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Student-Built Rovers Beat the Odds



# Student Wellness Day 2024 May 29th



We are excited to offer a full morning of wellness activities that give you the opportunity to focus on your physical & mental wellbeing! All students can pick their own schedule for the day after a 5-minute QRT. At each location, be sure to check in for the period by entering your attendance with the QR code provided! Be sure to stop by the Commons area for free giveaways and information about resources available to you!

| Location       | Period 1<br>7:40-8:25   | Period 2<br>8:30-9:15   | Period 3<br>9:20-10:10  | Period 4<br>10:15-10:55   |  |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Main Gym       | Pickleball  | Pickleball  | Pickleball  | Pickleball  |  |
| Aux Gym        | Basketball  | Basketball  | Skating   | Skating   |  |
| LGI            | Resilience  | Resilience  | Coping &<br>Mindfulness   | Coping & Mindfulness  |  |
| Cafeteria      | Board& Card Games   | Board& Card Games   | Board& Card Games   | Board& Card Games   |  |
| Zen Den        | Yoga  | Pilates   | Pilates   | Meditate & Relax  |  |
| Softball Field | Kickball  | Softball  | Kickball  | Softball  |  |
| Fitness Center | Workout on your own!  |  |
| Library        | Chess   | Chess   | Chess   | Chess   |  |
| Upper Field    | Frisbee   | Frisbee   | Frisbee   | Frisbee   |  |
| Practice Field | Lawn Games<br>(Bocce, cornhole, washers, ladder<br>toss, Kan Jam) |  |
| Track          | Walk/run the track  | Walk/run the track  | Walk/run the track  | Walk/run the track  |  |
| Fox Statue     | Chalk drawing   | Chalk drawing   | Chalk drawing   | Chalk drawing   |  |
| MPR            | Students for Success  | Students for Success  |   |   |  |
| Diversity Den  | Coloring & Music  | Coloring & Music  | Coloring & Music  | Coloring & Music  |  |



Thanks to the FCAHS PTO for treating everyone to a FREE Kona Ice! The Kona Ice trucks will be outside of the cafeteria from 8:30-11am!



Meet the MAPS staff!

Self care tips!

# Way to go!



Six Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the 2024 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region I Band. The students are seniors Elijah Herzer (bass clarinet) and Chloe Kim (clarinet), juniors Marina Dunham (bassoon) and Patton Johnson (percussion), and sophomores Elliott Broyles (trombone) and Joshua Shah (flute). The band included 140 of the best student-musicians from 62 high schools from throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA Region I Band concert was held February 24 at Deer Lakes High School and was conducted by Dr. Patricia Cornett, director of bands at Temple University.



Congratulations to these members of our awesome girls wrestling team for their performance at the WPIAL tournament on February 17th: senior Ava McCaffrey placed 6th, junior Vie Filar placed 6th, and sophomore Atia DiGioia placed 4th!



Fifteen Fox Chapel Area School District students were selected by audition to perform with the 2024 Allegheny Valley honors bands. Seventh-12th grade student-musicians from the Avonworth, Fox Chapel Area, Hampton, North Allegheny, Northgate, North Hills, Pine-Richland, Riverview, and Shaler Area school districts auditioned for the groups, and a total of 208 were selected (100 for the senior high band and 108 for the junior high band). The students chosen from Fox Chapel Area were Fox Chapel Area High School senior Elijah Herzer (bass clarinet); juniors Malik Choset (trumpet), Marina Dunham (bassoon), and Patton Johnson (percussion); sophomores Elliott Broyles (trombone), Jack Murray-Krezan (percussion), and Joshua Shah (flute); freshmen Rachel Kim (clarinet) and Dashel Wilson (bass clarinet); eighth-graders Annabel Berkowitz (bassoon), Steven Hu (tenor saxophone), and Claire Lesnik (trumpet); and seventh-graders Rebecca Dorneich (flute), Zoey Liu (flute), and Zhiqing Hou (flute).

The Allegheny Valley Honors Band Festival was held at Hampton High School January 4 and 5, and culminated with a public concert January 5. The conductors were Dr. Zach Cheever and Dr. Jason Worzbyt from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Eleven Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by application to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Senior High Orchestra. The orchestra was comprised of a select group of student-musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The students chosen were seniors Amelia Costello (violin), Elijah Herzer (clarinet), Chloe Kim (clarinet), Jacob

#### Way to Go, continued...

Milgrub (cello), and Bridget Yun (cello); juniors Marina Dunham (bassoon) and Patton Johnson (percussion); and sophomores Elliott Broyles (trombone), Xing Carlough (viola), John Murray-Krezan (percussion), and Joshua Shah (flute).

A total of 150 students were selected for the District 1 Orchestra Festival which was held at North Hills Middle School February 8-10, 2024. The conductor was Jeffrey Turner, professor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and distinguished artist at the MacDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University where he is the conductor of the Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra.







Three Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) this year. Juniors Shayna Horwitz, Gretchen Shelestak, and Emma Stein all participate in Beattie's cosmetology program and were inducted into the NTHS at a ceremony March 12, 2024, at A.W. Beattie Career Center.

To be considered for the honor, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, have a grade of at least 95% in their career training program, and miss no more than five days of school. Candidates also must have a clear disciplinary record and belong to a service organization or participate in an extracurricular activity.



Congratulations to Black History Month Essay Contest Winners! Safiyyah Muhina (12th grade early grad) and Swati Mylarappa (11th grade) received recognition for their Black History Month essays for the Black History Month Summit sponsored by Stop the Violence Pittsburgh. Mrs. Shannon Cressler (Stra. Finley) took 20 students to the all day event in celebration of Black History Month where they announced the awards. Swati won the overall 3rd grand prize, which included a 100.00 gift card and a trophy and Safiyyah was recognized in her category with a gift card.



The Fox Chapel Area High School Madrigal Singers were recently selected as one of three choirs to perform at the 32nd Annual Chamber Choir Festival which was hosted by the Heinz Chapel Choir of the University of Pittsburgh.

Each invited participating choir performed one Renaissance motet in Latin, one English madrigal, one jazz piece, and one piece in a style of their choice. They also received feedback from guest adjudicators who were professors from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Waynesburg University.

The festival was held on February 18, 2024, at Heinz Chapel. The event was created to encourage and reward a cappella singing in high school. The other guest choirs included Bethel Park High School and State College High School. Three Fox Chapel Area alumni also performed as members of the Heinz Chapel Choir.



Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the 2024 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 East Band. The students are seniors Elijah Herzer (bass clarinet) and Chloe Kim (clarinet); juniors Marina Dunham (bassoon), Lindsay Gould (baritone saxophone), and Patton Johnson (percussion); and sophomores Elliott Broyles (trombone), Jack Murray-Krezan (percussion), and Joshua Shah (flute). The band was comprised of 120 of the best studentmusicians from 28 high schools from Allegheny, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties.

The PMEA District 1 East Band concert was held January 13 at Greater Latrobe Senior High School. The guest conductor was Dennis Glocke, professor emeritus and former director of concert bands at Penn State University.

# **HOSA Event Provides Much** More than Just Competition

By Laila Golla

Thirteen students from the Fox Chapel Area HOSA

- Future Health Professionals chapter recently attended the PA HOSA States competition in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. From March 13th to 15th. memories were made and students competed in their respective events, ranging from Medical Law and Ethics to Sports Medicine. Hopeful

Rachel Pegher won the

future physician, junior

second place award for her event, which qualified her for the national level of competition, which will take place in Houston, Texas this June.

At the conference, students engaged in health

related competitions, seminars, exhibitions, and workshops.

Additionally, they were able to engage with like minded peers from other school districts through fun activities such as bingo night and line dancing. In addition, various symposiums were arranged that educated students about diverse aspects of health, such as epilepsy. The informational booths set up by top companies helped students

> to learn more about the products that enable healthcare professionals to thrive. One session that was valued by many in attendance focused on how to choose the right college major for one's interests.

Congratulations to everyone who competed and best of luck to Rachel Pegher at Nationals!

## League of Innovative Students



Five Fox Chapel Area High School students were accepted into the League of Innovative Students. The students are senior Shriya Krishnamurthy; sophomores Laila Golla, Joseph Shin, and Niko Vavpetic; and freshman Nadre Digbohou. The League of Innovative Students is part of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, an organization made up of school districts that promote innovation in education.

A total of 30 students from high school from across the nation are participants in this year's League of Innovative Students and were selected by an application process. The aim of the program is to

allow students to develop leadership, problem-solving, and storytelling skills. The students will participate in a design process project from January to June 2024 where they will work with representatives from Digital Promise's Center for Inclusive Innovation, as well as with other students to design projects that will focus on innovation in education. The inclusive innovation model amplifies voices who have been underrepresented in education to solve education challenges in partnership with school districts.

The goal of the League of Innovative Schools is to create a school environment that achieves equitable outcomes for all students and is a national network of school districts that connects and supports the most forward-thinking leaders in education. By collaborating on shared priorities, League members – including superintendents and district leaders – spearhead innovative learning and leadership practices to achieve equitable outcomes for every student.

# Westinghouse Introduces Students to Engineering's Limitless Options

By Marin Airik

Ten students recently had the unique opportunity to attend "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" and "Engineer Your Future" at Westinghouse Headquarters. As I was one of the students who was able to attend, I learned about and participated in many STEM related activities. We started our day off with a networking breakfast with engineers who introduced themselves and shared all the great parts of their engineering disciplines. This opened our eyes to the vast career options available in STEM fields. Many of the engineers admitted that they did not decide to focus on an engineering major until their senior year of high school, which shows that it is never too late to think about a career in engineering!

We were introduced to engineering disciplines more in depth through a dynamic presentation. Did you know that the number of female STEM workers has increased from 8% to 27% from 1970 to 2019? Women have begun to receive more support for STEM related careers over the years as they are breaking previously set gender barriers. As multiple engineering disciplines were mentioned, some of the ones that stuck out were nuclear, mechanical, and biomedical. If you are interested in engineering but are not sure about the specifics, try out mechanical engineering. It is referred to as the "jack of all trades" because of how broad it is. It involves anything with a mechanical process.

Westinghouse is recognized worldwide for nuclear engineering. Nuclear engineering is significant because nuclear energy is more efficient than coal for energy in the sense that it does not need to be refueled as often and is not a carbon emitter. This is significant because it is a key to a good energy profile in the future, especially as climate change continues to hurt our planet. My personal favorite

engineering discipline is biomedical engineering because it has made many contributions to modern medicine. Think about any machine in a hospital; it is probably developed by biomedical

engineers.
This includes
X-rays,
ultrasounds,
EKGs,
and more.
Engineering is
the backbone
of innovation.

After the slideshow. the students engaged in breakout sessions that included hands-on activities. We tried on PPE (personal protective equipment) for nuclear plants, coded and raced a little robot, learned about half-life using pennies and heads

ENGINEERING OCCUPATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES (2022)

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and tails, and utilized batteries and wires to demonstrate electromagnetism. All of these activities were very different from one another, demonstrating the endless possibilities in



Above left: Jonah Kline, Allie Milgrub, Eloise Johnson, Nik Rached, and Zehra Ozkaya don personal protective equipment for nuclear during one of the breakout sessions for "Engineer Your Future" day. Above Right: Marin Airik, Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, Sophia Feng, Priscila Hayetian, and Maeve Beresford break for a photo op during "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" at Westinghouse's world headquarters in Cranberry Township.

engineering.
Most
importantly,
we all had
lots of fun.
STEM offers
robust career
opportunities
and is an
opportunity
to find the
answers to
your curiosity
of how the
world works!

# Polar Plunge: Fox Chapel Makes PA **Special Olympics History**



By Mia Costello

Most people know that the Polar Plunge involves fundraising with the fun activity of jumping into icy water, but when diving into the details of this inspiring cause, I quickly realized that it is so much more. In the words of Best Buddies President Sydney Schutzman, the Polar Plunge "enhances our high school's inclusion and sense

of community." The plunge aims to raise money for special olympics with the idea that every \$3,000 raised gives rise to unified sports in a new school. Unified sports, which Fox Chapel offers in Bocce and Track, allow kids with physical and intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in high school sports the same way that their peers do. With more money raised, sports sections are more developed, and the Polar Plunge give students throughout the state a chance to have their very own version of varsity sports.

Fox Chapel always has enormous success with the Polar Plunge, but this year's event was one for the record books. In total, \$46,442 were raised, the most in Special Olympics PA history. Fox Chapel currently stands as the #1 team in

the entire Three Rivers Region, taking the title for most members as well at 144. The top individual fundraiser at \$2,060 was Evan Donaldson, who won the opportunity to serve as FCAHS principal for a day. Additionally, Fox Chapel is the only school in the nation to be awarded a unified champion school banner for the second time this

school year—another record breaking honor. FCAHS has also been recertified as a National Unified Champion School by the international headquarters of Special Olympics, a designation that has been upheld since 2019. With each plunge, Fox Chapel Best Buddies is making a huge difference in the special olympics world, and you can be a part of the movement too!

To participate in the plunge itself, look for a page on Schoology in weeks leading up to the event as well as signs with

QR codes posted around the school. In order to attend the field trip and plunge, each person must raise a minimum of \$50. Of course, you can donate money anytime to the Fox Chapel Unified Sports Team or Best Buddies. When asked what his favorite part of the plunge was, Mark Farrah said



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# POLAR PLUNGE





"being able to jump in with my friends and spend the day at the plunge hanging out with other kids." This event thrives on high participation, so make sure to consider plunging next year!

To the following students that plunged in Acrisure Stadium, a HUGE thank you for all that you do: Evan Donaldson, Jake Siddons, Charlie Larson, Caleb Shirk, Dylan Work, Mark Farrah, Bethany Snook, JJ Jarvis, Sydney Schutzman, Hope Pekarcik,



AT HALL

Paige Solomon, Addy Bursick, Colin Lazzara, John Jump, Joseph Shin, Luca Poli, Rino Cilenti, Kaleb Hartman, Katie Siddons, Emily McKee, Natalie Patel, Anna Troutman, Quinn Carey, Kennedy Murton, Troy Susnak, Megan Mulhern, Natalia Schagger, Bella Urso, Owen Wilson, Grace Patel, Aidan Elwood, Taylor Wilkinson, Caylie Wilkinson, Sophia Gass, Sadie Gass, Cooper Hendren, Chase Hendren, Cole Hendren, Liam Foley, Lauren Backman, Claire Feczko, Brady Johnson, Jillian Pelcher, Kristofer Bandurski,

Ava Carey, Blake Kuhn, Lily Schaffer, Chester Gilman, Abigail Bauman, Hannah Smith, Marianna Lannarelli, Nico Zgurzynski, Nicholas Patel. Skye Byrnes, and Landon Torres.

As I researched this event, I couldn't help but be amazed at how strong the community surrounding students with disabilities is at our school—their commitment to inclusivity in something we should all strive for. To Best Buddies, congratulations on the incredible amount raised, and to anyone who wants to participate next year, look out for that signup!



# Spring Musical Makes a Real Splash!



By Annalese Bartolacci

Fox Chapel Area High School students went "under the sea" February 29th - March 3rd with their production

of Disney's The Little Mermaid. It was extremely successful, and with a sold out audience at three out of the four performances, the cast and crew members brought to life the story of one of Disney's most loved princesses. Ariel (Emily Harajda) is

fascinated with the world above the sea, eventually enlisting the help of the sea witch Ursula (Kyra Gdovichin) to make her a human, who gives Ariel legs in exchange for her voice. She does so despite the command of her father King Triton (Lincoln Baldwin) and Mersisters (Stella Hays, Alaina O'Kunewick, Tess Bursic, Sophia Rike, Grace Gouwens, and Lucy Larsen) to stay away from the human world. However, Ariel risks it all in order to meet Prince Eric (Micah Shelley), with whom she fell in love after saving him from a shipwreck. With the

help of her friends Flounder (Chloe Kim), Scuttle (Elana Padnos), and Sebastian (Annie Mohn), Ariel must get the

prince to kiss her before the sun sets on her third day as a human, even as Ursula's eels Flotsam (Laura Carter) and Jetsam (Dylan Berman) try to stop them, and Chef Louis (Kris Pizzella) tries to cook Sebastian!

The excitement began a week before the shows

with a Meet and Greet in the Grotto for young children on Saturday, February 24. Some of the principal cast members met with the children to take pictures, sign autographs, and even join together in a singalong. For the cast, the show was largely about creating magic. Said Annie Mohn, "The most special part of this show was seeing the reactions of all the little kids in the audience!" Aside from the performers

themselves, a lot of extra work went into perfect costuming, set design, and even professional makeup. Stage manager Carolyn Caracciolo explains, "The effects that were put into the show made the audience feel like they were under the



#### Spring Musical, continued...

sea. We had multiple smoke machines and dry ice machines as well as moving stage lights. The smoke machines enhanced the colors of lights on the stage and the dry ice was used in "Kiss the Girl" and Ursula's death as a way to make the stage look like water."

It certainly took a community effort to produce that Disney magic, requiring the hard work of both student and adult staff. From the time the Little Mermaid was announced in the fall, Mr. Benjamin Murray (producer, music director, stage director, and sound) worked with Ms. Stephanie Reilly (production assistant), Ms. Cara Coulter (assistant stage director and assistant choreographer), Mr. Dennis Emert (orchestra conductor), Mr. Nathan Hart (choreographer), Ms. Mary Jo Montgomery (set design and painting director), Ms. Anne Englert (costume and props coordinator), Mr. Joe Gass (set construction), Mr. Eric Amsden (lighting), Mr. Daryl Lesnik (sound), Ms. Abigail Hill (student teacher, assistant vocal coach), and Ms. Joy Lager, Ms. Jae Lee Paredes, and Ms. Bri Mattise Shaffer (JL Makeup Studio) in order to make the production a success. Student staff included stage managers (Carolyn Caracciolo assisted by Madeleine Jones and Lily Cannon) and student treasurers (Eliza Davis and Stella Hays), as

well as the set construction team, stage crew, lighting and sound crew, makeup and costume committee, pit orchestra, ushers, and ticket sales volunteers. Between the cast, crew, and pit orchestra, over 140 students were involved in this year's spring musical.

With months of preparation and long hours spent rehearsing, it's no surprise that the students involved in Fox Chapel's musical productions form lasting friendships. "My favorite part

was creating great relationships with my cast mates," said Annie, a junior. As a senior, Carolyn could not agree more, saying, "Even though it's sad that this is my last year, I've gotten so many opportunities in this school because of the musical, and I

highly encourage anyone even remotely thinking about it to try it out." If the success of this year's show is any indication of the future, it is safe to say that Fox Chapel's spring musical will continue to make waves throughout the school and community in the years to come.













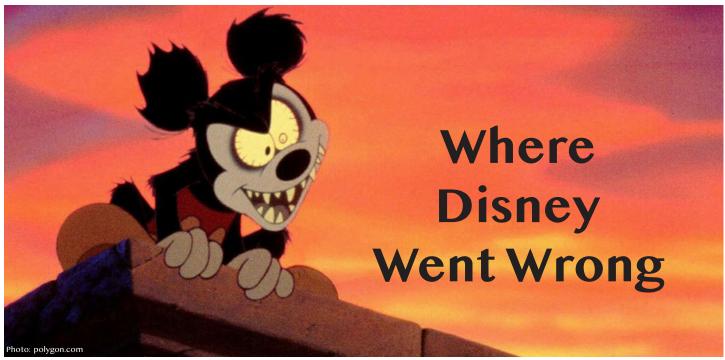












A highy satirical and opinionated evaluation by Katie Haas

The release of new Disney movies used to be An Event<sup>™</sup>. People of all ages would flock to movie theaters around the world, gleefully scarfing down overpriced popcorn and slushies as they became enraptured in the storytelling. Adults held back tears as Pixar forced them to question the meaning of life (I'm looking at you, *Coco*), and for months afterward, kids would sing the power ballad that was featured in the movie on repeat (cough, cough − "Let it Go" − cough, cough). Looking back on the films Disney has released in recent years, that same level of magic seems to have tragically dissipated.

But Katie, you say, you're 18 now. It makes sense that movies targeted towards children don't appeal to you in the same way they did when you were five. Yeah, that's definitely true. But Disney has proven time and time again that their movies are for everyone. The tears and snot that exploded from my face when I rewatched Toy Story 3, Coco, and Inside Out this past summer are actually indicative of a greater appreciation with age. So, why haven't any of Disney's recent projects ripped my heart out of my chest and played it like an accordion?\*

I'm pleased to report that I have an answer for you! Disney specializes in animation, and animation of any form makes me want to crawl around and growl like a feral raccoon. I love animation and consider myself to be somewhat well-versed in the subject. So I'm here to tell you that Disney's storytelling quality has plummeted over the past few years because of capitalism, baby!

To specify – Disney is too afraid to take risks. They're rehashing the same plot over and over and over again with no signs of stopping. They know that a specific formula makes profits, and are too afraid to try anything that contradicts this formula. Their newest princess movie,

Wish, which deserves a whole other article, was meant to be a culmination of a century of Disney greatness. Instead, this movie ended up being a hodgepodge of thematic plot points that worked in past films, but made no sense in this particular story. Embarrassingly, Wish didn't even snag a best animated picture nomination at the Oscars this year, a category that Disney has historically dominated. Speaking of which, let's discuss two of the other Oscar nominees.

*Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* took the world by storm last June for good reason: it's one of the best movies I've ever seen. The storytelling, characters, and worldbuilding are superb, but the animation itself – oh, mama. The first film in the Spider-Verse series redefined animation as a genre. Each frame of the movie was painstakingly crafted, resulting in a final product that rewires one's brain chemistry. With the original's success, other studios have begun experimenting with similar types of animation, creating films like The Mitchells vs. the Machines and Puss in Boots: The Last Wish. Disney, meanwhile, has stuck with the same style for over ten years. Movies ranging from Tangled to Moana feature stick-thin women with eyes the size of baseballs, and men twice the size of their female counterparts. There's hardly any diversity in body type, face structure, or whatever. The characters in Spider-Verse each have their own distinctive shape, way of moving, and animation style.\*\*

Diversity is another struggle for Disney, which brings me to another Oscar-nominated film – *Nimona*. Disney was originally the studio overseeing this film, but they canceled it when they shut down Blue Sky Studios. Fortunately, *Nimona* was picked up by Netflix and released on the streaming service last July. *Nimona* was a groundbreaking film. The author of the graphic novel the movie was based

#### Where Disney Went Wrong, continued...

on, ND Stevenson, is openly transgender and queer. As such, the story serves as an allegory for the trans experience, complete with gender dysphoria, an oppressive society, and queer joy. Two of the main characters (both men) have an epic star-crossed love story, and kiss near the end of the movie.

Now, Disney doesn't exactly have the best track record when it comes to LGBTQ+ stories. Much of their "representation" is blink-and-you'll-miss-it scenes of two

people holding eye contact for a hot second. They frequently censor or outright forbid the portrayal of movies like this, so it's no surprise that Nimona, a film that is so unabashedly queer in every way, was canceled close to its completion. (Nimona got the last laugh, though, when it became an Oscar

Photo credit: nytimes.com

Live-actions are Disney's new shindig. They're running out of ideas, so they're capitalizing off of our nostalgia for the animated classics. These live-actions are shifting from nostalgic reimaginings to blatant cash-grabs.

nominee and Wish didn't.)

So why does Disney censor stories that strive to be different, even though other studios have proven time and time again that these types of films are incredibly successful? It's a combination of money and bigoted leadership. Queer stories can't be released in countries like China or Russia, so Disney would miss out on a big chunk of profit. Disney's former CEO, Bob Chapek, is also known to be incredibly homophobic and an all around buttface, showing the prejudice that runs deep into the company. I also think – and this is just a hunch – that Disney underestimates the amount of support a queer film would receive. They'd rather play it safe and make another mediocre lump instead of taking a chance on an original, diverse, sexy film.

We've barely scratched the surface of Disney's censorship and bigotry, but it's time to talk about liveactions and sequels.

Never once have I watched an animated film and thought, "Dang, that was good! Now I want to see it again, except in live-action form and much worse!" But that's Disney's new shindig. They're running out of ideas, so they're capitalizing off of our nostalgia for the animated classics. I'll admit, some of the live-actions are good. I liked *Aladdin* and *The Little Mermaid* a lot, but they're overdoing

it. I don't want to see the same story regurgitated over and over again, and milked for all it's worth. *Moana* is getting a live-action now. That's a movie that came out less than ten years ago! These live-actions are shifting from nostalgic reimaginings to blatant cash-grabs and I'm sick of it. Give me a new, exciting, passionate, diverse story, pretty please!

If the execs at Disney are reading this article, (which is highly likely, because *Fox Tales Quarterly* is a very famous, notable publication), then they're probably clapping their hands and jumping with joy. "A new, exciting, passionate,

diverse story," they say, "Wow, we're doing that! We have several unnecessary sequels coming out this year!" Disney executives, if you're out there, know that I'm screaming and crying and banging my head against the table. You're doing the same thing with the sequels as you are with the live-actions! You're cooking up a half-baked story that lacks the charm and depth of the original, all while using beloved characters to pique our interest. *Frozen* was good where it ended. It didn't need *Frozen II*, and it most certainly doesn't need *Frozen III* AND *Frozen IV* 



Photo credit: awn.com

(both of which have been recently announced). *Moana*, *Toy Story* 3, and the live-action *Aladdin* didn't ask for sequels, either. Sometimes, it's better to

leave a story where it is instead of coming back to it over and over and over again.

This article has gotten way too long, and I'm sure you're probably getting tired of me yelling about how sucky Disney has gotten. I'll leave you with this: despite what I've said, I really do love Disney. I know that the company is filled with a ton of passionate, talented, wonderful people who are dying to make an epic, original story. So let's let them! Bring the magic back, Disney. There are so many awesome stories out there that have yet to be told. And I, for one, would love to see them.

\*This is a lie. *Encanto* and *Elemental* made me shed tears of passion. My argument is stemming from the fact Disney used to hit a homerun with almost every film. Now they're doing it once every few years.

\*\*Spider-Verse also had the guts to speak up about modernday issues. If you watch, you can see Black Lives Matter and Protect Trans Kids pins and posters. Disney would never be that outspoken on topics like these.

## Oh, the Humanity!

#### By Karsten Buchert

As humanity rapidly progresses, we have seen an immense focus on "STEM" related activities, jobs, and education. Science and math have taken a front seat over liberal arts and social studies. Major universities such as West Virginia University have cut some of their humanities programs and laid off the corresponding faculty. Statistically, STEM majors earn a higher starting salary than those employed in professions that require a humanities education. While STEM careers may be attractive to many and are considered to facilitate integral advancements for the future, there is still much reason to highlight humanities and their extensive benefits as well as current deficits in

their teaching. Take the area of social studies for instance. As a student at Fox Chapel Area, you have likely been required to take a history or civics course since sixth grade. While it may be boring to some, looking back at the past is important, in fact it's especially important now more than ever.

The way our country's history is taught has become

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"While it may be boring to some, looking back at the past is important, in fact it's especially important now more than ever."

a hot topic, especially the part of our history involving African Americans. According to a 2018 report by the Southern Poverty Law Center, only 8% of a surveyed group of high school seniors identified slavery as a central cause of the civil war. CBS News found that 16 states still have "states' rights" in their educational standards as a cause of the war. When the College Board's AP program rolled out its African American studies course, Florida's legislature swiftly prevented it from entering schools. This might make more sense though when you realize that with the Florida senate having an average age of 56, those lawmakers were likely taught by mid-century textbooks that perpetuated outdated ideas such as The Lost Cause, an ideology that glorifies the Confederate war effort and was popularized in Southern history textbooks by groups like the United Daughters of the Confederacy whom were also responsible for erecting around 450 Confederate monuments, or simply downplayed the significance of slavery. To bring everything together, the idea that should be drawn from this is that

social studies education needs to be reformed in some areas and should maintain an intense presence in our nation's public schools. When we are exposed to accurate reflections of our country's history, it not only educates us on our past mistakes, but encourages us to improve further and take action towards current issues.

Now to focus on English class, I am sure many can relate to the existential dread that ensues when one walks into their English class and the desks are in a circle. The socratic seminar is certainly nerve-racking. However, this form of literary discussion not only teaches lessons about the books, but also effective social interaction, responsible

decision making, and self-awareness. Listening is also an essential part of the socratic method; being a good listener could be considered an essential life skill to maintain healthy relationships. Additionally, the analytical writing that students are exposed to in both history and English courses is integral as it builds critical thinking, problem solving,

and communication skills. These can be applied extensively in STEM fields as well. If you think about it, an essay is a lot like a complex math problem or science project; you have to put in a lot of "brain power," figure out how to format it, and then use explanation abilities to justify your methods. So, to recap, studying the humanities has many benefits and if you are interested in going into one of the areas under that academic umbrella, there is no reason why you should consider not doing such!

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### **Empower Her Summit**

By Laila Golla

International Women's Day was well celebrated by several high school females who attended the Empower Her Summitt on Friday, March 8th. The event was held at Carlow University, and contained a variety of inspirational female speakers. The day kicked off with an incredibly moving presentation by Jordan Corcoran (founder of

Listen, Lucy) about her mental health journey. She spoke about her denial with which she viewed the potential of having a mental illness due to the surrounding stigma, and the bleak nature of suffering in silence. The bravery it took for her to share her story and emphasize the importance of getting help when one is struggling was greatly appreciated.

The "Cross the Line" activity really helped to shine light on the reality that you never know what someone is going through, and the glamor that we assume

importance of maintaining a work/life balance, the importance of having insurance, how to care for your own well being, and even how to "be professional" at interviews. It was a great opportunity for young women to gain insight from company representatives and, in addition, learn about internship and job opportunities.

After visiting 12 different companies the game came to a close and the participants heard from Carlow University admissions representatives. Different aspects of Carlow's offerings were presented through an interactive trivia game with the audience. After lunch, an entrepreneurship session with two accomplished business owners was held. The first part



occurs in others'

lives distorts our perception. After Jordan's presentation, all of the participants played a "game of life" simulation with finances to emphasize the importance of budgeting. Throughout the game, the participants were given unexpected expenses as they worked through the workshop and had the chance to hear from different companies in Pittsburgh. With each company's table, a new aspect of future life which may not have been previously considered was discussed, with examples. Such values were the

of the session was with Cambria Zebley, the owner of the Pittsburgh Crumbl Cookies franchise, and the second was a very down to earth speaker named Rachel Artise, the owner of various UPS stores. Both of the women shared their backgrounds, taught new strategies that have helped them throughout their work careers, and were so empowering, showing that we have the opportunity to reshape our future at any time.

Thank you to PPG for sponsoring this incredible event, and the numerous other companies that also partnered with them!

# WINTER SPORTS

A Recap by Eli Olifson and Joe Yoshikawa

#### Boys' Basketball

The boys' basketball season has been nothing short of their expectations. Though they didn't win the WPIAL title as they did two years prior, they were able to finish with an impressive 15-11 record and 5th place finish in the WPIAL 5A Playoffs. Leading the team on the court and in the stats were Jefferson Moorefield-Brown, better known as Boogie, and Will Siegel. Boogie led the team in points per game (12.8),



assists (64), and steals (46); Siegel headed the stat lines in points (307), rebounds (178), and FG% (59%). The seniors played with heart every game and ultimately got their team to the WPIAL Playoffs, and the PIAA state playoff games starting March 8th.

#### **Indoor Track**

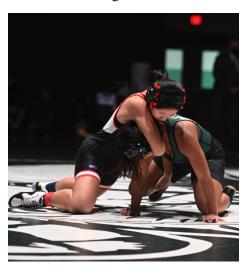


While indoor track season only runs for a short period, the team was able to break several previous records. A few events whose records were rewritten were the Girls' 400 Meter Dash by Alyssa Quackenbush, Girls' Triple Jump by Anna Troutman, and the Boys' shot put by Mason Miles. Both Troutman and Miles were able to place at the Tristate Championship Meet (TSTCA), with Troutman

placing 1st in High Jump, and Miles placing 2nd in the shot put. Congratulations to these athletes, who both plan to carry out their track careers at colleges elsewhere, and the returning athletes will look to break more records next season.

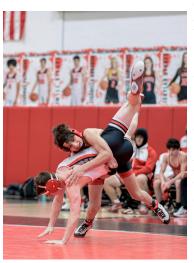
#### Girls' Wrestling

Though the girls' wrestling season may not have had the outcome that they hoped for, it still had bright spots to look at during their campaign. While they went 2-5 in their matches, they made sure to make their wins count. One of those wins came at the Redbank Valley



Tri-Meet, where the Foxes beat Redbank Valley 48-9. Junior Yuqi Zhou shone with the best record (18-11) and did the most to help out her team and make the all the losses close. The Foxes can only push through the trainings and workouts during their offseason to get stronger and get a better overall outcome next winter.

#### Boys' Wrestling



The boys' wrestling season had a strong start, finish, and everything in between, as the team went 10-0. As the wrestling program in Fox Chapel continues to grow and develop, so do the wrestlers. This can be seen as easily as taking a look at the teams' record the past few years. The team went from 4-5 in the '21-'22 season, to 8-5 in the '22-'23 season, to a perfect 10-0 this season. From strong senior wrestlers all

the way down to the newer boys, this team was packed with talent and appears to only be going up from here. The team will continue to work towards their goals to hopefully have another successful season next year.

#### Winter Sports, continued...

#### Girls' Basketball

At a glance, the girls basketball teams' record does not look

great, and although it is not the outcome they had hoped for going into the season, there are certainly positives to be taken away from it. The team had to face off against a tough schedule, starting against one of the better teams in the WPIAL, Highlands. While the girls lost this game, they fought to the end, and kept it close until the buzzer. This game was a sign of how the rest of the season was to



go. Despite facing off against good team after good team, the Foxes always managed to keep it close, in some cases managing to come out victorious. This bodes well for the future of the program to be able to continue building their way to the top. Although the teams' final record of 7-15 doesn't look amazing compared to last years' 13-9, the Foxes still showed skill and dedication in every game.

#### **Ice Hockey**

As the long hockey season finally draws to a close, there are many positives to look back on from the Foxes' 11-8 season. Despite a heartbreaking loss in the playoffs, the team managed to put together a very impressive season. The Foxes never lost more than three games in a row, and always bounced back after a rough game. Some highlights of the season include a pair of 7-2 wins over North Hills and a high scoring 10-7 win over Penn Trafford, along with tighter victories like a 5-2 win against Franklin Regional in the final game of the season to secure fifth place in class AA. The Foxes played strong this year, and show lots of promise for the seasons to come.



#### **Swimming**

Both the girls and boys Fox Chapel swim teams' had incredible seasons topped off with incredible performances in the WPIALs. Although neither team won every meet, each team finished over 0.500 and fought hard no matter

who the opponent was. Through and through, this lineup was packed with talent, from upperclassmen like CJ Smith for the girls and Christian Dantey for the boys down to freshmen who medaled in WPIALs. For more on the swim team, check out the swimming article.







Get the latest statistics, team rosters, and game schedules by visiting fcasdathletics.org.

**GO FOXES!** 

# Setting Sights on the Next Season

By Joe Yoshikawa

This year, the school's atmosphere has been returned to its days of winning. With the girls' soccer team winning the WPIAL championship, individual swimmers and track runners breaking records, and several teams qualifying for states in their respective sports, it seems Fox Chapel Area High School sports are back in the full swing of

things. The boys' basketball team is no stranger to success, either. Just two years ago, they clinched their first WPIAL title since 1978. and made it all the way to the semifinals of the PIAA state playoff games. They fought hard this year as well, and although they didn't reach the plateau they had hoped for, their advancement as one of the top teams in the state is enough to make Fox Chapel proud.

The boys' team has been empowered by strong leadership throughout the season from players like Will Siegel, Thomas Patterson, and Jefferson Moorefield-Brown (better known as "Boogie"). Their dedication to the team by leading several scoring statistics and

guiding the younger players has definitely been a focal point of their success.

In individual games, their spirit and abilities helped motivate the team to win. For example, during the first-round WPIAL playoff games against North Hills – arguably the most thrilling game of the year – the Foxes were able to pull off a home victory against the Indians on the back

of Boogie. The senior's 27-point game doesn't tell enough about the story of the night. Boogie was able to score the buzzer-beating layup at the end of the first overtime to tie the score 83-83, which was the highest scoring game of the Foxes' season. With this surmounting momentum, the

Foxes were able to score 11 points in the second overtime and beat North Hills 94-84.

While their sudden stimulation may have worn off throughout the rest of the playoffs, they were still able to place fifth in the WPIALs and secure their spot in the





state playoffs, which they haven't wasted whatsoever. In the first round with a match at the highly anticipated opponent Erie Cathedral Prep's home arena, they pulled off the upset, 57-52. Unfortunately, the boys fell to Bethel Park 48-43 to end their season in the

second round of WPIAL playoffs. Their loss will not come without some kind of victory, however. They are still a team rebounding from the great fall they took after losing in the state semifinals two years ago, and will show up again next winter looking to achieve new heights.

# Another Dominant Season for FC Swimming



By Eli Olifson

As the swim season comes to an end, the Fox Chapel teams (led by CJ Smith and Nora Siri on the girls team and Henry Koloc and Micah Cagley for boys) have managed to finish first overall in Section 3 of the WPIAL. This is the fifth year in a row the girls have received this honor, and the fourth year for the boys. It is the first time in FC history that both teams (at the same time) have placed first in the

section for an entire high school career. Both the girls team and the boys team managed to go undefeated in section meets, with the boys putting up a solid 8-5 (0.615) record overall, and the girls team boasting an exceptional 11-2 (0.846) record overall. However, out of all the highlights of the season, the most memorable moments were achieved recently in the WPIAL finals. Both teams finished among the top in a number of events.

For the boys, Christian Dantey set a team record (previously set by him) in the Boys 200 Free with a beyond impressive time of 1:39.45, earning a second place medal. Owen Howell received a well-earned first place medal in the Boys 200 IM with an incredible time of 1:52.38, yet another team

record (also set by him). The Boys 200 Free Relay team with Henry Koloc, Arman Alborzi, Owen Howell, and Christian Dantey finished in eighth place overall with a team record 1:28.02. In the Boys 100 Breast, three Foxes finished in the top ten: Paul Park with tenth, Owen Howell with sixth, and Christian Dantey with third. Finally, in the Boys 400 Free Relay, the Foxes, made up of Arman Alborzi, Henry Koloc, Owen Howell, and Christian Dantey placed sixth. Through two days, the Fox Chapel Boys Swim Team earned four medals and came close to earning many more.

As for the girls team, things went just as well. In the Girls 200 Medley Relay, Cam Brindza, Bella Marcos, Margaret Rusche, and CJ Smith placed fourth. In the Girls 200 Free, Sarah Pasquella placed first with a team record time of 1:51:08, Charlotte Rusche placed third, and Sarah Huang placed twenty-fifth. In the Girls 200 IM, Foxes CJ Smith, Cam Brindza, and Bella Marcos placed ninth,

twelfth, and seventeenth, respectively. The Foxes also excelled in the Girls 50 Free, in which they placed fifth, sixth, seventeenth, and twenty-seventh. Margaret Rusche placed fifth overall in the Girls 100 Fly. Another team record was set by the Girls 200 Free Relay team made up of Sarah Pasquella, Charlotte Rusche, Josie Stanczack, and Grace Kovach when they finished with a time of 1:35.57.

In the Girls 100 Breast, Sarah Pasquella medaled with silver, and other Foxes, Bella Marcos, CJ Smith, and Libby Datt finished in sixth, thirteenth, and seventeenth, respectively. Finally, in the Girls 400 Free Relay, the girls team earned first place overall; the team featured swimmers Grace Kovach, Josie Stanczack, Charlotte

Rusche, Sarah Pasquella. Through the two days of WPIALs, the girls team accumulated an astonishing seven medals. Although many of the strongest swimmers at Fox Chapel will be leaving for college at the end of the school year, the future is still bright for this young swim team. Many of the swimmers that medaled are still only freshmen, proving that this team will continue to prevail over the next few years. All in all, it goes without saying that the Foxes had yet another extremely successful swim season for both teams, and the future for the program is bright.

### **FBLA Regionals**

By Annalese and Matthew Bartolacci

On January 10th, Future Business Leaders of America students at both the high school and middle school levels participated in the Regional Leadership Conference (RLC) at Robert Morris University. Approximately 300 students from 10 high schools participated in online and in-person portions of the competition throughout December and January, concluding with the in-person RLC event.

Ninety-one Fox Chapel Area High School students placed, qualifying them for the state competition. Firstplace regional winners were seniors Jacob Anthikad, Micah Cagley, Isaac Jacobs, Jadyn Smouse, Kieu My "Judy" Tong, and



Dylan Work; juniors Baustin Bitar, Ridglee Boychuk, Reed Echnat, Kai Edwards, Gabriella Hample, Chase Hendren, Rayna Huang, Jonah Kline, Nathan Mackey, Lily Massaro, Sarah Pasquella, Rachel Pegher, Simren Sahni, Caleb Shirk,

and David Sorisio; sophomores Marin Airik, Prachi Behal, Maeve Beresford, Michael Costello, Mikayla Feder, Zelia Herald, Vesta Homayoun, Zinta Jacob, Charlotte Rattner, Joshua Shah, and Lorenzo Smiraglio; and freshmen Jolie Cessna, Paige Dugan, Sara Filar, Ella Golomb, and Ava Wegley. Second-

place regional winners were seniors Annalese Bartolacci, Leanora Carson, Tess Petrucelli, and Laney Porterfield; juniors Kellen Bleier, Ava Persichetti, Keegan Scanlon, and Holden Starz; sophomores William Apitsch, Naudia Boyle, Ross Calig, Michael Didomenico, Zehra Ozkaya, Marilyn

"Hope" Pekarcik, Rodrigo Silva, Aspen Smouse, Nicolas Squeglia, Emma Srodes, Emilia Sutkowski, and Brooke Thiele; and freshmen Ainsley Goode, Keita Komatsu, and Allison Olivieri. Third-place regional winners were

seniors Joseph Berger, William Kratsa, and Angela Ngo; junior Nicholas Patel; sophomores Arman Alborzi, Rocco Didomenico, Grady Johnson, Avery Jones, and Sabina Mantella; and freshmen Lauren Bachman, Noelle Fouron, Harrison Parker, Lia Pizzella, and Celeste Yeske. Fourthplace finishers were seniors Madelyn Jones and Gloria Wen; juniors David Black, Zoean Chittur, Sienna Siegel, and

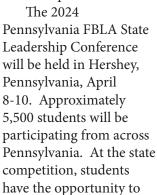
> Henry Stallings; sophomores Atia DiGioia, Nicholas Krist, and Mason Shelkey-Bray; and freshman Joseph McGivney. Fifthplace regional winners were juniors Anna Kintner and Victor Nernberg; sophomore Benjamin Sun;

and freshmen Aiden Drucker and Cooper Fleming. Other state qualifiers are junior Swati Mylarappa and sophomore Aavree Hill.

Additionally, Fox Chapel was the only high school

representing its growing middle school chapter. Thirteen Dorseyville students were very excited to be recognized and actively participated at this past RLC. Although they had not yet competed in any events, they will later in February and March for their chance to place at states. Middle school FBLA students will have the opportunity to compete in the regional and

state competitions.



qualify for the National Leadership Conference that is being held in Orlando over the summer. Congratulations to those going to states and good luck to both the High School and the DMS students!



### FBLA 100th Day of School Celebration

By Madeleine Stone



This year, everyone enjoyed the 100th Day of School a little more thanks to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club. On Friday, February 2nd, the 100th Day Celebration featured two events: a delicious free hot chocolate sale and an engaging costume contest.

During QRT in Mrs. Congalton's classroom, FBLA handed out cups of hot chocolate to the first 100 students or faculty members who stopped by, creating a bright start to the day. While everyone loved the morning drink, what undoubtedly caught people's attention was the costume contest. The competition was open

to all and offered a reward of a \$50 gift card to wherever the winner wished. With a prompt to dress up as either a 100-year-old or someone from the year 1924, the high school was sprinkled with various exciting outfits. Not only did participants enjoy the activity, but other students appreciated the change in scenery.

Those who took part sent snapshots of their outfits to Mrs. Congalton, who presented it to the FBLA QRT. After casting their votes, FBLA presented the \$50 gift card to Mrs. MJ Montgomery for her humorous look. With all the success that came this year, FBLA hopes to make the 100th Day Celebration an annual tradition. We look forward to seeing next year's looks!



### **Spring Comedy**

*No Place Like Nowhere* is a short comedy play by Andrew Ross. Years ago, the corrupt Congressman Snord promised a highway to the desert town of Nowhere, Nevada, but it missed their town by 200 miles, making rival Rattle Snake City the benefactor. Now the government has 500 tons of toxic waste that needs to be disposed of, so they decide to dump it in Nowhere. First, however, they send government agents to force the citizens to leave the economically depressed town. Meanwhile, miles away, a movie crew is filming a western when their high-strung star actress walks out on them. She finds herself in Nowhere, where spies, paparazzi and the crooked Congressman Snord soon converge. Chaos and hilarity reign as the toxic waste is about to be dumped, and the citizens of Nowhere witness possibly the worst performance of Shakespeare ever staged, compliments of the Gass brothers! Get ready for tons of fun and an outpouring of laughter with this hysterical romp!

The FC spring comedy, No Place Like Nowhere, is a student-run production. Sophia Rike (senior) is the head director, Kaylee Dunham (senior) is the head producer, and Sofia Liberto (senior) is the head costumer. Sofia Liberto has won an award for her costuming work for the 2022 fall play Arsenic and Old Lace, and Kaylee Dunham has won an award for her program design for the 2023 fall play The Man Who Came to Dinner.

Shows dates are May 22, 23, and 24 at 7:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door at \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

# Lean on **Green**

#### Knowledge You Need to Make the Earth Clean

#### Where to Get Involved

Sustainable Pittsburgh is a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality in the region. Residents can engage with the organization through various initiatives, including community workshops, volunteering opportunities, and advocacy campaigns. Sustainable Pittsburgh collaborates with businesses, governments, and individuals to implement sustainable practices, address environmental challenges, and foster a resilient, thriving community. By joining Sustainable Pittsburgh, local residents can actively contribute to creating

a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly city for future generations.



#### 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

#### **Latest News in Green Technology**



Solar panels, also known as photovoltaic (PV) modules, harness sunlight to generate electricity. Comprised of silicon-based cells, they convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity through the photovoltaic effect. This DC electricity is then converted into alternating current (AC) electricity via an inverter, suitable for powering homes, businesses, and even entire communities. Solar panels offer a renewable, clean energy solution, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. technology advances, solar panels become more efficient and affordable, contributing significantly to the global shift towards sustainable energy production and combating climate change.

#### **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



# FC Teams Place at Shaler Area Moon Rover Competiton



Two teams of FC high school students participated in Shaler Area High School's annual Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) competition on Friday, March 1st. There were a total of 23 teams from high schools across the Pittsburgh region participating.

Throughout the day, teams of five students were challenged with tasks that focused on STEAM subjects. The

main event of the day was the Lunar Rover Challenge. Before the competition, each team constructed a lunar rover that could move and complete various tasks. On the day of the competition, each team had to pick up a basketball, a 5-pound dumbbell, ping pong balls, and sand. Additionally, students had to complete four tasks in allocated rooms, including making a motion poster, building a car with limited supplies, identifying bacteria based on photos from a magnifying glass,





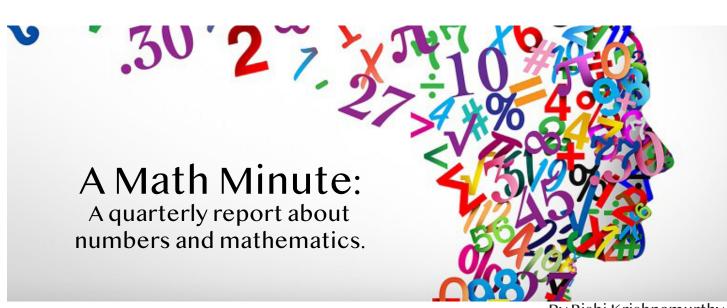
By Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj and shooting a small rocket onto the target on the ground. The scores of all five tasks, including the Lunar Rover Challenge, were summed together to determine the final score.

The results announced included rankings from individual tasks and overall scores. Team 2 of Fox Chapel won first place for their work in making the motion poster.



Top left: Jillian Stahl transports a ping pong ball through the designated path while Jack Filter navigated the team's rover. Top right: Darren Jayaratnam retrieves a basketball as part of maneuvering the course.

Left: Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj holds the recepticle steady to collect the sand. Team 2 included seniors Gabriel Felman and Darren Jayaratnam, and sophomores Sarah (Nik) Rached and Mikayla Murphy. Team 1 from Fox Chapel placed third in the Lunar Rover Challenge. Team 1 included seniors Jillian Stahl and Jack Filter, and juniors Ariana Stevenson and Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj. Both teams thank the sponsors Mr. Gass and Mrs. Gibson for their help and support and look forward to competing next year.



By Rishi Krishnamurthy

#### TODAY'S TOPIC: Puzzles, Riddles, Logic, Brain Teasers, Games, and More!

Suppose that you are driving a bus. At the first stop, ten people get on. At the second stop, three people get off and eight people get on. At the third stop, fourteen people get on and a person with a dog gets on. Then, one person drops off the bus, not realizing it is their stop. Now, here is the question for you: how old is the bus driver? My name is Rishi Krishnamurthy, and I am a seventh grader at Dorseyville Middle School. Every quarter, I write a piece about numbers and mathematics. My plan is to continue this till I am a senior. So, make sure to check out A Math Minute every issue!

In the last issue, I discussed how mathematics and numbers affect us. To recap, we have made mathematics and numbers a part of everyday life. We have to learn to use and apply mathematics to help us, and one part of how we can do this is by learning to train our brains to become more comfortable with mathematics and numbers.

This issue, I will talk about logic with numbers through puzzles, riddles, and games. Did you catch the trick in the puzzle in the first paragraph? You should have answered with your age, because "you are driving a bus." Maybe you have seen this puzzle before. Regardless, I am sure that some of you were puzzled by the question. Your brain can sometimes trick you by eliminating seemingly

unnecessary parts of a question or by thinking that something is one way when, in actuality, it is completely different.

Indeed, such logic puzzles, riddles, and games are "fun." However, they actually help you more than you think that they do. The definition of logic is the study of accurate reasoning and deducing. Logic is how we can train our brains to be better with numbers. The more you do something, the better you get at it, and studies have shown that the more people participate in such puzzles, they get better at solving them and more comfortable they are in dealing with numbers in their brains. So, by even just attempting the puzzle I wrote in the first paragraph, your brain might have become a little better with numbers and mathematics.

How about a few book recommendations for logic and puzzles? There are many, many books on puzzles and

Challenge: can you match the event to the year? No technology or resources allowed; just your brain!

- 1. MMXXIV
- 2. MCDXCII
- 3. CDLXXVI
- 4. MM
- 5. MDCCLXXXVIII
- 6. MDCCCLXXIX
- A. Constitution Ratified
- B. George W. Bush Elected President
- C. Fall of the Western Roman Empire
- D. Sweden Joins NATO
- E. Einstein Born
- F. Columbus Sails to the "New World"

(Answers: 1. D, 2. F, 3. C, 4. B, 5. A, 6. E)

riddles, but I want to highlight two in particular: Math Games with Bad Drawings, by Ben Orlin, and Reader's Digest Book of Puzzles & Brain Teasers. The first book describes various mathematical games, and the author also dives into how the games can help you. Did you know there is a quantum tictac-toe game? Maybe, we will talk about it in a future issue. The second book is a fun book

of puzzles - it has everything from word power to mind mazes – that will help you train your brain. I particularly like the "train your brain" section, which involves finding patterns and looking at words and images in a different way. If you would like a book that is slightly harder, Brain Gym: Mathematical Puzzles by Layak Ram Sharma is a book for children of all ages. The puzzles in this book are oriented towards mathematics - personally, I really enjoyed it.

Finally, I will end with a math joke: Can you tell me what you call a number that can't keep still? The answer is a roamin' numeral.

# A Little Literature: A quarterly blurb about books you might not have heard of...YET!

By Shriya Krishnamurthy

#### TODAY'S TOPIC: Dragons!! (Yes, those super cool, fire-breathing monstrosities)

Dragons have always left me in awe. They literally have the power to incinerate everything in their path with ONE BREATH! But, they also have the capacity to feel emotion (if they indeed choose to). Not to mention they are intelligent and could ace those AP tests. So, here are a couple of books depicting the best (and worst, depending on your point of view) qualities of dragons.

Together We Burn, by Isabel Ibañez (Standalone)

Fireborne, by Rosaria Munda (The Aurelian Cycle Trilogy)



Zarela Zalviadar is a flamenco dancer - one of the best in Hispalia. She is also the daughter of the most talented and famous Dragonador (think bullfighter, except DRAGONfighter). One day, following one of her best performances, the dragons in her family's arena get loose, and wreak havoc and devastation not only to Hispalia, but also to her family's reputation. In the aftermath,

Zarela's father is seriously injured. Determined to hold onto her family's legacy and pay for her father's medical bills (yes healthcare costs are real!), Zarela tries to hire another Dragonador to fight in the arena. With a ruined reputation, she gets nowhere. During her search, Zarela becomes suspicious that the disaster that ruined her family was no accident. Having no choice but to figure things out by herself, Zarela decides that she will become the new Dragonador. When she goes out to buy new dragons, she also tries to enlist the help of the very unwilling Arturo, a talented dragon hunter who refuses to kill dragons. As secrets are revealed and betrayals made clear, Zarela will have to do whatever it takes to save her family's legacy.

In the world before the revolution (the dragon revolution, that is) Callipolis was ruled by three families of Dragonlords, who starved the peasants and lived in luxury. The revolution facilitated great change - the peasant (lowborn) class had the opportunity to test into the new ruling class of Dragonriders. Fireborne by Rosaria Munda takes

place after the revolution, zooming

in on the lives of two orphans, Annie and Lee. Having tested into dragon riding, Annie and Lee move up through the ranks. As the top two dragon rider students, they begin to compete for the title of Firstrider, the greatest position to be held by a dragon rider in the new regime. When survivors from before the revolution, namely the heirs of the old Dragonlords surface, calling for justice, the balance and prosperity of the delicate new regime is thrown into jeopardy. As loyalties are tested, positions are threatened, and trust is broken, Annie and Lee must decide whether they should fight for the new regime, the old regime, themselves, or each other.



# Argentina is Now a Nation Effectively Run by Dogs

By Karsten Buchert

In November of last year, Argentina elected a polarizing new president, Javier Milei. In a time of immense economic downfall with the country plagued by inflation and poverty, voters turned to his bold, conservative, right-wing narrative. However, for now, let's try to put politics aside and focus

on the fact that Milei is quite the character. He describes himself as "anarcho-capitalist" and even has a costumed superhero that he dresses up as to promote this ideology, the alias being "General AnCap." For background, anarchocapitalism promotes a total free market economy with no intervention from a governing body. The economist and pundit gained traction with the Argentine public

by doing interviews on news programs and running an aggressive campaign where he frequently advocated for ideals such as looser gun control and anti-abortion policy. He used a chainsaw to symbolize his promise to cut the size of the federal government. Shortly after his inauguration, he was quick to announce that he would be removing the ministries of culture, health, labor, social development, and education which he referred to as "The Ministry of Indoctrination."

However, nothing is perhaps as strange as his relationship with his pets. Milei is the proud owner of five English mastiffs. In fact, he's not just their owner, he sees himself as their father calling them his "four-legged children". These dogs are all clones of the late English mastiff, Conan (named after the 1982 movie, not the talk show host) who was Javier Milei's "true and greatest love." Milei believes Conan communicated to him that it was "God's mission for him to become president of Argentina" according to Time magazine. In 2018, a year after the original Conan's death, Milei paid a generous \$50,000 to

a US-based company to clone Conan. This resulted in his aforementioned five current dogs. One is named Conan and referred to as his son while the other four, whom he sees as grandchildren, are named after well-known economists Murray Rothbard, Milton Friedman, and Robert Lucas

Argentina's elected president, Javier Milei, has been said to seek advice from his English mastiffs who he referrs to as his "four-legged children".

Jr.. There are only three because one dog is Robert, another is Lucas. Even more odd is that Milei seeks serious advice from these dogs; each dog gives a specific type of advice, one is political, one is economic, etc. His response to criticism about this in an interview with The Economist was "What is it they say, that my dogs determine my strategies, yes? That they are like a strategic committee? They are the

best strategic committee in the world. Tell me: when has an outsider-outsider achieved what we achieved in two years? If so, they are the best political analysts in the world." Take with that reply what you will.

Additionally, Milei has had to formally deny allegations that he was romantically affiliated with his sister who, arguably might do more work in Argentina's government than him, after he declared that she should be the country's

first lady. He is now in a relationship with Argentinian actress Fátima Flórez. In terms of other relevant items, Milei has been supported by former president Donald Trump and the also harshly right-wing former Brazilian leader, Jair



Milei has a costumed superhero that he dresses up as to promote this ideology, the alias being "General AnCap."

#### Argentina, continued...



Photo: wsi.com

Milei has made it known that he wants to adopt the U.S. Dollar as Argentina's national currency.

Bolsonaro. During his presidential campaign, he advocated that his country should change from the Argentine Peso to the US Dollar. To sprinkle in some positive news, Milei has been improving his relationship with Pope Francis whom he previously had called an "imbecile" and "filthy leftist." Upon a formal visit to the Vatican this past February, according to NBC, the Pope forgave him and bemoaned Argentina's situation. In turn, Milei invited Francis to visit Argentina.

Overall, despite how outwardly silly this guy may seem to people outside the country, there is legitimate reason to show concern. Are Milei's antics viable long-term and will he be able to uphold his promise to get Argentina out of its economic downturn? Will his dogs guide him properly in this venture? What does Milei being a staunch conservative mean for the South American continent which has seen a recent uptick in right-wing political movements in countries like Brazil and Peru? Only time will tell. One thing is for sure though, his sideburns are epic, I wonder which dog telepathically told him to let those grow out!

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# Speech and Debate Results from State Championships



On Friday March 15 and Saturday March 16, members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Speech and Debate Team competed at the annual Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championship Tournament hosted on the campus of Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg in picturesque Bloomsburg, PA. They were among 655 students representing 85 public and private high schools from across Pennsylvania. Here are out results:

- Tenth grade student Ulyana Kubini advanced to the Semi-Final Round (Top 12) in Persuasive Speaking and won 11th Place overall tenth grade student Priscila Hayetian won 7th Place in Programmed Oral Interpretation.
- Twelfth grade student Isabella White finished her amazing high school career by adding a 2nd Place win in Commentary (she was the state champion in Lincoln-Douglas Debate as a 9th grader, won 6th place in Lincoln Douglas Debate as a 10th grader, was the State Champion in Commentary as an 11th grader).
- The team of 10th grade students Joanna Li and Zachary Rubin advanced to the Quarterfinals in Policy Debate and placed 6th overall.
- In a rarely accomplished feat, the team of 12th grade student Adhitya Thirumala and 11th grade student Moonyoung Hwang repeated as State Champions in the event of Policy Debate with a record of 7 wins and 0 losses.

Best of all, thanks to that consistent set of finishers, we won the 1st Place School Sweepstakes Award (best overall team across all

events) in the Small School Division (schools with 10 or fewer entries at the championship tournament).

When you see the students in school this week, please congratulate them on their fine performances.



# In Full Bloom: **Cherry Blossom Festival**

#### By Asian Culture Club

The Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual event held in Washington D.C. It celebrates the blooming of thousands of cherry blossom trees. The blossoms usually bloom around late March to early April and are only in full bloom for a few weeks, captivating the eyes of thousands of foreigners each

Washington D.C. is the only place in the United States that has an abundance of these trees. However, these trees are not native to the United States. In fact, they were gifted from the Japanese as a symbol of friendship. On

March 27, 1912, Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo City gifted thousands of cherry blossoms to the United States as a sign of friendship. This gift was short-lived when the trees were infested with insects, so the Japanese sent another batch. In return, the United States sent dogwood trees to Japan. To this day, the cherry blossom trees serve as a reminder of peace and unity between the United States and the Japanese.

Although cherry blossoms are only known to be primarily in Washington D.C, there are organizations working to introduce cherry blossoms to other areas. The Pittsburgh Sakura Project is an example of such. It was founded in 2008 as an independent nonprofit organization.

The organization has planted and maintained 250 cherry blossom trees in Allegheny County's North Park. They hold weekly volunteering sessions every Saturday in North Park to clean and maintain the trees. Not only has this organization planted cherry blossoms in North Park, they have also planted them in many other areas in Pittsburgh.

If you are interested in learning more about cherry blossoms, consider volunteering for the Pittsburgh Sakura Project or taking a trip down to Washington D.C. You'll be able to catch them in full bloom soon!





#### By Madeleine Stone

16

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Canadian tribe
- 5 "Woohoo!"
- 11 Banned insecticide
- 14 Baby "French" dog with a curly coat
- 16 \_\_\_ on the side of caution
- 17 The study of a language
- 18 Southeast Asian language
- 19 Farmer sci.
- 20@
- 22 Cherish
- 25 Folded egg dish
- 28 100 yrs.
- 29 Alternative liner to Carnival
- 34 Hydrocarbon endings
- 36 Mani-\_\_\_
- 37 Checks nails or twiddles thumbs
- 38 Flair
- 40 Lay into
- 41 "Half \_\_\_\_ of bread"
- 42 Rocked or sported
- 45 Shrek, for example
- 46 Famous ethnic neighborhood in Manhattan
- 49 Text-reading tech.
- 50 Does some improv
- 51 Vows
- 53 Mendeleev of the periodic table
- 56 A Pittsburgh Pirate, informally

- 57 Corn measurement
- 58 Science important to birds and planes
- 65 "A long time \_\_ in a galaxy..."
- 66 Slogan hinted by the circled letters in 14A, 29A, and 46A
- 67 Fox's lair?
- 68 Like books or nobles
- 69 Australian hoppers

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Lowest ranked NCO
- 2 French king
- 3 A long time
- 4 Prominent poet Poe
- 5 \_\_\_\_ to the throne
- 6 Alternative to FedEx
- 7 Boring routine
- 8 N.Y. tech. school
- 9 Class taught by Mrs. Yacamelli or Mrs. Farino
- 10 Widespread distress
- 11 Where heroes are made?
- 12 Wet blanket
- 13 Suffix with "mega" or "jumbo"
- 15 Olympic sledder
- 21 Artist's workplace
- 22 Perfume compound
- 23 Highest peak in North America
- 24 Trading unit

- 18 23 28 34 38 41 47 58 57 60 61 63 64 66 65 67 68 69
  - 25 Santana's "\_\_ Como Va"
  - 26 Magazine featuring "Spy vs. Spy"
  - 27 Quarterback Manning
  - 30 Choose
  - 31 Acquired wrongly, like a bribe
  - 32 Googled
  - 33 Perfume compounds
  - 35 Ushered to, as a table
  - 39 Seven round player selection event
  - 40 Fam. member
  - 42 Nintendo console
  - 43 Wagering letters
  - 44 V.I.Ps in dorms

- 47 Hebrew song whose name means "My God! My God!"
- 48 "Still awake?"
- 52 Cast member
- 53 0%, on a device
- 54 Wizard
- 55 Fe, in chemistry
- 56 Medieval entertainer
- 59 Go bad
- 60 Bird that can rotate its head 270°
- 61 Born
- 62 \_\_\_ Jima
- 63 Biz bigwig
- 64 Members of Class of 2024 abbr.

Answers on page 28



### Community Outreach Rolls Out the Red Carpet for FC's Senior Citizens

The recent Senior Citizens Luncheon was a wonderful experience, both for the student volunteers and the senior citizens themselves. There were 20 student volunteers and 88 senior citizens from the greater Fox Chapel community who attended the luncheon. According to Ms.

Machen, this is her 22nd year running the Senior Citizens Luncheon, and it has been going on for as long as she can remember." By now, you may be wondering, what IS the Senior Citizens Luncheon? Essentially, senior citizens are invited to the high school and are served a very fancy lunch by students! The cafeteria is transformed into a fancy dining hall, with placemats and fancy silverware. The senior citizens are served by students, which helps to facilitate organic conversations, allowing the people of the FC community to get to know the students. There is live music at the luncheon, often played by one of the school's smaller ensembles. Finally, the reason all of this is possible is because senior citizens are given a gold card, which allows them to explore the FC community, including attending the musical, the luncheon, and FC sporting events! Thanks to all the student volunteers who helped out at the luncheon!



#### CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

|                        |                        |                        |                    |                        |                        |                        | _                     |                            |                        |                    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <sup>1</sup> C         | $^{2}$ R               | <sup>3</sup> <b>E</b>  | <sup>4</sup> E     |                        | <sup>5</sup> <b>H</b>  | $^{6}$ U               | <sup>7</sup> <b>R</b> | <sup>8</sup> <b>R</b>      | 9 <b>A</b>             | $\mathbf{H}^{10}$  |                        | 11 <b>D</b>            | <sup>12</sup> <b>D</b> | <sup>13</sup> <b>T</b> |
| 14 <b>P</b>            | 0                      | 0                      | D                  | $^{^{15}}\mathbf{L}$   | Е                      | P                      | U                     | P                          | P                      | Y                  |                        | <sup>16</sup> E        | R                      | R                      |
| $^{^{17}}\!\mathrm{L}$ | I                      | N                      | G                  | U                      | I                      | S                      | Т                     | I                          | C                      | S                  |                        | <sup>18</sup> L        | A                      | o                      |
|                        |                        |                        | $\mathbf{A}^{19}$  | G                      | R                      |                        |                       |                            | $\mathbf{A}^{20}$      | Т                  | $^{^{21}}\!S$          | I                      | G                      | N                      |
|                        | $^{23}$ <b>D</b>       | <sup>24</sup> <b>O</b> | R                  | E                      |                        | <sup>25</sup> <b>O</b> | $\mathbf{M}^{26}$     | <sup>27</sup> <b>E</b>     | L                      | E                  | Т                      |                        |                        |                        |
| $^{28}$ C              | E                      | N                      |                    | $\mathbf{R}$           | <b>0</b>               | Y                      | A                     | L                          | C                      | R                  | U                      | <sup>31</sup> <b>I</b> | $^{32}$ S              | 33 <b>E</b>            |
| <sup>34</sup> E        | N                      | E                      | 35<br><b>S</b>     |                        | 36<br><b>P</b>         | E                      | D                     | I                          |                        | <sup>37</sup> I    | D                      | L                      | E                      | S                      |
| 38<br><b>T</b>         | A                      | L                      | E                  | <sup>39</sup> <b>N</b> | T                      |                        |                       |                            | <sup>40</sup> <b>R</b> | A                  | I                      | L                      | A                      | Т                      |
| $\mathbf{A}^{41}$      | L                      | o                      | A                  | F                      |                        | <sup>42</sup> <b>W</b> | 43<br><b>O</b>        | <sup>44</sup> <b>R</b>     | E                      |                    | 45<br><b>O</b>         | G                      | R                      | E                      |
| $^{46}$ L              | (I)                    | Т                      | Т                  | L                      | <sup>47</sup> <b>E</b> | I                      | Т                     | A                          | L                      | $\mathbf{\hat{Y}}$ |                        | 49<br><b>O</b>         | C                      | R                      |
|                        |                        |                        | $\mathbf{\hat{A}}$ | D                      | L                      | I                      | В                     | S                          |                        | 51 <b>O</b>        | 52<br><b>A</b>         | T                      | Н                      | S                      |
| $\mathbf{D}^{53}$      | <sup>54</sup> <b>M</b> | <sup>55</sup> <b>I</b> | Т                  | R                      | I                      |                        |                       |                            | <sup>56</sup> <b>B</b> | U                  | C                      |                        |                        |                        |
| <sup>57</sup> E        | A                      | R                      |                    | <sup>58</sup> <b>A</b> | E                      | <sup>59</sup> <b>R</b> | $\mathbf{O}^{60}$     | $\overset{61}{\mathbf{N}}$ | A                      | U                  | Т                      | <sup>62</sup> I        | 63<br>C                | <sup>64</sup> S        |
| $\mathbf{A}$           | G                      | o                      |                    | <sup>66</sup> F        | L                      | o                      | w                     | E                          | R                      | P                  | o                      | W                      | E                      | R                      |
| 67<br><b>D</b>         | E                      | N                      |                    | 68<br><b>T</b>         | I                      | Т                      | L                     | E                          | D                      |                    | <sup>69</sup> <b>R</b> | o                      | o                      | S                      |







#### **Need volunteer hours?**

Like science and working with kids? Consider volunteering for...

Fox Chapel Area



Monday, June 10th - Friday June 14th 8:30 am - 3:00 pm **Fairview Elementary** 

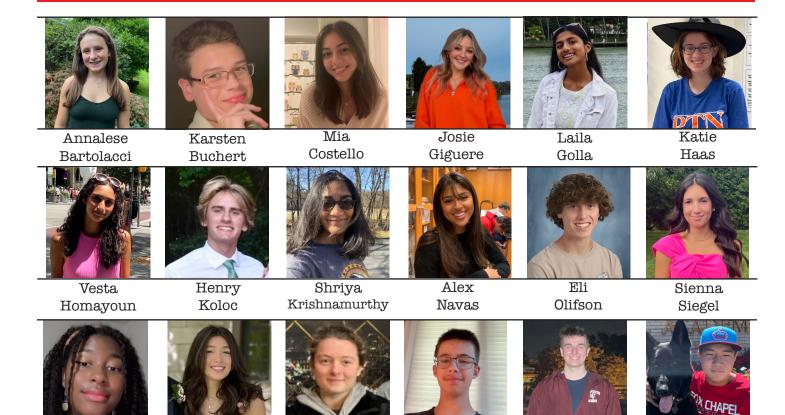
What will you do? Assist teachers in all kinds of fun camp activities, help to supervise recess (Gaga ball anyone??), and more. Fun and rewarding!

To sign up: scan the QR code.

Questions? Email Mrs. Reilly at stephanie\_reilly@fcasd.edu



### MEET THE STAFF



SPECIAL THANKS TO LIFETOUCH, GORDON SNYDER PHOTOGRAPHY, BONNIE BERZONSKI, AND JILL LEONARD FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

Ta.n

Wellman

Madeleine

Stone

# Fox Tales

Maria

Stiger

Safiya

Stewart

Volume 9, Issue 3 Fox Chapel Area High School Second Quarter, 2023/2024 School Year

Abraham

White

Joe

Yoshikawa

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. Michael Hower, Lead Principal

Dr. Michelle Young, Program Principal (A-L)

Dr. John McGee, Program Principal (M-Z)



# Third Quarter Fun





























