



FOCUSED ON LEARNING
for Every Student Every Day



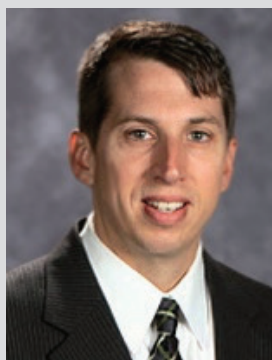
PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

2017

"I strongly believe that when you surround yourself with extraordinary people (students, staff and parents) they will push you to never stop growing, learning and achieving."

— *Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal Steven Smith,
2017 PA Distinguished Principal of the Year*

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

Dear Pine-Richland Community Members:

Welcome to the 2016 - 2017 edition of the annual report! We are proud of our students, staff and community. This annual publication provides an opportunity to provide a comprehensive review of the educational program at Pine-Richland and celebrate the many accomplishments of our students, staff and district. **We strongly believe that learning occurs inside and outside the classroom.** For this reason, we have included a wide range of accomplishments in the areas of academics, arts, athletics and activities. It gives us the ability to reflect on the past year and introduce key initiatives for next year.

As an organization, **the strategic plan is the blueprint that drives our actions.** The strategic plan reflects a four-year planning horizon organized in five main categories (see page 3). Within those categories, long-term goals are addressed through a sequential set of short-term actions. These short-term actions serve as the operational work plan. When reviewing the entire four-year plan, you will see a natural progression in topics that also integrate with other categories of the plan.

For this past school year, **we refined our approach to strategic plan implementation by specifically identifying key initiatives that are most vital to continuous improvement.** Quarterly progress updates are provided to the community for those areas to ensure accountability. The following topics represented key initiatives last year:

- Design & Pilot an In-Depth Program Review Process
- Identify a Universal Screening Assessment
- Enhance Technology Integration & Device Deployment
- Continue Instructional Strategies Implementation
- Improve Evaluation & Performance-Based Feedback
- Develop a 10-Year Capital Funding Plan & Long-Term Budget Approach

More information about each of these key initiatives is included in this annual report. I hope that you enjoy reading about the many and varied accomplishments of our students and staff. Your ongoing support of the students, staff and community of the Pine-Richland School District is much appreciated.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Contents

- 3 Strategic Plan
- 6 Staff Notes & Accomplishments
- 8 Academic Achievement Report
- 17 National Merit Scholars & Top Students
- 18 Student Spotlight
- 33 Athletic Accomplishments
- 38 Budget & Board Update
- 40 Foundation Overview
- 42 Alumni Accomplishments
- 43 Annual Notices

COVER PHOTO: (FRONT ROW: L-R) EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SIXTH GRADERS JACK EXLINE, LUKE KASTNER, JOSEPH DERENZO, AVINASH KOTTAKOTA, (BACK ROW: L-R) TEACHER JENNIFER KOPACH, SIXTH GRADERS KAYLA KARMANOS, KATHERINE YANNI, JESSICA ANNIS, ELLA GIESECKE AND 2017 PENNSYLVANIA DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR STEVEN SMITH GATHER IN FRONT OF A BOOK HOUSE. THE BOOK HOUSE IS ONE OF THREE LITTLE LIBRARIES DEVELOPED BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS JENNIFER KOPACH AND JOANNA SOVEK (NOT SHOWN) TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO BRING A BOOK, TAKE A BOOK AND READ! THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE HOW STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE "FOCUSED ON LEARNING FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY."

[DID YOU KNOW THAT...?]

- **US News & World Report** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** first in Allegheny County and seventh in the state in its "Top High School" rankings for 2017. Criteria used include state math and reading scores, graduation rates and degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work using Advanced Placement exam data as a benchmark.
- **The Washington Post** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** second in the region and number 13 statewide in its "Most Challenging High School" rankings for 2017 through its calculation of an index formula that takes into account Advanced Placement exam data and number of graduates.
- **The Pittsburgh Business Times** ranked **Pine-Richland School District** eighth out of 105 districts in the region in its 2017 list of rankings by examining scores from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and Keystone exams.
- **The Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Federal Programs** honored **Richland Elementary School** as a 2017 Distinguished Title I School for a fifth year for ranking in the top five percent of Title I Schools in PA based on aggregate math and English language arts PSSA scores.
- **Eden Hall Upper Elementary** and **Wexford Elementary** schools were named to the Healthy Schools PA High Honor Roll for meeting rigorous criteria, which included testing for radon and drinking water as well as starting a program.
- **Eden Hall Upper Elementary School** Principal Steven Smith earned the Pennsylvania's 2017 National Distinguished Principal Award for his commitment to increasing student achievement and creating an environment in which students thrive.
- **Pine-Richland High School** Counselor Leslie Straub earned the 2017 National Students in Action Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award.
- **Pine-Richland High School Girls Lacrosse** Head Coach Brittany Adams earned the National Lacrosse Coach of the Year Award for Western Pennsylvania.

District Keeps 2016-2017 Strategic Plan Initiatives Active

The district has been providing key initiative updates within the superintendent's message via email and during board meetings. Here is a look at a year-end update. Quarterly progress updates are provided to the community for those areas to ensure accountability. The following topics represented key initiatives in 2016-2017:



Instructional Strategies

Over the course of the 2016-2017 school year the Pine-Richland instructional staff participated in a number of professional development sessions in order to increase the use of common language and identify and implement those instructional strategies that will most likely support student learning. During the first semester, the staff focused on understanding the differences between learning goals and learning activities to provide students with a roadmap to learning. In addition, the staff focused on developing routines and procedures to maximize instructional time as well as developing appropriate relationships with students and then using those relationships to personalize students' learning experiences. Near the midpoint of the school year, the second instructional strategies

module shifted focus to evidence-based analysis. The staff identified opportunities for teaching students the techniques for referencing evidence to support their ideas or arguments. Evidence-based analysis can occur within any content area from art to science to English. Near the end of the school year, the final instructional strategies module was introduced. The staff discussed the impact of working through problem-based scenarios with students. This instructional strategy places students in the role of problem solver. They Engage in the problem-solution through Exploration, Explanation, Elaboration, and Evaluate progress along the way. This 5E approach to problem-solving shifts the teacher's role from presenter to facilitator. Students become the lead learners.

In-Depth Program Review

In the departments of science and health/physical education, the in-depth program reviews were completed and presented to the Academic Achievement Committee on June 5, 2017, during the school board planning meeting. The in-depth program review process is designed to take a deeper look at program structures, sequences and opportunities. The overarching goal of the program review is to improve the opportunities for students and collectively take a step toward an ideal future. A small representation of the department vertical teams was organized by sub-committee to gain insight into potential recommendations for improvement (e.g., research/trends, exemplary programs, college/business/workforce connections and data/information analysis). After a comprehensive review, both internal and external findings were documented for each of the emerging recommendations. The presentation and reports can be found at www.pinerichland.org/sp under archives and updates.



(FRONT) SCIENCE TEACHER JOHN SLEPAK, PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER CHRIS KOSS AND PARENT ANNE HAYES, A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, PARTICIPATE IN A REVIEW SESSION ON SCIENCE, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION ON FEB. 21, 2017.

Standardized Assessment/Universal Screener

Earlier in the year, the committee's recommendation to implement STAR 360 and the Cognitive Ability Test 7 (CogAT 7) was approved by the board. These universal screeners will be implemented in 2017-2018 and replace several existing tests (e.g., AIM Fountas & Pinnell and Classroom Diagnostic Tools). The three primary factors considered in the recommendation were time, stretch and utility. The district is creating the transition plan for these assessments. STAR 360 will be administered three

times annually in the fall, winter and spring to all students in kindergarten through sixth grade. STAR 360 will be administered initially to grade seven for one year to study the benefits. Additionally, students receiving interventions in grades 7-12 will be assessed to assist with progress monitoring efforts. The CogAT 7 will be administered in the fall to students in second and fifth grades. These tools will provide data to teachers to help shape instructional decisions to meet individual needs.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015 - 2019

District Reviews K-6 Report Cards

The Pine-Richland School District selected representatives from each school, grade level and content area to share their expertise and focus on the strategic work of revising and realigning elementary report cards for kindergarten through sixth grade to ensure alignment with the curriculum and standards. The committee was charged with designing a "refrigerator-friendly" report card, which could be easily understood and serve as an effective communication tool between school and home. In addition:

- Committee members were asked to identify the overall reporting categories (broad concepts) and competencies (skills) for their content and grade level that would best capture students progress according to the standards and curriculum. Initially, these categories and competencies were envisioned to be an actual replacement for the indicators on the current report card.
- As the discussion evolved, leveraging the capabilities of our electronic grade reporting systems to communicate progress more proactively, as opposed to waiting for quarterly reflections, was also considered. Amid this same discussion, several potential options emerged for progress reporting including the frequency and methods of sharing, types of information represented, and preferred structure.
- Two Town Hall meetings in May served as a forum to gather feedback about the progress reporting requirements and values of our parents and community. Those unable to attend the meeting were provided the opportunity to submit feedback through a survey, which was embedded in the invitation, shared with all parents of current kindergarten or sixth grade students. These responses will be used to help shape the scope of the project moving forward.

What's Next?

Representative teachers are reviewing the drafted reporting categories and competencies to ensure consistency and sequential progression of skills across the K-6 grade levels.

In addition:

- Rubrics and other guidelines for consistency of assigning grades and/or developmental indicators will be created.
- The committee will be reviewing the project requirements gathered from the parents and community during the face-to-face and electronic communications and considering the educational requirements, in an effort to identify emerging themes and recommendations.
- The district will work to have a final product to share with the student information system vendor to determine the scope of the programming work and the anticipated timeline for eventual roll-out.
- During the 2017-2018 school year, it is anticipated that educators will be trained in and begin implementing the tool internally prior to enabling the feature live.

See What's Cooking in Food Services for 2017-2018

Sodexo is cooking up some improvements for the 2017-2018 school year. Sodexo has been working with students, parents, staff and school directors to obtain their thoughts and suggestions on improving the program. Some of the requests include providing meals with higher quality of food as well as offering:

- More scratch-cooking products
- More plant-based options
- More fresh products

To be able to offer these options, a new pricing system is being introduced to allow more flexibility for meals. You will see two types of meals offered: the first will be the DAILY meal, and the second will be the RAM meal. A variety of lunch options will be available at both prices. Those with free and reduced meals will enjoy the same options as well.

Sodexo shared some of the menu options and unveiled the new app for families at a special PR Food Services Open House on April 20, 2017. The new SchoolCafe App will allow families to:

- Access menus with pictures.
- View product description & nutritional and allergy information.
- Allow high school students to create a view-only access to see account balance, menu options & nutritional content.
- Allow daily student feedback to help shape future menus about meals.



INCOMING KINDERGARTNER MICHAEL HOY SAMPLES SOME OF THE NEW RECIPES FOR 2017-2018 INCLUDING MAC AND CHEESE.

Evaluation & Performance-Based Feedback

The district continues to focus on the hiring, onboarding, orientation/induction and evaluation processes. The focus has shifted to the induction plan and “new teacher academy” component of this initiative. The district gathered feedback from new hires about various aspects of the interview, selection and orientation processes. The framework for a new teacher academy is being finalized and will be utilized with all new teacher hires during the 2017-2018 school year to ensure an effective transition to PRSD. In addition to the induction plan, the district will be working with principals and professional staff on the roll-out of a differentiated supervision plan that will allow teachers to individualize their own professional development as part of the evaluation process.

Technology Integration

Given the improvements in technology infrastructure in the past 18 months and replacement of many devices, the focus has shifted to technology integration. Staff members will have multiple opportunities to increase competency and skill in a variety of areas (e.g., curriculum resources, interactive display boards, Google Apps, Google Classroom, SAMR model and other web resources). The Technology Leadership Council strongly knows that teacher confidence and competency is critical in the effective integration of technology as a tool for student learning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Long-Range Budget & Capital Funding Plan

The budget process for Pine-Richland School District is focused on a multi-year planning approach. The two primary goals are:

- Continued excellence in educational programming and opportunities for student engagement inside and outside the classroom
- Continued operational efficiency with a 10-year capital projects plan that preserves and improves district/community assets without incurring additional debt

Following many years without a tax increase, the district approved a modest tax increase for 2017-2018. This will address long-term goals. By continuing to focus on planning for future capital items, the district has identified significant cost projections and is working collaboratively in advance to plan financially for how these projects will impact annual budgets. More refined long-term planning allow for targeted revenue sources to be accumulated or assigned within fund balance over time (e.g., incremental tax increases, grants, donations fundraising, etc.). As a result, the school district will be able to lessen dependence on debt instruments and ultimately reduce the overall cost of the projects to the taxpayer by not incurring additional costs for borrowing.

You can view 2017-2018 meal prices in the box below to the right. You can download sample menus for 2017-2018 by visiting www.pinerichland.org/foodservices. You will also be able to download a free or reduced meal application.

The Pine-Richland School District formed an advisory committee to take suggestions, concerns and ideas from the larger district community and present the feedback to the management of the food service company. The advisory committee is made up of administrators, teachers, parents and students. Attendees have the opportunity to participate in discussions regarding menu planning, food products, nutrition and needs associated with sustainability of food service to serve the needs of the community. For more information email dbucknum@pinerichland.org.

The administration and school board has been reviewed two policies in relation to food services including Policy 246: Student Wellness and Policy 808: Food Services. You can visit www.pinerichland.org/board, click on policies and read more.



(L-R) FOURTH GRADER TIFFANY GATHERS, EIGHTH GRADER DANIELLE BRYANT AND SIXTH GRADER GABRIELLE GATHERS AND PARENT CARLA GATHERS TRY THE FRESH SALSA, BACON FLATBREAD, BLACK-BEAN BURGERS AND MAC AND CHEESE RECIPES AT A FOOD SERVICES OPEN HOUSE.

2017-2018 PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEAL PRICES

	PAID K-6	PAID 7-12	REDUCED K-12	FREE K-12
DAILY MEAL	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$.40	\$.00
RAM MEAL	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$.40	\$.00

STAFF

NOTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

District Welcomes New Employees in 2016-2017



DR. SILBAUGH



MRS. CHAPPELL



MRS. VAN MOOK



MS. BIANCO



DR. BRESNAHAN

PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pine-Richland School District welcomed several new employees during the 2016-2017 school year. At the district level, Pine-Richland welcomed Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Curriculum Kristen Silbaugh, Psychologist Bryson Bresnahan, Payroll & Employee Benefits Administrator Lauren Chappell and State Reporting Coordinator Davida van Mook. In addition, Heather Bianco joined the district as an elementary intervention specialist.

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH & PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Pine-Richland High School welcomed Custodian Patrick Burke, Secretary Dorothy Erlain, Library Assistant Mary Folmer, German Teacher Anna Giuliano, Life Skills Teacher Kristen McKenzie, Librarian Brent Pollock, Social Studies Teacher Jared Slimm, Custodian Christina Varner and English Teacher Kristin Weber. Pine-Richland Middle School welcomed Noel Goldberg as a secretary in guidance.

EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, the district opened its doors to learning support teachers Anna Burger and Chelsea Heckle, Music Teacher Kimberly Baney, paraprofessionals Cynthia Fela, Kimberly Kirkland and Trina Stewart, Reading Specialist Amy Huff, teachers Barri Holland and Kristen Kiser, Assistant Principal Greta Kuzilla and Guidance Counselor Jennifer Sanborn-Miller.

HANCE, RICHLAND & WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At the elementary level, Hance Elementary School welcomed Teacher Kelly Gundersen, Music Teacher Carly Tansimore and Secretary Dana Welliver. Nancy Hennessy was welcomed in her new role as a paraeducator. Richland Elementary School welcomed Paraprofessional Michelle Gierl, and Wexford Elementary School welcomed Custodian Luke Glevicky and Secretary Allison Holgate-Paines.

Pine-Richland Middle School Teacher Serves as 2017 Finalist in Teacher of the Year Program



PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PATRICIA CEKELLA, WHO SERVED AS A FINALIST IN THE 2017 PENNSYLVANIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM, HELPS EIGHTH GRADERS GIANNA JULIO (LEFT) AND MELISSA RIGGINS (RIGHT) WITH MATH PROBLEMS.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National School Teacher of the Year program recognized Pine-Richland Middle School Teacher Patricia Cekella as one of 12 finalists for 2017. Organizers named Michael Soskil from the Wallenpaupack Area School District as PA Teacher of the Year. Ms. Cekella who has been teaching for more than 12 years says she was pleased to be chosen as one of the 12 finalists out of 120,000 teachers.

"I have been both honored and humbled by the experience," said Ms. Cekella, who teaches honors geometry and honors algebra. "It has allowed me to take time and reflect on all the positive things that Pine-Richland has to offer its students and teachers. The collaborative atmosphere supports a creative and caring approach to learning."

Students say Ms. Cekella makes math fun and was featured on WPXI's Proud to be from Pittsburgh segment on March 10, 2017, in which Anchor Joe Arena shared with viewers on how she makes mathematics an irresistible part of her students' studies. She also hosts an afterschool club called Math Counts. Some of the math concepts that Mrs. Cekella challenges students with are done through games and what she calls math magic.

Principal Earns Pennsylvania Distinguished Principal Award

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal Steven Smith was named Pennsylvania's 2017 National Distinguished Principal (NDP).

The Pennsylvania Principals Association Board of Directors and the NDP Selection Committee is recognizing Mr. Smith for his commitment to increasing student achievement and creating an environment in which students thrive. Dr. Beth Halderman, the PA Principals Association president and NDP Selection Committee chair, says Mr. Smith's dedication is one of many things that set him apart.

"The selection committee was very impressed with the work (Mr. Steven Smith) has done to improve student achievement at Eden Hall Upper Elementary School," said Dr. Halderman. "It is evident (he) has a vision of what successful schools should be and has instilled the philosophies of what exemplary principals do within their organizations by empowering the staff to create an environment where students can excel."

The National Association of Elementary School Principals in Washington, DC, will officially honor Mr. Smith, who has been with the district since 2013, on Oct. 12-13, 2017, and the PA Principals Association will acknowledge him at the state conference in Cranberry Township on Oct. 15, 2017.

"The role of principal requires a wide range of leadership and management skills," said Dr. Brian Miller. "Since his arrival at Pine-Richland, Mr. Smith has demonstrated his commitment to students, staff and parents. He stays focused on the important aspects of the educational program that increase learning. He invests an incredible amount of time, energy, knowledge and skill into his work. Mr. Smith would be the first to recognize the total team effort required for a high performing school. The positive results at Eden Hall are clear."

Mr. Smith says he believes the recognition is due to a strong community of students, staff and parents.

"I strongly believe that when you surround yourself with extraordinary people (students, staff, and parents) they will push you to never stop growing, learning and achieving," he said. "This award recognizes the level of dedication of the entire school community and commitment to our students."



EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL STEVEN SMITH (CENTER) IS NAMED PA'S 2017 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL. MR. SMITH, WHO IS SHOWN WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS GRETA KUZILLA (LEFT) AND JOSEPH DOMAGALA (RIGHT), SAYS THE RECOGNITION IS DUE TO A STRONG COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS.

Peer-to-Peer Sponsor Earns State Advisor Award

Pine-Richland High School Peer-to-Peer Sponsor Leslie Straub earned the 2017 Students in Action Outstanding Faculty Advisor National Award and was honored in June at the national conference. Mrs. Straub, who graduated from Texas Tech University with a dual bachelor's degree in English and psychology, has been with PRHS since the Fall 2009. Before becoming a school counselor, Straub taught secondary English in Texas, Ohio and Pittsburgh. However, after teaching for eight years, Straub felt that she could better help students as a counselor and earned her graduate degree in counseling psychology with a specialization in school counseling from Chatham University. The empowerment student team she oversees earned a gold banner. You can read more about the award on page 25.



PRHS COUNSELOR LESLIE STRAUB (FAR LEFT) EARNS A NATIONAL ADVISOR AWARD FOR HER WORK WITH PEER-TO-PEER. (L-R) SENIOR ABIGAIL HINSON AND JUNIOR JILLIAN SIEGAL WERE AMONG STUDENTS WHO HELPED PEER-TO-PEER EARN A JEFFERSON AWARDS GOLD BANNER FOR THE TEAM'S WORK.



MRS. MICHELLE BRUNO

Teacher Earns Athena Award

Pine-Richland High School English Teacher Michelle Bruno was nominated for the ATHENA award and was honored on Sept. 7, 2016. The ATHENA Awards Program of Greater Pittsburgh recognizes exceptional women who demonstrate excellence in their profession, contribute to their community and help other women to succeed through mentorship. Mrs. Bruno has been teaching at Pine-Richland School District for 18 years.

Director Maintains Professional Standards

Pine-Richland School District Director of Finance Dana Kirk has been granted a renewal of her status as a Pennsylvania Registered School Business Administrator for four years. To earn the renewal by the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Offices (PASBO), a school business official must meet high personal, ethical and professional standards established for the registration program. PASBO is the state professional association of school business officials whose responsibilities include the business and service functions of public and non-public schools. Mrs. Kirk has been an integral part of the Pine-Richland School District since 2003.

Administrator Earns Award for Graduate Studies

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Curriculum Kristen Silbaugh was a co-recipient of the 2016-2017 Gannon University Graduate Studies Award for Scholastic Excellence in Organizational Learning & Leadership (OLL). The committee recognizes graduates from each college and program annually, selecting a top student to honor. Within the OLL program, Dr. Silbaugh was selected as one of two doctoral students to receive the honor from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Doctoral recipients must have contributed to the field of research with a study yielding implications for future consideration. Within the presentation, Dr. Silbaugh's committee also commended her for her perseverance in fully analyzing the data and applying statistical methods to glean results. Her study was titled, "An Exploration of the Relationship between Principal Self-Efficacy, Mindset, & Performance."

Nominate a Teacher

Recognize a deserving teacher by visiting www.pinerichland.org/teacherawards.

Nominations are being accepted now for the PA Teacher of the Year program.

LIBRARIAN BETH SHENEFIEL PARTICIPATES IN THE SUSTAINING LEADERS ACADEMY AND SHOWS PARTICIPANTS HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THEIR SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES TO HELP BUILD STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS AND ENHANCE TEACHING STRATEGIES.

Librarian Participates in Sustaining Leaders Academy

During the 2016-2017 school year, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Librarian Beth Shenefiel presented and participated in the first Sustaining Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians (SLA). SLA is a collaborative effort of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association and the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program and is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant from Commonwealth Libraries of the PA Department of Education. This program offered a small cohort of experienced school librarians selected competitively from across Pennsylvania the opportunity to revitalize and expand their leadership competencies. SLA is an innovative and collaborative learning experience to ensure effective programs are being developed for students. Ms. Shenefiel's culminating project as a participant in the SLA program, was a poster session delivered at the 2017 Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Conference in Hershey, PA. Her poster session was entitled "PD in Your Pocket: Making the Most of the Eden Hall Library" and focused on professional development opportunities to help staff members use library services and resources to build strong partnerships and enhance teaching and learning.



Associations Pitch in for Causes

The Pine-Richland Education Association is helping with several causes. Teacher Racheal Zaspel said that the association started participating in an adopt-a-highway program. They conducted a spring cleanup on April 27, 2017 in front of Eden Hall Upper Elementary and will again in the fall. They also participated in the Alex Fund 5K, which generates a yearly scholarship, along with their annual scholarship, according to PREA President Christofer Vins. Teachers Janice Bagnato, Carol Conner, Joanna Firmin, Maureen Juliano, Danielle Kcehowski, Jennifer Kopach, Lisa Tiller, Racheal Zaspel, librarian Brent Pollock and Nurse Terry Wentz participated in the spring cleanup.

The Pine-Richland Education Support Professionals Association collected cash donations prior to football games for veterans with disabilities. PRESPA Representative Karen Murrin says the school employee group was able to collect \$570 for the Disabled American Veterans organization.

These are just a few samples of the many fundraisers that take place districtwide at Pine-Richland School District.

Superintendent Earns Commendation

Superintendent Dr. Brian Miller, Ed.D., earned special commendation in December of 2016 for serving on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Examiners. The program is dedicated to performance excellence, providing organizational assessment tools and criteria, educates leaders in businesses, schools, healthcare organizations and government/nonprofit agencies and recognizes national role models.

"The concept of personal growth and continuous improvement is so critical," said Dr. Miller. "For me, this is the mindset. Regardless of current knowledge, skill, and performance, there is always room to grow. This growth can also be attributed to diverse opportunities. When we are engaged in a variety of experiences, inside and outside the classroom, we can gain valuable experiences in our learning and development. I value my role as a senior examiner with the Baldrige Performance Excellence program. It is an 'outside the classroom' opportunity to continue developing my knowledge and skill as a leader."



(FAR LEFT) EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY TEACHERS (L-R) CAROL CONNER, JENNIFER KOPACH AND RACHEAL ZASPEL HELP CLEAN UP THE ROADWAY.

(LEFT) PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN (L-R) BRENT POLLOCK, EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY TEACHERS JANICE BAGNATO AND DANIELLE KCEHOWSKI PARTICIPATE IN THE ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP PROGRAM.

District Honors Retirees

The district recognized employees who retired in January and June of 2017.

Combined, the latest class of retirees have logged nearly 260 years of service to the Pine-Richland School District and include:

Pine-Richland School District

Director of Pupil Services Laura Davis

State Reporting Coordinator Jan Schnauffer

Pine-Richland High School

Paraprofessional Kathleen Piscitelli

Nurse Suzanne Leonberg

Pine-Richland Middle School

Custodian Dennis Cassidy

Instructional Assistant Elaine Donley

Special Education Teacher Grace Lyon

Science Teacher Carol Scott

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School

Fifth Grade Teacher Shelley Byers

Hance Elementary School

Paraprofessional Judith Murray

Third Grade Teacher DJ Banas

Custodian Kenneth Schultheis

Wexford Elementary School

Secretary Donna Halli



FIFTH GRADE TEACHER SHELLEY BYERS SAMPLES ONE OF EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADER ELIZA LAZZARO'S FLATBREAD MAC AND CHEESE IN WHICH SHE EARNED FIRST PLACE AT THE SODEXO 2017 FUTURE CHEFS CHALLENGE AT EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. SODEXO AND THE LAZZARO FAMILY SHARED THE WINNING RECIPE DURING RETIREE RECOGNITION.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

HANCE, RICHLAND, WEXFORD AND EDEN HALL

Richland Elementary Named Distinguished School for Fifth Consecutive Year



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IS SHOWN HERE WITH (L-R) READING TEACHERS MELINDA BELL AND DONNA FAUX WHO ARE PLEASED WITH THE RECOGNITION FOR A FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Federal Programs is honoring Richland Elementary School for being named a Title I Distinguished School for 2016-2017. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Richland Elementary School has earned this prestigious recognition. Richland Elementary received the honor because it ranked in the top five percent of Title I Schools in Pennsylvania based on aggregate math and English language arts scores on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs). To receive this honor, schools had to show high achievement on the PSSAs, while qualifying for financial assistance through the Federal Title I program. Principal Gene Nicastro attributes the continued success to the supportive families in the community, attentive students, and a focused and determined staff who strives to meet students' needs.

"This recognition serves as a symbol of the quality work that we do for students on a daily basis, and it reinforces our commitment to focus on learning for every student every day," said Mr. Nicastro. "Additionally, it reminds us of the importance of knowing the whole child, building positive relationships with students, fostering resiliency, and focusing on continuous improvement through achievement and growth. Again, congratulations to all RES students, parents, and staff members. This recognition is truly for the entire Richland family."

Wexford & Eden Hall Honored for Healthy Initiatives



(BACK ROW: L-R) EDEN HALL SIXTH GRADERS BENJAMIN TAMBURRI, ANDREW SALVADORE, JACK DUCKWORTH AND BENJAMIN RISHEL AND (FRONT ROW: L-R) FIFTH GRADERS NICOLAI EZOLT, AVYUKTA NAGRATH AND ELLA GUO HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN A INITIATIVE AT EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DURING A SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT. THE CLUB IS JUST A FEW REASONS THAT THE SCHOOL EARNED A HEALTHY HONOR ROLL AWARD.

Two Pine-Richland Schools earned recognition by the Women for a Healthy Environment Healthy Schools. Education Program Specialist Michele Buford and Director of Community Education Chelsea Holmes presented awards to both schools on May 23, 2017 in separate presentations.

At Edén Hall Upper Elementary School, students accepted the award on behalf of the school, along with Assistant Principal Joseph Domagala. Edén Hall was recognized for many points including work done by students under the direction of teachers Jennifer Kopach and Joanna Sovek through the Sustainable School Initiative. Students launched a project and one student created a visitor kiosk thanks to help from the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund. Brandon Wees created an interactive kiosk equipped with a touchscreen that provides information about Edén Hall including history, architecture and more about the green-school concept design. Mr. Domagala said the committee included Ms. Kopach and custodians Deborah Gaul and Bruce Riemer. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADERS ASHLYN ANDERSON (LEFT) AND KAELIN KOEHLER (RIGHT) HELP TEACHER TARA HILLEGAS WITH THE GARDEN OUTSIDE WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Wexford Elementary Wellness Committee Chairperson Parent Kristi Wees said that the Wexford Elementary Wellness Committee spent some time looking at the school environment and used the Healthy Schools Recognition Program report card as a guidance tool to make Wexford Elementary a healthier place. The school tested for radon, tested the drinking water, and started a program. The school also installed a garden last year in the courtyard. Those who served on the committee with Mrs.

Wees and Dr. Rick Walsh were Custodian Jerry Glevicky, Secretary Janice Hoffman and teachers Joanna Firmin, Tara Hillegas and Chip Sargent. In addition, parents Rita Kastner, Elise Scott, Dan Stolnick, Lisa Carnovale, Jennifer Campbell and Mark Hunkele served on the committee and worked with Food Services Manager Diane Bucknum, Transportation & Facility Coordinator Kimberly Charney and Director of Facilities Management Gary Zang as they reviewed the PA Healthy Schools benchmarks.

Richland & Hance Elementary Teachers Encourage Students to Wiggle While They Work

Elementary teachers are hoping three different grants help get their students moving during lessons. You would expect teachers to encourage students to sit still. That is not the case at Richland Elementary and Hance Elementary schools, where teachers received grants for special furniture and special training. The following teachers earned grants:

- Richland Elementary Second Grade Teacher Tracy Hanna received a grant to create a flexible seating classroom equipped with wobble chairs (stools with rounded bases rather than flat bases), stability discs/inflatable cushions to build core strength, yoga balls, pillows, rocking chairs and standing desks just to name a few. Her grant was funded by the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund. Teacher Becky Fickes says she also added some of the furniture to her classroom.
- Hance Elementary Reading Specialist Carin Liberati earned a grant from a private donor to purchase Learniture “wobble chairs.”
- Richland Elementary Second Grade Teacher Kathy Giegel earned a “Leap into Action” grant from Pittsburgh-based Attack Theatre and the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation to incorporate kinesthetic learning into her lessons. Students have been learning about science through dance and by acting out stories rather than just reading in their seats.

Let us know about your unique projects or grants, by emailing rhathorn@pinerichland.org.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY TEACHER BECKY FICKES SHOWS OFF A WOBBLE CHAIR.



HANCE ELEMENTARY FIRST GRADERS (L-R) KYLIE ZREBIEC, ELAINE CRAFT, NICO DE JESUS AND HENRIK TAUBE ARE SHOWN SITTING ON WOBBLE CHAIRS. THEY FINISHED A SONG WITH READING SPECIALIST CARIN LIBERATI AS PART OF THE “BE AN EXCELLENT READER” (BEAR) CLUB. THROUGH THE PROGRAM, MS. LIBERATI INCORPORATES SONG WITH READING TECHNIQUES.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY TEACHER KATHY GIEGEL (FAR BACK) IS SHOWN HERE WITH ATTACK THEATRE FOUNDER & CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHELE DE LA REZA (FAR LEFT) LEADING STUDENTS INCLUDING (FRONT ROW L-R) SECOND GRADERS KATELYN BEATTY AND KAYLA ADAMS IN INCORPORATING MOVEMENT INTO A LESSON.

District Focuses on Importance of Academic Growth

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCORECARD

SCHOOL	SCORE
Pine-Richland High	93
Pine-Richland Middle	84
Eden Hall Upper	83
Hance Elementary	94
Richland Elementary	88
Wexford Elementary	92

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCALE

90-100: *Significant evidence the district exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

80-89.9: *Moderate evidence the district exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

70-79.9: *Evidence the district exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

60-69.9: *Moderate evidence the district did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

>60: *Significant evidence the district did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

Pine-Richland School District is in its fourth year of publishing its Academic Achievement & Growth Report. The format and structure of this report provides statistics and analyses across a series of standardized assessments. For 2016, the district has included information from the School Performance Profile and strengthened Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) performance level comparisons by adding a Pennsylvania top decile benchmark. The top decile benchmark includes the top 10 percent of schools at each grade level and allows the district to compare performance levels at PR with high performing schools.

For the 2016-2017 report, the district emphasized the importance of a growth mindset and continuous improvement. The results in this report are directly integrated with other strategic initiatives related to the model for teaching and learning, curriculum review process, and instructional strategies focus.

You can download the entire report at www.pinerichland.org/academicachievement. This snapshot of the larger report will focus on:

- Understanding Assessment Resources & Tools
- PSSA & Keystone Strengths & Opportunities
- AP, SAT & ACT Highlights

2016 Academic Performance Highlights

- Pine-Richland School Performance Profile scores indicate all six schools are very high performing.
- The scores indicate that Pine-Richland schools are clustered within the top levels of this measure when compared to top achieving school districts in Pennsylvania.
- Trend data is not available for most schools given the changes in structure and content of the PSSA test.

Understanding Tools Used in Assessing Schools

PA VALUE-ADDED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM PROVIDES GROWTH DATA

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a statistical analysis of Pennsylvania state assessment data, which provides districts and schools with growth data to add to achievement data. This analysis provides educators with valuable information to ensure they are meeting the academic needs of groups of students. Educators are using PVAAS (growth data) to make data-informed instructional decisions to ensure the academic growth and achievement of all students.

ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH DATA ARE DIFFERENT

- Achievement data measures a student's performance at one single point in time; is highly correlated with a student's demographics; compares student performance to state standards; and is critical to a student's post-secondary opportunities.

- Growth data measures a student's growth across time (i.e., across years), with little to no relationship with student demographics; compares performance of a student group to its own prior performance; is critical to ensuring future academic success; and allows districts to have a more comprehensive picture of their own effectiveness in raising student performance.

PA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE PROVIDES SNAPSHOT OF STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the Pine-Richland Academic Report, parents can view the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile, which is a web-based resource for districts to communicate performance results to various constituencies and assist districts in aligning and focusing resources for continuous improvement. The 2016-2017 Academic Achievement & Growth Report outlines the data elements that are used to develop the annual PA School Performance Profile. The PA School Performance Profile can be viewed at www.paschoolperformance.org.


District Reviews PSSAs & Keystone Exam Results

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) tests students' skills in mathematics and English Language Arts in grades three through eight and in science in grades four and eight. The following performance levels are used: Advanced (Superior Academic Performance), Proficient (Satisfactory Academic Performance), Basic (Marginal Academic Performance) and Below Basic (Inadequate Academic Performance).


The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the following subject areas:

- Algebra I (PR Grades 7-10)
- Biology (PR Grades 9-10) Literature (PR Grades 9)


Below is an overview of the PSSA and Keystone Exams.

		 SECONDARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2016			
Grade	Subject	PRMS 2016	PRMS 2015	PA 2016	PA Top Decile
7th	Math	67%	50%	37%	57%
	ELA*	90%	83%	62%	81%
8th	Math	54%	45%	31%	50%
	ELA*	82%	82%	58%	78%
	Science	79%	79%	58%	76%

*English Language Arts

		 PRIMARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2016			
Grade 3		PR Math 2016	PR Math 2015	PR ELA* 2016	PR ELA* 2015
Hance		90%	78%	90%	86%
Richland		86%	76%	84%	82%
Wexford		90%	90%	94%	87%
PA 2016		54%	49%	61%	62%
PA Top Decile		81%		85%	

*English Language Arts

		 UPPER ELEMENTARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2016			
Grade	Subject	EH 2016	EH 2015	PA 2016	PA Top Decile
4th	Math	72%	70%	47%	74%
	ELA*	81%	82%	59%	83%
	Science	92%	94%	76%	94%
5th	Math	76%	72%	44%	72%
	ELA*	90%	83%	62%	85%
6th	Math	75%	69%	41%	65%
	ELA*	85%	83%	62%	82%

*English Language Arts



PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADERS STELLA LAPINSKI AND AJ LACHIMIA ARE FOCUSED ON SCIENCE. THEY USED ATOM MODELS CALLED "HAPPY ATOMS" TO BUILD MOLECULES AND THEN USED A PHONE APPLICATION TO INVESTIGATE MORE ABOUT THE MOLECULES. TEACHER BRIAN KANTZ WAS ABLE TO PURCHASE THE KITS THROUGH A GRANT FROM PPG WITH THE HELP OF PPG BUSINESS DIRECTOR CAROL BATEMAN.

PR Students Outperform State & High Performers on PSSAs & Keystones

WHAT ARE QUINTILES?

Quintiles are subsets of students. Students are placed in quintiles based on their performance relative to all students in the state. For example, the first quintile represents the growth made by students scoring in the lowest 20 percent. The fifth quintile represents the growth made by the highest scoring 20 percent of students.

Some key findings highlighted in the 2016 Academic Achievement & Growth Report include:

- PR students outperformed the state average at all levels of the English Language Arts (ELA), Math and the Science PSSAs.
- PR students outperformed in the top decile benchmark for combined advanced/proficient performance in grades 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (i.e., top 10% of schools in Pennsylvania) on the ELA & Math PSSAs and in grade 8 on the Science PSSA.
- The percentage of PR students at the advanced/proficient levels increased in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 on the ELA and Math PSSAs and in grade 8 on the Math PSSAs and on the Algebra I Keystone.
- The percentage of students, within a graduating class, who scored advanced/proficient on the Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone exams, increased as students progressed through the grade levels.
- The PVAAS District Value-Added Report indicated significant evidence students exceeded the Standard for PA Academic Growth in both ELA and Math for 2016 and on the Algebra I and Biology Keystone exams; met the standard for growth in science for grade 8; but did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth in science for grade 4.
- Students exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth in grades 5, 6 & 7 on the ELA PSSAs and on the Math PSSAs in grades 5, 6, 8 & the Algebra I Keystone and met the standard for PA Academic Growth on the Keystone Literature Exam.
- Students did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth in grades 4 and 8 on the ELA PSSAs or grades 4 and 8 on the Math PSSAs.
- Students in the 5 quintile groups met or exceeded the Standard for PA Academic Growth in ELA in grades 5, 6, and 7; in science in grade 8; and in Math in grades 5, 6, 8, and on the Algebra I Keystone Exam. (See box for the definition of a quintile.)
- Students in the first three quintiles met the growth standard in grade 7 in Math. Students in the second and third quintiles in grade 8 science; all quintiles in science in grade 4; and the top quintile of math in grades 4 and 7 did not meet the PA standard for academic growth. Students in the first and second quintiles on the Literature Keystone exceeded the growth measure, but the third and fifth quintiles did not.

District Reviews Additional Opportunities for Success

The analysis of growth and achievement in the district allows for opportunities of improvement. Some of the ways the district is working to increase growth and achievement are already underway and continue to be areas of focus and include:

- Reviewing and recommending universal screeners and use of online Curriculum Diagnostic aligned with the revised standards and eligible content. To see more about those recommendations visit the year-end update found in Archives & Updates at www.pinerichland.org/sp.
- Focusing on instructional strategies for text dependent analysis in vertical teams and analyzing anchor performance on exams to modify curriculum and instruction in each content area.
- Refining processes for mathematics to determine next steps for a systematic approach to enrichment and/or remediation.
- Continuing support for co-teaching model and identifying pockets of excellence at the building or classroom level that allow further expansion of effective practices.
- Considering how specific data can be used to identify strengths in an effort to replicate effective practices across the district.
- Conducting a systematic program review within the PR Science Department and providing recommendations for improving the educational program K-12. See those recommendations by visiting the year-end update found in Archives & Updates at www.pinerichland.org/sp.

HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FIRST GRADERS SAMUEL
PALUSELLI AND ABIGAIL GALLUZZO
ARE ALL SET FOR READING.



SAT, ACT & AP Findings in 2016

- A historically high number of Pine-Richland students participated in the ACT (220) for the past five years.
- Pine-Richland students have outperformed Pennsylvania and United States students in all ACT subject areas.
- Student participation in the SAT at Pine-Richland remains high at 89 percent.
- SAT Critical Reading mean scores show a 3-year positive trend for all students at Pine-Richland. For the past three years, SAT Math mean scores have been the highest of the subtests.
- The percentage of Pine-Richland students scoring a 3 or better on an AP exam has been higher than state or global comparisons for the past five years. In addition, 73 percent of Pine-Richland students scored 3 or above on an AP exam. This percentage has been increasing for the past three years for PR students, while decreasing downward statewide and globally.

College Board SAT Undergoes Changes

The College Board SAT has undergone some changes in 2016. The test now consists of three sections, which includes evidence-based reading and writing, math and an optional essay. The test shifted back to a 1600-point scale with a separate score for the essay. In addition:

- College Board partnered with Khan Academy, so students will be able to access high-quality online test prep free of charge.
- Students will not be penalized for wrong answers, so students do not have to wonder if guessing is worth it.
- The essay section has been revamped. Students read a passage and explain how the author is persuading the audience rather than writing a personal essay.
- The reading section is more focused on evidence. Students are asked a question about the text, and then asked what evidence best supports that answer.
- Instead of testing students on words they most likely will never use, students have to define words based on how they will be used in context.
- Test takers will see more graphs and charts with an emphasis on questions that make students infer information from graphs and charts.
- The new SAT Reading section includes excerpts from US founding documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, as well as other important works by authors including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will not have to be familiar with the documents, but they are included to make sure the SAT is more aligned to what students are actually learning in school.



2016 ACT SCORECARD*

Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

2016	Math	Reading	English	Science
Pine-Richland	25	25	24	24
Pennsylvania	23	24	23	23
All Test Takers	21	21	20	21

*PRHS Class of 2017 results unavailable at production time.



2016 SAT SCORECARD*

Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

2016	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Pine-Richland	545	567	530
Pennsylvania	500	506	481
All Test Takers	494	508	482

*PRHS Class of 2017 results unavailable at production time.



AP TEST SCORECARD*

Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	Tests Scored 3+
2016	456	911	333
2015	490	958	349
2014	486	932	324
2013	450	944	337

*PRHS Class of 2017 results unavailable at production time.

Data is compiled from PA State Department of Education and from the 2016 PRSD Academic Achievement & Growth Report.

Technology Integration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The district administered the Brightbytes technology survey to the students and faculty in the district for the fourth time since 2014. The survey is a critical tool in helping evaluate the impact of technology in the district's educational program. The BrightBytes platform is a dynamic research tool that can help Pine-Richland School District understand how technology is being used in the classroom; what resources are available in the community; and where the district can expect technology to have the most impact. Some key areas strength and opportunities include:

- Significant improvement in the speed and quality technology support
- Substantial Increase in the speed of Wi-Fi & internet
- Improved access to high-quality devices in school & improved classroom displays
- Opportunity to improve student communication & collaboration

In 2016-2017, the district:

- Restructured the technology department, which resulted in quality and speedier support.
- Upgraded its network infrastructure and added a stronger internet connection with assistance from the federal E-Rate program.
- Integrated 190 new interactive display boards in five schools, which has a positive impact in how teachers can deliver instruction in the classroom. A similar rollout will take place during the summer of 2018 at the high school.
- Completed the first full year in which secondary students could utilize the Google Apps suite allowing students to access the web based tools from anywhere at any time to communicate and collaborate with PRSD teachers, students and pre-approved academic systems.

District Upgrades Website for Easier Access



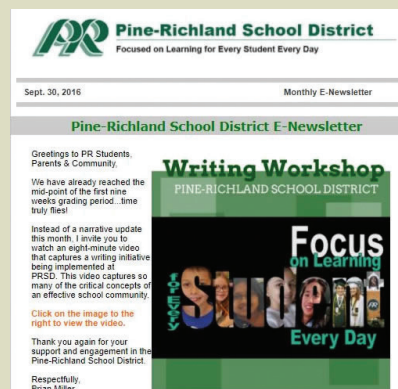
The Pine-Richland Communication Office upgraded the Pine-Richland School District website by adding a new design template. The site includes:

- A new mobile responsive design to adjust to any screen size. This improvement is critical since many of our staff and parents view the website on their phone or tablet devices.
- A language translator which can translate the site to more than 110 different languages.
- New and improved accessibility for those with hearing or visual impairments.
- A new curriculum site and athletic site.

The basic structure and heading channels are the same for easy navigation. You can view the site at www.pinerichland.org.

District Earns National Communication Awards

Pine-Richland School District received the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Award of Excellence for its electronic newsletters. NSPRA awarded only five Awards of Excellence for the External E-Newsletters category across the US. PRSD was the only district in Pennsylvania to garner this award. NSPRA also awarded Pine-Richland the Golden Achievement Award for its Strategic Planning Communication. Only two other Golden Achievements Awards were earned in PA for communication campaigns. NSPRA also awarded PRSD an award of Merit for the 2016 Annual Report.



Merit Scholar Program Recognizes 2017 Finalists

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is recognizing three Pine-Richland High School students as finalists in its 2017 program. They include seniors Richard Kwon, Joshua Pantanowitz and Kendall Pomerleau. Kendall also earned a merit scholarship. These seniors, along with 16,000 other students, were notified that they qualified for semifinalist status out of 50,000 top scorers. In addition, program administrators named 12 seniors as commended. They include seniors Juliano Avolio, Arushi Bandi, Bailey Core, Matthew Di, Andrew Gaffey, Adam Heeter, Amanda Labuda, John Michel, Alec Muchnok, Joseph Mullen, Julia Solomon and Kaitlyn Will. About 34,000 commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition.




PHOTO BY JOHN MADIA

THE 2017 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION RECOGNIZED SENIORS (FRONT ROW: L-R) KENDALL POMERLEAU, AMANDA LABUDA, ARUSHI BANDI, JULIA SOLOMON, KAITLYN WILL, JOSHUA PANTANOWITZ, (BACK ROW: L-R) RICHARD KWON, ANDREW GAFFEY, JULIANO AVOLIO, JOSEPH MULLEN, BAILEY CORE, MATTHEW DI AND JOHN MICHEL (NOT SHOWN: ADAM HEETER AND ALEXANDER MUCHNOK).

Top Three Participate in Graduation



(L-R) PRHS SALUTORIAN KENDALL POMERLEAU, VALEDICTORIAN JOSEPH MULLEN AND TERTIARY AMANDA LABUDA PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES ON JUNE 2, 2017.

 DISTRICT SCORECARD	
NATIONAL MERIT & ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Class of 2017	15
Class of 2016	19
Class of 2015	12
Class of 2014	14
Class of 2013	19
Class of 2012	21

Academic Excellence

Several students earned perfect scores on college entrance exams. Seniors Noah Adams and Andrew Gaffey earned perfect scores on the reading portion of the ACT. Senior Allison Staresinic earned perfect scores on the reading and English portions of the ACT and a perfect score on the SAT US History, along with senior Trevor Russell who also earned additional perfect scores on the SAT Math II and SAT Physics. Senior Juliano Avolio earned perfect score on the math portion of the SAT. Senior Amanda Labuda earned a perfect score on the SAT Math II. Seniors Casey Mann and Sydney Scullion earned perfect scores on the science section of the ACT. Senior Joshua Pantanowitz earned a perfect score on the SAT Chemistry.

As seniors, 2016 graduates Nathan Carnovale, Benjamin Harris, Hannah Reiling and Monica Shope were added to the 2016 National AP Scholar roster. These students earned an average score of at least four on all AP Exams taken and scores of four or higher on eight or more of AP exams. In all 157 students were added to the AP Scholar Roster with a National AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, AP Scholar with Honor or AP Scholar status. 2017 scholars will be announced later this year.



SAVANNAH NULL

Pine-Richland High School Senior Savannah Null was named one of only 10 Nordenberg Scholars in 2017. The University of Pittsburgh awards select seniors with full tuition, three years of paid internships and tuition for study abroad opportunities. This is the third year in a row that a Pine-Richland High School senior was chosen for this award. The program is designed to attract and reward the best and brightest student leaders from high schools in Pennsylvania who have demonstrated excellent

leadership skills, innovative thinking, intellectual curiosity and community involvement.

The National Math Club and the Math Counts Foundation awarded the Gold Award to Pine-Richland Middle School seventh graders Amish Sethi, Nicholas Labuda, Colby Ohlund and Colin Ohlund. The students were challenged to create a math problem for 12 vocabulary words. The team was notified in May that they earned the award for their scavenger hunt project. The math club also earned Silver status for participating in the Math Club program held during the activity period at PRMS.

A Pine-Richland Middle School team advanced to the Odyssey of the Mind State Finals at Moon Area School District on April 1, 2017 and finished sixth. The team had to design, build, and operate an original robot that demonstrated human characteristics when performing tasks, which included completing household chores, creating art and dancing. Participating students included seventh graders Miles Brown, Riley Doyle, Genevieve Gaichas, Joshua Katruska, Colby Ohlund, Colin Ohlund and Amish Sethi. Mrs. Laura Ohlund served as a parent coach. Pine-Richland Middle School GATE Teacher Kathy Deal oversaw participation.



SEVENTH GRADERS (L-R) COLBY OHLUND, GENEVIEVE GAICHAS, AMISH SETHI, RILEY DOYLE, MILES BROWN, JOSHUA KATRUSKA AND COLIN OHLUND EARNED FIRST PLACE AT THE WESTERN REGIONAL ODYSSEY OF MIND COMPETITION.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary team won first place in the regional competition on March 4, 2017 and earned the Renatra Fusca Award, which is the highest honor in Odyssey of the Mind. The award recognizes teams that display tremendous creativity at competition. This award serves as an incentive for risk-taking and out-of-the-box thinking for Odyssey participants. The team earned third place at the state competition on April 1, 2017. Team members included fifth graders Gabrielle Boudreau, Nicolai Ezolt, Damian Ivanov, Avyukta Nagrath, Ethan Priore, Ryan E. Scott and Mia Tucciarone and their coach was parent Sarah Ezolt.

5th grader Avyukta Nagrath won the Eden Hall GATE Math-24 Competition. Avyukta and fifth graders Vasilios Balouris and Jayden Lahoti and 4th grader Andrew Pipeling represented Eden Hall in the Allegheny County Competition. Avyukta was a semifinalist.



DEEYA NAYYAR

Wexford Elementary third grader Deeya Nayyar is one of the top First in Math online program players. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, she was ranked eleventh in the nation and fifth in Pennsylvania. She participated under the direction of Teacher Katie Breen.

Thousands of students participated in the Math Kangaroo International contest across the world, along with students at Hance, Richland, Wexford and Eden Hall Upper Elementary schools. PR's top winners included fourth grader Andrew Pipeling, who earned first place in the nation, earning him a gold medal. Other fourth grade winners included Ian Hurt, who placed eighth in the nation; Nathan Lee who placed ninth in the nation; and William Tamburri who placed 14th in the nation. Also placing were sixth grader Luke Kastner, who placed 19th in the nation, and sixth grader Benjamin Rishel, who placed 20th in the nation. At the primary level, third graders Aaron Farrar and Kim Younghoon tied for 17th and Lucio Sherron placed 20th nationally. Teacher Danielle Czegan, who served as the primary contact for the program, was assisted by Teacher Jennifer Kopach and Librarian Maria McCormick.



ANDREW PIPELING



(FRONT ROW: L-R) SIXTH GRADERS ANNIE CHEN AND DYLAN SATINA AND (BACK ROW: L-R): GABRIELLA FREIRE, MARY KALINSKI, GIANNA ROTELLI AND RYLEE BRANSCUM PARTICIPATE IN THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary earned second place in the 2017 Battle of the Books Competition. The Smart-Alecks Team was made up of sixth graders Gianna Rotelli, Gabriella Freire, Rylee Branscum, Mary Kalinski and Sophia Menke. The team was coached by Teacher Christina Strine. Area school students participate in the Battle of the Books through a trivia competition, which celebrates children's literature and promotes the joy of reading. The competition was very tough and the Smart-Alecks had to survive five tiebreaker rounds to claim their second-place victory. This year's battle was sponsored by the Sewickley Public Library in three separate competitions in February and April. Eden Hall was well represented with teams from fourth, fifth and sixth grade. In addition to Ms. Strine, Librarian Beth Shenefiel, Teacher Racheal Zaspel and parent Robin Tino served as coaches.

Several Pine-Richland High School students garnered national recognition for their results on the National Spanish and French examinations. Top scorers on the Spanish exam include sophomore Lauren Juncal, who earned a gold medal; sophomores Sara Coleman and Bailey Mohri and Junior Alyssa Bigley, who earned silver; and sophomores Derek Bashe, Meghan McLoughlin, Umayal Natesan, Mason Pruhs and Weston Wagner, who earned bronze medals, under the direction of Teacher Kristen Hough. More than 85,000 students across the US took the exam. Top scorers in Western PA at PRHS on the Spanish exam, which was given by 4,000 teachers across the US, included ninth grader Daniel Krill, who ranked third; ninth grader Gina Sabol, who ranked fifth; and sophomore Devin Golla, who ranked seventh, under the direction of Teacher Dawn Herbst.

Did we miss an important recognition item? Please email information to rathhorn@pinerichland.org.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ABOVE: SOME STUDENTS WHO EARNED NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GOLD AWARDS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH THEIR WINNING PIECES.

ABOVE RIGHT: JUNIOR BRANDON HINES SHOWS OFF HIS WINNING SHOE DESIGN.

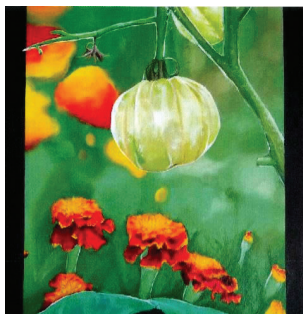


Art & Music

More than 30 Pine-Richland High School students earned nearly 100 awards in the 2017 Western Pennsylvania Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Competition. They competed against students from more than 43 schools. This year, senior Kayla Duffy earned a National Gold Key Award for her digital art entry called "Anonymous" and a National Silver Key award for her photograph entitled "Remodeling." In addition, junior Nikki Novick earned a National Silver Key Award for her photograph entitled "Reflect." Junior Jack Martin earned a National Silver Key Award for his entry "Eureka Moment." National winners worked under the direction of Teacher Ramon Riley. Jack Martin, who also worked with instructor Marianne Masucci from Cherry Court Studios. In addition to Mr. Riley, students worked with teachers Vince Thearle and Mary Anne Andreassi to enter the

annual program. Junior Chelsea Carver earned a National Gold Award in the journalism category for her article on the effects of sugar on the body. The National Gold Award recipients traveled to Carnegie Hall in New York for a ceremony. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras for a complete list of regional winners and one participant's journey to the national ceremony.

Students in PRHS Art Teacher Vince Thearle's classroom were challenged to create art with a purpose. They participated in the "Vans Custom Culture Design" in which students created design patterns for shoes. Winners at the high school included senior Clayton Friday, junior Brandon Hines, senior Natalie K. Strobel and sophomores Carly Upright and Kenzie Wolfe. The five winning designs were submitted to a national contest.



PAINTING EARNS THIRD PLACE



JUNIOR SAVANNAH LUHRMAN

Through A.W. Beattie Career Center, junior Savannah Luhrman placed third in the 2017 Phipps Fairchild Challenge in the visual arts category for her painting that illustrates the relationship between marigolds and tomatoes. Entrants had to show how companion plants support the growth of other plants. A display of her work is in the Center for Sustainable Landscapes at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh through the summer of 2017.



SIXTH GRADERS (L-R) MEGAN MEDJIMOREC, EMMA ZAFFUTA, ELLA BARCASKEY, TAYLOR NELSON, AIDAN TOBIN, ALEXANDER URLING, AND MICHAEL MAHONEY PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRICT PMEA BAND FESTIVAL.

Sixth graders Ella Barcaskey, Michael Mahoney, Megan Medjimorec, Taylor Nelson, Aidan Tobin, Alexander Urling and Emma Zaffuta participated in the PMEA District Band Festival at Carlynton High School on May 12-13, 2017 under the direction of teachers Jeff Nicodemus and Ben Coulter.



PHOTO COURTESY LA PHOTOS

THE PRHS MARCHING BAND BOASTS MORE THAN 230 MEMBERS.

The PRHS Marching Band performed in the Veterans' Day Parade in Downtown Pittsburgh on Nov. 11, 2016 and performed the national anthem at the Pittsburgh Pirates game on Aug. 22, 2016. The band continues to see a high participation rate and was made up of 234 students in 2016-2017.

Seniors Alexander Kampas and Julia Solomon were selected to participate in the National Association for Music Education All-East Orchestra in Atlantic City, N.J., on April 5-8, 2017. To participate is quite an honor since the program highlights the finest musicians in 13 eastern states. Julia and senior Rachel Chang were chosen to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's (PMEA) District Orchestra program, which was held at Moon Area School District on Jan. 26-28, 2017. Rachel also participated in the PMEA Regional Orchestra program on March 9-11, 2017 at Dubois Middle School. Ninth graders Kristen Vigna and Enyo Akwayena and seventh graders Callie Stoltz, Nora Russell and Nate Skripac were chosen to participate in the PMEA Junior High District Orchestra program, which was held at Norwin School District on March 31 - April 1, 2017. Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth

graders Natalie McLean, Ryan Daniels, Mary Kalinski and Tara Staresinic participated in the PMEA Elementary String Fest on March 10, 2017 at Quaker Valley Middle School (Photo on Page 22). Teacher Katelyn Piroth says this was the first time this orchestra event has been held.

Pine-Richland Middle School competed in the "Music in the Parks" Festival in Hershey, Pa., under the direction of teachers Dave Belchick, Heather Flora, Katelyn Piroth and Lee Rickard. The choral and orchestra students were awarded the "Esprit de Corps Award" for exemplary behavior, genuine support for fellow performers and excellence in all facets of performing, both on and off the stage. The PRMS Chamber Orchestra won first place in the string Orchestra II category with a superior rating. The seventh and eighth grade orchestra earned second place in the String I category with a superior rating. The PRMS Women's Ensemble was named Best Middle School Choir for receiving the highest score of any middle school group in the competition. The seventh and eighth grade choirs earned first place in the Mixed Choir II and Mixed Choir I categories respectively with a superior rating for each.

Junior Troy Rowland was selected to participate in the PMEA All-State Band. Troy was also selected to participate in the PMEA Regional Band along with senior Andrew Gaffey. In addition to Andrew and Troy, junior Kelsey Gruber was chosen to participate in the PMEA District Band. Juniors Michael Brudy and Shannon Donahoe and senior Jacob Zak were also selected to participate in the District 1 PMEA Jazz Band. Shannon, Jack and Troy were selected to participate in the PMEA Honors Band. Senior Sarah Dawson was selected to participate in the PMEA Future Music Educators Honors Symposium April 19-22, 2017 in Erie.



(BACK ROW: L-R) SENIOR SARAH DAWSON, JUNIOR JACK SHANNON; SENIORS ANDREW GAFFEY, ALEXANDER KAMPAS, RACHEL CHANG AND SAMANTHA DZIELSKI; JUNIOR GABRIEL SCHOONE AND SENIOR ALEXA CHAVARA, (FRONT ROW: L-R) JUNIOR TROY ROWLANDS, SENIOR JULIA SOLOMON, JUNIOR MORGAN ENGLE AND SENIOR LAUREN MCALLISTER PARTICIPATED IN ALL-EAST, ALL-STATE, REGIONAL OR HONORS PROGRAMS. (NOT SHOWN: JUNIOR SHANNON DONAHOE).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



(L-R) SIXTH GRADERS TARA STARESINIC, RYAN A. DANIELS, NATALIE MCLEAN AND MARY KALINSKI PARTICIPATE IN THE PMEA ELEMENTARY STRING FEST ORCHESTRA PROGRAM.



(L-R) NINTH GRADER ENYO AKWAYENA, SEVENTH GRADERS NORA RUSSELL AND NATHAN SKRIPAC; NINTH GRADER KRISTEN VIGNA AND SEVENTH GRADER CALLIE STOLTZ PARTICIPATE IN THE PMEA JUNIOR HIGH DISTRICT ORCHESTRA PROGRAM.

Ninth graders Kristen Vigna and Enyonam Akwayena and seventh graders Callie Stoltz, Nora Russell and Nathan Skripac were chosen to participate in the PMEA Junior High District Orchestra program, which was held at Norwin School District on March 31 and April 1, 2017.



THE PRHS CHAMBER SINGERS WERE SELECTED TO PERFORM AT THE PMEA ALL-STATE CONFERENCE.

The PRHS Chamber Singers were selected to perform at the PMEA All-State Conference at the convention center in Erie on April 20, 2017. Choral Director Lee Rickard said this is an honor since hundreds of ensembles apply each year. This is Pine-Richland's third time in six years to be selected to perform. PRHS senior Lauren McAllister and junior Gabriel Schoone participated in the PMEA All-State Choir April 19, 2017 in Erie. Gabriel and Lauren were also chosen to participate in the regional choir along with seniors Alexa Chavara and Samantha Dzielski, and junior Morgan Engle on February 24, 2017. Those students along with seniors Emily Eirkson and Jacob Pedersen; junior Sophia Hudock and sophomores Bryan Bails and Seamus Daniello also participated in the PMEA District Choir that took place at Montour High School on Jan. 11-13, 2017.



(L-R) SIXTH GRADERS BENJAMIN TAMBURRI, GIANNA NICOTRA, MADELYN RICKARD AND CAMERON TINO ARE SHOWN HERE WITH MR. TIMCHECK AT THE PMEA DISTRICT 1 SINGFEST.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School sixth graders Gianna Nicotra, Madelyn Rickard, Benjamin Tamburri and Cameron Tino were selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 Sing Fest held on March 17, 2017 at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland under the direction of Choral Teacher Michael Timcheck. Eden Hall Upper Elementary is pleased to host the PMEA Elementary Sing Fest in March of 2018.



NEARLY TWO DOZEN PRHS FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA MEMBERS QUALIFY FOR THE STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NOT PICTURED: SARAH HANLON).

Career & Technical

Nearly two dozen Pine-Richland High School Future Business Leaders of America members qualified to participate in a competition at the Pennsylvania State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA on April 3, 2017, under the direction of Teacher Laura Blaze. They included seniors Kaitlyn Dorundo, Noelle Fajt, David Fassler, Gwendolyn George, Ryan Kneidinger, Nicholas Montanari, Nolan Rausch, and Rachel Rosenbaum; juniors Sally Ahmed, Samuel Amory, Gillian Brachocki, Gabriella Cicco, Jeffrey Elms, Jack Harrison, Holly Holmes, Kiersten Maxwell, Logan Pachavis, Andrew Park, Nicholas Roethlein and Aman Sohail; sophomore Mahika Sampat and ninth graders Sarah Hanlon and Seamus Regan. Mahika, Sally and Aman placed ninth at the state conference in the Business Ethics category. Andrew placed sixth in the Securities & Investments category. Nicholas Montanari placed fifth in Accounting II, and Kaitlyn placed sixth in the Job Interview category. In all, 4,000 students compete each year to earn a spot at the state competition.

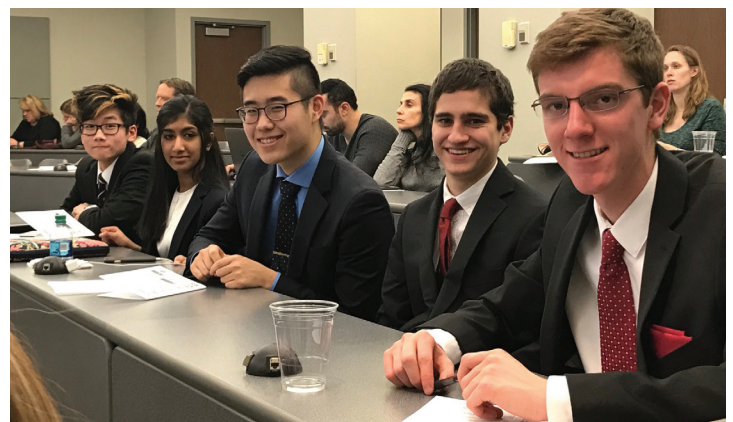
Sophomores Victoria Compernelle and Samantha Shideler earned a bronze medal at the Family, Career & Community Leadership National Conference in the Life Event Planning category July 2-6, 2017 in Nashville, Tenn. Senior Austin Bryar also qualified for the Culinary Knife Skills category. Juniors Susan Bullington, Savannah Luhrman, Sierra Luhrman and Greg Oliver and senior John Wagner competed at the SkillsUSA State Competition April 19-21, 2017.

A.W. Beattie Career Center is also recognizing junior Trevor Wozniak for being selected as a SkillsUSA representative. Trevor, who is studying carpentry and building construction, served as a parliamentarian. SkillsUSA is a national student organization that develops employability, participatory and leadership skills to complement the occupational skills developed by students in technical education classrooms or work-based learning sites.

Pine-Richland high School took second place at the International Business Marketing Competition. The team competed against nine other regional teams at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Business School on March 9, 2017. The team had to market a Bayer product called Advanced Aspirina to consumers in Costa Rica. PR competed against other teams including North Allegheny and Upper St. Clair. This is the highest rank they have earned in team history. Team members included senior Joseph Mullen and juniors Andrew Park and Benjamin Cohen and sophomores Umayal Natesan and Bailey Mohri. Teachers Dawn Herbst and Kristin Hough served as mentors.

Fourth grader Eliza Lazzaro took first place with her Flatbread Mac and Cheese recipe at the annual Sodexo 2017 Future Chefs Challenge at Eden Hall Upper Elementary on March 16, 2017 (See photo on page 9.). Other top finalists included fourth graders Chase Lavezoli, Sofia Nicastro, Jackson McClain, William Tamburri and fifth grader Cody Coulter.

(L-R) SOPHOMORES BAILEY MOHRI AND UMAYAL NATESAN; JUNIORS ANDREW PARK AND BENJAMIN COHEN; AND SENIOR JOSEPH MULLEN EARN SECOND IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MARKETING COMPETITION.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Forensics

The Pine-Richland Forensics Team earned top awards at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League Competition at Bloomsburg University on March 18, 2017, under the direction of Teacher Jeff Byko. Taking third-place in the state in their respective categories were senior Rachael Weinberg in Poetry; junior Tyler Viljaste in Radio Announcing; and junior Chelsea Carver in Informative Speaking. Finishing in the top 10 in their events were: junior Mahak Sethi in Student Congress; senior Nicholas W. Jones in Impromptu Speaking; and sophomore Mahika Sampat in Persuasive Speaking. Earning awards as quarterfinalists were juniors Molly McCarthy and Aislinn Tobin in Public Forum Debate. Three members of the team qualified to compete at the national tournament of the Catholic Forensics League. Rachael qualified in the Oral Interpretation of Literature category while Mahak and Tyler qualified in Public Forum Debate. Nicholas and junior Benjamin Martin earned alternate spots to the tournament, which was held May 27, 2017 in Louisville, Ky. Senior Amanda Ebner and junior Kayla Julio also qualified to compete at the state competition.

(BACK ROW: L-R) JUNIORS AISLINN TOBIN AND MOLLY MCCARTHY, SENIOR NICHOLAS JONES, JUNIOR MAHAK SETHI, SOPHOMORE MAHIKA SAMPAT AND (FRONT ROW: L-R) JUNIORS TYLER VILJASTE AND CHELSEA CARVER AND SENIOR RACHAEL WEINBERG EARNED STATE AWARDS.

History & Geography



SAMUEL STELLA EARNED PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE GEOGRAPHIC BEE.

Pine-Richland Middle School eighth graders Emerson Dickson, Elaina Camino and Kristen Donahoe earned first place in the group website category at the National History Day Regional Competition at the Heinz History Center on March 4, 2017. Eighth graders Samantha Koch and Halle Jacks each earned second place in the individual documentary category, and eighth graders Michael Alessi, Joshua Rembe and Victor Williams earned third place in the group performance category. These first, second and third place winners qualified for the Pennsylvania State History Competition, which was held on May 12-13, 2017 at Carlisle High School. Students participated under the direction of teachers Joe Bailey and Sue Bartley.

Eighth grader Samuel Stella competed at the 2017 Pennsylvania National Geographic State Bee in Harrisburg, Pa., on March 31, 2017. Samuel took an exam after winning the Pine-Richland Middle School Geographic Bee earlier this year and qualified for the state competition. In addition to Samuel, other seventh and eighth grade students placing at the middle school level in order include: Michael Tamburri, Genevieve Gaichas, Erica Weinberg, Christopher Argenas, Michael Alessi, Miles Brown, Riley Doyle, Lakshmi Natesan and Eliana Lazzaro. Honorable mention winners included Andrew Holm, Luke Duckworth and Daniel Ford. The students participated under the direction of Teacher Kathy Deal with the help of Librarian Kathy Batykefer.

Three Pine-Richland Middle School GATE teams earned top awards at the Allegheny County History Bowl Competition on Oct. 26, 2016 at the Heinz History Center under the direction of Teacher Kathy Deal. Eighth graders Rori Holm, Basant Mansour, Reem Mansour and Lakshmi Natesan teamed up to win first place. Eighth grader Michael Alessi and seventh graders Miles Brown, Grant Lundgren and Amish Sethi teamed up to earn second place. Eighth graders Gregory Gilmore, Drew Holm, Michael Tamburri and Victor Williams teamed up and earned third place.



(BACK ROW: L-R) EIGHTH GRADERS KRISTEN DONAHOE, VICTOR WILLIAMS, JOSHUA REMBE, MICHAEL ALLESSI AND EMERSON DICKSON, (FRONT ROW: L-R) SAMANTHA KOCH, HALLE JACKS AND ELAINA CAMINO EARNED TOP AWARDS AT THE REGIONAL HISTORY COMPETITION.



PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE TIME FOR A PHOTO AFTER COMPETING AT THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY HISTORY BOWL COMPETITION.

Leadership & Community Service

Junior Chelsea Carver earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. To qualify, awardees must complete a minimum of one hundred hours of community service within 12 months. This is Chelsea's third award in as many years. Chelsea worked with Interpretive Naturalist Meg Scanlon on many projects including: educational gardens, forest bathing, invasive worms, water testing, field guides and more. Earning an award at one of the Allegheny County Parks is a new way for students to earn recognition for their service. Chelsea, along with seniors Joseph Mullen, Nichole Szafranski and Melissa Zentz were named among the Trib Outstanding Young Citizens Elite Top 100 in its annual program for their volunteer work. In addition, students Noah Adams, Arushi Bandi, Nicholas Montanari, Kiera Regan, Rhys Rocher, Camden Sarver, Nichole Szafranski, Blake Todorowski and Lance Todorowski were nominated.

Senior Noah Adams is spending his summer in South Africa, alongside Dr. Lee Berger, a world-renowned paleoanthropologist and Distinguished Eagle Scout, who is unearthing two-million-year old fossils of a recently discovered early-human species. Noah was one of two Eagle Scouts selected across the U.S. through the 2017 National Eagle Scouts Association Eagle Scout Paleoanthropologist program.



CHELSEA CARVER, WHO IS SHOWN HERE AT A NATIONAL WRITING AWARDS CEREMONY AT CARNEGIE HALL, EARNED THE PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD FOR HELPING WITH MANY GARDENING PROJECTS.



(FRONT ROW: L-R) PINE-RICHLAND STUDENTS LAUREN HAMPSON, ALEXANDRA BATTAGLIA, ALEXA CHAVARA, (MIDDLE ROW: L-R) MADISON OZER, RACHAEL WEINBERG, FAHAD TANVIR, COLIN LUELLEN, ALEC SWARTOUT, JILLIAN SIEGAL, ABIGAIL HINSON, (BACK ROW: L-R) GREGORY SHULKOSKY, AJ GIBRON, EVAN LUELLEN, HANNA SZELONG, EMMA WHITFORD AND OWEN TYNDALL ARE SHOWN HERE WITH PRHS COUNSELOR LESLIE STRAUB AFTER EARNING THE PA GOLD BANNER.

The Pine-Richland High School Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Team earned the Jefferson Awards Students in Action (SIA) Pennsylvania Gold Banner, under the direction of sponsor Leslie Straub. Jefferson Awards Foundation Regional Executive Director Jodi Klebick presented the Gold Banner to students on April 25, 2017. The Peer-to-Peer SIA Team's ongoing goal has been to promote a positive and inclusive environment for all students. This year, the team chose to address a tough topic that many communities around the country are facing – teen suicide. They hosted various projects including a Color Run where they promoted togetherness across all groups, and raised \$3,500 to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The team will compete for the national award.

Junior Sarah Mooney earned the Western Pennsylvania chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society 2017 Student of the Year Award. Sarah raised more than \$11,200 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Student of the Year program is a seven-week campaign in which select high school students participate in a fundraising competition to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The candidates/teams who raise the most money at the end of the competition earn the title Student of the Year. The students raise money in honor of a local patient, who is currently battling or is in remission from a blood cancer.



JUNIOR SARAH MOONEY EARNS A STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Pine-Richland High School Air Force Junior ROTC instructors and cadets earned an overall unit assessment score of "Exceeds Standards." This is the highest rating attainable. Retired Colonel Ben Young flew in from Maxwell Air Force Base, which is located in Montgomery, Ala., to evaluate the PRHS AFJROTC unit on Feb. 1, 2017. The inspectors concluded that Major Michael Morrison and Chief Master Sergeant Michael Gasparetto created a dynamic and supportive learning environment coupled with excellent community outreach efforts. The instructors were applauded for providing outstanding leadership in administering the cadet centered citizenship program. The inspector also noted that the cadets performed exceptionally well and took great pride in leading and accomplishing their unit goals, and the AFJROTC citizenship program at PRHS is making a positive impact on the cadets, the school and the community.



CADET HENRY GAFFEY

AFJROTC Cadet Henry Gaffey earned the Silver Valor Award for coming to the aid of a fellow scout during a two-week hike in New Mexico, where a scout was bitten by a Diamondback Rattlesnake. He was given a medal on Dec. 7, 2016 during a surprise presentation. The ninth grader calmly and with great care administered first aid he had learned during training he had received from a Wilderness First Aid course he took prior to going on the trip. Cadet Gaffey's quick thinking and calming demeanor was vital in helping his fellow scout survive this life-threatening situation. Major Morrison says that Cadet Henry Gaffey's heroic deed emulates all that the AFJROTC represents - the core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all that cadets do. This is the second highest honor that a cadet can receive.

Pine-Richland High School hosted the Annual AFJROTC Drill Competition on April 22, 2017. More than 140 cadets attended the event. PRHS dominated the day's events. PRHS earned first place overall for the unit commanded by Cadet Jack Shannon. Cadets also earned first place Varsity Unarmed Team commanded by Cadet Jack Shannon; JV Unarmed Team commanded by Cadet Michael Dye; Uniform Inspection Team commanded by Cadet Alexander D. Hein; Academic Quiz Bowl Team commanded by Cadet Hannah Schmidt; and Female Color Guard Team commanded by Cadet Lillian Nicotra. Second place awards were garnered for Varsity Armed Team commanded by Cadet Matthew Zirckel and JV Armed Team commanded by Cadet John Szymanski. Third place was earned for Varsity Color Guard commanded by Cadet Trevor Russell and JV Color Guard commanded by Cadet Harrison Gonzalez.

THE PRHS AFJROTC CADETS ARE SHOWN HERE AT THE PARKERSBURG SOUTH DRILL MEET.



The Pine-Richland High School AFJROTC cadets earned top awards at the Parkersburg High School's annual drill competition in West Virginia on March 11, 2017. PRHS Cadets earned second overall under the command of Cadet Michael Dye and Varsity Armed Drill Team commanded by Cadet Alexander D. Hein; and first place for Varsity Color Guard commanded by Cadet Trevor Russell and for the Inspection Team commanded by Cadet Hein. Cadet Thomas Diaz placed eighth, and Cadet Joshua Lukez placed 10th in the Knockout Drill Down Competition. At the Marion Center High School Drill Competition on Jan. 21, 2017, Michael, John, Trevor and Arden Webster commanded first-place teams (Varsity Unarmed, JV Unarmed & JV Armed Drill teams) and Cadet Jacob Maggi commanded the Varsity Color Guard Team to second place. Junior varsity Knockout Award winners included Cadet Harrison Gonzalez (First

Place), Cadet Lukez (Second Place) and Cadet Webster (Third Place). Varsity award winners included Cadet Matthew Zirckel (Second Place) and Cadet Russell (Third Place). The PRHS AFJROTC Team A placed first in the volleyball competition. Cadet Zirckel, who was assisted by Cadet Michael Dolgos, served as the commander of the volleyball competition. AFJROTC attended McDowell's Drill Meet on Nov. 12, 2016 and earned third place overall and Commander Hein and cadets Eric Clark, Dolgos, Michael Dye, Charles Gaffey, Raymond Gonzalez, Maxwell Katich, Joseph Maggi, Caleb Mlakar, Destiny Raymer, Hannah Schmidt, Kenzie Wolfe and Zirckel placed first in the Unarmed Inspection. Commander Jacob Maggi and cadets Connor Croskey, Hein and Nichole Szafranski earned second place in the Varsity Color Guard category.

Several Pine-Richland students earned the highest scouting awards. Senior Alana Zimmer earned Bronze, Silver and Gold awards through the Girls Scouts program. She earned the Gold Award for planning and installing a 100-foot-plus extension to a boardwalk to serve as an observation area, so visitors can learn about the wetlands at North Park. Senior Rachael Kovaly received a Gold Award this May for leading a camp for young girls that culminated in a delivery of homemade dog blankets to the Butler County Humane Society. Elementary Art Teacher Eileen Gilson served as one of Alana's advisers. Senior Brenna Flynn earned a Gold Award for volunteering 80 hours in planning and hosting

a series of workshops about health and well-being for girls at The DoorWay Shelter, which assists individuals suffering from addiction and provides meals, clothing and social activities for family members. Junior Elana Sanguigni earned a Gold award for her project titled "The Gift of Music Therapy," which culminated with a piano performance and poetry reading at St. Barnabas Nursing Home. The event on March 25, 2017 marked her 20th performance at the home. Senior Daniel Trombola earned the highest honor in scouting and became an Eagle Scout for his service project in which he built custom homes for eight different species of birds, which frequent Pine Township Community Park.



Ninth Graders Lindsay Holland and Sedona Rocher are prepping to earn their third degree black belts in October of 2017. Most recently, ninth grader Kelley McLain earned her second-degree black belt and her sister Kaela McLain, who is also in ninth grade, earned her third degree black belt. Students are required to learn technique in forms, sparring and board breaks. The discipline teaches self-defense techniques and leadership qualities. They train under the direction of seventh degree black belt Grand Master Robert Zang.

(L-R) PRHS NINTH GRADERS KAELA MCLAIN, LINDSAY HOLLAND, SEDONA ROCHER AND KELLEY MCLAIN ARE SHOWN HERE IN UNIFORM.

Three students earned awards for top fundraising at Pine-Richland Middle School. In all the students raised more than \$2,000 in candy sales. Parent representative Denise Duerksen says the fundraiser benefits school programs including Ram Rewards and the Eighth Grade Recognition program. The top three winners in order included seventh grader Ryan T. Daniels, eighth grader John DeSantes, and seventh grader Caroline Duerksen. Honorable mention winners included seventh graders Eric Sauers and Taylor McWilliams; eighth graders Joshua Pugh and Hailey Rihn; and seventh grader Emma Hoffman.

For the second year in a row, junior Rhys Rocher organized a bike camp for individuals with special needs through the icanshine non-profit.



PRMS STUDENTS ARE NAMED TOP FUNDRAISERS AND INCLUDE (L-R) ERIC SAUERS, EMMA HOFFMAN (STANDING), CAROLINE DUERKSEN, JOHN DESANTES, RYAN T. DANIELS, TAYLOR MCWILLIAMS (STANDING) AND JOSHUA PUGH (STANDING). NOT SHOWN: HAILEY RIHN.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PRHS STUDENTS PUT ON A STUNNING PERFORMANCE OF "JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT" THAT EARNED FOUR GENE KELLY AWARD NOMINATIONS.



PHOTO BY KEVIN CHAN

Musical Theater & Performance

Pine-Richland High School earned four nominations in the Annual Gene Kelly Awards program for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," under the direction of PRHS Musical Director Sarah McGraw Krushinski. The production earned nominations for All-Student Orchestra and Execution of Musical Direction. Senior Jacob Pedersen earned a nomination for the "Best Actor" category for portrayal of Joseph, and Paige Nelson earned a nomination for "Best Actress" for the role of the narrator. Judges awarded Jacob with the Best Actor Award on May 27, 2017. He traveled to New York City to represent Pittsburgh in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards on June 26, 2017.



(FRONT ROW: L-R) PRHS DANCE TEAM MEMBERS LAUREN ROACH, JESSICA LOTT (CAPTAIN), ISABELLA CICCO (CAPTAIN), JULIA CHLEBOSKI (MIDDLE ROW: L-R), HANNAH ROACH, EMILY BOBER, GRACE BARCASKEY, (BACK ROW: L-R) CORRINE KLINE, ERIN DOUGAL, LEAH LEES, LILLIAN ROBERTS, GRACE KOZEJ AND RIELEY SNYDER PARTICIPATE IN THE DANCE CAMP COMPETITIONS.

The PRHS Dance Team participated in the Universal Dance Association (UDA) Summer Home Team Technique Camp and won several awards July 7-9, 2017. The team received the highest honors, which included a blue ribbon and superior rating for their Home Team Dance routine choreographed by senior captain Jessica Lott, senior captain Isabella Cicco and seniors Lauren Roach and Julia Chleboski. The awards qualified the team for the National Dance Championship in Orlando in 2018. The team received the "Spirit Stick" award from the UDA instructors for their energy and enthusiasm. All team members competed in the final Drill Down Competition with Jessica placing first; Julia placing second; and Isabella placing third overall. Isabella and Jessica were invited to participate in the Varsity Spirit Spectacular at Walt Disney World Resort in December of 2017. Jessica and Lauren auditioned for the All-American UDA award and both received All-American honors. This qualifies them to be invited to perform at the Varsity All-American London Tour. All PR dance team members received blue ribbons (highest honor) for their Level 5 Pom and Level 5 Jazz routines learned at camp. The team also participated in the UDA fundraiser to support the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In 2016, the team earned the spirit award, blue ribbon and superior rating for their routine choreographed by senior captains Jordan Hepler and Alexa Wardoclip, who were both invited to participate in the Varsity Spirit Spectacular. Alexa earned the UDA All-American Award. All members earned blue ribbons and junior Isabel Muschweck received a "Pin-It-Forward" Award.

RIGHT: SENIOR AUDREY NIGH PORTRAYS BILBO BAGGINS. THE PRHS CREW SUCCESSFUL PRESENT THE "HOBBIT" BY UNIQUE CHARACTER PORTRAYAL, COSTUMING AND SET UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SPONSOR JOHN DOLPHIN.



PHOTO BY JOHN MADIA



SENIOR JACOB PEDERSEN EARNS THE BEST ACTOR AWARD IN THE GENE KELLY AWARDS PROGRAM.

PHOTO BY KEVIN CHAN



THE PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE ENSEMBLE IS SHOWN HERE WITH (L-R) EIGHTH GRADER VICTOR WILLIAMS, WHO IS PORTRAYING MUFUSA, AND EIGHTH GRADER MAGGIE ALLWEIN, WHO IS PORTRAYING A YOUNG SIMBA IN THE PRODUCTION "THE LION KING, JR."



EIGHTH GRADER ABIGAIL BRADLEY IS A WORLD DANCE COMPETITOR.

Eighth grader Abigail Bradley placed 12th at the World Championship of Irish Dancing. This event took place in Dublin in April of 2017. Abigail competed against 214 qualified competitors after dancing three rounds. She is ranked second in the U.S. for Irish dancing and automatically qualified to compete at next year's World Championship. She dances at the Bell School of Irish Dance. Junior Mikayla Fitzgerald also qualified for the world championships.

Junior Jackie Evancho was invited to the presidential inauguration to sing the national anthem on Jan. 20, 2017. The community watched in support as she gave an outstanding performance.



THE PRMS CAST AND CREW ENGAGE THE AUDIENCE IN A "HAKUNAMATATA" SING-A-LONG. THEY ARE AMONG HUNDREDS WHO PUT ON A LIVELY PERFORMANCE OF THE "LION KING, JR."

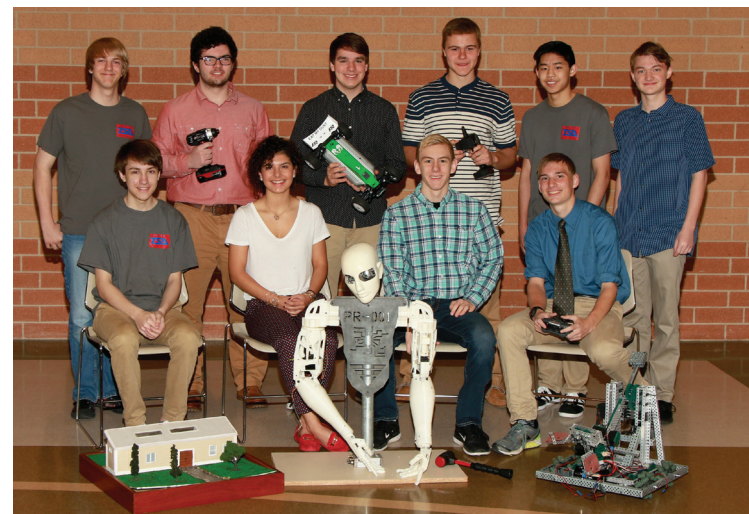
Science & Technology

Pine-Richland High School earned second place at the National Robotics League Competition. Team RAMbo was made up of seniors Hunter Baxter, Rachel Jarman, Ryan Schonbachler, Joshua Trant, Tanner Zang and junior James Baxter. Sponsor Evan Clark says the team competed against 63 other teams at the competition, which was hosted at California University of Pennsylvania on May 19, 2017.



(L-R) PRHS STUDENTS HUNTER BAXTER, JAMES BAXTER, RACHEL JARMIN, JOSHUA TRANT, TANNER ZANG AND RYAN SCHONBACHLER EARN SECOND PLACE AT THE NATIONAL ROBOTICS LEAGUE COMPETITION.

More than 1,800 students competed in the 2017 Pennsylvania Technology Student Association State Conference in April under the direction of Teacher Evan Clark. Pine-Richland High School students earned top awards. Seniors Robert Scherer, Joshua Trant and Tanner Zang earned first place for Remote Control Off-Road Racing. Junior James Baxter earned second for Computer Aided Design in Engineering. James and senior Ryan Schonbachler earned third in Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and junior Michael Dolgos earned third place for Computer Aided Design in Architecture.

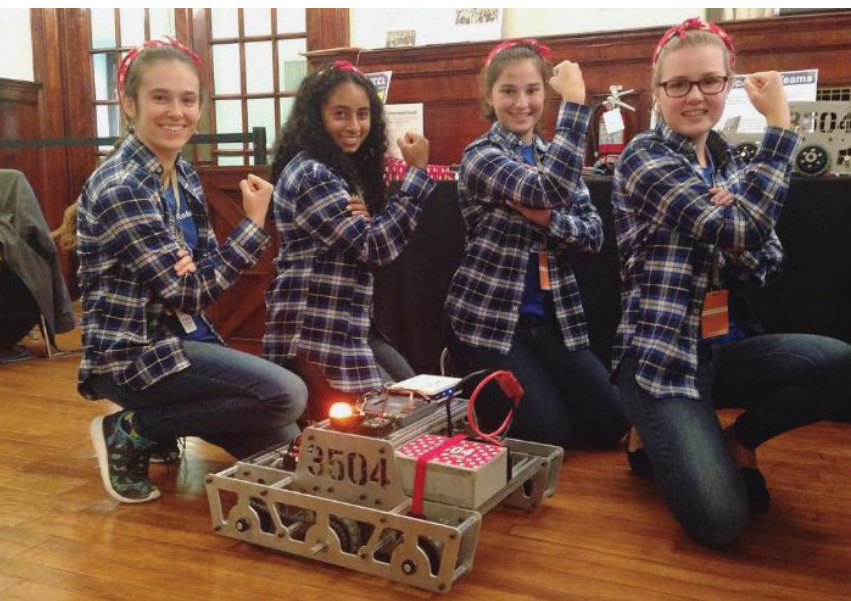


STUDENTS COMPETED IN THE 2017 PA TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION STATE CONFERENCE AND EARNED TOP AWARDS.

Junior Christopher Gebhardt earned the Regional National Association of Women in Construction Architectural Drafting Contest under the direction of Jeff Maple. This year's contest consisted of designing a dentist office.

Senior John Wagner earned the Critics' Choice, High School and Stewardship Video Contest through the PA Parks & Forests Foundation and his work with A.W. Beattie Career Center. His video focused on educating people with an anti-graffiti message.

Senior Arushi Bandi presented at the White House Frontier Conference on Science, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. The purpose of the conference was to highlight what high school robotics teams are doing to advance STEM Learning by mentoring and being role models for students, especially girls.



SENIOR ARUSHI BANDI IS SHOWN HERE IN A PHOTO WITH FELLOW GIRLS OF STEEL ROBOTICS TEAM MEMBERS. SHE SERVED AS A PRESENTER AT A CONFERENCE ON OCT. 13, 2016 AND AS TECHNICAL LEADER OF THE TEAM FOR 2016-2017.



(L-R) RAMBOTICS CLUB MEMBERS HALLE JACKS, BRAYDEN DEVINNEY, MAX ROMANO, WILLIAM LAUBACHER, ANNA STARESINIC AND ARUSHI BANDI (FOUNDING MEMBER) CELEBRATE SUCCESS.

The Pine-Richland Middle School RAMbotics Club won the Pennsylvania First Lego League Regional Championship in the Scholastic Division. The team created a fully functioning prototype of a solution focused on a disorder caused by Varroa Mites in bees, which has led to severe reduction in beehives. Club members presented their winning project and provided details about the club at a special program on Feb. 2, 2017. Eighth graders Ethan Chan, Halle Jacks, Aakash Kottakota, Rebecca Peng and Max Romano and seventh graders Brayden Devinney, Eve Mango and William Laubacher and Erica Weinberger and ninth grader Sedona Rocher, former team member, and senior Arushi Bandi, founding member of the club, participated in the presentation. The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund provided the club its seed money to get off the ground through the leadership of Arushi and mentorship of Teacher Kathy Deal.

Two students earned awards in the National Center for Women & Information Technology Aspirations in Computing Awards program. Senior Amanda Labuda received an Honorable Mention, and senior Claire Casalnova received a Certificate of Distinction under the direction of PRHS Teacher Valerie Klosky. The program honors high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology, and encourages them to pursue their passions.

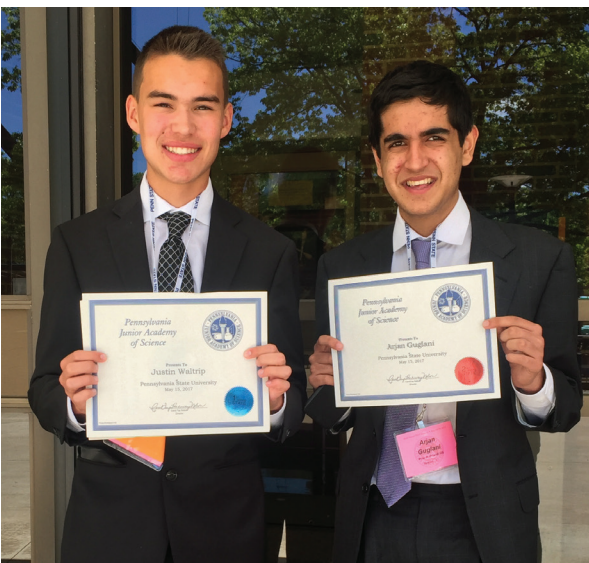
Two students earned awards at the PA Junior Academy of Science competition on May 15, 2017 at Penn State University under the direction of Teacher Ronald Schmiedel. Ninth grader Justin Waltrip earned first place, and sophomore Arjan Guglani earned second place. The two also participated at the regional level and earned first place.

Arjan earned third place at the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair for his project entitled "Aerosoft : Gate to Gate Autonomous Flight." In addition, he earned sponsor, affiliate sponsor and perseverance awards. Sophomore Devin Golla earned a Perseverance award for her project entitled "Sodium Lauryl Sulfate & Fluoride on Teeth."



SIXTH GRADER LUKE KASTNER (FOURTH FROM LEFT: L-R), SEVENTH GRADER MATTHEW FARMAR (BACK), SIXTH GRADER BRANDON WEES AND FIFTH GRADER RYAN E. SCOTT PLACE FIRST AT CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Four Pine-Richland students mentored by MySTEM Academy received accolades at the First Lego League Western PA Regional Championships on Jan. 7, 2017. Bot Boys was made up of students from North Allegheny, Pine-Richland and Seneca Valley and earned first place in the Project Presentation category. PR students who participated included Eden Hall Upper Elementary School fifth grader Ryan E. Scott; sixth graders Luke Kastner and Brandon Wees, and seventh grader Matthew Farmar.



FRESHMAN JUSTIN WALTRIP AND SENIOR ARJAN GUGLANI EARNED TOP AWARDS AT THE PA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE STATE COMPETITION.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



EIGHTH GRADER EVE MANGO IS SHOWN HERE JUST AFTER RELEASING A BUOY TO STUDY POLLUTION.

Eighth grader Eve Mango has been tracking a drifting buoy to gauge how far local plastic pollution can travel and impact global waters. She hopes to some day engineer a solution to reduce the amount of plastic waste that flows from small bodies of water into the oceans. Her research received some important attention by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA has featured her project on its site about national environmental satellite data, information and service site. CLS America, the satellite service company for the ARGOS satellite project, graciously provided

free satellite service for Eve and connected her with a business in Japan, who donated the \$1,800 drifting buoy as well. The Argos Data Collection and Location System is a data collection and relay program that provides global coverage and platform location. She launched a drifting buoy from the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers in Pittsburgh on Jan. 11, 2017. Another student is also working on a pollutant study. Junior Chelsea Carver will be working on a project at the University of Pittsburgh studying acid drainage.

Sophomore Arjan Guglani earned first place at the Regional Competition of the Pennsylvania Computer Fair held at the Carnegie Science Center on March 22, 2017 under the direction of Teacher Ron Schmiedel. Sophomore Kevin Zhou and freshman Justin Waltrip teamed up and earned second place. Arjan took third place in the Programming Division at the PA State Computer Fair at Dickinson College on May 22-23, 2017.



(L-R) SIXTH GRADERS NATALIE MCLEAN, KATHRINE YANNI, TYLER DERKS AND NICHOLAS MURRAY EARN FIRST PLACE IN THE SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CHALLENGE.

Sixth graders at Eden Hall Upper Elementary designed and presented their architectural designs with a panel of experts on May 9, 2017, under the direction of teachers Jennifer Kopach and Joanna Sovek. Students were challenged to repurpose unused space (barn) found on neighboring Chatham University's Eden Hall Campus in a sustainable and meaningful way to better serve the community in the Sustainable Architectural Design Challenge. The 2017 winning team was the Sustainable Shepherds, who designed the Eden Hall Barn Biome. The team consisted of sixth graders Tyler Derks, Natalie McLean, Nicholas Murray and Katherine Yanni.

Pine-Richland High School students earned six Awards of Excellence at the 2017 Digital Media Arts Consortium Spring Showcase held at Robert Morris University on April 20, 2017. Winners included senior Michael Schlegel in Documentary; senior Jacob Rechenberg in Public Service Announcement, for PRTV Sports in the Live Events category; juniors Austin Shaw and David Hodgkin in Special Effects; junior Bryan Kurp in News Package; and sophomore Tyler Keenan in Photo Illustration. They competed under the direction of Teacher Aaron Koehler, Media & Web Services Coordinator Bill Clack and Media Services Specialist Steve Karpinski.



SIXTH GRADER BRANDON WEES DESIGNS A VISITOR KIOSK AT EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Every year the Rammy Awards highlights and honors the Pine-Richland School District's best scholastic, staff, resident and alumni filmmakers. This year's ceremony took place on April 25, 2017. First place winners in the Editing category included sixth grader Rylee Branscum and junior Lucas Saunders. First place winners in the Directing category included eighth grader Bayli Clack and Lucas Saunders, who also earned first in the Best in Show category. 2013 Graduate Elizabeth DoVale earned first in the At Large category. The Audience Choice Award went to Wexford Elementary first grader Zoey Campbell.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School visitors are getting a high-tech introduction of the school this school year thanks to a partnership between Eden Hall Upper Elementary, Chatham University of Falk School of Sustainability and the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund. Sixth grader Brandon Wees designed a visitor kiosk equipped with two interactive touchscreens programmed by students with information about Eden Hall including history, architecture and more about the green-school concept design. "The kiosk serves as a learning center to whoever is new to Eden Hall," said Brandon. "My grandfather helped build the structure in his wood shop."

ATHLETIC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Baseball

The Pine-Richland High School Baseball earned the WPIAL 6A Championships with a section record of 9-1 and overall record of 15-4 and played in the first round of the PIAAs. Head Coach Kurt Wolfe says players named to the WPIAL First Team All-Section included senior Jacob Maggi, and senior Ryan Okuda, who was also named the Post-Gazette Class 6A Player of the Year; and sophomore Troy LaNeve. Seniors Alexandar Lamendola and Thomas Zbezinski and sophomores Joshua Johnson and Matthew Wood earned Second Team All-Section. Senior Joseph Bolick and junior Craig Kunkel earned Honorable Mention All-Section. Senior Maxx Harpalani signed with Presbyterian College; Jacob with the George Washington University; Ryan with Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University; Senior Hunter Treece with Mercyhurst University; and Thomas with Newberry College.



PRHS PLAYERS ARE SHOWN HERE AFTER EARNING THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Basketball



PRHS BASKETBALL PLAYERS ARE SHOWN HERE LEAVING FOR HERSHEY TO PLAY FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AGAINST READING.

The PRHS Boys Basketball Team finished its most successful season in school history earning the WPIAL 6A Championships and earned second at PIAAs. Head Basketball Coach Jeffrey Ackerman said that the senior basketball players graduated with a career record of 66-14 over the past three years. The team was the 6A state finalist finishing up with a 28-2 record. The team won back-to-back WPIAL Championships in 2016 and 2017. Their record the past two years is 49-9. Senior Andrew Petcash became the school's second all-time scorer in boys' basketball with 1,643 career points. Junior Philip Jurkovec also scored over 1,000 points in his high school

career so far. The PRHS Lady Rams played in the WPIAL Quarterfinals. Senior Amanda Kalin, who signed with Duquesne University, was named Post-Gazette Athlete of the Year, to the PG Fab Five and to the First Team All-State for a second year in a row. Head coach Tom Reighard says she broke the school record in 2017 for finishing with 1,868 points. In addition, senior Caitlyn Byerly was named to the First Team All Section in 2016 and 2017 with senior Makenzie Jenkins and ninth grader Anna Jurkovec being named to the Second Team All-Section.

Crew

Senior Gavin O'Connor and Maxwell Katich teamed up to take the silver medal in the men's pair event May 13, 2017 at the Midwest Regional Championships held in Ohio. Senior Abbi Altman, who signed with the University of Tennessee, earned a national medal and a gold medal on Oct. 23, 2016 while rowing with the Three Rivers Rowing Association at the Head of the Charles in Boston. PR Crew Coach Sam DiMarzio said that Maxwell and Gavin also competed with Coxswain Elijah Egyed and Christian Oberst, Gavin O'Connor and Tyler Hepler at the regatta, which is considered the largest in the world.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cheerleading

The Pine-Richland High School Competitive Cheer Team placed seventh in the nation in the Small Varsity D1 Division and ninth in the Medium Game-Day Division at the United Cheerleading Association's National High School Cheerleading Championships on Feb. 11-12, 2017 in Orlando. Coach Corey Doyle said the team was runner-ups at the PIAAs and second at WPIALs under the direction of captains Hanna Szelong, Abigail Franks and Alexis Stutz. Hanna won first place in the tumble-off competitions at the South Hills Showdown and Pittsburgh Poison Winterblast in which the team placed first.



PRHS COMPETITIVE CHEER TEAM PLACES SEVENTH NATIONALLY.

Cross Country & Track & Field

Senior Captain Tessa Franchi, who signed with Duquesne University, finished 14th at the WPIAL Cross Country Championships on Oct. 27, 2017 and placed 69th at the PIAAs. Tessa led the PR team to 9th place overall for the second straight year. Following Tessa was ninth grader Judith Johnson who ran a breakthrough race to take 32nd place and narrowly miss qualifying for states. Athletes Emily Hrach, Lauren



PHOTO BY BILL CRUMMY

SENIOR AMANDA KALIN EARNED FOURTH AT THE PIAAs AND EARNED THE TITLE "POST-GAZETTE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR" FOR A SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

Allen, Emma Whitford, Sarah Flaherty, Tresa Coon and alternate Rylie Fry rounded out our WPIAL team. The Pine-Richland boys finished 17th at WPIALs. Leading for the Rams was senior Camden Sarver, who placed 44th out of 228 finishers. Other WPIAL participants included Camden Sarver, Michael Dolgos, Luke Zak, Bryan Kurp, Zachary Riggins, Noah Adams and Quinton Johnson. In track, Coach Ken Judson said that senior Amanda Kalin finished the 800-Meter Run in fourth place for her sixth consecutive school record at the PIAAs on May 27, 2017. She took second in the 800 at WPIALs. Tessa earned eighth place in the 1600 at WPIALs. Senior Joseph Mullen was recognized as a WPNT 22 Scholar Athlete for achievements in cross-country.

Senior Zachary Randolph finished 10th in the long jump at the Track & Field PIAAs. In addition, senior Tanner Douglas earned fifth in the 100 Hurdles. Ninth grader Luke Meckler earned fourth in the 300 Hurdles. The 4x100 relay team earned sixth with a school record. In addition to Luke, senior Tanner Douglas and juniors Cameron Ballay and Jordan Crawford made up the relay. Senior Tessa Franchi earned eighth place in the 1600 at the Track & Field WPIALs. Senior Amanda Kalin and juniors Jodi Berezo and Meghan Briski and ninth grader Isabella A. Greco earned fifth in the 4x100 Relay. Jodie, Amanda, Meghan and Olivia Miller made up the 4x400 Relay that placed fifth at WPIALs breaking a school record. Coach Bob Utz says the PRMS Girls Team earned first place at the Mars Invitational in April with eighth grader Danielle Bryant earning Most Valuable Player for taking first place in the 100, 200, 400 and 4x100 relay. Several school records were broken. The Track and Field program hosted its annual invitational and honored Jack Downey posthumously with the Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions made as a coach at Avonworth and Northgate.

Diving & Swimming

Senior swimmer Ryan Schonbachler, who signed to swim at the University of Pittsburgh, placed 14th both in the 200-yard freestyle and in the 500 freestyle at the PIAAs. At WPIALs, he earned seventh place in the 200 freestyle and earned a WPIAL first-place gold medal in the 500 freestyle. Eight team records were broken at WPIALs. The Swim team accomplished 29 life time best times and broke several team records in the Boys 200 freestyle relay. The relay was made up of Ryan, Jacob Garretson, Brian Phipps and Alexander Steger. Ryan, Amaan Kazi, Brian and Alex broke the Boys 400 freestyle relay record. Brian also broke the team record for the 100 breaststroke, and Alexander in the 100 freestyle. Ryan broke the 50, 100, 200 and 500 freestyle team records. The girls team finished 21st and the boys team finished 14th overall at WPIALs. Pine-Richland divers Austin Shaw and Madison Huitt competed at PIAA State Championships at Bucknell University. Austin, who earned third at WPIALs, placed 18th at the PIAAs; and Madison, who earned fourth at WPIALs, placed 12th at the PIAAs. Mallory Charles placed sixth at WPIALs. Ryan traveled to Christiansburg, Va., to compete in the Speedo Sectionals Competition, which hosts the best swimmers in the region.



SENIOR RYAN SCHONBACHLER EARNED SEVENTH AT WPIALs.

Fencing

Coach Brad Cellier said that the PRHS Girls Fencing Team and the PRHS Boys Fencing Team earned Bronze Medals at the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association Championships.

Field Hockey

PRHS Girls Field Hockey played in the first round of the PIAA Championships for the first time and was also undefeated, earning first in its section for the first time. Varsity Head Coach Donna Stephenson said that field hockey players Sarah Metzmaier and Chalinda Schleicher were named to the WPIAL AAA All-Star team. In addition to Sarah and Chalinda, Molly Rottinghaus was named to the WPIAL AAA Section 1 All-Star team, and Samantha Pavlecic was named as an Honorable Mention. Sarah, Samantha and Christy Malcho, Marina Miller, Sarah Mooney and Courtney Murphy were named to the 2016 National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School National Academic Squad. Sarah Metzmaier and Sarah and Samantha Mooney were also recognized as Scholars of Distinction.



THE PRHS GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY PLAYERS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH THEIR WPIAL MEDALS.

Football

The PRHS Football Team qualified for the WPIAL semifinals in the past three seasons with a 32-8 record for the last three years. Head Coach Eric Kasperowicz said senior Raymond Falcone made First Team All-State and Ryan Duran and Philip Jurkovec made second Team All-State. Ryan, Raymond Falcone, Jesse Meckler, Vittorio Orsini and Mark Weideman were named to the First Team All-Conference. Cameron Ballay, Jordan Crawford, Tanner Douglas, Benjamin Jochem, Tyler King and Andrew Kristofic were named to the Second All-Conference Team. Earning All-Conference Honorable Mention was Grant Carrigan, Jason DeFrancis, Philip Jurkovec, Neiman Novitski and Josh Trant. Maxwell Devinney signed to play football at Shippensburg University. Tanner signed to play football with Lamar University; Ryan with the United States Military Academy at West Point; Grant with the University of Pittsburgh and Mark with Duquesne University. 2013 PRHS Graduate Kevin Rader made an amazing touchdown within one second left in the game at Roos Field at Eastern Washington to advance Youngstown State University on Dec. 17, 2016. The touchdown allowed the Penguins a 40-38 win over Eastern Washington and to move on to the National Football Championship Subdivision Game.



QUARTERBACK PHILIP JURKOVEC GETS READY TO PASS DURING A GAME AGAINST MT. LEBANON.

Golf

The PRHS Girls Golf Team tied for first place in its section and played in the first round of the WPIALs. Sophomore Lauren Freyvogel took first place in the WPIAL AAA Section 1 Qualifier for a second year in a row. Coaches Patti White and Kristen LeVan said Lauren earned third place at the WPIAL Championships; second place at the PIAA Western Regionals and fourth at the PIAA Championships. She won the Women's Health Classic Junior Challenge on the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour at The Links at Stoney Point in Greenwood, S.C., on April 1, 2017. She won the Tri-State Jr. PGA Championship at Fox Run Golf Course on June 16, 2017 and participated in the 42nd Girls Junior PGA Championship July 18-21, 2017 in St. Albans, Mo. The boys' team participated in the first round of the WPIALs. Senior Jack Kremer qualified for WPIALs along with senior Gregory Malekar as an alternate.



SOPHOMORE LAUREN FREYVOGEL IS SHOWN HERE AFTER WINNING THE PEGGY KIRK BELL GIRLS GOLF TOUR IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



SOPHOMORE SARA COLEMAN IS SHOWN HERE WITH SOME OF HER 16U HOCKEY TEAMMATES.

Hockey

Senior goalie Anthony Szafranski was named the PIHL 2nd Star of the Week and senior Joseph DiTullio, captain; senior Christopher Kozich, alternate captain; and sophomore William Studt were selected to participate in the PIHL AA All-Star Game on Jan. 29, 2017. PRHS sophomore Sara Coleman, who plays for the 16U team, and senior Madeleine Kessy, who plays for the 19U of the Steel City represented the Mid-American District at the 2017 USA Hockey National Championships in Troy, Michigan April 6-10, 2017. Madeleine helped the U19 team capture the bronze and Sara helped assist her team to the quarterfinals. The 16U and 19U teams qualified by winning their age levels in the Mid-American District Championships, which showcases the best women's hockey talent in Western Pennsylvania.

“There are no words to convey the pride I have and the honor coaching our girls. As an alumnus of PRHS Girls Lacrosse, it is an indescribable feeling to be able to enjoy this time as a coach.”

— Lacrosse Coach Brittany Adams,
US Girls Lacrosse Western PA Coach
of the Year

Lacrosse



COACH BRITTANY ADAMS & JUNIOR
MARINA MILLER

PRHS Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Brittany Adams earned the U.S. Girls Lacrosse Western PA Coach of the Year Award. The award gets national recognition, because only one to three coaches are chosen from each state. She has been coaching PR Lacrosse for 10 years and two years as head coach. Junior Marina Miller, who holds the school record of 230 goals, was named All-American for a second year in Lacrosse. The PRHS Girls Lacrosse Team earned the WPIAL Championship Title for the first time in history and played in the first round of the PIAAs. They are back-to-back section champions. Marina and senior Caitlyn Byerly were named All WPIAL recipients. Marina and Caitlin were named All Section along with senior Alexa Mellis and junior Megan Lieberman. Marina and sophomore Abigail Levier were named to the 2017 US Lacrosse Women's National Tournament Team. Alexa

participated in a congratulatory signing with the College of Wooster. The boy's team played in round two of the WPIALs on May 18, 2017 at the PRHS Stadium losing by only a point. Senior Thomas Hanulak, who officially signed to play lacrosse at Seton Hill University, was named U.S. Lacrosse All-American and WPIAL Class 3A and PG Player of the Year. 2015 PRHS Graduate Jeremy Kennedy was selected to play for the Team USA Athletics International for “Down Under Lacrosse Tournament” in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. Jeremy is playing lacrosse for St. Vincent College.

Soccer

The PRHS Boys Soccer Team moved on to the first round of the PIAAs and was defeated in double overtime. PRHS Boys Soccer Coach Jon Conner said the team completed an impressive WPIAL competition with a semifinal loss and a win after a consolation victory and competed in the first round of the PIAAs. Seniors Carlo Tozzi and Jacob Engel were honored with the Western PA Big 56 Conference “First Team” as well as All-WPIAL for boys AAAA Soccer in 2016.

The PRHS Girls Soccer made it to the quarterfinal rounds of the WPIALs. Coach Jodi Chmielewski said that the Big 56 Athletic Conference and Western PA Girls Soccer Coaches Association named seniors Christine

Ciarrocca and Amanda Kalin and sophomores Caroline Swan and Rebecca Libby to the First Team. Players making the Second Team included sophomore Alaina Kalin and junior Samantha Kelly. Senior Ingrida Ivaska earned an Honorable Mention. Christine completed a ceremonial signing to play soccer at Miami University of Ohio with Ingrida planning to play at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Senior Kacey Croner participated in a congratulatory signing with Indiana University of Pennsylvania; senior Kaitlin McGuire with Baldwin Wallace University; Lauren McSwigan with St. Vincent College; and senior Cassidy Ulanowicz with Penn State University Behrend Campus.

Softball

Senior Brienna Horrell and Kaitlyn Horrell were named to First Team Section under the direction of Softball Head Coach Gary Shepard. Anna Slebonick was named to the Second Team All-Section. Jacqueline Hansen earned an Honorable Mention. Brienna signed with the University of Pittsburgh to play softball.

Tennis

The PRHS Girls Tennis Team finished fourth in the WPIAL Team Tournament under the direction of Tennis Coach Janet Chappell. PRHS Girls Tennis senior doubles players Arushi Bandi and Claire Casalnova participated in the quarterfinals of the WPIALS. Individually, each made it to the third round of the WPIALS in singles play in 2016. Alice Qian and Young Kim also made it to the third round of WPIALS. The boys' team made it to the quarterfinals of WPIALS. Sid Iyer and Ben Vinarski won the AAA section 2 Doubles Tournament. They finished third in the WPIAL Doubles Tournament.

Volleyball

Senior volleyball player Coco Kordenbrock signed to play at the University of Pittsburgh and senior Emily Cottrill signed to play with the University of Notre Dame. The girls' team participated in the quarterfinals of WPIALS.

Wrestling



COACHES CONGRATULATE SENIOR HUNTER BAXTER WHO EARNED SECOND AT WPIALS.



JUNIOR JOHN FOLMER (BACK) AND JUNIOR BENJAMIN SALAS (FRONT) ARE SHOWN HERE WITH SENIOR BEST BUDDIES (LEFT) JACOB SMELSER AND ISAAC SMELSER.

Senior Hunter Baxter, who signed to wrestle at the University of Maryland, placed second at the WPIALS and qualified for the PIAAs for the fourth time. In addition to Hunter, freshman Nathan Lukez, senior Nicholas Geyer, and senior Garrett Burnham, who is a preferred walk-on wrestler at the University of Maryland; seniors Alexander Salas and Brendan Scheller and junior Benjamin Salas competed at the WPIALS. Hunter was selected to be on the WPIAL All-Star Team to represent the WPIAL at his weight class for the 43rd Annual Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic that was held on March 25, 2017 at the University of Pittsburgh. Middle school and elementary students earned top awards at the junior wrestling state championships. Eighth grader Cole Spencer took first place; fourth grader Vaughn Spencer earned second place; and seventh grader Kelin Laffey took third place in their respective weight classes at the Pennsylvania Junior High State Championships on March 5, 2017 at the Cambria County War Memorial Arena in Johnstown. The Best Buddies program was invited to the PRHS Wrestling Senior Night on Feb. 1, 2017. Best buddies were matched up with their varsity wrestling mentors during the program.

Ultimate Frisbee

The Pine-Richland Ultimate Frisbee Team earned second place in the PA State Championships. Ultimate Frisbee at PR is a club sport run by students, who participate in the Pittsburgh High School Ultimate League. The team was named Pittsburgh/Western PA Winter & Spring League champions and earned second place in the state. The team was ranked 19 in the nation by Ultiworld.com in May. This was the first time that the team has made it to the finals in the state tournament. The team was lead this year by senior captain Casey Mann and junior captain Aiden Landis. They are coached by Marcus Ranii-Dropcho and Mark Fedorenko.



THE PR ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM EARNED SECOND PLACE AT STATES.

BUDGET & BOARD

UPDATE

Board Approves Budget for 2017-2018

The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2017-2018 school year with total expenditures of \$84,079,405 and total revenues of \$84,079,405 with no utilization of assigned fund balance. The board established the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2017-2018:

- Real Estate Tax rate of 19.5867 mills (1.97% increase)
- Earned Income Tax of 0.5 percent
- Act 511 Per Capita Tax of \$5 for individuals age 18 and older
- Pennsylvania School Code Per Capita Tax of \$5 for individuals age 18 & older

COST-SAVING MEASURES

The district has addressed the financial climate and has looked at several alternative revenue sources and cost-saving measures for the past few years. Some of them have included:

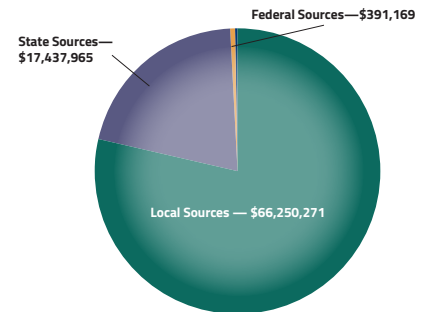
Alternative Revenue Sources	Parking Fees
Energy Curtailment Program	Rebates & Commissions
Facility Rental Agreements	Scoreboard Advertisements
Grants & Donations	Student Activity Fees

During 2016-2017, the school district refunded one bond issue, which provided over eight percent savings over the remaining life of the bond issue. The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible.

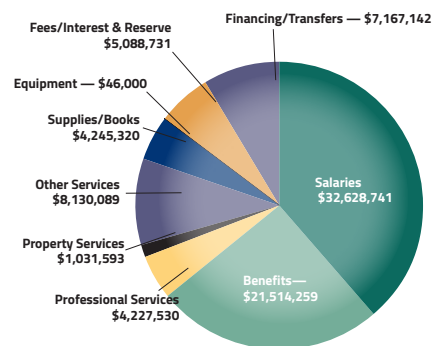
INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- The board approved the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution for the upcoming tax year. The resolution provides for property tax reduction through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion," which is provided by the state gaming industry/casinos. Residents should have an application on file with Allegheny County indicating the house they live in is their homestead. They will also receive a reduction in assessed value for their school tax. Each approved homestead will receive a real estate tax reduction amount of \$186.

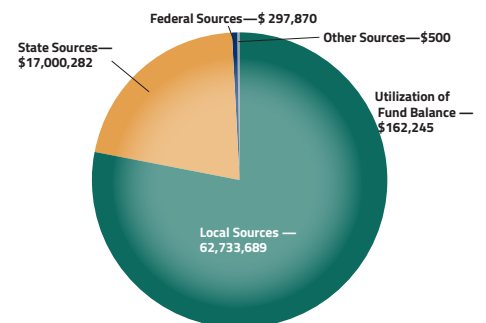
2017-2018 Budgeted Revenue



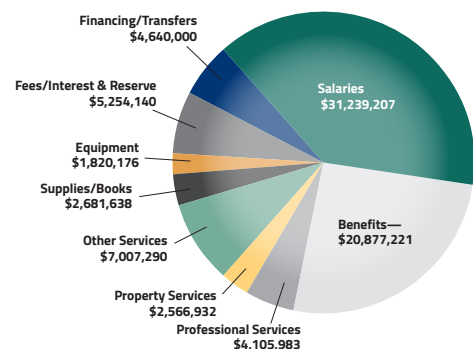
2017-2018 Budgeted Expenditures



2016-2017 Budgeted Revenue



2016-2017 Budgeted Expenditures



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS TELEVISIONED

The PR School Board regular and planning meetings air on PRTV, which is available on Communications Channel 404 and on Armstrong Cable Channel 211. Visit www.pinerichland.org for a listing of the tapings. You can also view the videos of meetings online the next day. In addition, agendas and meeting minutes are available under the school board tab on the website.

- In January 2017, the board approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for calendar year 2016. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2017. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$250-\$650 in tax rebates.

BUDGET BALANCING ACT IMPACTED BY VARIABLES

As you know, balancing the budget can be extremely difficult. Some of the variables that factor into the district’s budget include:

Salaries & Wages – Personnel costs for administration, faculty and support staff represent 64.4 percent of the total annual budgeted expenditures. These expenditures are established by collective bargaining agreements and compensation plans.

Employer Benefit Costs – The district’s employer contribution rate for the Public School Employees’ Retirement System (PSERS) will increase to 32.57 percent of the salary cost from 10.03 percent in 2015-2016, which translates to about \$1.1 million (or approximately \$573,398 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2017-2018 budget. This rate is set by the PSERS Board of Trustees and mandated by state legislation.

Premium Costs – Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium premium costs will increase by 1.99 percent for Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans and Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) plans for covered employees. Overall, group health insurance expenditures are expected to increase this year by \$189,451.

Tuition Expenditures – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$682,150 for 2017-2018, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state. For more information on the budget, visit www.pinerichland.org/budget.

Board Unanimously Elects President & Vice President

The Pine-Richland School Board unanimously elected Dr. Jeffrey Banyas as president for a second year in a row and Mrs. Therese Dawson as vice president during its reorganization meeting on Dec. 5, 2016. Both Dr. Banyas and Mrs. Dawson are long-standing directors. Dr. Banyas joined the board in 2009 and Mrs. Dawson in 2007. Mr. Peter Lyons, who also serves as a trustee on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit board, was approved as the board treasurer effective July 1, 2017. The board also reappointed the following representatives:

- Mrs. Dawson to serve as the Pine-Richland School Board Pennsylvania School Boards Association representative for 2017.
- Mr. Steven Stegman as the Northern Area Special Purpose Schools (A.W. Beattie Career Center) Joint Committee representative through December 2018. Dr. Banyas also serves as representative to the NASPS Joint Committee.
- Mr. Greg DiTullio to serve as the representative for Pine Township Parks and Recreation for 2017.
- Mrs. Holly Johnston as representative for the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund for 2017.

Also serving on the 2016-2017 board is Mr. Marc Casciani, Mrs. Virginia Goebel and Mr. Dennis Sundo, who also served as school board treasurer through June of 2017.

The board also established meeting dates for 2017. All meetings will be held in the DeWitt Blank Conference Room, located at 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044 at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Action items may be placed on the Reorganization Meeting and Planning Meeting agendas at various times throughout the year.

Date	Meeting
August 28, 2017	Regular Meeting
September 11, 2017	Planning Meeting
September 25, 2017	Regular Meeting
October 9, 2017	Planning Meeting
October 23, 2017	Regular Meeting
November 13, 2017	Combined Planning/Regular Meeting
December 4, 2017	Reorganization Meeting
December 11, 2017	Combined Planning/Regular Meeting

For more information on board meetings, topics, agendas and director bios, visit www.pinerichland.org/board.



PR SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZES (BACK ROW: L-R): VICE PRESIDENT THERESE DAWSON AND DIRECTORS STEVEN STEGMAN AND MARC CASCIANI AND TREASURER PETER LYONS AND DIRECTOR GREG DITULLIO AND (FRONT ROW: L-R) DIRECTOR HOLLY JOHNSTON AND PRESIDENT JEFFREY BANYAS AND DIRECTORS DENNIS SUNDO AND VIRGINIA GOEBEL.



Foundation Enriches Educational Experiences for Teachers & Students

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is a non-profit educational foundation committed to enriching and investing in the experiences of the Pine-Richland student community through staff grants, student scholarships and community partnerships. Over the last five years, PROF awarded \$120,000 in grants to PRSD teachers and \$176,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors.

The foundation consists of community-based trustees including President Moira Singer, Vice President Laura Ball, Treasurer Randall King, Secretary Sara Antol and trustees Charles Berry, Keri Brown, Joseph Culos, Kate Eyerma, Leanne Finney, Eric Giesecke, Susan Hong-Bang, David Jeter, Nishat Kazi, Christine Misback, Jim Neill, Terry Pomerleau, Susan Shepard, Stacey Silipo, Robin Tino, School Board Liaison Holly Johnston, Faculty Liaison Christofer Vins and Executive Director Deborah Lund.



STAFF MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER WRITING INSTITUTE IN 2016 AND 2017.

PROF Develops Community Partnerships

Working with community partners, PROF continues to identify opportunities to highlight our students' talents and provide them with real-world experiences. As a recognized organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), participating businesses are able to contribute towards innovative educational programs within Pine-Richland's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiative. We expect to grow those opportunities in the coming year.

Support PROF



Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund



@proudtobe_PR



Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund



@proudtobe_PR



PROF TRUSTEE SUSAN SHEPARD AND SOPHOMORES DANIEL JOHANSON AND DREW LUND TOSS SHIRTS INTO THE CROWD DURING HOMECOMING.

PROF Highlights 'Proud To Be PR!' Campaign

Join PROF's campaign to tell us why you are #PROUDTOBE_PR. Trustees hosted a #PROUDTOBE_PR t-shirt toss at Homecoming.



(L-R): PROF TRUSTEES CHUCK BERRY, CHRIS COCHRAN, DANIEL JOHANSON, SUSAN SHEPARD, SUSAN HONG-BANG, DREW LUND, ERIC GIESECKE, STACEY SILIPO, MOIRA SINGER AND JILL GRUBER PROMOTE PROF AT HOMECOMING.

PROF Celebrates Success

PROF hosted over 75 community members and PRSD staff at the Pine Community Center to hear first hand from grant recipients Kathy Giegel and Bonnie Alessi on the impact of The Joy and Authenticity of Writing at Richland Elementary School. Other speakers included Ken Judson, a long-time supporter of PROF's scholarship program. During the event, PROF raised almost \$15,000 in contributions including an anonymous match. Prof's next event will be held on October 14, 2017.

PROF Awards \$48,000 in Scholarships

PROF administered and awarded \$48,000 to 22 students through 15 community sponsored scholarships. Trustees, benefactors and scholarship recipients participated in the 2017 Senior Awards Program. For more information, visit www.prof-fund.org/scholarships.



PHOTO BY JOHN MADIA

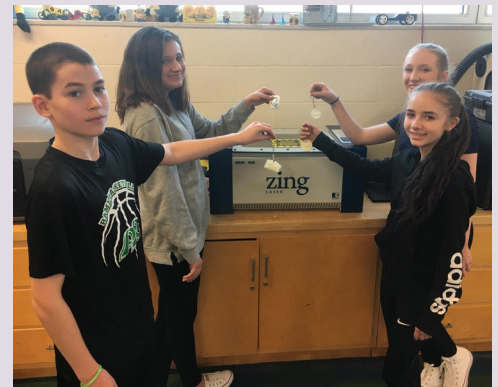
2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND BENEFACTORS PARTICIPATE IN AN AWARDS CEREMONY. PROF AWARDED \$48,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS.

PROF Awards Staff Grants

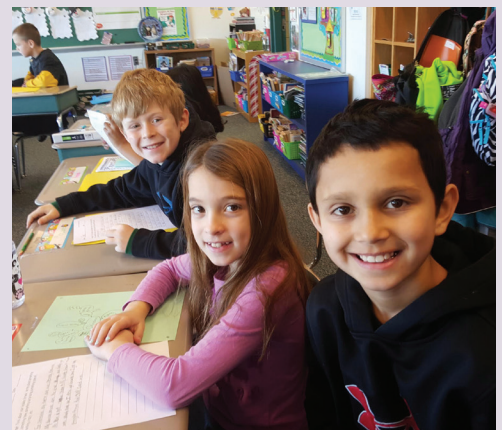
Throughout the year, PROF awarded more than \$35,000 in grants to PRSD staff members. These grants supported such programs and initiatives as Flexible Seating for Richland Elementary School, Authenticity & Joy of Elementary Writing III for Eden Hall Upper Elementary School (with support from the PRSD), Laser Engraver and Middle Meadow TV Studio for the Pine-Richland Middle School (with support from the PRMS PTO), and Dynamic Geometry Software and Chromebooks for the Pine-Richland High School.

District Provides Paperless Option

The Pine-Richland School District produces the annual report on 100% recycled paper. While the district has curbed the use of paper through the years, the annual report is the only document mailed to the community. The document provides residents with a snapshot of the budget and academic achievement as well as positive achievements of students and staff. If you would like to be removed from the annual report mailing list for further savings, please take a few minutes to submit your information by visiting www.pinerichland.org/paperless.



(FRONT: L-R) SEVENTH GRADERS ANDREW SWARTOUT AND RACHEL EVANCHO; (BACK: L-R) SAIGE SCHLUTZ AND CAITLIN HOWARD USE THE NEW LASER ENGRAVER AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.



(BACK TO FRONT) FOURTH GRADERS MACLANE MILLER, ADDIE GRACE ROBB AND KYE HERNANDEZ PARTICIPATE IN A WRITING EXERCISE AS PART OF THE AUTHENTICITY & JOY OF ELEMENTARY WRITING III GRANT AT EDEN HALL.

See How You Can Help

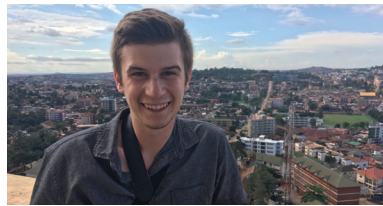
Interested in more information about future scholarship opportunities, grant updates or how you can contribute to the success of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund? Please visit www.prof-fund.org. PROF's United Way Donor Option number is 921848. Companies who wish to support PROF may also be eligible for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC).

Pine-Richland Graduates Are Making Headlines

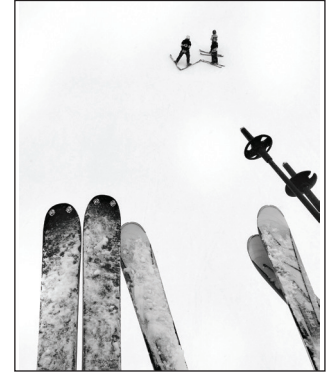
2014

District to Update Alumni Directory

Pine-Richland School District will be working with PCI-Harris Connect to update the alumni directory. PCI publishes directories for educational and military organizations. During the school year, you may receive a postcard or a phone call. Graduates are not obligated. However, the project allows PRSD to receive important updates so we can better serve alumni. If you wish not to be contacted, please email rhathorn@pinerichland.org.



LIFESTYLE CATEGORY WINNER
2014 PRHS GRADUATE NICHOLAS TROMBOLA IS SHOWN HERE IN KAMPALA, UGANDA, WHERE HE INTERNEED AT THE DAILY MONITOR.



PANORAMA CATEGORY WINNER

2013



ELIZABETH BEATTY

Graduate Elizabeth Beatty toured Richland Elementary School classrooms to share a book she illustrated and wrote. "Elmie's Treasure" is about a creature named Elmie, who realizes that friendship is more special than his possessions. Ms. Beatty graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art.

PRHS graduate Alexander Bellows took the Oath of Office during a commissioning ceremony at Penn State University, where he was a member of the PSU Reserve Officers' Training Corps. "I can say without question that PR Air Force JROTC led me to this path," said 2nd Lt. Bellows. "It helped me figure out early on what I wanted in my future and to solidify my calling to serve, and I cannot thank the PR Air Force JROTC program enough for that. He will begin his career as a civil engineer on Sept. 30, 2017 at the Travis Air Force Base in Northern California.



ALEXANDER BELLOWS

2012



CHRISTINA KNAPP

2008 PRHS graduate Christina Knapp Jockel earned the Daisy Award, a national award for excellence in Nursing, and the LeMoyne Award, the highest award a nurse can win in Pittsburgh. Ms. Knapp Jockel, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, credits her high school teachers, her University of Kentucky professors, and her co-workers for her success. She is a critical care, registered nurse at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

2008



GRADUATE BEN CLARK (CENTER) TALKS TO 2017 PR BAND OFFICERS ABOUT DESIGNING PARK RIDES.

2006 Graduate Ben Clark, a Universal Studios mechanical engineer, shared more about his role in creating park rides during a seminar in which PR Band & Orchestra members participated in a trip to Orlando. "Ben was able to articulate to our students the benefits of participation in music ensembles at PR and how that training has translated into creativity, teamwork and clear communication skills used every day while on the job," said Band Director Brian Scott.

2006

ANNUAL NOTICES

Introduction

Parents/guardians should take time to review the district's annual notices. These annual notices include information about regular education, special education and gifted education services. These notices also provide details of the district's public outreach and awareness system, as well as screening procedures.

Pine-Richland School District provides a free and appropriate public education for all students including students requiring special education services. This includes provision of education and related aids, services, or accommodations, which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

Each year the district publishes these notices along with other pertinent information families need to know about school district operations and expectations at www.pinerichland.org. Families without internet access should contact PR Communications Director Rachel Hathhorn at 724-625-7773, ext. 6202.

Attendance

The board requires that school age students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by the district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. You can visit www.pinerichland.org/Page/1842 for more about Policy 204. The district is currently revising this policy for 2017-2018. Changes will have negligible impact to current practices.

Discipline Code

The purpose of the Pine-Richland School District (PRSD) Discipline Code is to present standard behavioral expectations based on school board policy for all students in the district. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the PRSD Discipline Code and to review these documents with their children. Parents, guardians and students are also referred to Board Policy 218 of the board policy manual for additional information regarding the discipline code, student conduct, and consequences of inappropriate or proscribed behaviors and conduct. In the event of any conflict between the terms of the discipline code and any board policy, the applicable board policy will control and take precedence. To review this document, which contains everything from attendance, unlawful harassment, bullying to bus expectations, visit www.pinerichland.org/disciplinecode.

Public Outreach & Awareness System (Child Find)

Pine-Richland uses a public outreach awareness system to locate and identify children thought to be eligible for special education within the school district's jurisdiction. The district provides details of where to find out more information about the district's special education and early intervention programs through announcements on PR-TV (broadcasted throughout the community), in the annual report (distributed to residents, township buildings and libraries) and via electronic communications (e-notices and website).

You can visit www.pinerichland.org/annualnotices for more about student services and more details on the following:

- Education for Homeless Youth
- English as a Second Language Instruction
- Gifted Education Services & Screening & Evaluation
- Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- Screening, Evaluation & Placement Procedures
- Services for Preschool Age Children with Disabilities
- Services for School Age Exceptional Children
- Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

General Annual Notices

There are several general annual notices that can be reviewed at www.pinerichland.org/annualnotices and include:

- Free and Reduced Lunch (Visit www.compass.state.pa.us for info & application)
- Federal Programs Title I
- Homebound Instruction
- Independent Educational Evaluations
- Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)
- Right to Know Act
- Special Notice Regarding Directory Information
- Armed Forces Recruiting
- District Photographs*

**Any parent/guardian wishing his or her student not to be photographed or videotaped, should contact the PR Communications Office no later than Sept. 15 via rhathhorn@pinerichland.org.*

Pine-Richland School District Nondiscrimination Statement & Complaint Process

Pine-Richland School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Individuals who have an inquiry, complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for disabled persons, should contact Dr. Maura Paczan, coordinator of 504 Service Agreements at 724-443-7230 or Fax: 724-443-7374. For non-disability claims, individuals should contact Owen Kenney, Title IX coordinator, at 724-625-7773 x6201 or Fax: 724-625-1490.

Policy 103: Nondiscrimination in Schools & Classroom Practices

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The equitable distribution of district resources is one means the district shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

Policy 103.1: Qualified Student with Disabilities Grievance Process

As stated, the school district shall provide to each qualified student with a disability enrolled in the district, without cost to the student or parent/guardian, a free and appropriate public education. This includes provision of education and related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

The school board encourages students and parents/guardians who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment to promptly report such incidents. Policies 103 and 103.1 can be found in the policy manual or via the website at www.pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination. Reports of discrimination may be forwarded to the school district's Section 504 Coordinator Maura Paczan, lead School psychologist, Richland Elementary School, 3811 Bakerstown Rd., Gibsonsia, PA, 15044; 724-443-7230 x6503.

Non-disability claims may be forwarded to the school district's Title IX Coordinator Owen Kenney, director of Human Resources & Legal Affairs, Pine-Richland School District, 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonsia, PA 15044; 724-625-7773 x6201 or Fax: 724-625-1490.

Surveillance Cameras & Audio Recordings

Under School Board Policy 816 (Use of Video Surveillance Cameras), the district is permitted to use video surveillance in any school building, on school district property, or on any transportation vehicle being used by the district. The district does monitor district buildings, property and transportation vehicles with surveillance cameras and individuals using any such facilities should expect that such surveillance may occur. In addition, the use of audio recordings is permitted on school district transportation vehicles (Policy 810.2). The district will record audio on all equipped buses beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

Food Service & Student Wellness

Free and Reduced Lunch - For more information & online application go to, www.compass.state.pa.us

In June 2017, the school board approved a revised Policy 808 (Food Services) as well as an administrative regulation, which addresses student meal balances and unpaid meal charge procedures.

Pine-Richland School District recognizes that student wellness (Policy 246) and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road

Gibsonia, PA 15044

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gibsonia, PA
Permit #19



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parents, students, staff and television personalities celebrate Wexford Elementary's hard work in raising donations for the Turkey Fund breaking the school record and collecting nearly \$26,000.

NOVEMBER 18, 2016
KDKA-TV TURKEY FUND \$25,972.60



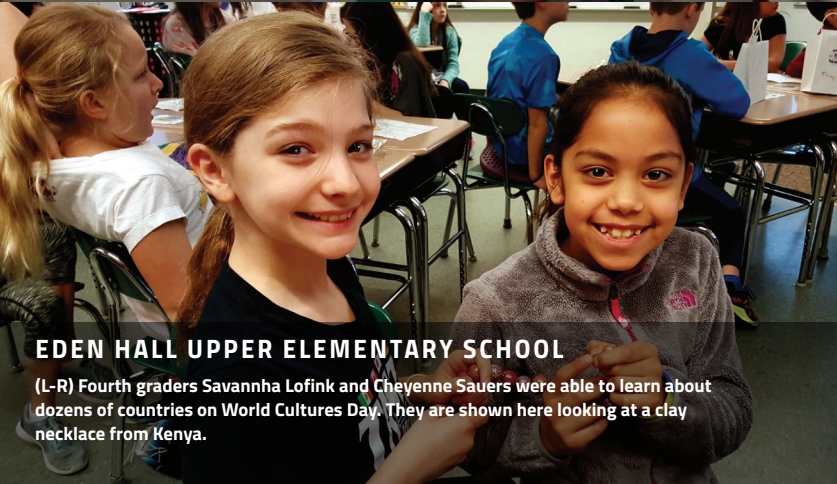
HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First grader Collin Berger and his mom Kelley spend time together after he participated in the Be An Excellent Reader (BEAR) Chamber Singers Club under the direction of Teacher Carin Liberati.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(L-R) Second graders Daniel Gauthier and Rani Shah learn about the history of architecture in Pittsburgh thanks to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.



EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(L-R) Fourth graders Savannah Lofink and Cheyenne Sauers were able to learn about dozens of countries on World Cultures Day. They are shown here looking at a clay necklace from Kenya.