Catholic in a

very one sided game in the season opener, but ended up losing their next match. The team seemed to



figure out the winning strategy, however, and bounced right back, going on a 4-game streak and outscoring opponents of 18-3. They will finish with a winning record too, at 10-4-2.

Fall Sports Recap, continued...

Both teams have made playoffs, and hope to continue their streaks after beating their first round matchups.

Field Hockey



For the Foxes Field Hockey team, things started off dicey. The team dropped their first three games to some of the toughest competition they faced all season. However, they battled throughout this rough patch, and won their next five of six. The Foxes finished the regular season 11-6, finishing over .500 for the third year in a row. One standout player through the regular season was sophomore Emma Srodes, who leads the team in goals with 9 up to this point. The team also won their first playoff match 3-0 against Upper Saint Clair. However, after making it to the WPIAL championship, they lost in a 0-4 heartbreaker against 18-2 Penn Trafford, one of the best teams in the state.



Girls Tennis

Girls Tennis got off to a hot start this season, going 8-1 to start the season. This impressive burst at the start of the season carried over into an 11-3 overall record. This is definitely a very impressive season, but not necessarily a surprising one, as the team has proved to be very successful the past few years. In fact, the team has not had a losing season since before 2016.

Girls Volleyball

The Girls' Volleyball team has had its share of struggles this season. While starting off strong, posting a 5-1 record, the Foxes have lost their last few games and currently post a 4-6 record in the regular season. They were still able to make the playoffs this year, but exited in the first round with a loss to Saegertown. They will look to place higher next year and possibly make a



big run for the championship.

Football

The Foxes have been going through some rough times on the football field, but many stars have still shine. They made the most out of their home opener at Burk Stadium, scoring the most points this year against Norwin (18). Still, the student section shows up strong and ready to support the team every game, home or away. They have always backed their team, and will hopefully get more out of it next season.

Cross Country

For the Cross Country team, success is expected, and the teams this year certainly delivered. They began the year with a clean sweep at the Gateway Invitational, getting 1st place in both boys and girls Junior Varsity, and boys and girls Varsity. This was an impressive way to start the season, but it did not end there. In the Red White & Blue Classic, the boys team got 5th place out of 75, while the girls placed 16th out of 68. Boys Varsity runner, Ethan Vaughan, has been a standout member of the



team. He has gotten first place overall in multiple meets, running sub-16 minute 5Ks with an incredible 5 minute and 16 second pace. He also won the award for Pennsylvania Boys Athlete of the week, from 9/11-9/18, with 43% of the vote. The team finished the season strong, winning the section title for both teams, and going a perfect 6-0. In the WPIAL meet, the boys team finished 3rd overall, with Rowan Gwin finishing in 3rd, and David Black in 9th.



Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Law Threatens the Country's LGBTQ+ Community and Human Rights

By Karsten Buchert

If you haven't been paying attention to world news, you may not have heard about the recent developments in regard to Ugandan politics. In May, the nation of Uganda passed a bill that put severe restrictions on LGBTQ+ rights and is possibly even pushing on human rights. However, before diving into that, let's outline a brief overview of Uganda, a country some may have never known existed, and its current president who signed off on the bill, Yoweri Museveni, for the sake of context.

Uganda is a landlocked East African nation of approximately 46 million people. The country gained its independence from the United Kingdom on October 9th, 1962. It has since faced many struggles with conflict and unrest. Museveni has been president since 1986 after leading a resistance army to a victory. However, he was not officially appointed until 1996. He served his second term between 2001 and 2006, during which he allowed for the passing of an amendment to Uganda's constitution eliminating presidential term limits. Since then, he has continued to serve as president through a series of reelections. After some time, Museveni realized he was approaching 75, the presidential age limit, and he succeeded in getting an amendment passed that removed said age limit. His most recent (questionable) victory was in 2021. He has faced criticism for corruption, supporting the government of South Sudan while they waged a brutal civil war for independence, and in case it wasn't obvious, various issues involving elections and voting. Most recently though he has been under fire for signing off on a new "Anti-Homosexuality Bill".

The new bill dictates that there be harsher punishments for anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. Specifically, the punishment is life imprisonment for engaging in homosexual activity. If an individual is convicted of "aggravated homosexuality" which, as reported by NPR, involves "same-sex relations involving HIV-positive people, children or other vulnerable people," they could face the death penalty. Then there are the "attempted" categories with a possible 10 years for anyone simply trying to have

same-sex relations and 14 years for "attempted aggravated homosexuality." It doesn't take a legal scholar to see that these laws are not only vague but also questionable as to whether they violate human rights sanctioned by the United Nations. Under the "Civil and Political" section of the UN's website, it is mentioned that The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights gives protection against the degradation of minority rights and discrimination as well as the freedom of expression to which LGBTQ+

identities could be applied. The "Anti-Homosexuality Bill" has forced Ugandan members of the LGBTQ+ community into either fleeing the country or hiding.

In my research for this article, however, perhaps as a testament to how ignorant us Americans can be toward Africa and developing countries in general, I found that less than half of African nations allow same-sex relations. Some of this legislation is due to traditionally Islamic countries that practice, or in some cases, enforce the strict Sharia Law. In others it is the existence of outdated but persistent views on individuals that identify as gay. In Uganda's case, the anti-gay sentiment likely persists due to the country being majority Christian in religion and thus quite conservative. It should come as no surprise that other progressive items

such as abortion are also outlawed in the country. Some also simply see homosexuality as foreign and abnormal to Africa's native culture so they continue to perpetuate these ideals justifying it as moral. Uganda and Museveni's willingness to pass this bill only further pampers the unfortunate government-empowered homophobia that continues to exist on the African continent.

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A Little Literature:

A quarterly blurb about books you might not have heard of...YET!

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

TODAY'S TOPIC: Gladiators..Quests..Greeks..Romans!

You may have read Percy Jackson in middle school (I know I did). I think that's why I fell in love with mythology in the first place. But all history is not necessarily mythology. I brought up Percy Jackson, because this summer I stumbled upon two NEW book series (both with the themes of ancient Greek and Roman history!) Yes, I know that sounds boring - but these books were better than I expected!

The Valiant by Leslie Livingston (*The Valiant Trilogy*)

To start off, imagine you were the heir to a Celtic kingdom, proud to be a warrior and impress your family. Then you get kidnapped and thrust into an arena to become a gladiator. Would you survive? In *The Valiant* by Lesley Livingston, Fallon unfortunately faces such circumstances. She was ready to accept her position in the band of Cantii

Daughter of Sparta by Claire M. Andrews (*Daughter of Sparta Trilogy*)

If you're looking for a thrilling and captivating adventure in ancient Greece, you should definitely check out *Daughter of Sparta* by Claire M. Andrews. This book follows the story of Daphne, a young Spartan girl who is chosen by the goddess Artemis to go on a dangerous quest to retrieve the lost items of the gods. Actually, Artemis blackmails

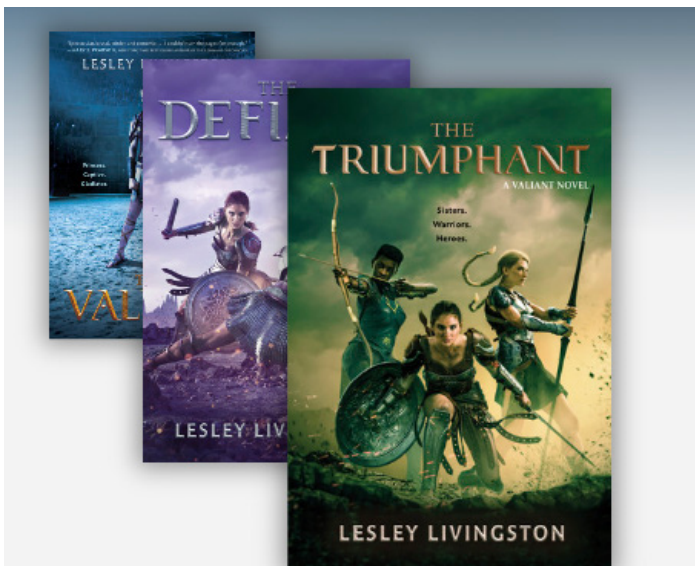


Photo: penguinrandomhouse.com

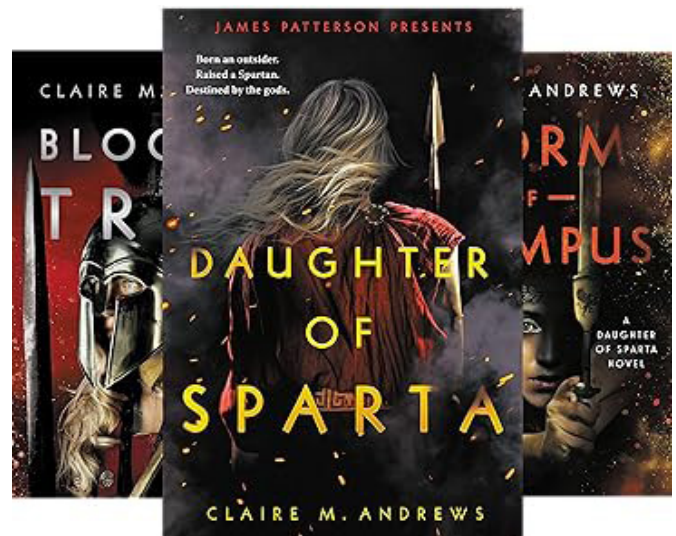


Photo: amazon.com

warriors, but fate had other plans for her. She is captured by a Roman merchant and sold to a school for female gladiators, where she has to fight for her life and the entertainment of the masses. Fallon must overcome the challenges of being a gladiator, while also dealing with the politics and intrigues of the Roman Empire. She makes friends and enemies among her fellow gladiatrices, and discovers a family secret she never imagined to be true. Fallon's journey is full of action, adventure, and courage. She learns to embrace her new identity as a gladiator, while also staying true to her Celtic roots. She faces many dangers and obstacles, both inside and outside the arena, and must make difficult choices that will affect her future and those she cares about. *The Valiant* is a thrilling and captivating story that will keep you hooked until the end.

Daphne by turning her brother into a deer. If Daphne does not retrieve all nine missing items, the world will descend into chaos, the gods will lose their powers, and her brother will die. Along the way, she has to unwillingly take up the assistance of Apollo, the god of music and healing. (The alliance nearly fails because Apollo turns her best friend, Lykou, into a wolf.) The stakes are high, as secrets are revealed, pasts are revisited, and vital decisions are made. Daphne must travel to Crete, face the Minotaur, and fight alongside great heroes like Hippolyta and Theseus as she faces mythical creatures and enemies. Will she be able to save her family, her people, and the gods before it is too late? You will only know if you read the book. No, I am not spilling the beans!



Fall Baking: Sugar, Spice, and Everything Nice

By Mia Costello

What does fall mean for baking? Pumpkin, cinnamon, and spices of course! There's nothing better than a warm treat as the days get cooler, and these recipes will definitely please your taste buds. Since we're all short on time, I've compiled a few recipes from my favorite baking blogs that involve minimal effort for maximum enjoyment. If you search "Broma Bakery" or "Sally's Baking Addiction" in Google, you'll find even more of their recipes. I've made anything from single serve chocolate chip cookies to macarons with these websites, and I can confidently say that the outcome is always delicious.

As long as you read the instructions carefully and prepare all ingredients, you should have no difficulty baking. One last tip before you get to the recipes: always let your baked goods cool before eating! These recipes have lower cook times in expectancy that the dessert will bake more as it is cooling on its sheet or in its container, so even though it might look and smell amazing, wait for it to rest. Enjoy!

Single Serve Pumpkin Snickerdoodle Cookie – *Broma Bakery* –

Want a cookie just for you in twenty minutes? This recipe is for you. Single serve means that the recipe yields one large cookie or two medium cookies that you can enjoy right away. There's no chilling of dough, no tedious ingredient list, and no long baking time. I



shortened the ingredient list and instructions for you so that you can get right to baking. If you love this recipe and want to make more, you can always double the measurements for twice the amount of cookies!

Ingredients for the cinnamon sugar coating:

- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Ingredients for the cookie:

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin puree
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch of salt

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

Make cinnamon sugar coating. Combine granulated sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Mix until combined.

In another bowl, combine melted butter, pumpkin puree, brown sugar, and vanilla extract. Whisk until combined.

Add flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Mix until a soft dough forms and no streaks of flour remain. Dough will be very soft—don't worry!

Divide dough into two balls and roll in cinnamon sugar for an even coating. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Bake for 12-14 minutes, or until the edges are set and the middle is slightly undercooked (will cook as you let it cool). Let cookies cool before eating.

Individual Apple Crumbles – *Sally's Baking Addiction* –

Another quick and easy recipe, but this time, we're making crumbles. A crumble is a dessert made of fresh fruit with a sugary crumbly topping, usually made of oats, sugar, butter, and flour. This recipe is perfect for a single sitting dessert while yielding a few others for you to eat later. 6-ounce oven-safe ramekins, or small cooking dishes that are only a few inches in diameter are perfect for this dish, but you can use anything that resembles a small container as well, as long as it can go in the oven. Serve with vanilla ice cream for an even more delicious touch!



*Ingredients for
apple layer:*

1 tablespoon unsalted
butter, melted
4 cups of apples in 1
inch chunks that are $\frac{1}{4}$
to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick (about 3
large apples)
3 tablespoons packed
brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground
cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon ground
nutmeg

Ingredients for topping:

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup packed brown sugar
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
Optional: ice cream & caramel sauce

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line 6 6-ounce oven ramekins in a baking sheet and grease the insides with 1 tablespoon of melted butter.

Stir apples, brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg together. Divide between ramekins.

Use a fork to mix brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, and salt together in a medium bowl. Fold in melted butter. Keep mixture in large crumbles—do not overmix!

Sprinkle crumble evenly over apples. You can press down if necessary. It's completely fine to pile the crumble up since it will bake down.

Bake for 32-36 minutes until the topping is slightly toasted and the apples appear softened. Remove from oven and let cool slightly before serving—you want them to be warm, but not too hot.

Store remaining crumbles in fridge for up to 2 days. You can reheat them in the microwave or oven at 300° for 15 minutes.

I hope you enjoy the flavors of fall with these two recipes! If you need extra help on the instructions, you can always go to their websites for more information. Both of these are specifically designed for individual consumption, but if you are looking for a recipe that serves more than one or two, you can adapt these recipes for whatever yield you desire. Happy baking!

Astro Club is Out of This World

By Abe White

My name is Abe White, and I'm a co-founder of the FCAHS Astro Club, along with Sarah Rached and Emma Stein. Fox Chapel has had space clubs in the past, but these have been rather limited in scope, and in recent years haven't been renewed.

Astro Club is bringing together students with both passions for the field of astrophysics/astronomy and those who are just interested in the night sky. Both are welcome!

Our partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Astronomy Department and the Allegheny Observatory gives the club access to resources including the Keeler telescope, which we plan to use for several research projects our members will be undertaking. Already, we've gone on a tour of the observatory and learned to use the incredible instruments available to us. In addition to research projects, Astro Club has many volunteer opportunities planned, including a booth at the Boo-Bash and a station at the Haunted Space Mansion event the day after. We're working with Pitt to schedule more events with an astrophysics focus, including the "Astrophysicist for a Day" event, and more telescope tours.

For those who don't want to commit to a project, Astro Club is planning several movie and game nights, and stargazing nights at local parks and observatories. All are welcome to attend these events, completely free of charge.

Astro Club co-founder Sarah Rached, a sophomore, is excited to begin. "We have a group of really passionate students that share a love for the night sky, and I'm glad we can provide a place for them to focus this enthusiasm." The club's initial membership numbers are impressive, to say the least. Currently, the Schoology group consists of 52 members, and the club's Instagram page already has 127 followers.

If you are interested in joining the Astro Club, email me at white_abraham@student.fcasd.edu. We hope to see you at our future meetings and events!





Halloween Dance Proven to be a Hauntingly Good Collaboration

By Alex Navas

On the evening of October 28th, Best Buddies, National Honor Society and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council joined forces to host the first Halloween-themed dance at the high school. The event was a celebration of inclusion, with the goal of bringing together diverse groups of students at the high school for a night of endless fun, tricks and treats.

Dressed in creative and imaginative costumes, students came together to celebrate Halloween. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement, with decorations, glow-in-the-dark accessories, and

funky glasses adding to the festive spirit. The DJ played music that kept everyone on the dance floor with their best spooky moves, and the food was a hit, including cupcakes, candy, drinks, and more. The costume awards ceremony was a highlight, with participants showcasing their creativity and individuality. Gift

cards and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. The evening wrapped up with a competitive limbo game and a dance

competition for even more prizes!

This Halloween event was a heartwarming community event, thanks to the collaboration between some of our top leadership groups.

Next year, the plan is to expand and have more clubs help to organize and attend the event. More than 130 students attended this year, which far surpassed the goal. We hope to see even more students at the next event and hope everyone enjoyed this Halloween dance!



FC Cheer Headed to Nationals

By Vesta Homayoun



The Fox Chapel Cheer Team had yet another amazing season as they made it to nationals! The team will be going to Walt Disney World Resort, in Orlando Florida to compete from February 9-12 2024. These girls made it to nationals through all of their hard work and dedication to cheer.

The members of the cheer squad are as follows: Kathryn Billings, Fiona Brown, Maurena Cilenti, Catherine Conway, Mary Ann Frauenholz, Trista Jackson, Emma Kurtz, Anna Li, Genevieve Messman, Mia Pietropaolo, Sophia River, Gretchen Shelestak, Isabella Stipetich, and Alexandra Vita.

with UCA (National Cheerleading Association) to become credentialed on cheer and stunt safety. The next step of their journey was to attend the Ohio Valley Regional event. There, they scored high enough to make it to nationals, with no deduction!

Assistant coach, Shelly Zottola, would like to give a shout-out to “Everyone who has supported and encouraged us. Our parents, Boosters, and the Athletic Department have been amazing. From our strength and conditioning coaches, to our Choreographer/Assistant Coach (Krista Zottola), to our Head Coach (Aleta Balcar), we have together built and incredible program and I am so proud of how far we have come”

Senior Sophia River shared, “My team and coaches have been a big inspiration in my efforts to make it this far. It takes a lot of team work and commitment in order to perform well during competitions. There is no individual moment and we have to encourage and support one another.” Junior Mary Anne Frauenholz said, “The toughest aspect of competitive cheer in my opinion is that there are several things each girl is thinking about at once the entire time we perform. That includes being sharp during the dance, being loud during the cheer, using all your strength during every stunt, pointing your toes during a jump, and smiling the entire time you do all of it. Sophomore Trista Jackson stated, “The most rewarding part of being a part of this team is the friendships I have made throughout my time on the team. We all truly care about each other”. Lastly, Coach Balcar said, “I am so proud of this amazing group of young ladies and can’t wait to see what the future holds for us. We would not be where we are today if it was not for their hard work and two great assistant coaches!”

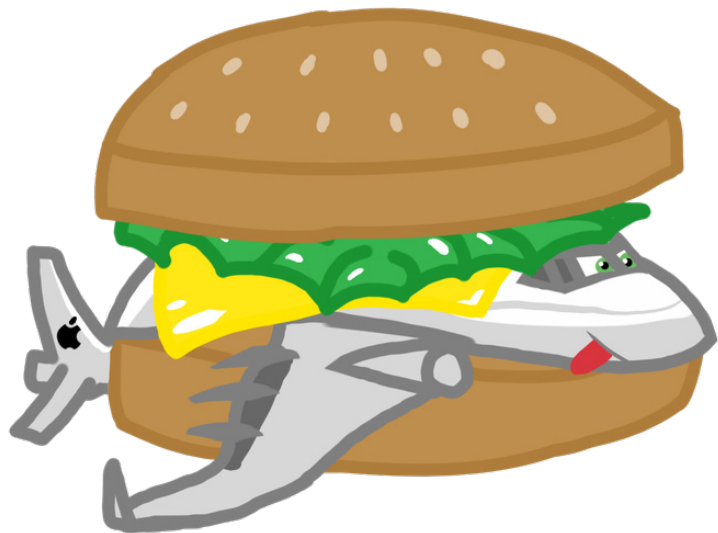
Although the season can be intense, the coaches keep it fun. Over the summer, the team learns over 100 football cheers for game days, and mid August, they start on their competition routine. The team works nonstop from August to February to prepare for Nationals. The head cheer coach, Aleta Balcar, said “this is the most dedicated team I have had over the nine years as a coach at FC. They were so determined to get this bid and hit every stunt and skill. They never give up”.

The cheer team attended a camp



A History Lesson Worth Biting Into

By Maria Stiger



Fox Chapel has a history of famous people in the area. In this article, I want to highlight two extraordinary individuals who made their mark in unique ways. Amelia Earhart, the pioneering aviator, graced the skies with her daring feats, while Jim Delligatti, a resident of Fox Chapel, forever changed the fast-food landscape with his creation of the iconic Big Mac. Their stories, though separated by time, intersect in this charming community, embodying the spirit of innovation and adventure that has left lasting legacies in aviation and American cuisine.

Amelia Earhart, the pioneering aviator, graced the skies with her daring feats, while Jim Delligatti, a resident of Fox Chapel, forever changed the fast-food landscape with his creation of the iconic Big Mac. Their stories, though separated by

time, intersect in this charming community, embodying the spirit of innovation and adventure that has left lasting legacies in aviation and American cuisine.

Amelia Earhart was a famous female pilot who is especially known for being the first female to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Amelia Earhart, in her time in Pittsburgh, learned the hard way that not all airplane landings are smooth. Her emergency crash landing in Fox Chapel occurred in August. 31 1928, only four years before she would make history with her solo flight over the Atlantic. She landed at Rogers Field (today's Fox Chapel Area High School's football field and stadium) more than 90 years ago. Earhart was not harmed during the violent touchdown, however, the field was left with a hundred-foot



Photo credit: buzzfeednews.com

Two extraordinary individuals who made their mark in unique ways. Amelia Earhart, the pioneering aviator, graced the skies with her daring feats, while Jim Delligatti, a resident of Fox Chapel, forever changed the fast-food landscape with his creation of the iconic Big Mac.



Photo credit: newyorktimes.com

Mac made an instant impact, evident in the notable surge in sales it generated, as well as causing Jim a surge of fame. Delligatti later died in his home at the age of 98 in 2016, leaving behind a lasting legacy that

continues to shape the fast-food industry to this day.

The borough of Fox Chapel has been home to many famous people throughout history - Amelia Earhart and Jim Delligatti being just a couple. Their stories have intersected in this charming community and have left lasting legacies.



MEET THE STAFF



Annalese
Bartolacci



Karsten
Buchert



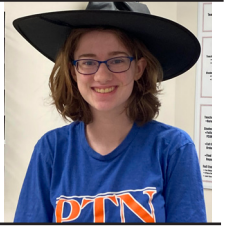
Mia
Costello



Josie
Giguere



Laila
Golla



Katie
Haas



Vesta
Homayoun



Henry
Koloc



Shriya
Krishnamurthy



Alex
Navas



Eli
Olifson



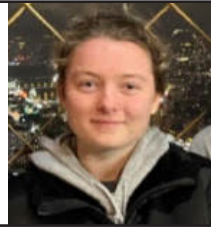
Sienna
Siegel



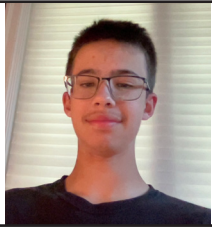
Safiya
Stewart



Maria
Stiger



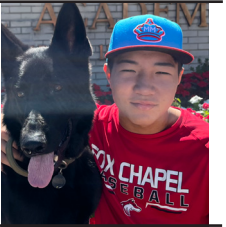
Madeleine
Stone



Ian
Wellman



Abraham
White



Joe
Yoshikawa

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Fox Tales

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Fox Tales is a quarterly news publication created by the students of Fox Chapel Area High School. The mission of this publication is to showcase the many positive happenings in the Fox Chapel Area School District and surrounding community. Fox Chapel Area School District is comprised of six municipalities: Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel and Sharpsburg boroughs, and Indiana and O'Hara townships. To contribute articles, photographs, or letters, please contact the Fox Tales faculty sponsor, Lisa Gibson, at Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu or 412-967-2479. Letters should not exceed 350 words.



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Dr. Michelle Young, Program Principal (A-L)
Dr. John McGee, Program Principal (M-Z)

First Quarter Fun

