



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015

[FOCUSED ON LEARNING]

“The best gift we give our children
is a quality education.”

—Mrs. Christine Krill, Pine-Richland School District Parent
(Strategic Planning Town Hall Session on June 25, 2015)



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

Dear Pine-Richland Community Members:

The publication of the annual report serves as an important opportunity to reflect on the past year. In this report, you will see a wide range of accomplishments by our students in the areas of academics, arts, athletics and activities. Members of the Pine-Richland staff and community are also recognized for their achievements and contributions to the district. It is a good news report about the direction and accomplishments at PR.

The district has also embarked on an exciting process to set direction and priorities for education at Pine-Richland through the strategic planning process. Initial feedback was gathered through electronic surveys and town hall meetings. Additional opportunities for your participation and input will be advertised for mid-August. These town halls meetings are designed to promote dialogue and active engagement. More information about the strategic planning process is available on our website.

I hope you enjoy this Focused on Learning edition of the annual report. Thank you for your ongoing support of the students, staff and community of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Miller'.

Brian R. Miller
PRSD Superintendent

COVER PHOTO: SENIORS
ANYA CHOPRA AND DANIEL
CHRYST PARTICIPATE IN 2015
GRADUATION CEREMONIES.

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[DID YOU KNOW THAT...?]

- **The Washington Post** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** number one in the region and number 10 statewide in America's Most Challenging High School rankings for 2015. The publication ranks schools through an index formula, which takes the number of Advanced Placement exams given at a school each year and divides it by the number of seniors who graduated.
- **The Pittsburgh Business Times** ranked **Pine-Richland School District** number eight out of 103 districts in the state in its 2015 list of rankings. The district was ranked number nine in 2014. The publication bases rankings on scores from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) and Keystone Exams. Editors review three years of scores giving the current year the most weight.
- **The US Department of Education** designated **Wexford Elementary** as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2014-2015 for being an Exemplary High Performing School. **Wexford Elementary** is one of only two schools in Allegheny County to be honored with this achievement.
- **The Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Federal Programs** honored **Richland Elementary School** as a 2015 Distinguished Title I School.

NATIONAL MERIT

SCHOLARS

THE CLASS OF 2015 NATIONAL MERIT & NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARS CELEBRATE ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

PHOTO BY MARC SOBACCO



Seniors Earn National Merit & National Achievement Status

The National Merit Scholarship program honored 12 Pine-Richland High School seniors in its merit and achievement programs in 2014-2015. Seniors earning Finalist status include **Julia Herrle, Jan Karol Kalinski, Ryan Mann** and **Jonathon Schubert**, who had been named semifinalists earlier.

They are among only 16,000 seniors being honored across the country in the annual program.

The National Merit also honored students who earned Commended status and include seniors **Sean Anderson, Anya Chopra, Helen Guo, Thomas Krill, Makenna Laffey, Luke R. Miller** and **Allison Shepard**.

Senior **Bennett Cromer** was named one of 3,100 Outstanding Participants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

These seniors underwent an initial screening and competed with more than 1.4 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

This year, senior Susan Herrle earned a National Merit Scholarship and PPG Industries awarded senior **Keegan Harris** with a foundation scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



DISTRICT SCORECARD

National Merit & Achievement Scholars	Number of Students
Class of 2015	12
Class of 2014	14
Class of 2013	19
Class of 2012	21
Class of 2011	10

Top Students

THE TOP THREE STUDENTS HAVE BIG PLANS THIS FALL. VALEDICTORIAN JULIA HERRLE (CENTER) PLANS TO ATTEND PRINCETON UNIVERSITY TO STUDY PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. SALUTATORIAN RYAN MANN (LEFT) WILL ATTEND DUKE UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE WILL STUDY BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING. TERTIARY ANDREW AUKERMAN (RIGHT) WILL STUDY BIOENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH. IN ADDITION TO THE TOP THREE STUDENTS, CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIORS RANKING IN THE TOP 10 (IN ORDER): NOAH BLAKE, ALLISON SHEPARD, RACHEL EBNER, MAKENNA LAFFEY, SARAH KRAUSE AND HANNAH ZAFAR.

THE CLASS OF 2015 EARNED NEARLY \$8.5 MILLION IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDING THE NORDENBERG SCHOLARSHIP EARNED BY SENIOR SARAH KRAUSE, WHO EARNED FULL TUITION TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH.



STAFF

NOTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER ALISON MONK, WHO IS A FINALIST IN THE PA TEACHER OF YEAR PROGRAM, WORKS WITH (LEFT) SECOND GRADERS KAYLEIGH LEWIS AND (RIGHT) AVA MEANS.



Teacher Named Finalist in PA Teacher of Year Program

Pine-Richland Elementary School Teacher **Alison Monk** is being named one of only 12 finalists in the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year program for 2016.

The Richland Elementary second grade teacher has been teaching in Pine-Richland since 1991. Mrs. Monk serves on the Academic Leadership Council for the district. She has mentored other teachers through district workshops as well as at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. She earned her Master's of Arts in Teaching from the University of Pittsburgh, an Advanced Certification in Literacy K-12 from the University of New England, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Utah.

In addition to Mrs. Monk, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Autistic Support Teacher **Janice Kazalas** and Pine-Richland High School Social Studies Teacher **Matt Roberts** were named semifinalists in the program.

Later this year, the PA Department of Education will announce a winner, who will serve as PA Teacher of Year for 2016.

If successful, Mrs. Monk will join the ranks of PRHS Mathematics Teacher Michele Switala, who was named PA Teacher of the Year for 2010.

More than two dozen PR teachers were nominated. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras to see the list.



PARA EDUCATOR CATHY SMALLWOOD, TEACHER REBECCA MILLER AND PSYCHOLOGIST MELISSA RAMIREZ PARTICIPATE IN AN AWARDS PROGRAM HOSTED BY FUND IT FORWARD.

- Wexford Elementary School Para Educator **Cathy Smallwood** was named the winner of the "Making a Daily Difference Award." The award is given out by Fund It Forward, a non-profit organization, aimed at helping families with children who have special needs. Other Pine-Richland nominees included Wexford Elementary Learning Support Teacher **Rebecca Miller** and Pine-Richland School Psychologist **Melissa Ramirez**. Pine-Richland High School Teacher **Mark Schweers** was nominated for the Spirit of the Community Award, which recognizes leaders for their time spent raising awareness for the special needs community.
- The Boy Scouts of America Seneca District of Laurel Highlands honored Superintendent **Brian Miller**, Ed.D., on May 12, 2015, during a breakfast at the AW Beattie Career Center in Allison Park with the 2015 Good Citizen's Award.
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials announced that Accounting Specialist **Rachel McCarthy** earned status as a Registered Pennsylvania School Business Official. She earned certification for meeting requirements set forth by PASBO and for her professional commitment in keeping her management and technical skills updated.



TEACHER RAMON RILEY IS SHOWN HERE WITH (L-R) SENIORS MONICA RAMSER AND JESSICA LIBBY AS WQED VIDEOTAPES A SEGMENT ABOUT HIS WORK WITH STUDENTS.

- PRHS Art Teacher **Ramon Riley**, who was featured on WQED's program *Pittsburgh 360*, was in the spotlight for the debut of his exhibit that pays tribute to his hometown of Braddock. Mr. Riley brought together students from Pine-Richland High School and students from his alma mater Woodland Hills High School to create artwork about "where they are from." Mr. Riley's exhibition revolved around the same theme. The students' work was presented on 12-inch panel surfaces. To read more about this project visit: www.pinerichland.org/extras.
- Kent State University honored Pine-Richland High School Director of Collegiate Affairs **Jean Whalen** with the 2015 School Counselor of the Year award on April 24, 2015. The honor is awarded to individuals who dedicate their time and efforts to support students.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

District Welcomes New Employees



SHAWN STOEBENER

Pine-Richland School District welcomed a new member to the team March 23, 2015. **Mr. Shawn Stoebener** serves as the district's director of technology. Mr. Stoebener comes to Pine-Richland from Avonworth School District, where he served as director of technology and information systems. Prior, he served as director of technology at the Regional Learning Alliance through Slippery Rock University. He holds a Master of Science in Information Systems Management from Robert Morris University and a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from Slippery Rock University.

In addition to **Mr. Stoebener**, the district welcomed new employees at Pine-Richland High School: Principal **Nancy Bowman**, Custodian **Stephen Douglas**, Teacher **Sarah Hahn**, Para Educator **Kevin Schaude**, Custodian **Dominick Spinelli** and Secretary **Susan Torchia**. The district welcomed Custodian **Diane McClelland** and Para Educator **Elisabeth Smallwood** at the middle school and Para Educator **Samuel Bartley**, Para Educator **Jessica Middleton** and Teacher **Racheal Zaspel** at Eden Hall Upper Elementary. The district welcomed Secretary **Nora McChesney** at Richland Elementary and Secretary **Virginia Hoffman** joined the staff year-round. Secretary **Carolyn Will** moved from Richland Elementary to begin serving as an administrative assistant to the assistant superintendent. Joining Mrs. Will at central offices is **Roberta McConnell**, who is serving as the district's accounts payable/receivable specialist. In addition, **Barbara Williams** moved from the high school to central offices as the district's administrative assistant to the superintendent/board secretary.

District Honors Retirees

The district recognized employees who retired this past year. Combined, these retirees logged more than 230 years in Pine-Richland:

Pine-Richland School District

Database Administrator Diane McGuire

Pine-Richland High & Pine-Richland Middle

PRHS Teacher Betty Jo Cole

PRHS Custodian David Von Hofen

PRMS Para Educator Margaret Peterson

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School

Teacher Rose Hoerr

Guidance Counselor Melissa Lupetin Sullivan

Teacher Fred Mazur

Teacher M. Marlene Morrow

Teacher Deborah Newcomer

Teacher M. Colleen Todd

Elementary Schools

Richland Teacher Lois Buhay

Wexford Teacher Karen Elliott

Wexford Guidance Counselor Amy Kleissas

Wexford/Hance Personal Care Assistant

Kathleen Smith



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

US Secretary of Education Designates Wexford Elementary Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

The US Department of Education designated Wexford Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School based on its overall academic excellence on Sept. 30, 2014.

Wexford Elementary Principal **Rick Walsh**, Counselor **Amy Kleissas** and Teachers **Joanna Firmin** and **Maura Berger** traveled to Washington, DC from November 10-12, 2014 to participate in the National Blue Ribbon Schools Ceremony.

"Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan thanked us for being an example of excellence, and he reiterated our philosophy that we help nurture the whole child, not just the academic child to be successful," said Teacher Joanna Firmin.

Wexford, which was honored for being an Exemplary High Performing School, was one of only two schools

in Allegheny County and one of only 14 schools in Pennsylvania to be named a Blue Ribbon School in 2014. In all, 337 schools were named National Blue Ribbon Schools across the US. Exemplary schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

Dr. Walsh says all stakeholders were involved in achieving this recognition.

"We receive tremendous support from the community members who are willing to volunteer and share their talents to make Wexford a more special place," said Dr. Walsh. "We have tremendous faculty/staff and students who come to school eager to learn. Wexford Elementary is the place where school and community grow together."

PA Department of Education Designates Richland Elementary School as Title I Distinguished School

The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Division of Federal Programs honored Richland Elementary School as one of the top performing Title I schools in Pennsylvania for 2014-2015. The school earned the designation in 2013-2014 as well.

Richland Elementary received the honor because it ranked in the top five percent of Title I Schools based on aggregate math and reading Pennsylvania School System of Assessment (PSSA) scores, has met all Annual Measureable Objectives and closed the achievement gap on the PSSAs for reading and mathematics combined for all students and historically underperforming students.

Richland Elementary School Principal **Gene Nicastro** attributes the staff’s hard work and collaboration for the success.

“It is essential for our staff to utilize a system of data analysis and progress monitoring to identify students’ needs,” said Mr. Gene Nicastro. “The staff does a tremendous job in building a positive relationship with students, understanding their specific needs, and implementing strategies to improve achievement. We’re fortunate to have hardworking students along with parent support and involvement.”

In all, 96 Title I schools were named Distinguished schools in PA out of about 1,800 schools, which qualify for federal Title I financial help. Title I funds are given to schools, which have at least four percent of its students qualifying as low-income.

District Publishes Academic Achievement Report

The district produced the Academic Achievement Report for the second year in a row. The annual report on student learning reports data from the 2013-2014 school year and compares the performance of Pine-Richland students whenever possible to students throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

When possible, five years of data is included in the report and analyzed for levels of achievement. The report looks at the following:

- Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs)
- Keystone Exams
- School Performance Profile
- Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- American College Test (ACT)
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

To review the entire report, visit: www.pinerichland.org/academicreport or www.pinerichland.org/extras.

KEYSTONE EXAMS TESTING WINDOWS 2015-2016

Winter	
Algebra I	Dec. 2-3, 2015
Biology	Dec. 8-9, 2015
Literature	Dec. 14-15, 2015

Spring	
Algebra I	May 16-17, 2016
Biology	May 19-20, 2016
Literature	May 23-24, 2016

PSSA TESTING WINDOWS 2015-2016

April 11-15, 2016 – English Language Arts (Grades 3-8)

April 18-22, 2016 – Mathematics (Grades 3-8)

April 25-29, 2016 – Science (Grades 4 & 8)

May 2-6, 2016 – Make-Up Window

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Testing windows may vary or change after the start of the school year. Visit www.pinerichland.org periodically for updates.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



PRIMARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient – 2014

Grade 3	2013 PSSAs		2014 PSSAs	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
Hance	92%	92%	96%	91%
Richland	93%	87%	97%	93%
Wexford	97%	94%	95%	94%



UPPER ELEMENTARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient – 2014

Grade	Subject	2013 PSSAs	2014 PSSAs
4th	Math	91%	91%
	Reading	84%	86%
	Science	92%	92%
5th	Math	91%	85%
	Reading	81%	80%
	Writing	77%	81%
6th	Math	90%	89%
	Reading	81%	85%



SECONDARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient – 2014

Grade	Subject	2013 PSSAs	2014 PSSAs
7th	Math	90%	89%
	Reading	89%	89%
8th	Math	93%	93%
	Reading	94%	96%
	Science	84%	76%
	Writing	92%	93%

PA System of School Assessments

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) tests students' skills in mathematics and reading in grades three through eight, in writing in grades five and 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). Some areas of strengths and opportunities include:

- The percentage of students scoring at the advanced/proficient level has remained high and stable over time on the third, seventh and eighth grade Reading PSSAs, and on the third, fourth and eighth grade Math PSSAs and fourth grade science PSSAs.
- The percentage of students scoring at the advanced/proficient level has remained stable over time on the fourth & fifth grade Reading PSSAs and the fifth grade Math PSSAs.
- Pine-Richland students outperformed the state average at all levels on the Reading and Math PSSAs.
- The district has the opportunity to review the rigor of the reading curriculum to develop stronger interpretation and analysis skills in students.
- The district is exploring opportunities to increase student work with non-fiction text through the short-term and long-term curriculum review process and increase reading and writing opportunities for students in science and social studies.

Keystone Exams

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

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

The Algebra I and Literature Keystone Exams include content aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts. The Biology Keystone Exam includes eligible content aligned with the enhanced Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Science. Student performance is measured at the same levels as the PSSAs: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic.

In 2013, the Keystone Exams replaced the grade 11 PSSAs in math, reading, writing and science. Students are required to take the Keystone Exam as an end-of-course test. The exams are one component of Pennsylvania's system of high school graduation requirements. All students must take the Keystone Exams and non-proficient students are required to retake the exam. Students have three opportunities to take Keystone Exams throughout the year: winter,

spring, and summer. School districts have the responsibility of providing some form of supplemental instruction for non-proficient students.

Some areas of strengths and opportunities include:

- Nearly 100% of grade seven students scored at the advanced/proficient levels on their first attempt at the Algebra 1 Keystone. The end-of-course percentage shifts to about 90% for grade eight and 50% for grade nine.
- About 90% of students score at the advanced/proficient levels on their first attempt of the Biology Keystone. The percentage is higher for students in the honors biology course than in the general biology course.

- About 83% of students score at the advanced/proficient levels on their first attempt at the Literature Keystone Exam.
- Through the district's work on the curriculum review process, teachers will be able to identify specific skills to address. The district will continue the conversation about supplemental instruction and Project-Based Assessments.

Keystone Exam data is more difficult to capture in a snapshot since some of the data reflects scores from retake exams. Visit www.pinerichland.org/academicreport or www.pinerichland.org/extras, or www.pdesas.org for more information.

American College Test (ACT)

The American College Test (ACT) is designed to measure general education development of high school students and their ability to complete college-level work. The ACT measures skills in English, math, reading and science reasoning. Test results can help students with career as well as educational planning. The highest possible scaled score for each subject area test is 36. In 2014, student performances on each sub-test were stable and high (i.e., English, mathematics, reading and science).

College Board SAT

The SAT is published by the College Board and administered typically to juniors and seniors in high school. Many colleges and universities require that applicants take the SAT as part of their admissions processes. The SAT is a four-hour test that measures the critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college. Separate tests are given in math, critical reading and writing. SAT scores are one indicator of a student's potential to do college work. Each SAT test has a maximum score of 800 points. Some areas of strengths and opportunities include:

- The district reports 93% of its students from the Class of 2014 took the SATs. This is the highest percentage to date.
- Pine-Richland students have consistently outperformed state and the total group, which includes all test takers nationally and internationally, over the past five years.



Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

2014	Math	Reading	English	Science
Pine-Richland	26	26	25	25
Pennsylvania	23	23	22	22
United States	21	21	20	21

**PRHS Class of 2014 results unavailable at production time.*



PRHS Class

PRHS Class	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2014	539	562	537
2013	549	577	550
2012	543	561	535
2011	546	571	533

**PRHS Class of 2015 results unavailable at production time.*



Pine-Richland results compared to state and all test takers.

2014	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Pine-Richland	539	562	537
Pennsylvania	497	504	480
All Test Takers	497	513	487

**PRHS Class of 2015 results unavailable at production time.*

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



AP TEST SCORECARD*

Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	Tests Scored 3+
2014	486	932	324
2013	450	944	337
2012	453	900	326
2011	389	721	278

*PRHS Class of 2015 results unavailable at production time.

Advanced Placement Exams

The College Board publishes the Advanced Placement (AP) exams. By taking AP courses and tests, students have the opportunity to experience college-level work in high school and gain valuable skills and study habits for college. At Pine-Richland School District, students enrolled in AP courses must take the end-of-course AP exam. Scores range from a low of one through a high of five, with a five indicating a student is well qualified to receive college credit and/or advanced placement in college programs. Some areas of strengths and opportunities include:

- The percentage of Pine-Richland students scoring three or higher has exceeded the state and global percentages in four out of the last five years.
- Two of the 17 subject area tests given had average scores above 4.0 (Calculus BC and Spanish language) in 2014.
- A historically high number of students were enrolled in at least one AP course in 2014.
- The district is reviewing its AP Exam results as it conducts the curriculum review process and considers the professional development for teachers.

ALUMNI ACCOLADES



2014 PRHS GRADUATE
ANDREW VISLOSKY

2014 PRHS graduate **David Randolph** interned at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah from Jan. 22 through Feb. 1, 2015. The film festival is considered the largest film festival in the United State. He served as a producer in the Young Filmmakers Program, a rare appointment for a college freshman. While at PR, Mr. Randolph produced the "Best Day of My Life" lip dub.



2013 PRHS GRADUATE
CALLIE ANDRO

2014 PRHS graduate **Andrew Vislosky** earned the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers Scholarship Award as he studies Petroleum Engineering at Penn State University. He also was selected to participate in a prestigious internship this summer with the Southwestern Energy of Houston, TX. The recruiter said Andrew's well-rounded background from Pine-Richland gave him an edge.



2004 PRHS GRADUATE
KATIE HALLIDAY

2013 PRHS graduate **Callie Andro**, who is majoring in dance and graphic design with a minor in advertising, was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The college sophomore has earned the honor each semester since she began in the fall of 2013.

2009 PRHS graduate **Brad Hammer's** band is getting some media attention. The Daily Grind's music and

video has been featured on Root Sports and prior to Pirates games. The band began its summer concert tour "All Signs Lead To Bangladesh '15" on May 30, 2015.

2004 PRHS graduate **Katie Halliday** is earning top honors in her field for being named the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils District II Advisor of the Year on March 6, 2015. She serves as a student council advisor and teaches mathematics at Seneca Valley Senior High.

2002 PRHS graduate **Lindsey Bracco** is performing again this year in the Pittsburgh CLO's Summer Season. Some of the performances include *Mary Poppins*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Gypsy* and *The Wedding Singer*. Lindsey, who graduated from Point Park University in 2005, had the opportunity to perform in the Broadway production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

1997 PRHS graduate **Laura Wagner** is enjoying success as an author. Wagner says her book, entitled *Child of the Universe*, is geared for elementary aged children and seeks to help kids resist bullying, and to raise self-esteem as well. You can review her work at www.laurawagnerbooks.com.

STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT



SODEXO EMPLOYEE MARTIJN KRIUKEMIER PROVIDES SUPPORT AS EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADER NORA ROBERTS CREATES HER AWARD-WINNING RECIPE IN THE ANNUAL HEALTHY CHEF CONTEST. THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS EACH YEAR AT EDEN HALL. NORA'S RECIPE FOR GARDEN POPS EARNED HER REGIONAL FINALIST STATUS.

Academic Excellence

Several students are being recognized for earning perfect scores on the SAT or ACT. Those earning perfect scores on the ACT included seniors **Sean Anderson** (Math, Science & Composite), **Beckett Cromer** (Science), **Bennett Cromer** (Math & Science), **Helen Guo** (English & Reading), **Makenna Laffey** (Reading), **Kaylyn Rocher** (English), **Jonathon Schubert** (Math) and **Allison Shepard** (Science). Seniors earning perfect SAT scores included **Andrew Aukerman** (Math & SAT II Math II), **Rebecca Georgiadis** (SAT II Math II), **Zachary Grguras** (Math), **Julia Herrle** (Chemistry & Math II), **Jia Kum** (SAT II Chemistry), **Laura Kim** (Math), **Ryan Mann** (Math), **Jonathon Schubert** (Math) and **Allison Shepard** (SAT II Math II). Juniors earning perfect scores on the ACT included **Madeline Hess** (Reading & Writing), **Kylie Manuppelli** (English) and **Hannah Reiling** (Science) and on the SAT included juniors **Hyunwoo Kim** (Math & SAT II Math II), **Aidan Lakshman** (SAT II Math II), **Sarah Libby** (Writing) and **William Newell** (Reading).

Sophomore **Sarah Dawson** had the top score in Western Pennsylvania and ranked fourth in the nation on Le Grand Concours, the national French exam. Teacher **Dawn Herbst** said that the exam is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Sophomore **Carolina Celedon** ranked eighth in Western Pennsylvania and 13th nationally, and sophomore **Rachel Byrne** ranked ninth in Western Pennsylvania and 14th nationally.

The Pine-Richland High School Model UN Club celebrated 10 years in operation and held its ninth in-house tournament December 4, 2014 under the direction of Teacher **Terry**

Owens. Junior **William Newell** served as the club's president this past year.

The Asian American Heritage Committee of the Federal Executive Board of Pittsburgh awarded junior **Emma Kapoor** as a finalist and honoree for the 2015 Outstanding Indian-American Student of the Year Award and junior **Hyunwoo Kim** with the 2015 Outstanding Korean-American Student of the Year Award. Committee members say that students who earn these awards have outstanding academic records and exemplary extracurricular and community service activities on their resumes.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School students placed second in the America Bowl hosted by Baldwin High School on February 27, 2015. At the event, teams of students answered questions about American history and geography. The fifth-grade team consisted of **Miles Brown**, **Nicholas Labuda**, **Colby Ohlund** and **Amish Sethi**. Teachers **Jennifer Kopach** and **Joanna Sovek** oversaw the program with Teacher **Silvio Andreassi** as the classroom sponsor.

Hometown Pine-Richland High School GATE students moved on to the playoff round of the Hometown High Q at KDKA studios in downtown Pittsburgh on March 7, 2015. Teacher **Alexandra Batouyios** accompanied PRHS GATE seniors **Thomas Krill** and **Ryan Mann** and junior **Aidan Lakshman**, and freshman alternate **Alexander Steger** in the academic competition.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Several Pine-Richland School District teams competed at the Western Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition on March 7, 2015 at Moon Area School District. For the first time, Wexford Elementary School sent two teams. The primary team members included second grader **Sophia Suffoletto** and first graders **Luca Boudreau, Aaron Farrar, Alex Kastner, Luke Suffoletto** and kindergartner **Noah Ezolt**. Students were presented with the problem "Wacky Weather Warning" and transformed themselves into weather characters. The third-grade team members

included **Gabrielle Boudreau, Ryan E. Scott, Ethan Priore, Damian Ivanov, Avyukta Nagrath** and **Nicolai Ezolt**. Their problem was titled "Silent Movie." Students made a background out of origami and a xylophone out of scrap wood. Pine-Richland Middle School team members competed at the event by solving a long-term problem and developed a presentation. The team was made up of eighth grader **Michael Granati** and seventh graders **Erin Ahearn, Jacob Campbell, Nicholas Michel, Aidan Pavlick** and **Arden Webster**.

Career & Technical

AW Beattie Career Center inducted seniors **Eric Grazorchalk** and **Hunter Wozniak**, who was named Beattie's valedictorian, into the National Technical Honor Society. Beattie also recognized outstanding Students of the Month. For February and March, senior **Lane Knorr** and juniors **Grant Felt** and **Alexis Murphy** and sophomore **Hannah Polan** earned awards. For January and February, sophomores **Max Duhl** and **Joseph Sweeney**, juniors **William Thomson** and **Hunter Wozniak** earned awards. For December & January **Kaylyn Covert** and **Anna Schleicher** earned the honors. For November and December, juniors

Taylor Groetsch and **Alexis Murphy** earned awards. For September and October, juniors **Edward Kratochvila** and **Kyrra Bosland** and senior **Alexander Wilson** earned recognition.

Senior **Hunter Wozniak** earned a silver medal by placing second at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Leadership and Skills Conference in the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning category April 8 – 10, 2015 in Hershey, PA. Junior **Kyrra Bosland** also qualified for the state competition in the Promotional Bulletin Board contest in the Advertising Design category.

Citizenship and Volunteer Work



(FAR LEFT) PRHS SENIOR DAVID BRISKI IS SHOWN HERE WITH JUNIOR SHAELYN PARRY (FAR RIGHT) WITH OTHER NORTHERN AREA STUDENTS EARNING OUTSTANDING YOUNG CITIZEN REGIONAL AWARDS.

Judges named senior **David Briski** and junior **Shaelyn Parry** 2015 Outstanding Young Citizen Regional winners.

The Rotary Club of Pittsburgh named Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadet

Jordan Martig with the Student of Distinction award for October of 2014. The senior served as commander of the student unit and has been part of the program since his freshman year.

The Pine-Richland High School Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Team earned a Gold Banner from the Jefferson Awards Foundation. They were officially recognized on May 28, 2015 at the PR Central Offices. Jefferson Awards Foundation Regional Director Jodi Klebick presented the banner to Peer to Peer senior co-presidents **Callahan Miller** and **Andy**

Aukerman and seniors **Isabella Werner, Elizabeth Tierno** and **Madison Tomlin** and junior **Emefa Akwayena** and sophomore **Noah Adams**. Students participated in numerous projects including "Random Acts of Kindness," and the "As One We Run" Color 5K Run under the direction of PRHS Counselor Leslie Straub.

Foreign Languages

Pine-Richland High School sophomore **Noah Adams** is being awarded the Congress Bundestag scholarship to study abroad in Germany in 2016 through AFS-USA, formerly the American Field Service. Senior **Kiel Hillock** is presently in Germany representing PR on this scholarship program. PRHS Librarian **Lauren Super**

says Noah is only the second PRHS student ever awarded the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange scholarship. In addition, Noah was selected as finalist in the AFS Project Change program. He also earned a scholarship to travel to Russia for two weeks to help implement a community service project.

History & Geography

Eighth graders **Khloe Manuppelli** and **Carly Switala** placed second in the group web site category in the PA State History Day Competition, under the direction of Teacher **Eric Brown**. The duo qualified for the National Competition in June of 2015 in Washington, DC. Their website project "Dr. Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man" can be seen at <http://47970906.nhd.weebly.com/>.

PRMS Geography Bee winner **Daniel Krill** earned second place at the 2015 PA National Geographic State Bee. The seventh grader competed on March 27, 2015 in the state program, which was sponsored by Google and Plum Creek at the State Museum of PA in Harrisburg. To qualify for the state competition, Daniel took a state exam after placing first place in the Pine-Richland Middle School Geography Bee competition on November 25, 2014. The top 10 winners in order were: seventh graders **Daniel Krill** and **William Duerkson** and eighth grader **Lauren Allen**, seventh grader **Caroline Sipper** and eighth grader **Arjan Guglani** and seventh graders **Nandini Arya**, **Dillon Sabo** and **Justin Waltrip**, and eighth graders **Christopher Keilly** and **Patrick Saber**.



SEVENTH GRADER DANIEL KRILL EARNED SECOND PLACE AT THE STATE GEOGRAPHIC BEE.

Performance

The PRHS School Dance Team attended the Universal Dance Association (UDA) Summer Camp and earned several awards July 6-9, 2014 at Slippery Rock University under the direction of team coach **Kathy Deal**. The Dance Team received a "Superior" rating blue ribbon for their Home Team Dance routine, the Dance Team Leadership award and a "Superior" UDA trophy. Seniors and captains **Amy Andro**, **Katelyn DeNisi** and **Rachel Maley** received UDA All-American Awards in the All-American Dance Competition and were invited to perform in the London New Year's Day Parade and Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The team received the "Super Spirit Stick" award for energy and enthusiasm. Katelyn also placed first in the individual drill down competition and received the Drill Down Queen Award. The team qualified to participate in the UDA National Dance Team Championship in Orlando, FL. Katelyn, and junior **Megan Gallis** received a "Pin-It-Forward" pin for effort.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth grader **Abigail Bradley** and PRHS seniors **Meghan Bradley** and **Grace Eichenlaub** qualified to compete in the Mid-America region at the World Championships of Irish Dance in Montreal, Canada in March of 2015. Only the top one percent of the dancers qualifies.

Science & Technology



- A tweeting robot is just one project that put Pine-Richland High School students in the spotlight at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association Competition in Seven Springs, PA April 15-2015, under the direction of student advisor **Evan Clark**. The tweeting robot earned senior **Joseph English** and sophomores **Rachel Jarman** and **Rachel Rosenbaum** second place in the animatronics category. The robot had to emulate a human or animal and in this case was able to recognize speech and facial patterns. In the PA RC Drag Race category, PRHS took first place thanks to team members **Christopher Lang** (junior), **Jacob Reuter** (senior) and **Jordan Lish** (senior), who created a car from scratch and traveled 75 feet in 1.94 seconds. In the Manufacturing Prototype category, PR took seventh place through the work of freshmen team members **James Baxter** and **Antonio Lazzaro**, who created a pull toy (an elephant). In the VEX Robotics High-Rise category, Antonio and James along with senior **Dillon Scheidemantle** took seventh place, and another team made up of Christopher and juniors **Drew Gallis** and **Evan Gallis** took ninth place. The VEX projects were robots that stacked cubes within 60 seconds. For details on regional winners, visit www.pinerichland.org/extras.com.

- Juniors **Simrin Guglani**, **Cassidy Oberst**, **Meredith O'Neil**, **Hannah Reiling**, **Christopher Rust** and **Maxwell Skirpan** participated in the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute (WSHI) in 2014-2015. Students attend WSHI to gain insight into careers in engineering and science.
- Sophomore **Arushi Bandi** was selected to participate in the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Summer Academy. The academy provides rising high school students with eight weeks of research-focused and experiential learning. She was also accepted to participate in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Entrepreneurship Program and earned the National Center for Women & IT Aspirations in Computing Award. She was also recognized for her participation with the Girls of Steel Robotics Team, which earned the Regional Chairman's award and was recognized by the members of Congress on April 14, 2015.
- Senior **Makenna Laffey** was selected for an internship at the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The internship was open to only one senior in Allegheny County. She is planning to attend Georgia Tech for Engineering in the fall and eventually plans to attend medical school to pursue a major in Biomedical Engineering. She credits her teachers for instilling in her the love of science.
- Eighth grade student **Arjan Guglani** received a FedEx Sponsor Award at the 76th Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair for his project entitled "Google Glass: Rethink" on March 27, 2015. In addition, sophomores **Hyun-Young Kim** and **Richard Kwon** earned the American Meteorological Society Sponsor Award for their "Harmonies of the World" project. Freshman **Alex Paluselli** earned the LaRoche Scholarship Award for his "Can pH Affect the Strength of the Fishing Line?" project. Freshman **James Baxter** earned Perseverance, Junior Scientist and Webb Law Firm Sponsor awards for his "Automated Bolt Sorting System" project. PR GATE teachers **Ron Schmiedel** and **Kathy Deal** supervised student participation.

Publishing & Writing

The PRHS Yearbook staff earned national recognition in 2014 for the Yearbook *Within*. The 2013-2014 publication received the 2014 Clyde F. Lytle Keystone All-State award, a Gold Rating from the PA Scholastic Press Association and Columbia Scholastic Press Association, All Columbian Honors in Visual, Verbal & Reference Categories, an All-American Rating from the National Scholastic Press Association and Mark of Distinction in Concepts/Essentials, Coverage, Design and Writing/Editing and a Gallery of Excellence Award from the Walsworth Publishing Company. Columbia Scholastic Press Association judges described the yearbook's theme as lively and unique to the school and community and visually stunning with professional photographs. The National Scholastic Press Association judges applauded the yearbook staff for using an app and working with PRTV and the video production classes and for the overall creativity of the publication. 2014 graduate **Katrina Sanzi** served as the 2013-2014 editor-in-chief, along with 2014 graduate **Kelly O'Keefe** who served as business editor, and 2014 graduate **Anna Perry** and senior **Olivia MacDonald**, who served as design editors under the direction of 2013-2014 Advisor **Val Klosky**.

Speech & Theater

Junior **Madeleine Ince** won third in the Dramatic Interpretation category at the Pennsylvania State Forensics Tournament March 21, 2015 at Susquehanna University, and sophomore **Noah Adams** placed sixth in the state in the Commentary category. Forensics Coach **Jeff Byko** said that junior **Mackenzie Bigley** also earned honors for progressing to the quarterfinal round in the Impromptu Speaking event.

The PRHS Forensics Team earned first-place in the sweepstakes and speech sweepstakes award and second-place in the debate sweepstakes category in a competition at the Penn State-Behrend campus on Nov. 1, 2014. Individuals who took home honors included sophomores **Rachael Weinberg** and **Janda vanDyk**, who earned first and fourth in the Poetry category respectively. Juniors **Thomas Sarabok** and **William Newell** teamed up and earned second in the Public Forum Debate along with sophomores **Richard Kwon** and **Jason Steranko**, who earned fifth place. Senior **Kayley Szymanski** earned third place and ninth grader **Nicholas W. Jones** earned sixth in Impromptu speaking. Senior **Helen Guo** earned fourth place and sophomore **Grace Antol** earned sixth place in the Original Oratory category. Junior **Emma Kapoor** earned fifth place and junior **Mackenzie Bigley** earned sixth place in Dramatic Interpretation. Junior **Leann Klingensmith** earned fifth place and ninth grader **Alyssa Bigley** earned sixth in the Prose category.

Junior **Evan Stephenson** earned first place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Scholarship Competition and was invited to the



(L-R) JUNIOR MADELEINE INCE, JUNIOR MACKENZIE BIGLEY AND SOPHOMORE NOAH ADAMS COMPETED AT THE PA STATE FORENSICS COMPETITION.

Department of Pennsylvania VFW Mid-Winter Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet on Jan. 31, 2015 in Gettysburg, PA.

Junior **Madeleine Ince** earned first place in the 21st annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater's O'Reilly Theater. She was chosen from 1,000 participating students from 100 local schools to perform a scene at the Showcase of Finalists Feb. 16, 2015. She tied with Pittsburgh Allderdice High School student Larry McKay in the Upper Division Category (Grades 8-12).

Ninth graders **Aubrie Knapp**, **Michael McNamara** and **Julianna Weis** and juniors **Caroline Allen** and **Rush Hodgin** performed in Pittsburgh Musical Theater's production of "A Chorus Line," Oct. 23-25, 2015 at the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh.

Eleventh grader **Alena Zappa** was selected to take part in the Keystone State Music Theater's professional summer season at the Cranberry Township Community Park Rotary Amphitheater. She worked backstage during *Always...Patsy Cline* as an apprentice. She is also part of the ensemble of *Pinkalicious, The Musical* this summer.

Television & Video



Pine-Richland High School students received media coverage for their 2014 Lip Dub video, which was produced and directed by senior **Whitney Linn** and filmed and edited by junior **Elliot Clay** with the help of hundreds of high school students and staff members. Students completed the one-take video session

on May 20, 2015 to the song "All-Star" by the band Smash Mouth.

Fifth grader **Sabrina Knox** earned first place for the video "Someday" in the editing category in the Pine-Richland Rammy Video Awards program. Sixth grader **Bayli Clack** earned second in editing for her "Two-Hour Delay" video. Senior **Alison Celigo** tied for second in editing for her video "Stop Bullying PSA" with junior **Elliot Clay** for his video "Empty Bowls." For Directing, Bayli took first place, and Sabrina and fifth grader **Carolyn Williams** tied with Alison and Elliot for second. In the at-large category for staff, alumni and community members, 2013 PRHS graduate **Jennifer DoVale** took first for her video "X-Chromosome" and Substitute Teacher **Eric Farmer** earned second for his "Hope" video. 2013 PRHS graduate **Elizabeth Dovale** placed third for her "Hockey Promo" video. Elliot took Best in Show for his video, Bayli second and Carolyn and Sabrina third. Eric earned the Audience Choice award and Bayli earned second choice and senior **Matthew Coley** third for his "Box" video.

The Arts



(BACK ROW: L-R) EIGHTH GRADERS **QUINTON JOHNSON**, **SAMUEL SKIRPAN** AND **MEGHAN MCLOUGHLIN**, AND (SEATED: L-R) SEVENTH GRADER **DEVIN MCCUE** AND EIGHTH GRADER **EMILY WAGNER** EARNED SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS.



SOPHOMORE KAYLA DUFFY EARNED A NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR HER "MIGRAINE" PHOTOGRAPH.

Students Earn Scholastic Art Awards

Pine-Richland students earned nearly 140 awards in the Western Pennsylvania Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program. Several students earned multiple awards. Judges presented Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards in 15 categories, including film and animation, sculpture, fashion design, photography, comic art and design during the 2015 Scholastic Visionary Art Instinct Awards Program on Feb. 23, 2015 at the La Roche College Kerr Fitness and Sports Center.

The Alliance for Young Artists awarded Pine-Richland High School sophomore **Kayla Duffy** with a National Gold Medal for her photograph entitled "Migraine," which was entered into the regional art program.

This is quite an accomplishment since more than 300,000 works of art and writing were submitted by students in grades 7-12 this year, and only the top one percent earned national medals.

PRHS Art Teachers **Mary Ann Andreassi**, **Ramon Riley** and **Vince Thearle** and Pine-Richland Middle School Art Teacher **Holly Angeloff** oversee participation in the arts program each year.

To see the complete list of gold, silver and honorable mentions, visit www.pinerichland.org/extras.

PRHS STUDENTS EARNED REGIONAL GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS IN THE SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS PROGRAM. STUDENTS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH JUST SOME OF THE SEVERAL WINNING ENTRIES.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

(FRONT: L-R) JUNIOR ROSS IVEY, SOPHOMORE JULIA SOLOMON, JUNIOR WILLIAM NEWELL, (BACK/STEPS: L-R) SENIOR ROWAN GRIEB AND JUNIOR MADISON ENGLE PARTICIPATED IN THE PA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION STATE PROGRAMS.

Music Notes

Junior **Madison Engle** and senior **Rowan Grieb** represented Pine-Richland High School at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All State Choir in Hershey, PA on March 25-28 under the direction of Choral Director **Lee Rickard**. The two also participated in the PMEA Region I Choir at Trinity High School Feb. 25-27, 2015 along with seniors **Melanie Berexa, Laura Ferguson** and **Banks Wilson** and sophomore **Samantha Dzielski**.

Pine-Richland Middle School competed at the Music in the Parks Choral Festival in Palmyra, PA on May 8, 2015 against numerous schools from four states. The seventh grade choir, eighth grade choir and the PRMS Women's Ensemble each earned first place with a rating of superior. In addition, the eighth grade choir was named Best Overall Middle School Choir, and the three choirs earned the top scores of any choir in the entire competition.

Eighth graders **Bryan Bails, Emily Caldwell, Seamus Daniello, Abigail George, Tyler Hepler, Lucy Hess, Parker Schubert** and **Rebekah Shipley**, and ninth graders **Alyssa Bigley, John Folmer, Danielle Gillis, Sophia Hudock** and **Michael McNamara** participated in the High School PMEA District Choir Festival at the Creative and Performing Arts Academy in Pittsburgh May 1-2, 2015, under the direction of choral directors **Lee Rickard** and **Heather Flora**.

Seniors **Melanie Berexa, Laura Ferguson, Rowan Grieb** and **Banks Wilson** and junior **Madison Engle** and sophomore **Samantha Dzielski** participated in the PMEA District Choral Festival Jan. 14-16, 2015 at Bethel Park High School.

Juniors **Ross Ivey** and **William Newell** represented PRHS at the PMEA All-State Band in Hershey, PA on March 25-28. Both have earned all-state status twice.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth graders **Zeyad Amr, Erin Dougal, Bryn O'Leary, Emma Gimbel, Evan Jackson, Katherine Kalinski, Katharine Kelly, Samantha Koch, Kathryn Lindauer, Natalie Loftus, Allison Ochel** and **Melissa Riggins** were selected to participate in the PA Music Educators Association Elementary District Band Festival at Quaker Valley Middle School on March 13-14, 2015, under the direction of music teachers **Jeff Nicodemus, Benjamin Coulter, Jenn Novotny** and **Joy Hess**.

Senior **Dan Zoelle** and juniors **Ross Ivey, William Newell** and **Lauren Donahoe** and sophomore **Sarah Dawson** were selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 Honors Band at Carnegie Hall in Oakland on Nov. 23, 2015, under the direction of Band Director **Brian Scott**.



THE PRHS INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY PRESENTED THE "BULLY PLAYS" NOV. 20-22, 2014 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SPONSOR JOHN DOLPHIN, ALONG WITH SENIOR WHITNEY LINN (STAGE MANAGER), SOPHOMORE KRISTEN MARTIN (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) AND SOPHOMORES STEPHANIE STEVENS AND JACKSON GUIDO, WHO BOTH SERVED AS ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.



PRHS STUDENTS PERFORMED *PIPPIN* ON MARCH 12-14, 2015 AND MARCH 20-21, 2015, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JIM SCRIVEN AND PRODUCER CAROLE ROST.

POST-GAZETTE WRITERS SAID THAT IN TWO SHORT HOURS, *PIPPIN* DELIVERED HUMOR, LOVE, MUSIC AND MURDER THAT COMPELLED A FEW OF THE THEATRE-GOERS TO RETURN FOR A SECOND SHOW."

TO SEE PICTURES AND THE CAST LIST BY VISITING: WWW.PINERICHLAND.ORG/EXTRAS.



THE PRMS DRAMA CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTED "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" FEB. 24-27, 2015, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DIRECTOR NOREEN DANIELLO AND STUDENT DIRECTOR MIA GINOCCHI.

The duo attended numerous rehearsals and had the opportunity to work with and perform next to members of the PSO.

Congratulations to students and staff who participated in the PMEA Junior High District 1 Orchestra Program on April 8, 2015. PRHS Orchestra Director **Katelyn Panza** said about 125 students from around the region converged on Pine-Richland. Eighth grader **Nathan Nguyen** and seventh grader **Adrianna Whitney** and ninth graders **Morgan Allen, Meghan Briski, Callista Carns, Carly Dzierzawski, Amaan Kazi, Benjamin Martin, Andrew Park, Nicholas Romano** and **Troy Rowlands** were selected to participate.

Sophomore **Julia Solomon**, who earned first chair for cello at the PMEA Regional Orchestra, earned participation in the PMEA All-State Orchestra in Hershey March 25-28, 2015. In addition, Julia participated with senior **Joseph Shannon** in the PMEA Region District 1 Orchestra March 12-14 hosted at Collegiate Academy in Erie.

PRHS seniors **Andrew Aukerman, Cassandra Fleming** and **Joseph Shannon** and juniors **Hyunwoo Kim** and **Heidi Plant** and sophomores **Rachel Chang, Kendall Pomerleau** and **Julia Solomon** and freshman **Benjamin Martin** were chosen to participate in the PMEA Honors Orchestra Festival at Chartiers Valley High School Nov. 8-9, 2015. Students participated under the direction of Orchestra Director **Katelyn Panza**, who said PRHS had the most participants in recent history.

PRHS students were selected to participate in the 2015 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Side-By-Side program in April of 2015. They included senior **Christine Dawson** and sophomore **Julia Solomon**.

ATHLETIC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER DIANA,
GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM MEMBERS AND
COACH ERIC KASPEROWICZ
CELEBRATE WINNING THE
WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Football

The Pine-Richland High School Football Team earned the WPIAL Championship title and moved on in the PIAA Championships and was undefeated until the final game on Dec. 13, 2014.

Sodexo Food Services honored the team and coaches with the 2015 Performance Zone Award, which is given to individuals or teams that show outstanding effort on and off the field. Gatorade, in collaboration with *USA TODAY* High School Sports, named senior **Benjamin DiNucci** as the 2014-15 Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year. The only other athlete to earn the award at PR was Pirates Second Baseman **Neil Walker**, who earned the award in 2004 for baseball. In addition to Benjamin, several football players were recognized for making the All-WPIAL AAAA

Conference Team, including seniors **Brendan Burnham**, **D'ondre Humphries-Gastion**, **Matthew Hampson**, **John Kohley**, **Matthew Merhaut** and **Connor Slomka**. Players made their commitment or plans to play football at several universities, which are listed in parentheses. They include seniors **Benjamin DiNucci** (University of Pittsburgh), **Joseph English** (University of Toledo), **D'ondre Humphries-Gastion** (Duquesne University), **John Kohley** (University of Dayton) **Michael Merhaut** (Slippery Rock University), **Connor Slomka** (United States Military Academy) and **Benjamin Zoeller** (Clarion University). Football Coach **Eric Kasperowicz** was named AAAA Coach of Year and Steelers High School Coach of the Week.

Baseball & Softball

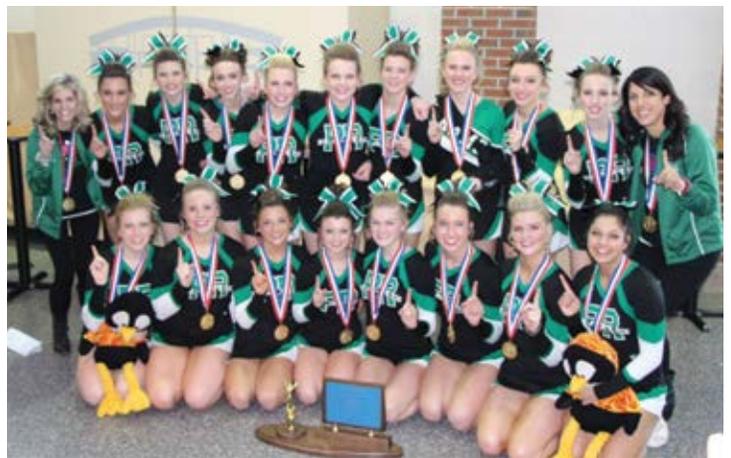
Sophomore softball player **Emma Keilly**, outfielder, was voted to the WPIAL All-Section Class AAAA Team. Senior baseball player **William Lenhart** made First Team All-Section and was picked to play in the AAAA vs. AAA All-Star game. Sophomore **Ryan Okuda** made First Team All-Section in AAAA Section I. Ninth grade pitcher **Craig Kunkel** and eighth-grade slugger **Troy LaNeve** participated in the WPIAL Freshman Tournament at Plum on May 16, 2015. PRHS Baseball Coach **Kurt Wolfe** was officially inducted into the Brentwood High School Hall of Fame on Oct. 4, 2014. Coach Wolfe, a 1988 graduate of Brentwood High School, has guided Pine-Richland baseball teams to four WPIAL Championship rounds and one state championship.

Basketball

The PRHS Lady Rams Basketball Team earned the WPIAL Girls Basketball Class AAA fifth place consolation and competed in the AAA quarterfinals. Sophomore player **Amanda Kalin**, who was named the *Post-Gazette* Female Athlete of the Year. She was named one of the top 10 female players in all of Western PA and the only sophomore to make the list. She was named to the All-State Second Team. Freshman basketball player **Philip Jurkovec** was named a *Tribune Review* Athlete of the week and was noted for scoring 23 points, including the game-winner in overtime, to lift the Rams past Penn Hills, 68-66, in a non-section game on Dec. 11, 2014. Philip was also named All-Section player along with sophomore **Andrew Petcash**. The PRHS Boys Basketball Team competed in the first round of the WPIAL AAAA Championships on Feb. 18, 2015.

Cheerleading

The PRHS Competitive Cheerleading Squad took first place at the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships in Hershey, PA in the small varsity division the weekend of Jan. 24, 2015. Making up the 2015-2016 competitive squad are senior captains **Jaelyn Kamenicky** and **Caitlin Henley** and senior co-captain **Emma Jochem** and senior squad members **Sarah Craig**, **Taylor Derk**, **MaryKate Drury**, **Jillian McAliney** and **Taylor Stewart**; juniors **Rachel Semelbauer**, **Alexandra Schultz**, **Hannah Kane**, **Antonia Hassan**, **Nicole Sevco** and **Elizabeth McMurry**; sophomores **Hanna Szelong** and **Abigail Franks** and ninth grader **Alexis Stutz**. The squad earned a bid for nationals in Orlando, FL on Feb. 5-9, 2015 and placed seventh. Recently, Jaelyn received word that she was selected to cheer as a part of the University of Kentucky cheerleading squad.



THE PRHS COMPETITIVE SQUAD TOOK FIRST PLACE AT THE PIAA COMPETITIVE SPIRIT CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Cross Country

The PR boys and girls cross-country teams competed in the WPIAL Cross-Country Championships on Nov. 1, 2014 in Slippery Rock, PA. The boy's team placed 15th and the girls' team 12th. Junior **Gregory Schleicher** qualified for the PIAA State Cross-Country Championships at Hershey Park Nov. 1, 2014 and ran the course in 17 minutes flat, the fastest time in PR history.

Field Hockey

PRHS Girls Field Hockey competed and was runner-up in the AAA WPIALs. Senior field hockey players **Sage Dowiak** and **Allison Grant** and ninth grader **Sarah Metzmaier** were named to the 2014 WPIAL AAA Section 1 All-Star Team. Sage and Allison were also named to the 2014 WPIAL AAA All-WPIAL All-Star Team, which covers both Sections 1 and 2. Senior **Rebecca Georgiadis** was named National Field Hockey Coaches Association Academic All-American. Sophomore **Olivia DeFoggia** and ninth grader **Sarah Metzmaier** participated in the 2015 Under 16 National Indoor Tournament in Lancaster, PA. NIT consists of the top 15 percent of the players in the country. Sarah also earned a scholarship award in the C. Harper Positive Athlete program.

Golf

The PRHS Boys Golf Team participated in the AAA WPIALs earning runner-up status. Junior **Christopher Rust** earned ninth in the individual AAA WPIAL Championships.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gymnastics

The PRHS Girls Gymnastics Team finished seventh overall at the 2015 WPIAL Championships. Several girls competed, but most notably sophomore **Olivia Palmieri** finished first on the beam and sixth overall in the Intermediate II Division. Sophomore **Sara Enos** finished eighth in the Advanced Division on the vault and 10th on the uneven parallel bars. Ninth grader **Allison Lehmann** finished 11th on the vault in the Advanced Division. Junior **Julia Fest** finished ninth on the vault in the Intermediate Division, and junior **Ashlynn Thompson** finished 11th on the vault in the same category.

Hockey

Several PRHS Varsity Ice Hockey players competed in a national competition in March 26, 2015 in Plano, TX with the North Pittsburgh Wildcats, which is a midget U16-AA team. They included juniors **Nathan Carnovale**, **Benjamin Meyer** and **Anthony Sanchilli** and sophomores **Joseph DiTullio**, **Nicholas Hawkins** and **Christopher Kozich**. The team had an undefeated season and earned the Mid-Am Championship qualifying the team for the national championship game.

The PRMS Ice Hockey Team skated in the PA Interscholastic Hockey League Middle School State Tournament after finishing second in their division in the regular season with a record of 12-3-1. The PRHS Junior Varsity Hockey Team skated in the PA Interscholastic Hockey League semifinal playoffs.

PR Hockey alumni **Brandon Saad** is now playing for the Columbus Blue Jackets after being traded by the Chicago Blackhawks.

2010 PRHS graduate **Ty Lony** was selected to participate in the Pittsburgh Penguins Development camp. In June, the forward signed with the Penguin's American Hockey League team, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, for the 2015-2016 season.

Ice Skating

The US Figure Skating Program Development Committee honored senior **Hannah Sharrer** with a silver level award, which is given to graduating seniors. The awards program honors those student athletes who have worked hard to pursue figure skating, while maintaining academics.

Inline Hockey

2014 PRHS graduate **Andrew Vislosky** ranked in the top three for total points as a freshman for Penn State's Inline Hockey Team. Andrew was one of only two students as freshmen who made the inline hockey team at Penn State University's Main Campus in State College, PA this year.

Lacrosse

PRHS Girls Lacrosse players and coaches earned accolades in 2014. All-Section awards went to 2014 PRHS graduate **Kimberly Lubic**, senior **Madeline Collins**, who also earned All-WPIAL status, and junior **Maura Flaherty**. Kimberly, who committed to West Virginia Wesleyan, senior **Sydney Lang**, and 2014 PRHS graduates **Blayne Mikaela Brachocki** and **Miranda Kurlandski** were named Academic All-American. Madeline was named to the 2014 US Lacrosse National Team and Coach **Tori Trombetta** was named 2014 WPIAL Coach of the Year. The team earned the Division I Championships and competed in the first round of the WPIALS.

For the first time, PR Boys Lacrosse had two players named All-American, which included seniors **Bryan Newcamp** and **Scott Wilden**. Senior **Austin Goncz** was named Academic All-American. Austin and Bryan were named All-WPIAL and All-Section along with seniors **Austin Hughes** and **Banks Wilson**. Boys Lacrosse participated in the two rounds of the WPIAL Championships.

Rowing

The Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association honored junior **Joseph Wieder** with the MSRA Academic Athlete Award. This award honors high school juniors who meet strict academic and athletic criteria. The PRHS Crew Team had a successful season despite losing the team boats in a devastating fire in December of 2014. With the help of the community, \$10,000 was raised to replace the boats. PRHS Women's Varsity Double crewmembers **Madison Scullion** and **Danielle Deley**, both seniors, qualified to compete at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America's National Championships May 23, 2015. In addition, the PRHS Crew Team qualified to row in Camden, NJ at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta on May 14-15, 2015. Rowers achieved top results in Ohio at the Midwest Scholastic Sprints on May 9, 2015. Madison and Danielle placed second in the Women's Varsity Double. Sophomore **Taylor Boczar** and junior **Cassidy Oberst** took third in the Women's Junior Varsity Double. Fourth place went to senior **Cameron Schwartz**, junior **Joseph Wieder**, seniors **Beckett Cromer** and **Bennett Cromer** and sophomores **Jonathan Clive** and **Elijah Egyed** in the Men's Varsity Four. Sophomore **Abbi Altman** participated in the Youth National Rowing Championships in June and took sixth overall in the youth women's pair. In addition, she is one of only 30 girls nationally to earn a spot on the Women's Junior National Rowing Team. The team competed in the Club National Championships in Cincinnati, and earned first-place in the Women's U17 8+ event.

Soccer

PRHS Girls Soccer participated in the first round of the WPIALs on Oct. 18, 2014 and finished second in the AAA Section II. All-Section players included seniors **Catherine Eichenlaub, Kate Graszi, Leigh Roth and Alison Johanson** and sophomore **Amanda Kalin**. All-WPIAL included Catherine, Kate and Leigh. Leigh signed to play soccer at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, and Catherine announced plans to play at Penn State Behrend. Coach **Jodi Chmielewski** was named WPIAL Class AAA Section II All-Section Coach of the Year. 2007 PRHS graduate **Meghan Klingenberg** helped the United States National Team earn the World Cup in Women's Soccer this summer.

RIGHT: THE PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM FINISHED SECOND IN THE AAA SECTION II.

FAR RIGHT: EIGHTH GRADERS REBEKAH SHIPLEY (RIGHT) AND MARY JANE MONTANARI (CENTER) TALK WITH US SOCCER PLAYER MEGHAN KLINGENBERG, A 2007 PRHS GRADUATE, WHO VISITED THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SEPT. 3, 2014 TO TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION.



Swimming & Diving



PHOTOS COURTESY LAUREL ANDERSON



FAR LEFT: (L-R) SOPHOMORE RYAN SCHONBACHLER AND SENIORS SEAN ANDERSON, DILLON SCHEIDEMANTLE, BRANDON FRAZER, JONATHON SCHUBERT, RYAN ANDERSON AND MATTHEW TOBIN MADE UP THE WPIAL TEAM.

LEFT: SENIOR SWIMMER RYAN ANDERSON AND NINTH-GRADE DIVER MALLORY CHARLES COMPETED AT THE PIAAS.

Pine-Richland High School ninth-grade diver **Mallory Charles** earned seventh place at the PIAA Championships on March 13, 2015 at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA and second at the WPIALs. In addition to Mallory, junior **Matthew Turconi** and ninth graders **Austin Shaw, Natalie Camber** and **Abigail Settembrino** qualified for the WPIALs with Austin placing 13th. In swimming, senior **Ryan Anderson** earned 13th place at the PIAA state championships and sixth in the 500-Freestyle at the WPIALs. Seniors **Cristina Ahrendt, Ryan Anderson, Sean Anderson, Brandon Frazer, Makenna Laffey, Siani Null, Dillon Scheidemantle, Jonathon Schubert** and **Matthew Tobin,**

juniors **Kyle Hoogstraten** and **Serena Stedeford**, sophomores **Robert Necciai, Savannah Null, Isabella Sanzi, Ryan Schonbachler**, and ninth graders **Elanda Batykefer, Maximilian Campbell, Rylie Fry, Amaan Kazi, Jaclyn Lenhart** and **Alexander Steger** qualified and competed at the WPIALs. The relay teams broke records in the Boys 200-Medley Relay, 200-Freestyle Relay and 400-Freestyle Relay. Ryan, who was selected for a training session at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO on Nov. 6-9, 2015, broke his own 500-Freestyle record. Matthew broke the 50-freestyle record at WPIALs and Sean broke the 100 Breaststroke record in 2014 and Jonathon the 100 Freestyle record. Sean also earned a nomination in the C. Harper Positive Athlete program.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tennis

The PRHS Boys Team Tennis earned third place in the WPIALs. In the Boys Singles, sophomore **Benjamin Vinarski** made it to the second match-up in the WPIALs. In Doubles, Benjamin and sophomore **Siddhanth Iyer** competed at WPIALs on April 21, 2015. Ninth grader **Alice Qian** made it to the third match-up in girls tennis singles at the WPIALs and junior **Angela Consiglio** made it to the fourth match-up. Both made up the doubles team and made it to the fourth round at the WPIALs.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID KELLY

COACH BILL CRUMMY WATCHES AS JUNIOR JOSEPH KELLY PUMPS HIS FISTS BEFORE HE HITS THE MAT, BECAUSE HE KNOWS HE QUALIFIED FOR NATIONALS.



PHOTO COURTESY LESA FRANCHI

SENIOR KATHERINE QUIGLEY (LEFT) COMPETED AT THE WPIALs AND PLACED THIRD.

Track & Field

Junior **Joseph Kelly** qualified to compete at the New Balance National Outdoor Championships at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, NC, in June 20, 2015. He earned sixth place in the men's pole vault at the state championships and first at the WPIALs. Senior **Katherine Quigley** also qualified for nationals but did not compete and finished third in the state in both the women's 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles. She took first in the 100 hurdles and second place in the 300 hurdles at the WPIALs on May 14, 2015. The 4x100-relay team made up of Katherine and seniors **Karly Krisby** and **Sydney Pellegrini**, ninth grader **Meghan Briski** and junior alternates **Cassidy Ulanowicz** and **Gabrielle Krieger** also competed. The team earned fifth place at the WPIALs and seventh in the 4x100 Relay. Junior **Donald Bryant** was featured as a Post-Gazette Athlete of the Week for excelling in the 100, 200 and 400-relay. Sixth grader **Danielle Bryant** is continuing her success on the track at the mere age of 11 by earning awards regionally and nationally. Most recently, she ran in the Amateur Athletic Union Regional Qualifier in Charleston, WV and placed first in the 200-Meter and 400-Meter.

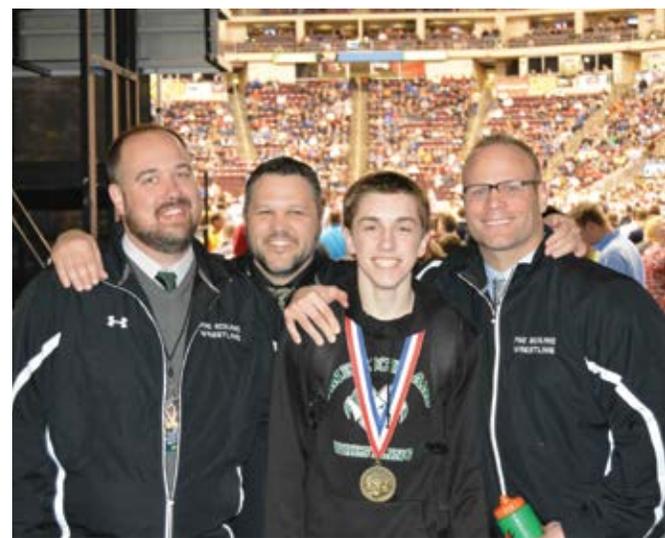
More than 700 athletes from 60 schools converged on PRHS May 1, 2014 for the Annual PR Track & Field Invitational. The event is quite an undertaking and highlights the best track and field athletes in the region. This year, organizers honored Mark Farabee, who was a teacher and coach in the Butler Area School District, as the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Volleyball

The PRHS Girls Volleyball Team played in the second round of the WPIALs on Oct. 28, 2014. Senior PRHS Boys Volleyball Player **Thomas Barone** was a featured Post-Gazette North Player.

Wrestling

For the first time in PRHS Wrestling program, the team sent three wrestlers to the AAA PIAA State Championships which were held on March 9, 2015 in Hershey, PA. Junior **David Kelly** and senior **Brendan Burnham** qualified for the championships, and sophomore **Hunter Baxter** earned eighth place. Hunter, David and Brendan qualified for the WPIALs by taking first at the Section III Wrestling Tournament Feb. 22, 2015. PRHS JV and varsity wrestlers teamed up with their favorite best buddies to compete in the Best Buddies Wrestling Showcase at PRHS on Feb. 13, 2015.



(L-R) WRESTLING COACHES NATE GOHEEN, STEPHEN JOSEPH AND BEN RINGS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH HUNTER BAXTER WHO PLACED EIGHTH AT THE AAA PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

As part of the Focused on Learning theme at Pine-Richland School District, each building web page has a Spotlight on Learning component designed to help the community see into the classrooms at

Pine-Richland. These pictures and summaries provide an opportunity to increase awareness about the learning activities in our schools. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras for more stories.

(BELOW): HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIRD GRADER AUSTIN FOSTER SHARES HIS ELEMENTARY PORTFOLIO WITH HIS MOM (LAUREEN) AND HIS SISTER MERCEDES.

Spotlight on Hance Elementary

Teachers Share Student Work

Third-grade teachers open their classroom doors to parents/guardians three times a year after each report period for Portfolio Review Night, a special evening of sharing samples of work from the quarter term. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras for more details on Portfolio Night at Hance Elementary School.



Spotlight on Richland Elementary

Science Fair Promotes Scientific Process



Do you actually know how a television remote works, or whether dogs prefer their right paw to their left paw? Does Big Foot really exist, and can you actually prevent pumpkins from rotting? These are just a few questions that the inquisitive third graders posed during the Annual Science Fair at Richland Elementary School sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization this past November. Students who participated put the scientific process into action. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras for more on the science fair.

(LEFT): RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH MEDALS THEY EARNED FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SCIENCE FAIR.

Spotlight on Wexford Elementary

Students Learn Engineering Concepts

The second grade classes at Wexford Elementary School learned how concepts of force, balance and stability related to the design of bridges and the field of civil engineering. The students wrapped up the advanced Engineering class unit using the new ASSET science/engineering kit entitled "Designing Bridges." As a culminating activity, the students used the engineering design model to create their own bridges, and students from the high school level shared their work from the Advanced Systems Engineering course. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras for more on Wexford's Bridge unit.



(RIGHT): SENIOR DAVID BRISKI TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILITY WHEN DESIGNING BRIDGES TO SECOND GRADERS AT WEXFORD ELEMENTARY.

BUDGET & BOARD

UPDATE

PR Maintains Millage Rate for Second Year in a Row



2015 PR SCHOOL BOARD: (BACK ROW: L-R) DIRECTORS GREG DITULLIO, HOLLY JOHNSTON, PRESIDENT LAURA OHLUND, TREASURER DENNIS SUNDO & DIRECTOR GREG CASCIANI. (FRONT ROW: L-R) DIRECTOR VIRGINIA GOEBEL, VICE PRESIDENT JEFFREY BANYAS & DIRECTORS PETER LYONS & THERESE DAWSON.

The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2015-2016 school year with total expenditures of \$76,745,362 and total revenues of \$75,323,687 with a fund balance utilization of \$1,421,675 for capital improvements. In addition, the board main-

tained the millage rate and established the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2015-2016:

- Real Estate Tax rate of 19.2083 mills (no increase over 2013-2014 and 2014-2015)
- 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:

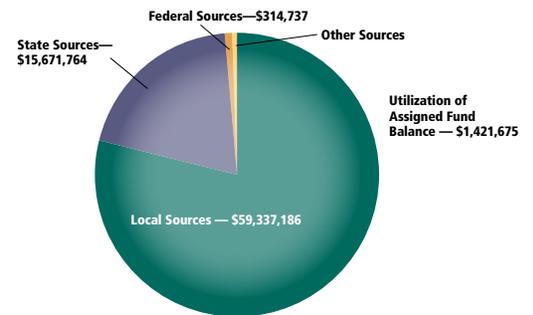
Alternative Revenue Sources	Parking Fees
Energy Curtailment Program	Rebates & Commissions
Facility Rental Agreements	Scoreboard Advertisements
Grants & Donations	Student Activity Fees

During 2014-2015, the school district refunded multiple bond issues which lowered future interest costs and shortened the term of one bond issue. The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible.

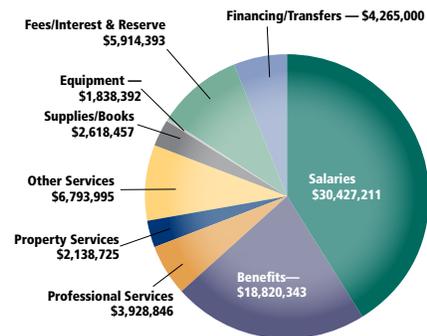
INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- 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

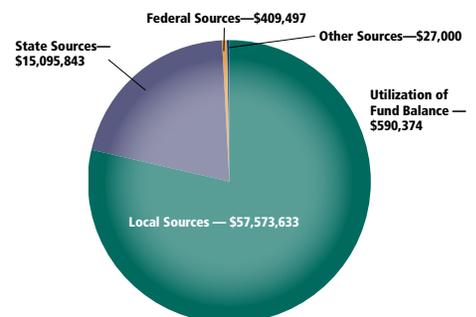
2015-2016 Budgeted Revenue



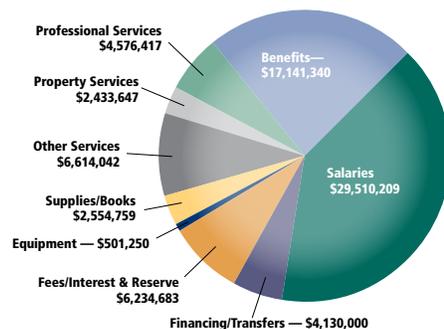
2015-2016 Budgeted Expenditures



2014-2015 Budgeted Revenue



2014-2015 Budgeted Expenditures



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 \$189.87.

- The board approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for calendar year 2014. 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 percent of the total annual budgeted expenditures. These expenditures are established by agreements and compensation plans.

Employer Benefit Costs – The district's employer contribution rate for the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will increase to 25.84 percent of the salary cost from 21.4 percent in 2014-2015, which translates to about \$1.5 million (or approximately \$796,000 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2015-2016 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 2.75 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 \$255,973.

Tuition Expenditures – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$615,290 for 2015-2016, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state.

PR School Board Reorganizes

The Pine-Richland School Board reorganized on December 2, 2014. The board elected **Mrs. Laura Ohlund** as president and re-elected **Dr. Jeffrey Banyas** as vice president. The board reorganizes each December. Dr. Banyas has been serving as vice president since 2011 and began serving the board in 2009. Mrs. Ohlund has been serving as a director since 2011. The board approved **Mr. Dennis Sundo** as treasurer from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Mr. Sundo has been serving on the PR School Board since 2005.

The board will convene for planning meetings on the second Monday of each month and the regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month through 2015 with the exception of December. The board will host its reorganization meeting on December 7, 2015. All meetings are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the DeWitt Blank Conference Room at the PR Central office building. The board will set meetings for 2016 prior to the end of the year.

This year's committees consist of:

Academic Achievement: Chairperson Therese Dawson, Jeffrey Banyas, Holly Johnston & Laura Ohlund

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson Jeffrey Banyas, Marc Casciani, Greg DiTullio & Peter Lyons

Finance Committee: Chairperson Dennis Sundo, Marc Casciani, Greg DiTullio & Peter Lyons

Operational Services: Chairperson Peter Lyons, Jeffrey Banyas, Greg DiTullio & Virginia Goebel

Staff Services: Chairperson Holly Johnston, Therese Dawson, Virginia Goebel & Dennis Sundo

Student Services: Chairperson Virginia Goebel, Therese Dawson, Holly Johnston & Laura Ohlund.

Dr. Banyas and Mrs. Ohlund represent PR on the Northern Area Special Purposes Schools Committee (Beattie). Mrs. Dawson serves as the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative representative. She and Mrs. Ohlund will serve as voting delegates on the PSBA Legislative Policy Council meeting. Mrs. Johnston serves as a representative to the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, and Mr. Greg DiTullio represents the district on the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board.

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association officially recognized Mrs. Therese Dawson for dedicating eight years of volunteer service to the children, the community and public education. PSBAs Honor Roll Program recognizes all qualified school directors completing 8-20 years of service at designated four-year increments by the end of 2015 with an Honor Roll certificate.

School Board Meetings Televised

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.

Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Enriches Education Experiences through Grants & Partnerships



DR. MICHAEL PASQUINELLI, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, CONGRATULATES SENIOR ANDREW AUKERMAN FOR BEING NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE KYLE POMERLEAU MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH THE PINE-RICHLAND OPPORTUNITIES FUND.

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. From 2008 -2015, PROF awarded nearly \$97,000 in grants to PRSD teachers and \$150,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors. The foundation consists of community-based trustees including President **Moira Singer**, Vice President **Christine Misback**, Treasurer **Randall King**, Secretary **Deborah Lund** and trustees **Sara Antol**, **Rachel Berlin**, **Chris Cochran**, **Hank Compernelle**, **Leanne Finney**, **Eric Giesecke**, **Jill Gruber**, **Susan Hong-Bang**, **David Jeter**, **Michael Mahoney**, **Jim Neill**, **Monica Nielsen**, **Terry Pomerleau**, **Adam Scheller**, **Stacey Silipo**, **David Swisher**, Faculty Liaison **Lauren Super** and School Board Liaison **Holly Johnston**.

Foundation Hosts Annual Golf Outing

PROF hosted its Second Annual "Tee Off with PROF" Golf Outing on June 22, 2015. More than 100 golfers, volunteers, teachers, students, community members and trustees enjoyed a day of golf, music and a dinner banquet. More than \$10,000 was raised at the outing and will be used to support PROF's mission.

(L-R): FIFTH GRADER DARCY LUND, EIGHTH GRADER VICTORIA COMPERNOLLE AND PROF TRUSTEES ERIC GIESECKE, MONICA NIELSEN, JIM NEILL, DEBORAH LUND, MOIRA SINGER AND SARA ANTOL, EIGHTH GRADER BROOKE SINGER, TRUSTEES MICHAEL MAHONEY, CHRISTINE MISBACK, HANK COMPERNOLLE AND SUSAN HONG-BANG WERE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SECOND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING.



Community Partnerships through EITC Program

Working with community partners, PROF continues to identify opportunities to highlight 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. PROF expects to grow those opportunities in the coming year.



THE PINE-RICHLAND OPPORTUNITIES FUND TRUSTEES, BENEFACTORS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 2014-2015 PRHS SENIOR AWARDS PROGRAM.

PROF Awards Staff Grants in 2014-2015

Throughout the year, PROF awarded grants to PR Staff in the amount of \$28,000. These grants supported such programs and initiatives as the Eden Hall Rod & Reel Fly Fishing, Authenticity & Joy of Elementary Writing at Richland Elementary School, PRMS Drama Club Stage Extension, FIRST Lego League, PRHS Art Department "Where I Am From" project, "We are the Music Makers" Choral Composition, PRHS Theater Department Projector and specialized lighting equipment for the expansion of the Project Lead the Way courses.



STUDENTS CAST ASIDE BARRIERS AND BUILDING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS THANKS TO THE ROD & REEL FLYING FISHING CLUB AT EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. TO READ MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM RUN BY TEACHER DAVID FIORE AND SPONSORED BY PROF VISIT: WWW.PINERICHLAND.ORG/EXTRAS.

2015 PROF Scholarships Awarded	Amount
Central Blood Bank Scholarship	\$ 2,125
Central Blood Bank Scholarship	\$ 2,125
Scott Crawford Memorial Scholarship	\$ 1,000
Gallagher-Lynne College Opportunity Grant	\$ 7,500
King Family Scholarship	\$ 5,000
Pasquinelli Agency Scholarship	\$ 1,000
Kyle Pomerleau Memorial Scholarship	\$ 1,000
Kyle Pomerleau Memorial Scholarship	\$ 1,000
PRHS Parent Student Staff Group (PSSG)	\$ 1,000
Richland Civic Club Scholarship	\$ 1,000
Rich-Mar Rotary Club	\$ 3,000
Team Alex Scholarship	\$ 1,000
Wexford PTO Scholarship	\$ 500

How To Help PROF

If you are interested in more information about future scholarship opportunities, grant updates or how to 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 Earned Income Tax Credits.

2014 - 2015

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

JUNIOR OLIVIA FOLMER, WHO ORGANIZED THE FRIENDSHIP GAMES, IS SHOWN HERE WITH JUNIOR JT RICHARDSON PARTICIPATING IN A PARACHUTE GAME.



- Students, staff and community members enjoyed a day of team-building activities during the First Annual Friendship Games. PRHS Junior **Olivia Folmer**, who organized the Friendship Games, said the program is a fundraising event hosted by PR Best Buddies to benefit PR and the Woodlands Foundation in Wexford. In addition to Olivia, senior **Victoria Remo**, Best Buddies president, helped organize the event. Best buddies competed in fun, teamwork-building games, which included a parachute game, and other events.
- The PR School Board approved the FIRST Lego League Robotics Team chapter at Pine-Richland Middle School in August of 2014. The group aims to teach students basic programming and robot-building skills at local, regional and national competitions. Sophomore **Arushi Bandi**, who got the club off the ground, is encouraging middle school students to participate and even hosted a summer camp this year.
- The Green Thumb Growers Club was established this year. Club sponsor **Mark Schweers** says the gardening club was established to give students in the life-skills program, who have disabilities, the opportunity to learn vocational skills. Local families in need are benefiting from the program. Club members donated fresh produce including tomato plants to the The Lighthouse Foundation Food Bank.
- The Pine-Richland High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps hosted its first drill competition on Dec. 13, 2014 at PRHS. Sophomore cadets **Jacob Maggi** and **Caleb Mlakar** coordinated the event under the direction of Air Force Major **Michael Morrison** and Chief Master Sgt. **Michael Gasparetto**. A handful of units participated in several categories. For more details visit www.pinerichland.org/extras. Earlier on Nov. 8, 2014, cadets earned top awards at the annual drill meet at McDowell Senior High near Erie, PA. Awards earned includes first-place awards: (Academic Team led by senior cadet **Zachary Maggi**; Mystery Drill led by sophomore cadet **Trevor Russell** and Advanced Color Guard led by senior cadet **Jordon Martig**); second-place awards: (Inspection Team led by senior cadet **Christian Russell** and Unarmed Drill Team led by freshman cadet **Jack Shannon**); third-place awards: (Advance Armed Drill Team led by sophomore cadet **Caleb Mlakar**; and First-Year Color Guard led by freshmen cadet **Johnathan Rudolph**. The PRHS team placed second overall for team effort.
- PR is the hub of goodwill. Each school hosts numerous fundraisers which include Pine-Richland High School Empty Bowls, the Wexford Turkey Fund, Eden Hall Upper Elementary's Alex's Lemonade Stand, PRHS Color Run and Minithon, Richland Elementary's Jared Box Project, EHUE Penny Wars, the Pine-Richland Middle School Candy Fundraiser, and many more. While there are too many to list from the 2024-2015 school year, you can visit www.pinerichland.org/prnews for more details. In addition, the district receives many donations from community members. The district appreciates all of the charitable contributions. Each month, any donations received are publically acknowledged during the PR School Board meetings.

ANNUAL

NOTICES

Free & Appropriate Public Education/Public Outreach & Awareness System

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. The services include 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.

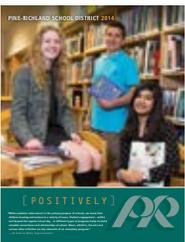
Each year the district publishes these notices along with other pertinent information families need to know about school district operations and expectations at www.pinerichland.org. Families without internet access should contact PR Communications Director **Rachel Hathhorn** at 724-625-7773, ext. 6202.

Keep Our Communities Safe



The Northern Regional Police Department works cooperatively with the Pine-Richland School District to ensure a safe community. Your involvement is critical to this effort. **724-449-TIPS** is a joint service of the police and school district, with support from Consolidated Communications. Dial this number at any time to anonymously report suspicious activity that could pose a threat or danger to our students, our schools or our community.

Pine-Richland Earns Communication Awards



Pine-Richland School District earned two awards in the PenSRA Excellence in Education Communication Contest in 2014-2015. The district earned an Award of Honor for its e-newsletter "Focused on Learning," and an Award of Honor for its "Positively PR" Annual Report. Only eight Awards of Merit were given out for each of these publications in Pennsylvania. Nationally, the district earned an Award of Merit for its "Positively PR" Annual Report. Only seven schools earned Awards of Merit in the Annual

Report category nationwide. Pine-Richland was the only district in PA to earn an Award of Merit for its annual report.

District Needs Help with Strategic Planning

The Pine-Richland School District is setting direction and priorities through the strategic planning process. The district has been surveying parents and community members and hosting town hall meetings as we formulate the strategic plan for the district.

The sessions are open to students, staff, parents, staff, alumni and community members. Check our www.pinerichland.org/strategicplanning website for updates on the next round of town-hall sessions being held at 1 p.m. on Aug. 13, 2015 and 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 17, 2015.

Stay Informed

Be in the know by signing up for the Pine-Richland School District E-Newsletter. Visit www.pinerichland.org/email to register for information you want to receive about the Pine-Richland School District.

Upcoming Reunions

All Class Reunion

Richland High School Class of 1980 will be hosting an "All Class Reunion" at the Penn Glades Lions Club Park in Penn Township, PA on Aug. 15, 2015 from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. This is a one-day event. Visit www.rhsr.org for information.

The Richland High School Class of 1975 is hosting a reunion from 6-10 p.m. on Aug. 15, 2015 at the Camelot in Warrendale, PA. Contact hepner40@msn.com for details.

Employment Opportunities

Bus Drivers Needed

The district's transportation provider for 2015-2016 is hiring bus drivers. Contact Student Transportation of America (STA) by calling 412-278-0285 or visit www.drive4sta.com. For more information on STA visit www.pinerichland.org/extras.

Substitutes Needed

Pine-Richland School District is in need of substitutes for the 2015-16 school year in the following positions:

- Teacher (PA Teacher Certification Required)
- Paraprofessional
- Clerical
- Nurse
- Cafeteria/Playground Monitor

Please contact Kelly Educational Staffing today for more information at 412-391-2735 or email your resume to: 514E@kellyservices.com.



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

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*Printed on Rolland Enviro100
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using vegetable based ink.*

District Offers Paperless Option for Annual Report

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.



(L-R) PRHS AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC CADETS ALEXANDER SCHMIDT, A JUNIOR, AND SENIOR CADET ZACHARY MAGGI PREPARE PINS DURING A COMMISSIONER'S CALL ON FEBRUARY 11, 2015. THE PERIODIC CALL PROVIDES CADETS WITH PERTINENT INFORMATION AND SERVES AS A TIME TO RECOGNIZE CADETS FOR EARNING AWARDS AND BEING PROMOTED TO THE NEXT LEVEL.