



[POSITIVELY]

"While academic achievement is the primary purpose of schools, we know that children develop and mature in a variety of areas. Student engagement – within and beyond the regular school day – in different types of programs helps to build valuable connections and relationships at school. Music, athletics, the arts and various other activities are key elements of an exemplary program."

— Dr. Brian R. Miller, Superintendent



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

Greetings to Pine-Richland Students, Staff, Parents & Community,

The 2013-2014 Annual Report provides the opportunity for us to “look back” at the broad range of accomplishments in academics, arts, athletics and activities. It is important to celebrate these successes and recognize the amount of effort invested by our students and staff. We are fortunate to offer a wide range of opportunities for students to grow and learn. These results also indicate that they are achieving at a high level. Congratulations to all!

Publication of the Annual Report can also serve as a reminder to “look forward” to the 2014-2015 school year. Our motto for next year is *Focused on Learning*. It is designed to emphasize the following key concepts:

- *Learning* is our primary purpose.
- *Learning* is measured as both achievement and growth.
- *Learning* occurs inside and outside the classroom.
- *Learning* requires effort and persistence.
- *Learning* happens differently for different people so flexibility and variation is needed in the approach.

Learning is for all of us and requires the support of everyone (e.g., student, staff, parents, etc.). While the motto is simple in design, it can be challenging to implement and powerful if embraced. It represents the core purpose of schools and reinforces the values outlined in the Pine-Richland Strategic Plan. You will hear much more about this motto – and what it means for our schools – in the next year.

Best wishes for an enjoyable finish to the summer. Thank you for your support of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller
Superintendent

COVER PHOTO: PRMS
EIGHTH GRADERS MEREDITH
MUSCHWECK, BRENDAN LOWE
AND MAHAK SETHI VISIT THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY.

Contents

- 3 Top Students
- 4 Staff Accomplishments
- 6 District News
- 7 Academic Achievement
- 11 Student Spotlight
- 21 Athletic Accomplishments
- 26 Budget & Board Update
- 28 Foundation Overview
- 30 STEAM Snapshot
- 32 Alumni Notes
- 33 District Benchmarks
- 34 Community Connections
- 35 Annual Notices

[DID YOU KNOW THAT...?]

- **The Washington Post** ranks Pine-Richland High School number one in Allegheny County and seventh statewide in 2014 based on its Challenge Index. The Challenge Index measures how effectively schools across the United States prepare students for college. PRHS is one of only 9% of schools in the US to make the list. PRHS ranks number 716 out of 2,055 schools nationwide.
- **The Pittsburgh Business Times** ranks PRSD number nine out of 103 school districts in the region and 26th in the state in its 2014 list of rankings. PR was ranked 10th in 2013.
- **School Match**® awarded Pine-Richland School District with the “What Parents Want” Award in 2014. Nearly 2,500 school districts out of 15,571 public school districts have been recognized for meeting the needs of families choosing schools. That’s only 16 percent of the schools in the nation.

NATIONAL MERIT

SCHOLARS



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

(ABOVE) THE CLASS OF 2014 NATIONAL MERIT & NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARS CELEBRATE ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

Seniors Earn National Merit & National Achievement Status

The National Merit Scholarship Program named several Pine-Richland High School students as “Finalists” in its 2014 program and one student as a National Achievement “Outstanding Participant.” “Finalists” included seniors **Rachel Halliday, Monica Lacek, Jennifer Lott, Lena Ogiwara** and **Kyle Pomerleau**. Seniors honored with “Commended” status included **Meher Babbar, Kristen Baxter, Lauren Brown, Sonali Dadoo, Sara Dugan, Tyler Fitzgerald, William Misback** and **Margaret Shope**. “Finalists” are among only 15,000 students nationwide who earn this recognition.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program also named senior **Edem Akwayena** as an “Outstanding” participant in the 2014 program. She scored in the top three percent of more than 160,000 African Americans.

To achieve recognition in the competition, students excelled on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) taken during their sophomore and junior years.

Top Students



(L-R) VALEDICTORIAN JENNIFER LOTT, SALUTATORIAN CARRIE LIEBENSPERGER, GRADUATE WILLIAM MISBACK AND (FRONT RIGHT) TERTIARY KYLE POMERLEAU PREPARE TO RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS DURING COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES. LOTT, LIEBENSPERGER AND POMERLEAU SPOKE WITH GRADUATES DURING THE CEREMONY.



DISTRICT SCORECARD

National Merit & Achievement Scholars	Number of Students
Class of 2014	13
Class of 2013	19
Class of 2012	21
Class of 2011	10
Class of 2010	12

STAFF

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



TEACHER EVAN CLARK IS SHOWN HERE WITH JUNIORS AUSTIN HAYES AND MICHAEL COHOLIC.

PRHS Teacher Earns National Recognition

The Technology Student Association (TSA) named Pine-Richland High School Technology Teacher **Evan Clark** as Pennsylvania Advisor of the Year.

He was one of only 18 advisors named a TSA State Advisor of the Year in the nation. Clark has been teaching and serving as the TSA advisor at PR for nearly eight years. He teaches Robotics Engineering, Manufacturing Technology, Introduction to Technology Education and Materials Processing courses.

He has advised TSA students at the regional, state

and national levels.

Clark earned his bachelor's degree in Technology Engineering and a master's degree in Instructional Technology from California University of PA.

TSA membership includes more than 180,000 middle and high school students in 2,000 schools spanning 48 states. TSA chapters take the study of STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) beyond the classroom and give students the chance to pursue academic challenges.

Staff Spotlight



FUND IT FORWARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KRISTIN HASLEY (FAR LEFT) AND CO-FOUNDER & CHAIRWOMAN ROSE MORRIS (FAR RIGHT) PRESENT WEXFORD ELEMENTARY TEACHER TARA HILLEGAS (CENTER) WITH THE "MAKING A DAILY DIFFERENCE" AWARD.

The Fund It Forward Board of Directors named Wexford Elementary teacher **Tara Hillegas** as recipient of the "Making a Daily Difference" award. The award was created to recognize professionals who change the lives of children with special needs and their families. Hillegas was officially honored at the Le Cirque des Reves Black and White Gala on Nov. 16, 2013 at the Duquesne Club in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary learning support teacher **Maria Paluselli** was honored with the Christopher Gardner Award for Excellence in the Field of Dyslexia. She was presented with the award at the "Dyslexia Today 2014: A Conference for Professionals & Parents" on April 5, 2014. The Pennsylvania branch of the

International Dyslexia Association (IDA) hosted the conference. **Judi Mulzet**, who is a parent and volunteer with IDA, says that about one in five children are affected by this language-based learning disability and Paluselli has been committed to helping children with dyslexia learn to read.

“Maria has been an inspiration and a moving force behind expanding insight and knowledge about dyslexia in the Pittsburgh region,” said Mulzet. “Maria’s skill, warmth, optimism and commitment in supporting struggling readers continue to have a wide, enduring impact on thousands of young people, teachers and families in Western Pennsylvania.”



MARIA PALUSELLI



PRINCIPAL STEVEN SMITH IS SHOWN HERE WITH KELLY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (KES) BRANCH MANAGER KAREN HOUSEMAN, KES TERRITORY VICE PRESIDENT MELISSA KING AND SUBSTITUTE DIANE DURST.

Kelly Educational Staffing named Eden Hall Upper Elementary substitute teacher **Diane Durst** 2014 PA Substitute Teacher of the Year. She was nominated by the staff at EHUE. She was not only competing with the 400 substitute teachers in KES-Pittsburgh, but teachers from KES branches across the state including schools in Erie, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

Pine-Richland High School Librarian **Lauren Super** was selected as one of 21 participants in the first-ever Emerging Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians (ELA), a collaborative effort of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) and the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program. ELA is the systematic succession plan for assuring that Pennsylvania students will have effective school library programs developed by librarians who are leaders in their schools, districts and professional associations at the regional and state levels in the coming decades.

Several Pine-Richland School District teachers were nominated in the upcoming 2015 PA Teacher of the Year program. They include **Brittany Florijan** (PRHS), **Thomas Joyce** (PRHS), **Patricia Cekella** (PRMS), **David Conner** (EHUE), **Colleen Todd** (EHUE), **Lisa Burnsworth** (Hance), **Patricia Perine** (Wexford), **Christofer Vins** (Wexford) and **Lauren Aiello** (Richland).

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program and Educational Testing Service recognized Spanish teacher **Liliana Glaser-Golin** and English teacher **John Dolphin** for making significant contributions to the AP Testing program.

Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon, Inc., announced that Pine-Richland High School Cross-Country coach and Track & Field assistant coach **Kenneth Judson** was part of the Pittsburgh Marathon Hall of Fame’s sixth class of inductees.

The PR Track & Field program recognized coach **Donald Thomas** with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual invitational, not just for all the championships and school records but also for the thousands of lives he touched over the course of his teaching and coaching career.

PRHS teacher **Charles Connolly** completed the Boston Marathon on April 21, 2014 in 3:23:23 and 13 days later completed the Pittsburgh Marathon in 3:06:04. The Pittsburgh Marathon was Connolly’s 42nd completed marathon. In addition, PRHS teachers **Timothy Ervin** and **Gina Mahouski** completed their first half-marathon in Pittsburgh.

District Welcomes Administrators & Employees to Pine-Richland Team in 2013-14

During the 2013-2014 school year, the district welcomed new administrators and staff members. Pine-Richland Superintendent **Brian R. Miller**, Assistant Superintendent **Michael Pasquinelli**, Food Services General Manager **Diane Bucknum**, Pine-Richland High School Assistant Principal **Laura Burns**, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal **Steven Smith** and EHUE Assistant Principal **Autumn Turk** joined the team. In 2014-2015, PRHS will welcome **Nancy Bowman** as principal. PRMS Teacher **Caitlin Bogosta** was promoted to assistant principal at PRMS. Other

employees who are new or moved to a new role include PRHS guidance counselor **David Hoover**, PRHS faculty members **Stephanie Skrinjar**, **Noah Stachel** and **James Werkmeister, Jr.**, and PRHS para educators **Matthew Slacker**, **Kelli Katrochvila** and **Patricia Zentner**. PRMS para educator **Dana Murslack**, PRMS personal care assistant **Christine Gaven** and Eden Hall Upper Elementary faculty members **Sarah Burkot**, **Janice Kazalas**, **Maria Paluselli**, **Katelyn Panza** (PRHS/PRMS) and **Jenifer Weiland** joined the team, along with EHUE para educator **Molly Kelly**.



CAITLIN BOGOSTA



NANCY BOWMAN



DIANE BUCKNUM



LAURA BURNS



MICHAEL PASQUINELLI



STEVEN SMITH



AUTUMN TURK

District Honors Retirees

The district is recognizing employees who retired this past school year. They include Pine-Richland Middle School teacher **Kenneth Bongartz**, Pine-Richland Food Services General Manager **Cherry Cerminara**, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School custodian **John Misencik**, Pine-Richland High School Secretary **Joyce Myers**, para educator **Adele Radacsy**, PRMS custodian **Rich Thoma** and PRHS Social Studies teacher **Don Williams**.

Keystone Update: Revisions Established for Academic Standards & Assessments

During 2013-2014, revisions were made to Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania School Code. Chapter 4 establishes rigorous academic standards and assessments applicable to schools in Pennsylvania. The purpose of the code is to facilitate the improvement of student achievement and to provide parents and communities a measure by which school performance can be determined. As part of the new regulations, the PA Core Standards will offer a set of rigorous, high-quality academic expectations and the requirement of end-of-course, state assessments in:

- Algebra 1 (PR Grades 7-10),
- Biology (PR Grades 9-10), or
- Literature (PR Grade 9).

TESTING TIMELINE

Students will be offered an end-of-course exam in May and will have a chance to retake or make-up the exam in the summer and then another option in the winter. There is no limit on the number of times a student who does not score at the proficient level on a Keystone Exam may retake the assessment.

PROJECT BASED ASSESSMENT & SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

A student will have the option of participating in a Project-Based Assessment (PBA) after three attempts at scoring proficient. Supplemental instruction is required for students not scoring at proficient level on any Keystone Exam. Instruction will continue until the student demonstrates proficiency or begins participating in a PBA after three attempts. Seniors are eligible to take the PBA after completing the course related to the Keystone Exam and one unsuccessful attempt at demonstrating proficiency. Underclassmen may qualify for a PBA prior to attempting three takes based upon an IEP decision. PBAs are administered by schools and scored by state officials. Career and technical students may participate in the Biology PBA without needing to retake the assessment. Potential options of supplemental instruction for students can include additional efforts through classroom time, a structured study hall and resource period, an online program (USA Test Prep) or an extended day.

PROFICIENCY LEVEL & TRANSCRIPT

Beginning with the Class of 2017, the highest achieved performance level demonstrated for each Keystone Exam will be listed on the transcript. Once proficiency is achieved, a student may not retake the Keystone Exam to earn a higher level. If a PBA is completed, the PBA proficiency level will be reflected on the transcript. The PR School Board has drafted and approved a resolution opposing the mandate to report individual Keystone Exam performance levels on student transcripts.

KEYSTONE EXAMS TESTING WINDOWS 2014-2015

Winter

Wave 1 – Dec. 3-17, 2014 - Algebra I, Biology & Literature

Wave 2 – Jan. 7-21, 2015 - Algebra I, Biology & Literature

Spring

May 13-27, 2015 - Algebra I, Biology & Literature

Summer

July 27-31, 2015 - Algebra I, Biology & Literature

PSSA TESTING WINDOWS 2014-2015

April 13-17, 2015 – English Language Arts (Grades 3-8)

April 20-24, 2015 – Mathematics (Grades 3-8)

April 27-May 1, 2015 – Science (Grades 4 & 8)

May 4-8, 2015 – Make-Up Window

This information was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Testing windows may vary or change after the start of the school year. Visit www.pinerichland.org periodically for updates.

PR Offering Paperless Option

The Pine-Richland School District produces the annual report on 100% recycled paper. While the district has curbed the use of paper through the years, the annual report is the only document mailed to the community. The document provides residents with a snapshot of the budget and academic achievement report 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.

PSSA Update: PR Students Continue to Achieve in Advanced & Proficient Range on Pennsylvania System of School Assessments


The Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) for 11th grade have been phased out as a measure of student achievement to make way for the Keystone Exams in individual subject areas. You can view assessment results below for grades three through eight. 2014 scores will be available later this year. This is a brief overview of a more comprehensive

report given this past fall as part of the Academic Achievement Report which will be presented annually to the public at a school board meeting.

Some key findings include:


- Reading and math trends indicate high, stable scores at PRSD.
- Combined advanced/proficient results for students in reading are approximately 8% lower than the average combined advanced/proficient results in mathematics.
- Students are outperforming the state average in a similar ratio in both reading and mathematics.

PRSD achieved 90% or above in the advanced/proficient range on the Math PSSAs for the first time in 2013 at all grade levels.




PRIMARY PSSA SCORES
Advanced & Proficient – 2013

School	2013 PSSAs		2012 PSSAs	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
Hance	92%	91%	94%	88%
Richland	95%	87%	99%	96%
Wexford	97%	94%	97%	92%



UPPER ELEMENTARY PSSA SCORES
Advanced & Proficient – 2013

Grade	Subject	2013 PSSAs	2012 PSSAs
4th	Math	90%	96%
	Reading	84%	91%
	Science	92%	94%
5th	Math	91%	86%
	Reading	81%	82%
	Science	75%	77%
6th	Math	90%	93%
	Reading	81%	86%




SECONDARY PSSA SCORES
Advanced & Proficient – 2013

Grade	Subject	2013 PSSAs	2012 PSSAs
7th	Math	90%	93%
	Reading	89%	94%
8th	Math	93%	96%
	Reading	95%	94%
	Science	82%	85%
	Writing	92%	93%

SOURCE: PR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT REPORT AND PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. NUMBERS MAY VARY BY A PERCENTAGE POINT DUE TO ROUNDING.

PR Students Meet Mark on ACT

The ACT is designed to measure general education development of high school students and for 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 as well as a composite score across all four subject areas is 36. Beginning in 2013, the Pennsylvania's School Performance Profile reported the number of seniors taking the ACT who achieved a composite score of 22 or above. At Pine-Richland, 77.7% met this mark.



2013 ACT SCORECARD

Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

2013	Math	Reading	English	Science
Pine-Richland	26	25	24	24
Pennsylvania	23	23	22	22
National	21	21	20	21


*PRHS Class of 2014 results unavailable at production time.


PR Students Obtain Highest Scores on SAT in History of District

Pine-Richland High School students had the highest combined total average of 1,676 on the SAT in the school's history in 2013. The College Board administers the SAT 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 measures 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; perfect scores on all three tests result in a combined score of 2,400.

- Each score in math, critical reading and writing was at a five-year high in 2013.
- SAT Writing results demonstrate a five-year positive trend.

 COLLEGIATE SAT SCORECARD*			
PRHS Class	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2013	549	577	550
2012	543	561	535
2011	546	571	533
2010	544	568	532
<i>*PRHS Class of 2014 results unavailable at production time.</i>			

 COLLEGIATE SAT SCORECARD*			
Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.			
2013	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Pine-Richland	549	577	535
Pennsylvania	441	504	482
National	496	514	488
<i>*PRHS Class of 2014 results unavailable at production time.</i>			

More & More Students Tackle AP Courses

By taking Advanced Placement courses, students have the opportunity to experience college-level work in high school and gain valuable skills and study habits for college. The College Board administers the AP exams. PR students enrolled in AP courses must take the end-of-course AP exam.

Scores range from a low of 1.0 through a high of 5.0 with a 5.0 indicating a student is well-qualified to receive college credit and/or advanced placement in college programs. Colleges and universities vary in the ways they use AP test scores.


For the 2013 School Performance Profile, Pennsylvania tracked how many seniors scored a 3.0 or above on an AP test. At Pine-Richland, 242 seniors took an AP test and of those seniors, 171 scored a 3.0 or above.

The number of students taking an AP course and test has increased significantly in the past five years.

The number of AP students has increased from 296 to 450; the number of AP tests taken has increased from 529 to 944; and the total number of test results at a 3.0 or above has grown from 210 to 337 from 2009 to 2013.

A greater percentage of PR students (74.9%) score at a 3.0 or above on AP tests than do state (68.3%) or worldwide students (60.9%).

Of the 17 AP courses offered at PR, eight courses had average test scores between 3.0 and 3.49, five courses had average test scores of 3.5 and above, and five courses had average test scores below 3.0.

 AP TEST SCORECARD*			
Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	Tests Scored 3+
2013	450	944	337
2012	453	900	326
2011	389	721	278
2010	342	664	264
<i>*PRHS Class of 2014 results unavailable at production time.</i>			

FOR A COMPLETE LOOK AT THE REPORT, YOU CAN VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.PINERICHLAND.ORG/ACADEMICREPORT.](http://www.pinerichland.org/academicreport)

DATA COMPILED FROM THE 2014 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT REPORT.
 DATA MAY VARY BY A PERCENTAGE POINT DUE TO ROUNDING.

Students Achieve Perfect Scores on SAT & ACT

Several students are being recognized for earning perfect scores on the SAT or ACT. Senior **Kyle Pomerleau** earned a perfect score on the US History II SAT portion. Students earning a perfect score on the Math SAT include seniors **Emily Mongilio** and **Grace Noel** and junior **Rebecca Georgiadis**. Students earning a perfect score on the Math II SAT II include senior **Matthew Field** and juniors **Jia Kim** and **Ryan Mann**. Students earning a perfect score on the Reading SAT

include seniors **Sara Dugan**, **Monica Lacek** and **Meher Babbar**. Seniors earning a perfect score on the Writing SAT include seniors **Jennifer Lott**, **Grace Noel** and **Gabrielle Romeo**. Senior **Kristen Rose Baxter** earned a perfect score on the English ACT. Georgiadis earned a perfect score on the Math ACT while Mann earned a perfect score on the Reading & Science ACT. Senior **Ethan Bence** along with Junior **Jonathon Schubert** also earned perfect scores on the Science ACT.

Richland Elementary Named Distinguished Title 1 School

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Federal Programs is naming Richland Elementary School as a Distinguished Title I School. Richland Elementary received the honor because it ranked in the top five percent of Title I schools. To receive this honor,

schools had to show high achievement on the PA System of School Assessments in math and reading while qualifying for Title 1 Funds. Principal **Gene Nicastro** attributes the success to the staff's hard work and collaboration.

Wexford Elementary Nominated in National Blue Ribbon Recognition Program

Wexford Elementary School is one of only 13 schools to be nominated in the National Blue Ribbon School Recognition Program as an Exemplary High Performing School or an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School. Schools that earn this distinction are public and private elementary, middle or high schools that produce outstanding results for all students and have made progress in closing gaps in student achievement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools recognition program is part of a larger U. S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about effective school leadership and promising instructional practices.

Dr. Rick Walsh, Wexford Elementary principal, says all stakeholders are involved in achieving this recognition.

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

The school submitted an application this year. The US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will announce winners in September of 2014.

COMMUNICATIONS

District Earns National Communications Awards



2013 PR ANNUAL REPORT

The Pine-Richland School District earned three awards in the National School Public Relations Association 2014 Communications Awards contest. The district earned the NSPRA Award of Merit for Distinguished Achievement for the following electronic media and print publications:

- **Pine-Richland School District News & Information E-Newsletter**
- **Pine-Richland School District Website**
- **Positively Pine-Richland Annual Report**

PR was the only district in the region and one of only three districts in the state to earn a website

award, one of only two districts in PA to earn awards in the external e-newsletter category and one of only four districts in the state to earn an award in the annual report category. NSPRA is a recognized leader in school communication.

Earlier this year, PR earned awards in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Annual Excellence in Education Communication Contest. The district earned an Award of Excellence for its Electronic Newsletter "Pine-Richland School District News & Information." The district also earned awards of honor for the "Positively PR" special publication and the district website.

STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

The Arts: Students Earn National Scholastic Art Awards

Pine-Richland School District was among the schools with the most winners in the Western Pennsylvania Regional Scholastic Art Competition in 2013-2014. In all, PR students earned 120 awards. Three Pine-Richland High School students earned four National Scholastic Art awards. Senior **Brooke Schonbachler** earned a National Gold award for her painting "Over the Edge" and a National Silver award for her painting "For Helping Kill What Made a Mess of Me."

In addition, senior **Cassie Heckman** earned a National Silver award for her artwork "Spring Fog," and senior Rachel Keeler earned a National Silver Award for her piece "Digital Collage 2."

PRHS Art teacher **Ramon Riley** said less than one percent of regional gold winners earned national recognition, so this is quite an accomplishment.

On Stage

The Pine-Richland High School production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" earned a total of 10 nominations in the annual Gene Kelly Awards program. Pine-Richland earned nominations in the following categories:

Best Supporting Actor – sophomore **Rush Hodgin**, Best Supporting Actress – senior **Jillian Schmidt**, Best Actress – senior **Abigail Dionise**, Best Actress – senior **Alexis Loiselle**, Best Scenic Design, Best Costume Design, Best Crew/Technical Execution, Best Choreography, Best Direction and Best Musical. The production won Best Crew/Technical Execution.



Schonbachler was recognized during a special ceremony, and her award-winning piece was shared in an exhibit in New York City.

ABOVE: PRHS STUDENTS EARNED NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC AWARDS AS WELL AS SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL GOLD AND SILVER PORTFOLIO AWARDS AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS SUCH AS BEST OF SHOW, GOLD KEY AND SILVER KEY SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL AWARDS.

LEFT: (L-R) PRMS SEVENTH GRADER KENNEDI WADE AND EIGHTH GRADERS DANIEL PARKER AND DESIREE KOTLINSKI EARNED SILVER KEY AWARDS IN THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITION.



"THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE" INVOLVED HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PRODUCER CAROLE ROST AND DIRECTOR TIM MARQUETTE. THIS YEAR'S MUSICAL WAS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER BRAD OBERG.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



LEFT: THE PRMS DRAMA CLUB PERFORMED "DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR." THE SHOW BOASTED SEVERAL DANCE NUMBERS. IN ALL, 70 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE PRODUCTION, WHICH WAS HOSTED APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2014. THE PRODUCTION WAS CO-DIRECTED BY TEACHER JOY HESS AND DRAMA CLUB SPONSOR NOREEN DANIELLO.

RIGHT: PRHS STUDENT DIRECTOR AMANDA STICKLEY IS SHOWN HERE WITH THEATER STUDENTS WHO STAGED THE PRODUCTION "PRINCESS BRIDE," UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHER MICHELLE BRUNO.



LEFT: THE PRHS INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN STUDENTS PERFORM "1984" NOV. 21-23, 2013, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHER JOHN DOLPHIN. STUDENT DIRECTOR BENJAMIN KING SAYS HIS FAVORITE PART ABOUT MANAGING THIS YEAR'S PLAY WAS WORKING WITH THE UNDERCLASSMEN AND MENTORING THEM.

Pine-Richland High School students junior **Samantha McGrath** and sophomore **Abigail Biernesser** both received Honorable mentions in the 2014 Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest hosted by the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

Pine-Richland High School ninth grader **Jake Pedersen** earned the Audience's Choice Award in the 2014 Kean Quest Talent Search Youth Finale on April 11, 2014. He played the piano and performed "All of Me" by John Legend. Pedersen received the most votes from the audience of all acts that performed during the Youth Finals. He also received the most audience votes in the preliminary round.



JAKE PEDERSEN

Musical Highlights

Pine-Richland Middle School eighth graders **Alyssa Bigley, John Folmer, Molly Kane** and **Michael McNamara** and Pine-Richland High School ninth graders **Sean Colosimo, Allyson DeMarco, Benjamin Frazier, Rachael Weinberg** and **Jacob Zentner** were selected to represent Pine-Richland at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Jr. High District 1 Honors Choir Festival held May 2-3, 2014 at Chartiers-Houston Jr./Sr. High School. PRMS Choral Director **Heather Flora** and PRHS Choral Director **Lee Rickard** says students were nominated for participation in the festival based on their outstanding work in the classroom.

Band Festival at Carlynton High School in Carnegie May 10-11, 2014. Participating students were sixth graders **Brandon Cugini, Andrew Wenzel, Max Farino, Daniel Krill, Benjamin Solomon, Ethan O'Neil, Vivian Chan, Alexa Sharron, Annalee Demitras, Nicholas Michel** and **Ashley Moreland** and fifth grader **Melissa Riggins** under the direction

The PRMS Seventh Grade Choir took first place in the Mixed Choir 2 category, receiving an "Excellent" rating, and the PRMS Eighth Grade Choir took first place in the Mixed Choir 1 category also receiving an "Excellent" rating at the "Music in the Parks" competition in Sandusky, OH on May 9-10, 2014. PRMS Choir Director **Heather Flora** said the PRMS Women's Ensemble also took first place in the Women's Choir category, receiving a rating of "Excellent." Additionally, this group received the "Best Overall Middle School/Junior High Choir Award" and also received the highest score of any choir competing in the event.



ABOVE: STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PMEA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT BAND FESTIVAL.

Four PRHS students achieved one of the highest honors for any high school musician. They each have earned a spot in one of the 2014 Pennsylvania Music Educator Association's (PMEA) All-State music ensembles. They include: senior **Kelsey Hillock** - PMEA All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble, junior **Joe Shannon** - PMEA All-State Orchestra, sophomore **Will Newell** - PMEA All-State Band and sophomore **Ross Ivey** - PMEA All-State Band. Concerts were held at the end of March 2014 in Hershey and Harrisburg.

of teachers **Ben Coulter, Joy Hess, Fred Mazur, Jeff Nicodemus** and **Jen Novotny**.

Judges selected PRHS senior **Kenneth Kutzer** and juniors **Laura Ferguson, Rowan Grieb** and **Jonathon Schubert** to participate in the PMEA Regional Choir held at Blackhawk High School on Feb. 12-14, 2014.

On Jan. 10, 2014, PRHS seniors **Colton Croskey, Abigail Dionise** and **Kenneth Kutzer** and juniors **Melanie Berexa, Laura Ferguson, Rowan Grieb, Jonathon Schubert** and **Banks Wilson** participated in the PMEA District Chorus program at Shaler Area High School.

Twelve students from Eden Hall Upper Elementary School participated in the PMEA Elementary District

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PRHS ninth graders **Christin Miller**, **Gwendolyn George** and **Isabella Sanzi** and eighth graders **Mark Farino**, **Shannon Donahoe** and **Kobe Hassenzahl** represented the district at the PMEA Junior District Band program at Moon Area Schools Feb. 21-22, 2014.

Junior **Jennifer Laufmann** and sophomores **William Newell**, **Ross Ivey** and **Emily Butler** participated in the PMEA Senior District Band at Charleroi High Feb. 5-7, 2014.

Juniors **Joshua Cherry**, and **Jennifer Laufmann**; sophomores **Aidan Lakshman** and **Elizabeth Peterson** and freshman **Jacob Zak** participated in the PMEA District One Honors Jazz Festival Dec. 13-14, 2013 at PRHS and worked with renowned Jazz artists.

Sophomore **William Newell** was selected to play the French horn at the PMEA Honors Band Concert at West Mifflin Area High on Nov. 24, 2013.

Seniors **Katelyn Benedum** and **William Misback**; juniors **Robert Kang**, **Hanna Klei**, **Lauren Donahoe**, **Ross Ivey**, **Jennifer Laufmann**, **Marielle Lynch**, **Samantha McGrath** and **Daniel Zoelle** and sophomores **Leann Klingensmith**, **Matthew Lacek**, **Aidan Lakshman** and **William Newell** participated in the Allegheny Valley Honors Band Festival at Shaler Area High School Jan. 29-30, 2014. Junior members included ninth graders **Sarah Dawson**, **John Michel** and **Christin Miller**, eighth graders **Joshua Briggs**, **Meghan Briski**, **Kyra Halbert-Elliott**, **Kobe Hassenzahl**, **Nicholas Jones**, **Molly McCarthy**, **Nick Romano**, **Cheyenne Rosenberg**, **Troy Rowlands** and **Jack Shannon** and seventh graders **Bryce Baker**, **Parker Schubert** and **Kevin Zhou**.

The PRHS Band earned second place in the Music and General Effect category, and the color guard received second place in the High School Silk Line category at the Veterans' Day Parade in Pittsburgh.

Academic Competition

For the second time in the past three years, the Pine-Richland High School Mock Trial Team placed in the final four of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers State Mock Trial Final 12 State Championships held in the Historic Dolphin County Courthouse in Harrisburg, PA on March 28 and 29, 2014. The PRHS Mock Trial Team members who participated in the state competition included seniors **Lauren Brown**, **Zack Lehmann**, **Jennifer Lott**, **Andrew Rechenberg** and **Emily Reiling** and juniors **Ben Gongaware**, **Helen Guo** and **Makenna Laffey**. Seniors **Rachel Halliday** and **Ryan Mann** are also members of the PRHS Mock Trial Team.

Pine-Richland High School students showed off their academic knowledge on the KDKA Hometown High Q quiz show. Teacher **Brittany Pikur** accompanied senior **Jillian Schmidt**, juniors **Anya Chopra** and **Andy Auckerman** and sophomore **Aidan Lakshman** to the KDKA studios for the competition. The team advanced to the semi-finals.



TEACHER BRITTANY PIKUR SUPPORTS STUDENTS WHO COMPETED AT THE KDKA HOMETOWN HIGH Q.

Pine-Richland School District students earned six awards at the National History Day Competition in Pittsburgh on March 1-2, 2014. Pine-Richland Middle School eighth graders earned the top three awards in the junior group documentary category. The winners included: 1st place - **Ana Eyerman** and **Sarah Mooney** - "Rights

and Responsibilities of Women in the Civil Rights Movement" (Teacher **Eric Brown**); 2nd place - **Jillian Siegal**, **Sydney Goldberg** and **Desiree Kotlinski** - "1936 Berlin Olympics" (Teacher **Joseph Bailey**) and 3rd place - **Hunter Barton**, **Aiden Landis**, **Tyler Woodrow** and **Nathaniel Saar** - "Jackie Robinson." (Teacher **Eric Brown**). Pine-Richland Middle School eighth graders also took first and third place in the junior group website category including the following winners: 1st place - **Mary Bauer**, **Karley Baker** and **Anna Slebonick** - "Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990" (Teacher **Joseph Bailey**) and 3rd Place - **Alyssa Bigley** and **Elise Malcho** - "Samurai: The Warrior Class of Japan" (Teacher **Eric Brown**). In the senior individual documentary category, Pine-Richland High School junior **Helen Guo** earned third place for "Madalyn Murray O'Hair: Controversial Champion of the 1st Amendment" (Teacher **Brittany Pikur**).

Students battled it out in the 2013-2014 National Geographic Bee sponsored by Google at Pine-Richland Middle School Library on November 26, 2013. First-place winner **William Wagner** qualified for the state exam, which determined the eighth grader could compete at the state level on April 4, 2014. Sixty-two students in grades seventh and eighth participated in this competition at PRMS. Eighth grader **Benjamin Cohen** placed second and eighth grader **Michael Boeh** placed third.

Career & Field Study

Fourth grader **Mary Fannie** wowed judges during the Sodexo Future Chefs: Healthy Sandwich Challenge and was named a regional winner for her Cha Cha Chicken Salad Sandwich recipe. She took first at a competition at Eden Hall. Sixth grader **Emma Coleman** (Panino Delizioso), fifth graders **Savanna Foote** (A Simple Sandwich) and **Gabrielle Stone** (Rotisserie Chicken and Avocado Lemon Spread) and fourth graders **Aidan Daquelente** (Mediterranean Turkey Bagel Sandwich) and **Stella Fannie** (Tuna with a Twist) earned a spot in the final round at the school level.

Pine-Richland junior **Julia Herrle** was accepted into a highly competitive research internship program with Magee-Womens Research Institute in Pittsburgh.

SkillsUSA District Competition honored senior **Amanda Maynard**, who earned second place in the culinary arts category qualified for the Family Career and Community Leaders of America Leadership Competition March 19-21, 2014.



AUSTIN GONCZ

Pine-Richland High School junior **Austin Goncz** was nominated to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Washington, DC Feb. 14-16, 2014. The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields.

Organizers accepted 50 Pine-Richland High School students into the 2013-2014 apprentice programs at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The following ninth through 12th graders will work with professionals in fields ranging from Advertising to Zoo Animal Care: **Amy Andro, Andrew Aukerman, Andrew Bellows, Noah Blake, Kathleen Britten, Alison Celigo, Hunter Coury, Beckett Cromer, Bennett Cromer, Sahil Dadoo, Sonali Dadoo, Kylie Dunn, Rachel Ebner, David Fassler, Julia Fest, Rachel Halliday, Mikaela Hassenzahl, Caulen Heil, Madeleine Ince, Kelly Jones, Jan Kalinski, Malek Khalifa, Leann Klingensmith, Benjamin Kozich, Thomas Krill, Jessica Libby, Alexis Loiselle, Sara Machi, Taylor**



Mackey, Ryan Mann, Merissa Metallo, William Misback, Kanzy Mourad, Siani Null, Caroline O'Neil, Julia Palmieri, Tessa Petak, Kendall Pomerleau, Kyle Pomerleau, Nicholas Racziewicz, Amanda Reha, Emily Reiling, Isabella Salpietro, Nicholas Salpietro, Samantha Schaefer, Jenna Starr, Isaac Stephen, Sydney Smith and Nicholas Trombola.

FOURTH GRADER MARY FANNIE PREPARES HER AWARD-WINNING CHA CHA CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH.

Pine-Richland High School students were honored throughout the school year as "Students of the Month" at the AW Beattie Career Center. The students who were honored included: ninth grader **Tyler Cubarney** for Advanced Computer Programming (September 2013), junior **Hunter Wozniak** for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (September 2013), senior **Christine Strobel** for Early Childhood Education (October/November 2013), senior **Andrew Rudolph** for Emergency Response Technology (October/November 2013) & Outstanding Community Service, senior **Jake Babinecz** for Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (December 2013/January 2014), senior **Christopher Keuch** for Auto Body Technology (January/February 2014), senior **Robert Hoover** for Advanced Computer Programming (February/March 2014), junior **Hunter Wozniak** for HVAC (March/April 2014) and junior **Anna Schleicher** for Early Childhood Education (March/April 2014). Seniors **Amanda Maynard** and **Katherine Given** earned Culinary Arts awards. Senior **Jeremy Fowkes** (Building Construction) was named 2013-2014 Senior of the Year.

Global & Foreign Studies

Ninth graders **Carolina Celedon, Alexa Chavara, Sarah Dawson** and **Julia Solomon** earned the highest scores at Pine-Richland High School on the Le Grand Concours, a national French exam/competition, under the direction of teacher **Dawn Herbst**. Celedon was ranked 11th in the Western PA region and Dawson and Solomon were tied for 15th.

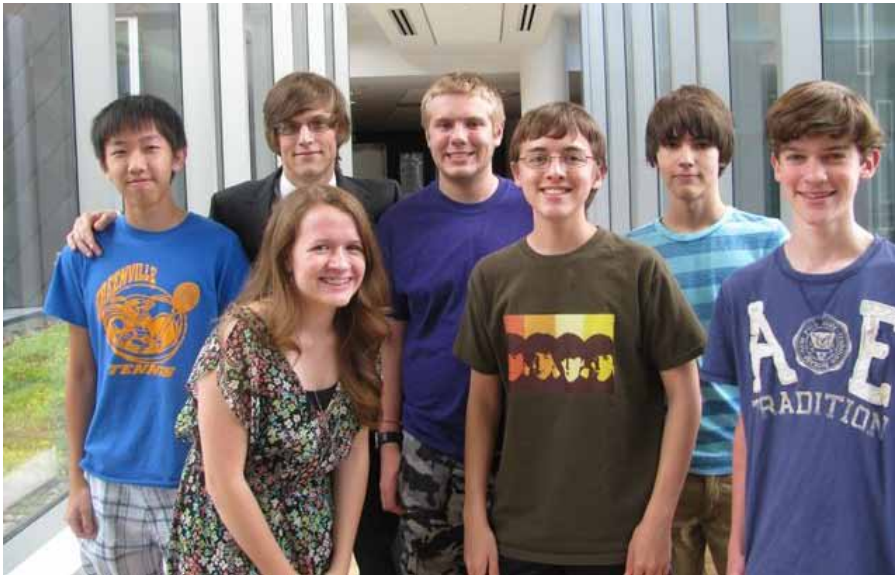
PRHS sophomore **Kiel Hillock** was accepted into the prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program to study abroad in Germany in 2014-2015.

Four Pine-Richland students qualified to compete in the World Championship of Irish Dance in London April 13-20, 2014. This event is very prestigious and less than approximately one percent of competitive Irish dancers world-wide are ever qualified to attend. The dancers from PR who competed include 11th graders **Grace Eichenlaub** and **Meghan Bradley**, eighth grader **Mikayla Fitzgerald** and fifth grader **Abigail Bradley**. Only 10 dancers from Western PA have qualified, and four of them are PR students.



SOPHOMORE KIEL HILLOCK

Science & Technology



SOPHOMORE EVAN STEPHENSON (FAR BACK RIGHT) IS SHOWN HERE WITH PEERS AT A COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY IN 2013.

Pine-Richland High School sophomore **Evan Stephenson** was accepted into Carnegie Mellon University's Pre-College Program for the National High School Game Academy this summer. He will be pursuing the computer programming track. In addition, Evan was also accepted into the PA Governor's School of Global Entrepreneurship at Lehigh University for the summer of 2015.

Several Pine-Richland Middle School students won awards at the 75th Annual Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which was held on March 28, 2014 at Heinz Field and the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. PRMS students competed in the intermediate division which included seventh and eighth graders. Eighth grader **James Baxter** completed a project titled "Distracted Driving Alarm." His hard work earned him a sponsor award from FedEx Ground, Inc., along with an honorable mention award in the Engineering/Robotics category. Seventh grader **Ryan Farbacher** also received a sponsor award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for his project titled "Tides Turning Turbines." Farbacher, seventh grader **Devin Golla** and eighth grader **Mahak Sethi** earned merit certificates.

Pine-Richland High School juniors **Andrew Aukerman, Victoria Barrett, Noah Blake, Jason Buffer, Anya Chopra, Danielle Deley, Sarah Gordon, Jia Kim, Ali Machi, Austin McWilliams** and **Emma Morgan** participated in the 2013-2014 Westinghouse Science Honors Institute Program. Juniors **Sahil Dadoo** and **Jan Kalinski** were also selected for the program, but had prior commitments.

Three Pine-Richland High School seniors earned top awards in the National Association of Women in Construction Computer Aided Design Drafting Competition. They included first-place winner **Ryan Kirkpatrick**, second-place winner **Luke Regan** and third-place winner **Ryan Bogolin**.

Pine-Richland High School students earned top awards at the state Technology Student Association conference at Seven Springs, PA on April 9, 2014. Students earning awards at the state conference include first-place winners **Chris Harby** (11th), **Jacob Benton** (12th), **Joseph English** (11th), **Bailey Hopkins** (11th) in the Animatronics category for "Big Foot," first-place winners **Jacob Reuter** (12th), **Christopher Lang** (10th) and **Jordan Lish** (11th) in the Remote Control Drag Race category, first-place winners **Benjamin Gongaware** (11th), **Evan Gallis** (10th) and **Drew Gallis** (10th) and fifth-place winners **Mark Schantz** (12th), Benton and Hopkins in the VEX Robotic Challenge, sixth-place winners **David Briski** (11th) and **Francesco DiCocco** (11th) in the Structural Engineering category, and seventh-place winner **Hank Compennolle** (11th) in the Career Preparation category.

Students from Pine-Richland High School competed at the Technology Student Association Region 1 and 6 Leadership Conference on Jan. 13, 2014 at the Pittsburgh Technical Institute in Oakdale, PA. Students and teams earned two dozen awards. First-place winners included **John Bamonte** (11th) and team participants Briski and DiCocco, senior **Ryan Kirpatrick** and ninth grader **Casey Mann**.

Pine-Richland High School and Pine-Richland Middle School participated in the national Technology Student Association (TSA) Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics & Science (TEAMS) "Best in the Nation" Competition during the 2014 National TSA Conference June 27 through July 1, 2014 just outside Washington, DC. One team from PRHS and two from PRMS moved on to the national competition. PRHS ninth and 10th grade Team A & B earned second and third in the state and seventh and 11th in the nation respectively. The eighth grade PRMS Team A earned second in the state and fourth in the nation, and the seventh grade Team B earned third in the state and eighth in the nation. Team members included: ninth graders **Noah Adams**, **Juliano Avolio**, **Matthew Di**, **Casey Mann**, **John Michel**, **Alec Muchnok**, **Kendall Pomerleau**, **Trevor Russell**, 10th graders **Benjamin Harris**, **Brendan**



Heatherington, **Madeline Hess**, **Joseph Kelly**, **Hyunwoo Kim**, **Matt Lacek**, **Aidan Lakshman**, **Hannah Reiling** and 11th graders **Andrew Aukerman**, **Noah Blake**, **Julia Herrle**, **Jan Kalinski**, **Jia Kim**, **Thomas Krill** and **Jonathon Schubert**.

ELEVENTH GRADERS DAVID BRISKI AND FRANCESCO DICOCO EARNED FIRST PLACE AT THE TSA REGIONAL 1 & 6 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

Two Pine-Richland Middle School GATE teams participated in the Second Annual middle school TSA TEAMS Competition on Feb. 19, 2014 in the PRHS STEAM LGI Room. The PR teams were made up of seventh and eighth graders. PRMS Team A placed second in Division 19, and PRMS Team B placed third in Division 19 at the regional competition. Team A was made up of eighth graders **James Baxter**, **Nathan Chang**, **Benjamin Cohen**, **Kyle Grumski**, **Kyra Halbert**, **Kobe Hassenzahl**, **Mahak Sethi** and **Cooper Snyder**. Team B was made up of seventh graders **Amalendu Bokil**, **Samantha Devinney**, **Ryan Farbacher**, **Clare Loftus**, **Thomas Spiker** and **Kevin Zhou**.

Service & Leadership



(L-R) PRHS SENIORS GRACE FICCO, ANDREW NUSSBAUM, GABBY ROMEO AND ZACH SKIRPAN PREPARE FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION AT WQED.

RIGHT: JUNIOR ZACHARY MAGGI EARNS THE GOLD VALOR AWARD.



Major **Michael Morrison** and Chief **Michael Gasparetto** presented the Gold Valor Award to junior **Zachary Maggi** in a surprise ceremony on Nov. 19, 2013 for rescuing a young girl off the coast of North Carolina. This award is the highest honor a cadet can receive. Only one out of 120,000 cadets receive this award. In addition, he was officially recognized by the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh with the Student of Distinction Award on Feb. 12, 2014.

The Pine-Richland High School Air Force JROTC program earned a dozen awards at the Air Force Association drill meet hosted at Parkersburg South High School in West Virginia including earning first place overall for the first time in the unit's history. Other awards earned by the PRHS AFJROTC teams and cadets included: Advanced Color Guard Team "A" (First Place) - Led by Cadet **Jordon Martig**, Advanced Drill Team "A" (First Place) - Led by Cadet **Jordan Lish**, Drill Team B with Weapons (First Place) - Led by Cadet

Pine-Richland High School seniors **Grace Ficco**, **Andrew Nussbaum**, **Gabrielle Romeo** and **Zachary Skirpan** took the lead in a panel discussion on teens, social media, on-line identities and bullying, which aired on WQED-TV on Dec. 12, 2013. The students, along with PRHS Teacher **Stacey Spencer**, visited WQED studios on Nov. 19, 2013 and participated in a discussion about how children and teens are using social media to define and share their personal narratives. Participants discussed what it means to be a good digital citizen and how to be safe online.

Caleb Mlakar, 1st Year Drill Team (Second Place) - Led by Cadet **Trevor Russell**, Inspection Team (Second Place) - Led by Cadet **Christian Russell**, 1st Year Color Guard Team "A" (Third Place) - Led by Cadet **Jacob Maggi**, Top 10 Finisher Knock Out Award: Cadets **Breon Oliver** (10th Place), **Jordon Martig** (Seventh Place), **Christian Russell** (Sixth Place), **Joseph Shannon** (Third Place), **Luke Miller** (Second Place), and **Jordan Lish** (First Place).

The PRHS Air Force Junior ROTC program was one of three units to receive an "Exceeds Standards" rating during an inspection conducted by the Air Force JROTC Headquarters on Nov. 19, 2013.

Congressman Keith Rothfus presented Congressional Certificates of Recognition to senior Air Force JROTC cadets **William Hutchinson**, **Ryan McManus**, **Nicole Schlotterbeck**, and **Zachary Scott** for being the first to complete the four-year Air Force JROTC program at Pine-Richland.

Two Pine-Richland students were honored by the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen program on May 8, 2014. Senior **Andrew Nussbaum** received the top award – a \$5,000 college scholarship for an essay that he wrote about his volunteer work and community service. Senior **Zachary Skirpan**, who plans to study nuclear engineering at the Naval Academy, was one of the top 10 gold medal finalists.

Speech & Writing

The Pine-Richland Forensics Team earned state awards at the PA State Forensics Tournament at Susquehanna University. Senior **Rachel Halliday** won the state championship in the Commentary competition by topping students from high schools throughout Pennsylvania. Senior **Amy Clarke** took third place in the state in the Informative Speaking category while sophomore **Thomas Sarabok** was fifth in Radio Announcing. In addition, finishing in the top 10 in their categories were senior **Lauren Berlin** in Poetry and sophomore **Madeleine Ince** in Humorous Interpretation. Sophomore **Kiel Hillock** also was honored for being named clerk during the Student Congress competition.

The National Forensic League recognized the Pine-Richland High School Forensic Team for placing in the top 10 percent of NFL chapters nationwide. The Pine-Richland team achieved 100 degrees or more last year placing it in the top 10 percent in the nation in 2013 earning membership in the prestigious 100 Club.

Yearbook

The 2013-2014 yearbook entitled "Within" is one of the few yearbooks across the country to offer videos of the past school year. Using a free smart phone app called Aurasma, students are able to put their phone over a picture and see a corresponding video. In all, students were able to view 27 videos throughout the book. The videos are paired with everything from football games to the spring musical. Editor-in-Chief **Katrina Sanzi** and advisor **Valerie Orwig** said they couldn't have done this without the help of PRTV. The crew and staff put together the videos for the yearbook, and Orwig was then able to link them to the different pages.

The Pine-Richland High School *Rambler* earned its highest rating ever by achieving "Gold Medalist" status from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The 2013 "Never Odd or Even" yearbook received a score of 926 out of 1,000, its highest rating ever.

In addition, the yearbook earned a "First Class" rating from the National Scholastic Press Association. To earn this distinction, entrants must score 3,700 points. PR scored 3,950. Advisor **Val Orwig** said the publication received marks of distinction in both writing and design.



LEFT: SOPHOMORE THOMAS SARABOK AND SENIORS AMY CLARKE AND RACHEL HALLIDAY EARN TOP AWARDS AT THE PA STATE FORENSICS TOURNAMENT.

BELOW: (L-R) EIGHTH GRADER MAHAK SETHI, PRMS ENGLISH TEACHER JASON PRUCEY AND EIGHTH GRADERS SARAH METZMAIER, MEREDITH MUSCHWECK, BRENDAN LOWE AND BENJAMIN COHEN ARE PUBLISHED POETS.



The *Rambler* also received the Walsworth Gallery of Excellence Award. The Walsworth Gallery is a showcase of the best yearbooks published by Walsworth. Yearbooks in the "Gallery of Excellence" are used nationwide by representatives as quality examples and as idea generators, which are often displayed at regional, state and national conventions and workshops.

The distinctions were earned through submission of the 2013 yearbook to the associations and Walsworth distinction programs. The 2013 yearbook editors included seniors **Elita Marchetti** (2013 editor-in-chief) and **Katrina Sanzi** (2014 editor-in-chief & 2013 layout editor) and 2013 graduates **Kaitlyn Bradley** (2013 layout editor) and **Julia Frazier** (2013 copy editor).



YEARBOOK ADVISOR VAL ORWIG AND SENIOR KATRINA SANZI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DEMONSTRATE HOW THE YEARBOOK INTERACTS WITH A SMART PHONE.

Television & Video: Lip Dub Video Captures School Spirit



PHOTO CREDIT: ALEXANDER LYNCH/DAVID

PR LIP DUB VIDEO

PRHS students garnered a lot of attention via social media and the web. The students produced a lip dub video to the song “Best Day of My Life” by the band American Authors. High school senior **David Randolph** organized and directed the one-take video session involving administrators, staff and students. The video was edited by senior **Alexander Lynch**. Seniors **Ian Murrin** and **Luke Regan** recorded and took part in helping with the production. Senior **Robert Fetterman** is shown in the video leading administrators and faculty in a simulated “roller coaster,” a student section tradition. The students posted the video via YouTube and the Pine-Richland School District website and gained more than 120,000 views since it was posted. A lip dub is a type of video that combines lip-synching and audio dubbing. Participants lip sync while listening to a song. Lip dubs are produced in a single unedited shot. PR’s video, which portrayed school spirit, has gained a lot of attention from local television and radio stations and on social media sites.

Pine-Richland High School seniors **Luke Regan** and **Ian Murrin’s** documentary on the PR Stadium’s student section entitled “Awaken the Monster” earned Pine-Richland School District Rammy video awards for

Best Directing, Editing and Best in Show. Eden Hall Upper Elementary fifth graders **Bayli Clack** and **Eve Mango** earned second place in the directing category for their video “American Loans” and tied for second for editing along with junior **Whitney Linn’s** “Behind the Lip Dub” and third in Best in Show category and second in the Audience Choice category. Eden Hall Upper Elementary School sixth-grade filmmakers **James Rekowski** and **Donald Professori** charmed viewers with their short narrative “Class President,” which earned the Audience Choice award. PRHS juniors **William Guido** and **Matthew Coley** tied for third for the directing category for their video “Cliche” along with Linn. 2013 graduate **Eliabeth DoVale’s** “Friendship” earned top honors in the At Large category (for alumni, staff & residents) narrowly nudging out PRHS Teacher **Mario Oliverio’s** “Mr. Parker, Take Two,” which earned second place.

Pine-Richland students earned two awards at the 21st Annual Television and Video Teachers Student Film Festival hosted at Robert Morris University on April 10, 2014. PR-TV seniors **Luke Regan** and **Ian Murrin** won an Award of Excellence in the Documentary Category for their “Awaken the Monster” entry. Senior **David Randolph** won an Award of Excellence in the Imaginative category for the “2014 Pine-Richland Lip Dub.”

Wexford Elementary first grader **Thomas Kapanowski** starred in a made-for-tv movie called “Love Finds You in Sugarcreek,” which premiered June 1, 2014 on UP TV. He spent time on location in Central Ohio and on the set with actress Kelly McGillis.

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

ATHLETIC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE PINE-RICHLAND BASEBALL TEAM CAPTURED THE QUAD A SECTION TITLE. PRHS SENIOR PLAYER DAANE BEREZO, WHO IS SHOWN SLIDING INTO HOME PLATE IN A GAME AGAINST PITTSBURGH ALLERDICE HIGH SCHOOL, WAS NAMED TO THE POST-GAZETTE'S ALL-AREA BASEBALL TEAM.

Baseball

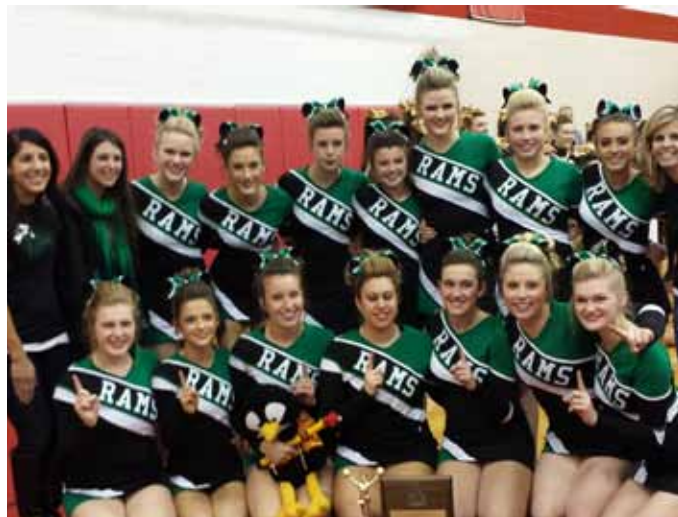
The Pine-Richland Baseball Team captured the Quad A Section Title this year and participated in the WPIAL Semi-Finals. Three seniors committed to play baseball in college. **Daane Berezo** signed to play Division I baseball as a middle infielder

at Virginia Commonwealth University. **Matthew Kamenicky** signed to play at Clarion University of Pennsylvania as a middle infielder and pitcher. **James Switalski** also signed a letter of intent to play baseball as a third baseman at University of Maryland of Baltimore County (Division I) as a third baseman. Senior **Andrew Nussbaum** earned an athletic and academic Scholarship to Ave Maria University in Florida.

Berezo was named to the Post-Gazette's All-Area Baseball Team. Seniors **Berezo, Nussbaum, Jamie Switalski** and **Bennett Zynn** were also named to the 2014 Post-Gazette's All Section Baseball Team, which is based on voting by WPIAL coaches.



PHOTO BY: DEBBIE PROFESSORI



Cheer & Dance

The PRHS Competition Cheer Team qualified for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association's Competitive Spirit Championships. The team earned first place at the WPIAL AAA Cheerleading Competition at North Hills Area School District on Jan. 11, 2014.

ABOVE: THE PRHS COMPETITION CHEER TEAM EARNS FIRST PLACE AT THE WPIAL AAA CHEERLEADING COMPETITION.

The PRHS Rams Dance Team earned first place in the varsity variety division category at the 10th Annual Pittsburgh Poison Winter Blast Cheer and Dance Competition on Jan. 26, 2014. They earned the first-place trophy for their performance, which involved a routine comprised of pom, jazz and kick.



(L-R) SENIORS JAMES SWITALSKI AND DAANE BEREZO, BASEBALL COACH KURT WOLFE AND SENIOR MATTHEW KAMENICKY PARTICIPATE IN SIGNING DAY AT PRHS.

Basketball

The Pine-Richland High School Girls Basketball Team competed in the first round of the WPIAL Girls Basketball Class AAAA this past year. They were nudged out by Fox Chapel High School 47 to 37.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cross Country

The Pine-Richland High School Cross Country program had a strong showing the WPIAL Championships. PRHS placed sixth out of 34 teams at the WPIALs on Oct. 24, 2013. Senior **Luke Regan** placed eighth out of 238 finishers in a time of 16 minutes 35 seconds. Senior **Gabrielle Romeo** finished in 21st place.

Football

The PRHS Football team participated in the WPIALs. Senior **Christopher Szelong** will be attending John Carroll University in University Heights, OH to play football as a defensive end and outside linebacker. Senior **Jacob Leone** signed to play football with Clarion University of Pennsylvania, where he will be a center.

Pine-Richland High School junior guard **John Kohley** and junior defensive back **Brendan Burnham** were named to the Northern Eight Conference First Team. Juniors **Benjamin DiNucci**, **Joseph Lieberman** and **Michael Merhaut** and sophomore **Matthew Hampson** were named to the Northern Eight Conference Second Team. Juniors Ben Zoeller and Jake Good received honorable mentions.

Field Hockey

The PRHS Girls Field Hockey Team completed a successful season and made it to the semi-finals. Several players were named 2013 WPIAL AAA Section 1 All- Stars.



(L-R) SENIORS CHRISTOPHER SZELONG AND JACOB LEONE, SHOWN HERE WITH COACH ERIC KASPEROWICZ, PARTICIPATED IN SIGNING DAY.

They included junior forward **Allison Grant**, senior forward **Paige Haenig**, senior midfielder **Brigid Kortyna** and junior forward **Sage Dowiak**. Sophomore goalkeeper **Allison Buszinski** earned an honorable mention. Grant, Haenig and Dowiak were named to the 2013 All-WPIAL Team.

Golf

The PRHS Girls Golf Team qualified for the WPIAL Team finals and finished second in its section.

SEVENTH GRADER LAUREN FREYVOGEL IS SHOWN HERE WITH HER MOTHER CATHY ON THE GOLF CHANNEL.



Seventh grade golfer **Lauren Freyvogel** helped to make history on April 6, 2014 at Augusta National Golf Club. She was a finalist in the Inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt (DCP) National Competition at the Augusta National Golf Club. Her best event was putting in which she placed fifth. Overall, Freyvogel was ranked 10th in her age division.

Gymnastics

Pine-Richland High School ninth grader **Brienn McWhirter** took first place in the PA State Gymnastics Competition on March 8, 2014. McWhirter scored a 9.575 on beam, 9.425 on floor, 9.325 on bars and an 8.90 on vault, for a total all around score of 37.225. PRHS ninth grader **Sara Enos** did a great job as well, scoring 35.95 for her all-around score. Both, who train at Trinity Gymnastics, qualified to compete at the Regional's Gymnastics Competition in Doylestown, PA on March 23, 2014. At WPIALS, McWhirter took first place on the beam.

Pine-Richland Middle School seventh grader **Devon Erb** is the all-around uneven bar state champion in the Platinum, Jr. B division. Erb also placed third on balance beam, fourth on vault and fifth on floor. In February of 2014, Erb also competed in the Pink Invitational Gymnastics Meet for Breast Cancer Awareness in Philadelphia, PA and earned first place on bars and all-around.

Pine-Richland Middle School eighth grader **Allison Lehmann** earned first place at the X-Cel State Gymnastics Meet in the Diamond division. She won the all-around with a score of 37.925 and was the beam champion as well with a score of 9.575, which was the highest beam score of the entire meet. She also placed second on vault with a score of 9.475 and fifth on bars with a score of 9.55.

Hockey

Several Pine-Richland Varsity Ice Hockey players were selected to play in this year's America's Ice Hockey Showcase, a selective venue to advertise talent to hockey scouts at the junior, collegiate and professional levels. Seniors **Andrew Vislosky, Nicholas Matelan, Andres Binotto, Ryan Cole, Kyle Cunningham** and **Nicholas Jenkins** were chosen to participate in the

event that included more than 400 players representing teams from all over the United States at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center.

Pine-Richland High School Varsity Hockey senior **Kyle Cunningham** was chosen as the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League Player of the Month and was honored at the Pittsburgh Penguins game on Jan. 15, 2014 during a special presentation. In addition, the following seniors were named to the AAA PIHL All-Star Team Captain **Nicholas Jenkins**, Assistant Captain **Ryan Cole**, Assistant Captain **Kyle Cunningham** and senior **Nicholas Matelan**.

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey Commissioner presented two Pine-Richland High School seniors with scholarships. Commissioner Ed Sam presented seniors **Andrew Vislosky** and **Ryan Cole** with scholarships during the Penguin Cup finals at the Consol Energy Center on March 17, 2014.

Several Pine-Richland students were selected to play in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League Varsity and Junior Varsity All-Star teams. The students selected include: Varsity Level 1 - **Nicholas Carnovale** and **Andrew Vislosky**; Varsity Level 2 - **Sean Kirkpatrick** and **Jacob Figucia**; Varsity Level 3 - **Stephen Arcaya** and **Mason Johnson**; Junior Varsity 2 - **Jacob Zak** and **Daniel Larrimer**; Middle School Level 1 - **Jared Marfisi** and **Jordan Crawford**; Middle School Level 2 - **Tyler Brooks** and **Asa Heeter**; Middle School Level 3 - **Peter Coco** and **Kyle Walzer**; Elementary Level 2 - **Kevin Schillinger** and **Nicolas Hyams** and Elementary Level 3 - **Jack Nash** and **Jacob Szafranski**.

Lacrosse

Several Pine-Richland High School Boys Lacrosse players received All-League Awards for their play this season. Senior **Zachary Skirpan** was named a US Lacrosse Academic All-American, junior **Scott Wilden** was named to the First Team All-WPIAL Team and won a First Team All-Section Award and junior **Ryan Means** won a First Team All-Section award. Wilden is believed to have had more assists in the 2013 season than any player in PR Lacrosse history, and he is possibly the first PR player to commit to a Division I school. He plans to attend Hofstra University.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rowing



PHOTO BY ALAN FREED PHOTOGRAPHY

ALEXANDER ENGEL

Sophomore **Alexander Engel** participated in a month-long training session at the US Rowing Development Camp at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. The goal of the camp was to identify athletes with potential, early in their rowing careers, and to position them to understand the process behind contending for a World Championship. After extensive rowing sessions twice a day, which involved as many as 12 kilometers in single to eight seat boats, Engel hopes to be invited for the US Rowing Junior National Team next summer and go on to compete at the 2015 World Championships in Aiguebelette, France.

Soccer

Several PRHS Girls Soccer players were named to the 2013 All-Section Teams this past fall. They included senior defender **Marisa Hombosky**, junior defender **Kate Graszl**, junior midfielder **Catherine Eichenlaub**, junior midfielder **Ali Johanson** and junior goalkeeper **Leah Roth**. **Graszl**, **Eichenlaub** and **Roth** earned All-WPIAL status.

The PRHS Boys Soccer Team competed in the highly competitive Class AAA this year with a record of 10-7-1.

Pine-Richland Boys Soccer players selected to the AAA Section II Finest Fifteen included senior midfielder **Alex Miller**, senior defender **Owen Hoffman** and Honorable Mention senior midfielder **Andy Hoberman**. Miller and Hoffman were selected to the ALL-WPIAL first team by AAA coaches.

Swimming

(L-R) SWIMMERS RYAN ANDERSON, MATT TOBIN, JONATHON SCHUBERT AND SEAN ANDERSON PROVE SUCCESSFUL AS A RELAY TEAM.

Eleventh grade swimmer **Ryan Anderson** earned a spot at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championships. He swam on March 12, 2014 at Bucknell University and ranked 25th in the 200 Individual Medley (IM). At the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League competition, he finished sixth in the 200 IM which qualified him for the PIAA Competition, and 9th in the 200 IM. Anderson broke the WPIAL record in the 200 IM and 500 Freestyle, while his twin brother Sean broke the 100 Breaststroke record and **Jonathon Schubert** broke the 100 Freestyle record.

At the WPIALs, the PRHS 200 Medley Relay Team broke a record. Team members, who are all juniors, included: **Ryan Anderson** – Backstroke; **Sean Anderson** – Breaststroke; **Jonathon Schubert** – Butterfly and **Matthew Tobin** – Freestyle. The same team finished the weekend breaking the 400 Freestyle Relay



record. PRHS 11th grade diver **Abigail Settembrino** finished in 10th place and eleventh grade swimmer **Siani Null** finished in 14th place in the 50 Yard Freestyle. The 400 Freestyle Relay Team finished 13th and consisted of eleventh graders **Makenna Laffey** and **Siani Null** and ninth graders **Isabella Sanzi** and **Savannah Null**. The 200 Medley Relay team of Laffey, 11th grader **Cristina Ahrendt**, **Siani Null** and **Savannah Null** ranked 17th. The boys team finished in 14th place overall. Senior diver **Nathan Kern** finished in ninth place.

Swimming Continued

Allegheny Mountain Swimming recognized Scholastic All-American swimmers who excel both in the classroom and in the pool. PRHS swimmers making the roster included eleventh graders **Ryan Anderson**, **Sean Anderson**, **Makenna Laffey**, **Siani Null** and **Jonathan Schubert** and 2013 graduate **Allison Murslack**.

Tennis

Senior **Marlys Bridgham** earned the state title in tennis, after participating in the PIAAs Nov. 1-2, 2013. Marlys is the first girl from PR to win the PIAA Title. The PRHS Girls Tennis Team made it to the WPIAL Quarterfinals. Bridgham signed to play Division I tennis at the University of Dayton. Senior **Yvon Martinez** placed second in the section singles competition and fourth in the WPIAL singles competition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY COMPENOLLE PHOTOGRAPHY

SENIOR MARLYS BRIDGHAM SIGNED TO PLAY DIVISION I TENNIS.

Track & Field

Pine-Richland's Track and Field Team had an outstanding season, highlighted by many individual achievements. Sophomore **David Kelly** tied for ninth in the state in men's pole vault. Senior **Luke Regan**, who holds the school record in the 3200 meter run, finished in the top 25 in the state in the same event. Junior **Katherine Quigley** became the first Pine-Richland track athlete to bring home two medals from the state meet. She finished fifth in the state in women's 110 high hurdles and second in the state in 300 intermediate hurdles.

Outstanding Nominees



PHOTO BY DEB SANZI

PRHS junior swimmer **Siani Null** was a featured guest on the Hines Ward Show on WPXI on Nov. 7, 2013. Null was nominated in the 2013-14 C. Harper Positive Athlete Awards program for her swimming accomplishments at the varsity level. Several other PRHS athletes were nominated in the awards program as well including senior baseball players **Matthew Kamenicky** and **Andrew Nussbaum**, sophomore basketball player **Adam Alexander** and senior basketball player **Marisa Hombosky**, junior wrestler **Brendan Burnham**, sophomore football player **Mikaela Hassenzahl**, sophomore hockey player **Dylan Hoehn**, and senior cross-country runner and senior volleyball player **Jared Todorowski**.

Volleyball

The PRHS Girls Volleyball team made it to the WPIAL quarterfinals. Senior **Gabrielle Olson** signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Wrestling

Freshman **Hunter Baxter** took third in the WPIAL Wrestling Championships on March 1, 2014 and is now recognized as one of the 16 best wrestlers at his weight level in the state and earned a spot to compete at the Pennsylvania State Championships at the Giant Center in Hershey, PA.

BUDGET

& REVIEW

PR Maintains Millage Rate for 2014-2015 & Explores Alternative Revenue Sources



2014 PR SCHOOL BOARD:
 (BACK ROW: L-R) TREASURER DENNIS SUNDO, PRESIDENT PETER LYONS, VICE PRESIDENT JEFFREY BANYAS, DIRECTORS THERESE DAWSON AND MARC CASCIANI AND (FRONT ROW: L-R) DIRECTORS LAURA OHLUND, HOLLY JOHNSTON, VIRGINIA GOEBEL AND KATIE SHOGAN. (NOT SHOWN:) DIRECTOR GREG DITULLIO

The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2014-2015 school year with total expenditures of 73,696,347 and total revenues of 73,105,973 with a fund balance utilization of 590,374 for capital improvements. In addition, the board maintained the

millage rate and established the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2014-2015:

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

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 |

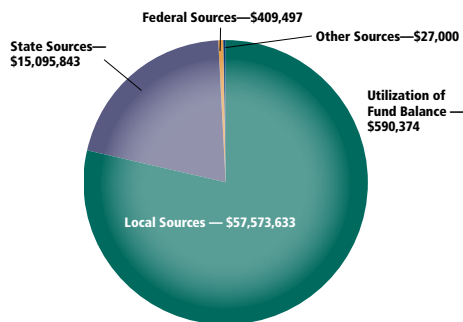
COST-SAVING MEASURES

The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible. At this time, two bond issues are available for refunding, and the district is in process of issuing refunding bonds to lower future interest costs. Once these figures are finalized, the amortization schedules will be adjusted and long-range budget projections will be updated.

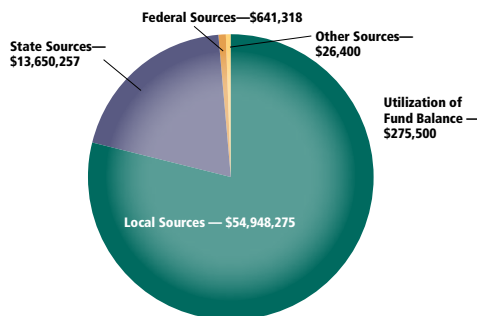
INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- 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/

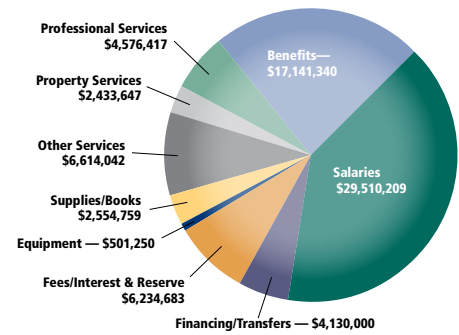
2014-2015 Budgeted Revenue



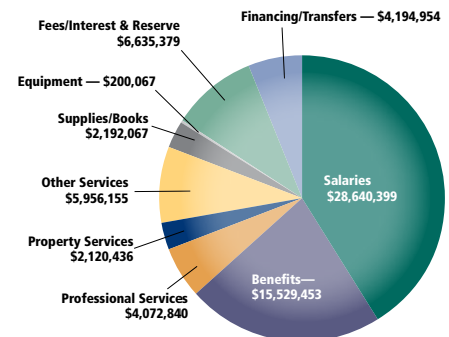
2013-2014 Budgeted Revenue



2014-2015 Budgeted Expenditures



2013-2014 Budgeted Expenditures



casinos. Residents should have an application on file with Allegheny County indicating the house they live in is their homestead. They will also receive a reduction in assessed value for their school tax. Each approved homestead will receive a real estate tax reduction amount of \$193.77. The reduction in real estate tax assessed value on a resident's tax notice would be in the amount of \$10,088.

- The board approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for calendar year 2013. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$250-\$650 in 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 budget include:

Salaries & Wages - Personnel costs for administration, faculty and support staff represent 63.3 percent of the total annual budgeted expenditures, which are already 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 21.4 percent of the salary cost from 16.93 percent in 2013-2014, which translates to \$1,466,366 in the 2014-2015 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 5.75 percent for PPO plans and HMO 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 2014-2015, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools.

Board Welcomes New Members & Honors Retiring Director

The Pine-Richland School Board re-elected **Peter Lyons** as president and **Dr. Jeffrey Banyas** as vice president during reorganization in November 2013. This past year the board:

- Appointed **Greg DiTullio** to represent Pine Township Region 1. He is a sales representative for ChemTreat, an industrial water treatment company and lives in Pine Township with his wife and children. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He was appointed to the empty seat vacated by **Katie Shogan**, who departed the board to relocate to India with her family.
- Welcomed **Holly Johnston**, who is serving Richland Township Region 3. She is taking over the seat left by **Stephen Hawbaker**, who retired in November of 2013. Johnston serves as chairperson of the Richland Swim Club Board of Directors membership committee. She earned a marketing degree from La Roche College.
- Honored **Stephen Hawbaker**, who retired after 12 years of leadership and dedication. For many of those years, Hawbaker served as president or vice president. Recognized **Katie Shogan** for her hard work, especially on the Academic Achievement committee and for her work with the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund.
- Recognized Treasurer **Dennis Sundo** and **Stephen Hawbaker** for being honored officially by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for their long-term contributions of service and leadership in public education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



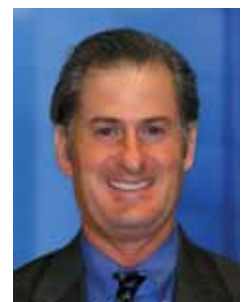
STEPHEN HAWBAKER



KATIE SHOGAN



HOLLY JOHNSTON



DENNIS SUNDO



GREG DITULLIO

School Board Meetings Televised

If you cannot attend the PR School Board meetings, you can view the meetings on TV or online. The regular and planning meetings air on PRTV, which is available on Communications Channel 404 and on Armstrong Cable Channels 50 & 211. Visit www.pinerichland.org for a listing of the tapings. You can also view the videos 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 Educational Experiences through Grants & Partnerships

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is an independent 501(c)3 organization, whose mission is to enrich and enhance the educational experiences of the Pine-Richland student through staff grants, scholarships and partnerships. From 2008-2014, PROF awarded nearly \$16,000 in grants to PR teachers and more than \$123,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors.



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

SENIOR EDEM AKWAYENA IS ONE OF SEVERAL SENIORS TO EARN PROF SCHOLARSHIPS. SHE EARNED THE SCOTT CRAWFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF 1988 RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN SCOTT CRAWFORD.

The foundation consists of community-based trustees including President **Hank Compennolle**, Vice Presi-

dent **Moira Singer**, Treasurer **Randall King**, Secretary **Catherine Vesco-Freyvogel** and trustees **Sara Antol**, **Chris Cochran**, **Eric Giesecke**, **Linda Germ**, **Jill Gruber**, **Susan Hong-Bang**, **David Jeter**, **Jay Kucinic**, **Deborah Lund**, **Michael Mahoney**, **Maura McAnney**, **Christine Misback**, **Jim Neill**, **Monica Nielsen**, **Stacy Silipo** and **Peter Ten Hagen** and faculty liaison **Lauren Super**.

Community Partnership

PROF strives to create partnership opportunities to highlight student achievements. Among the events during the 2013-2014 school year, PROF collaborated with the Pine-Richland Orchestra Booster Club to sponsor a performance of the Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Orchestra (PYCO) at the Pine-Richland Middle School. PROF also created notecards from PRHS art student renderings of the PRSD school buildings and notes for school to aid communication.



PHOTO BY WENDY COMPERNOLLE PHOTOGRAPHY

(L-R) PROF TRUSTEES DEBORAH LUND AND SARA ANTOL, PROF PRESIDENT HANK COMPERNOLLE, PR SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN R. MILLER, PROF TRUSTEES JILL GRUBER, PETER TEN HAGEN, AND (FRONT: L-R) MONICA NIELSON AND SECRETARY CATHY VESCO-FREYVOGEL AND TRUSTEES CHRISTINE MISBACK AND LINDA GERM KICK OFF THE FIRST ANNUAL PROF GOLF OUTING.

Successful Golf Outing

PROF hosted its 1st Annual "Tee Off with PROF" Golf Outing on May 12, 2014. Participants enjoyed a day of golf and a dinner banquet. Over \$17,000 was raised at this outing and will be used to support PROF's ongoing mission. For more information about PROF and how to become involved, please visit our website www.prof-fund.org and sign up for the PROF newsletter.

How Can You Help?

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



THE PINE-RICHLAND OPPORTUNITIES FUND TRUSTEES AND BENEFACTORS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 2013-2014 PRHS SENIOR AWARDS PROGRAM.

Scholarships	Amount	Winners
Central Blood Bank Scholarship	\$ 1,875	Grace Noel
Central Blood Bank Scholarship	\$ 1,875	Jared Todorowski
Scott Crawford Memorial Scholarship	\$ 1,000	Edem Akwayena
Gallagher-Lynne Scholarship	\$ 7,500	Robert Hoover
Jeff Calhoun Performing Arts Scholarship	\$ 2,000	Kelsey Hillock
Jeff Calhoun Performing Arts Scholarship	\$ 2,000	Benjamin King
Jeff Calhoun Performing Arts Scholarship	\$ 1,000	David Randolph
King Family Scholarship	\$ 5,000	Angeline Sporrer
Pasquinelli Family Scholarship	\$ 1,000	Jennifer Lott
Richland Civic Club Scholarship	\$ 1,000	Abigail Krick
Team Alex Scholarship	\$ 1,000	Abigail Dionise
Wexford PTO Scholarship	\$ 500	Elita Marchetti
Wexford PTO Scholarship	\$ 500	Aiden Reuter

PROF Awards Staff Grants in 2013-2014

Throughout the year, PROF awarded grants to PR Staff in the amount of \$17,000. These grants supported such programs and initiatives as the Fourth Grade Science Olympiad, 3-D printer and CNC Plasma technology for the PRHS Technology Education Department, electrical energy meetings for the PRMS Science Department, the Jim Basketball Jones Motivational Program for Wexford Elementary School and an opera performance hosted by the Global Relations Club for Black History Month.

OPERA SINGER JASMINE MUHAMMAD VISITED PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL DURING A PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION HOSTED BY THE GLOBAL RELATIONS CLUB DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH. SHE IS A UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH OPERA RESIDENT WHO WILL RETURN FOR A THIRD YEAR AND STAR IN "RODELINDA" IN JANUARY 2015.



PHOTO BY MEGAN GAY PHOTOGRAPHY

STEAM

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS

STEAM Lessons Part of Pine-Richland School District Daily Life

Students are learning how to apply skills and content knowledge to real-world applications as teachers build collaborative alliances with the community and colleagues across the disciplines here at Pine-Richland School District. Students are learning firsthand about science, technology,

engineering, the arts and mathematics through STEAM education. Here is a snapshot of just a few STEAM-related lessons, projects and programs you will find in district classrooms.

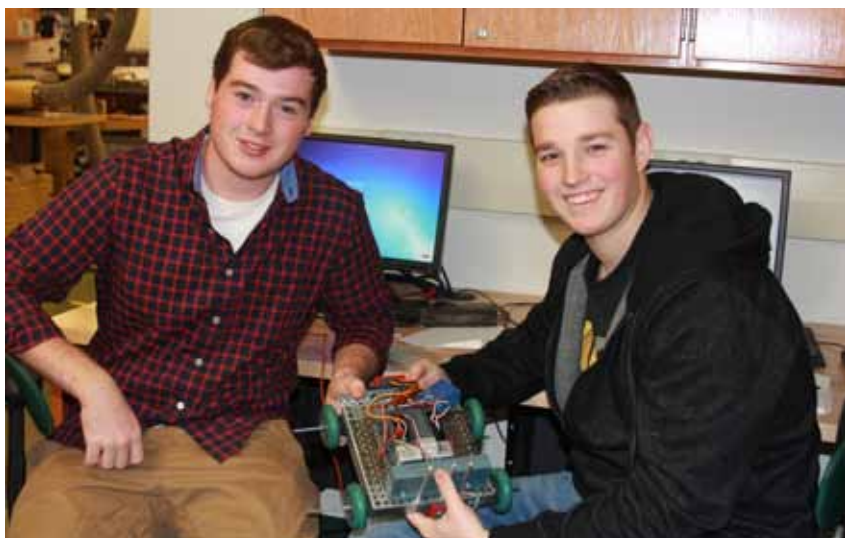
Visit www.pinerichland.org for more information.

AT PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL, STUDENTS:

- Design, build and program robots using robotic software created by Carnegie Mellon University.
- Host Battle Bot Competition to master troubleshooting & critical thinking skills.
- Use 3-D modeling software to design and produce electric guitars.

AT PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL, STUDENTS:

- Participate in science competitions such as the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair & the "Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics & Science" program.
- Learn first-hand from experts about STEAM-related careers.
- Connect knowledge with skills by applying statistics to the love of baseball.



(L-R) SENIORS NATHAN LARSON AND KYLE KRISBY PREPARE TO OPERATE A ROBOT THAT THEY DESIGNED, PROGRAMMED AND BUILT AT PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL.



ABOVE: PRMS TEACHER CHRISTOPHER SHAULIS HELPS STUDENTS WITH STATISTICS DURING THE ALL-STAR MATH PROGRAM.

AT WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, STUDENTS:



- Inquire about STEAM-related careers through the A to Z careers display which features community members who are leaders in STEAM-related careers.
- Participate in STEAM week to focus more on engineering and design concepts
- Design and build bridges through the ASSET Science kits.

LEFT: (L-R) TEACHER CHRISTOPHER VINS OVERSEES STEAM ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THIRD GRADERS COLIN ZVEJNIEKS, MAX HECKERT, EMMA BORGHI AND OWEN HENNE COMPLETE A TOWER OF SPAGHETTI DURING STEAM WEEK AT WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

AT EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, STUDENTS:



- Apply math skills to real-life lessons when it comes to personal finances through the "Economics for Success" Junior Achievement program.
- Apply STEAM-related principles such as buoyancy, reflection and physics during the Science Olympiad.
- Build, test and market prototypes to imaginary investors by applying engineering principles to their competition.
- Compose music by applying concepts they are learning in class.

LEFT: STUDENTS WORK ON TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES TO KICK-OFF THE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD.

AT RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, STUDENTS:

- Learn about the scientific process through the school's science fair.
- Learn about key concepts such as forces, matter and motion through visits from the Carnegie Science Center



RIGHT: (L-R) RICHLAND THIRD GRADERS BRYNN SURLOFF, BENJAMIN RISHEL, SETH NICHOLS AND JULIA DEFOGGIA LEARN ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS DURING THE ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR.

AT HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, STUDENTS:



- Learn about the environment through the importance of preserving and planting trees.
- Learn unique strategies to build upon their music and reading skills by singing strategies to become better readers.
- Discover inquiry-based classroom projects can be fun while studying the structure of life with the ASSET STEM Science kits.

LEFT: HANCE THIRD GRADERS KATELYN HUMENIK, MOLLY SALSURY AND EMILY SMALLWOOD STUDY CRAYFISH AND THE STRUCTURES OF LIFE WITH INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING.

ALUMNI

NOTES



2002 PRHS GRADUATE LINDSEY BRACCO

2002 graduate **Lindsey Bracco**, performed with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera at the Benedum Center this summer in productions "Singin' in the Rain," "Legally Blonde: The Musical" and most recently "Footloose."

2002 graduate **Angela Yingling** has been making her way in the broadcasting field serving as a role model to students aspiring to be broadcasters. She anchors the news at WCYB-TV 5 in the Tri-Cities TV market, which covers Bristol, Va., and Johnson City, Kingsport and Bristol, Tenn.

2002 graduate **John DiAntonio** is enjoying his career as a writer, actor and director. He produces plays in Colorado and acts in New York City, where he also resides. He just completed his next play.

2004 graduate **Terry Hoge** is currently making films in Hollywood. He has worked locally on stage, as well as in commercials for companies such as UPMC.

2004 graduate **Benjamin Reed** has accomplished several things since completing his masters in theater arts at the University of Houston. He has starred in "Hamlet" in Houston's outdoor theater and played the role of Ken in the two-man play, "Red." Recently, he has accepted a position at the American Shakespeare Theater in Staunton, Virginia.

2007 graduate **Krystle Grandy** has returned to Pittsburgh after a successful career at Capitol Records working with greats such as Katy Perry and Universal Studio, where she worked with Danny Boyle on "127 Hours." Her last project before returning to Pittsburgh was "American Horror Story." She is working to make Pittsburgh the second Hollywood.

2008 graduate **Carly Goebel** has been honored for her work as a Category Buyer for GetGo and Giant Eagle Express with the 2014 Top Women in Convenience Rising Star Award.

2009 graduate **Brad Hammer** and his band the Daily Grind have released a new CD titled "The Green Plan." Hammer plays lead guitar and has been interviewed by Randy Baumann on WDVE.



2002 PRHS GRADUATE ANGELA YINGLING



2008 PRHS GRADUATE
CARLY GOEBEL



2009 PRHS GRADUATE
BRAD HAMMER



2012 PRHS GRADUATE
MADELINE SMITHGALL

2009 graduate **Luke Paulina** recently finished a tour with Disney Cruise Lines and is rehearsing in Taiwan on the production "Disney Japan Live."

2010 graduate **Jennifer Jokl** was named a 2014-15 Fulbright Scholar by the U.S. Department of State and will teach English as a second language to college students in Macau.

2012 graduate **Madeline Smithgall** was front and center at Super Bowl XLVIII on Feb. 2, 2014 at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, Ne09Jersey. Smithgall, who plays the tuba, performed during the pregame show at the Super Bowl with the Syracuse Marching Band. The big event was aired by FOX Broadcasting.

DISTRICT

BENCHMARKS

District Develops Benchmarks of Success to Measure District Growth

Given the scope and complexity of operations within a school district, it can be challenging to monitor organizational growth and improvement over time. The development of a balanced scorecard is one strategy for measuring this growth across major elements.

The mission of the Pine-Richland School District is to provide a strong academic foundation, which challenges students to realize their fullest potential and encourages them to become engaged, thoughtful citizens. The teaching and learning processes of the district serve as the core method for achieving that mission. From an educational perspective, we focus on the three big topics of curriculum, instruction and assessment as the important elements of a successful program. These areas are naturally connected to the day-to-day operation of schools.

The concept of a balanced scorecard will encompass a wide variety of indicators for organizational excellence. It is our intention to focus on a combination of process improvements and a results orientation. Although this concept is a current work-in-progress, the basic framework surrounds four areas found in the boxes at right.

To learn more about each quadrant, visit www.pinerichland.org/strategicinitiatives.

FINANCE & OPERATIONS

“What strategies and systems are in place to maximize operational efficiency while also pursuing new revenue?”

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

“What programs are in place, and what performance outcomes are we monitoring to ensure that we are preparing each child for his/her next step?”

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

“What strategies and systems are in place to monitor satisfaction and engagement from students, parents, staff and the community?”

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

“What strategies and systems are in place to ensure best practices with curriculum, instruction, assessment and collaboration?”

Unique Project at Pine-Richland High School Garners Award

VEBH Architects earned an award from the American Building and Contractors Association for the Pine-Richland High School Pool Dehumidification project. The project included replacing the pool dehumidification unit on the second floor mezzanine near the center of the roof area, which meant crews had to remove a portion of the roof and crane in the unit.

“This was really a small but detailed design and construction project you don’t see every day,” said Principal Architect Dan Engen. “With everyone working together towards the common goal, this very technical project was able to be a success.”

He said the careful coordination between the contractor Weider Services, the crane operator and three other subcontractors was important to make the operation flawless. The unit was lifted from the ground by crane and swung over the building to the center above the new opening. The new unit was slowly lowered into the building. Finally, the roof opening was reinstalled.



THE AMERICAN BUILDING & CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AWARD

DONATIONS

GOODWILL EXTENDED THROUGHOUT PR

PR Community Shares with Schools

The district received thousands of dollars worth of donations in 2013-2014. This is in addition to the annual assemblies and staff appreciation programs provided by our parent teacher groups. The district was fortunate to receive the following donations during the 2013-2014 school year including:

- Five digital cameras from the Richland Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
- Tools and equipment for the musical set (table saw, color scrollers, cables, air compressor and ladders, which are valued at more than \$1,100) from the Oberg family
- A trailer for the football program from the Touch-down Club
- Football uniforms (\$25,000-\$30,000) from an anonymous donor
- Filing cabinets from the Allegheny Financial Group
- WeatherBug equipment and installation from the Wexford Elementary Parent Organization
- Two basketball net height adjusters along with installation costs from the Richland Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (\$3,344)
- Bleachers for the PRHS Baseball Field, as well as the cost of delivery, installation, bonding, permits and

other fees thanks to the Pine-Richland Baseball Boosters

- Six incubators from the Richland Elementary PTO (\$1,800)
- Scholarships for attendance for teachers to attend the Cognition, Language and the Acquisition of Math Competency Conference and for two teachers to attend the Pittsburgh International Dyslexia Conference
- A new shop vac, a new smart garden cart and \$600 from Randall Hart for the Green Thumb Growers program at the Pine-Richland High School (Total value of \$1,036.48)
- Weight room equipment and/or a monetary donation for the purchase of weight room equipment at the Pine-Richland Stadium from an anonymous donor.
- Digital wireless microphone system and three indoor 56" ceiling fans for use at the PRHS pool from the PRHS Swimming & Diving Boosters.
- Materials for the PRHS Library from the Student Government Class of 2014

Thank you to those who have contributed through donations and fundraisers and by giving their time throughout the school year.



SOPHOMORE OLIVIA FOLMER CREATES POTTERY FOR THE EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER.

PR's Hub of Good Will

PR is pleased to be the center of goodwill. Each school hosted numerous fundraisers throughout the season. While there are too many to list, we would like to take note that PR is the hub of good will throughout the year. Some notable fundraisers included:

- The Empty Bowls Fundraiser that benefits the Lighthouse Fundraiser with the help of students
- The Stuff a Bus program, which allowed students to deliver seven bus loads of toys with donated bus service from Monark Transportation
- Wexford's KD Turkey Fund, which raised a record of \$21,129 and \$132,113 over a nine-year span with the help of PNC Bank, National City and parents for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank
- HEADstrong event "A Day of Lacrosse" in honor of senior **Kyle Pomerleau** with more than 100 student and parent volunteers and 15 PR booster/PTO organizations and community businesses leading the charge and raising nearly \$7,000, which was donated to the HEADstrong Foundation, an organization that is committed to being a resource for blood cancer patients and their families

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. This includes provision of education and related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

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

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 schools or community.



Alumni, Parents & Community Members — Stay Informed

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

Upcoming Reunions

Richland High School (RHS)

Class of 64

50th Reunion

Oct. 24-25, 2014

Info: Russ Kemerer at

russkemerer@gmail.com

or Eileen Lang Gilson at

eileenjgilson@gmail.com

RHS Class of 1979

35th Reunion

Sept. 5-6, 2014

Four Points Sheraton in

Cranberry & North Park

Info: Chris Miller at

christophermiller@yahoo.com

Class of 1989

25th Reunion

Sept. 26, 2014

Treesdale Country Club

Payment Contact: Amy Hoobler at

amyhoobler@gmail.com

Info: David Tamburri at

david.tamburri@gmail.com

Class of 2004

10th Reunion

Info: Caitlin Bogosta for information at

cbogosta@pinerichland.org



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

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

Richland Elementary School third grader Jack Wilkinson helps stack books following a demonstration during "Music in Our Schools" Month hosted by teacher Jill Linsz. Parents were invited to listen to some musical selections students learned.

A Word About the 2014 Annual Report

Pine-Richland School District is always looking for ways to reduce spending while being environmentally friendly. As a result, PR produced the annual report on 100% recycled paper. While the district has curbed the use of paper through the years, this is the only document mailed to residents to provide them with a snapshot of the budget and worthy achievements earned by 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.

