

Positively

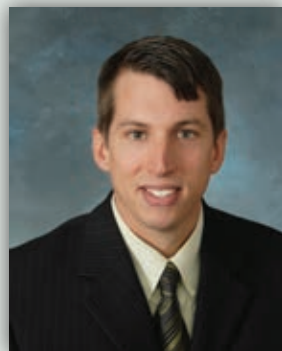


PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 2012 & 2013

“Our students, staff and parents make this school the place to be.”

Principal David Kristofic on Pine-Richland Middle School being re-designated a “School to Watch” in 2013.

Pine-Richland to Welcome New Superintendent



Greetings to the PR Community,

Historically, the district has published an Annual Report as a communication vehicle for celebrating success and to summarize student performance results for selected assessments. The following publication illustrates the accomplishments of both students and staff from the 2011-2012 and the 2012-2013 school years. The results

demonstrate the broad focus of the district in the areas of academic achievement, the arts, athletics, and activities. The entire school community has reason to be proud.

Achievement is directly connected to effort. Whether that effort occurs in the classroom, on stage, or in the gymnasium, the most satisfying results are usually connected with incremental improvements over time. These results show the effort on the part of students and staff. Furthermore, it reinforces the vision that Pine-Richland School District is a community where learning is challenging, people are inspiring and students are enriched by their experience.

Congratulations to everyone associated with these awards and the leadership that made them possible at so many levels of the organization.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Miller", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Brian R. Miller
PRSD Superintendent

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Front Cover Photo: (L-R) Pine-Richland Middle School students Rita Lakhssassi, Hunter Baxter, Isabella Sanzi and class president Abby Hinson celebrate as their school earns re-designation as a "School to Watch" in 2013.

Did you know that...?

- > Pine-Richland High School ranked sixth in Pennsylvania in **The Washington Post** 2013 Most Challenging High School rankings. Only 2,000 schools in the nation made the list.
- > **Newsweek** ranked PRHS 654 in the nation in its America's Best High School rankings in 2013.
- > Pine-Richland School District continues to move up in the **Pittsburgh Business Times** ranking. PRSD ranked 10th in 2013 and 14th in 2012 in the region.
- > PRSD is one of only 16 percent of the nation's 15,571 public school districts to earn the SchoolMatch "What Parents Want Award" in 2013.
- > PRHS ranked seventh in the region for best College Board SAT scores with an average an average math score of 561, average verbal score of 543 and an average writing score of 535.
- > Pine-Richland Middle School was re-designated as an exemplary school in the 2013 PA DonEichorn "Schools to Watch" program.

National Merit Scholars



Photo by Marc Soracco

Above: PR is pleased to announce the above students were named "Commended," "Semifinalists" and/or "Finalists" in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement Program.

Right: PRHS had a record number of students who were honored in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship program. In all, 21 students were named "Commended" and/or "Finalists."



National Merit & Achievement Programs Honor High School Students

The National Merit Scholarship Program named several Pine-Richland High School students as "Finalists" in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program and one senior as a National Achievement "Finalist". They included: **Louisa Baidoo, Natalie Blandino, Hannah Christenson, Marcus Colella, Marissa Di, Kasey Elkin, Nicholas Jones** and **Alianna Sanzi**. In addition, those seniors and senior **Amulya Yennam** were named "Semifinalists" earlier in the year. Seniors honored with "Commended status" included: **James Burgess, Catherine Chleboski, Angad Guglani, Sneha Iyer, Kevin Klingensmith, Olivia Marchionda, Jared Ohlund, Maria O'Keeffe, Christine Ostrosky** and **Bayne Royall**.

In 2012, program administrators named a record number of PRHS seniors "Finalists," "Semifinalists" and "Commended" in the competition. They named then seniors **Cameron Barnes, Branden Glass, Laura Herrle, Evan Klei, Brian McWilliams, Ji-Ho Park** and **Peter Pearson** as "Semifinalists" and then as "Finalists". 2012 seniors **Lucas Axiotakis, Nisha Bhat, Samantha Bigley, Nigel Halliday, Kathryn Knapp, Jonathan Marks, Alexandra Marshall, Catherine McAnney, Michael Morrissey, Lauren Muchnok, Joni Mulvaney, Justin Olshavsky, Rebecca Olson** and **Taylor Perz** earned

"Commended" status in the program. This was a record number of students to earn placement in the program in the history of PRSD and more than double the number of scholars in 2011.

"Finalists" are among only 15,000 students nationwide earning this recognition. 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.

PR DISTRICT SCORECARD	
	Number of Students
National Merit & Achievement Scholars	
Class of 2013	19
Class of 2012	21
Class of 2011	10
Class of 2010	12
Class of 2009	6

Teacher of the Year

Teachers Represent PR in PA Teacher of Year Program



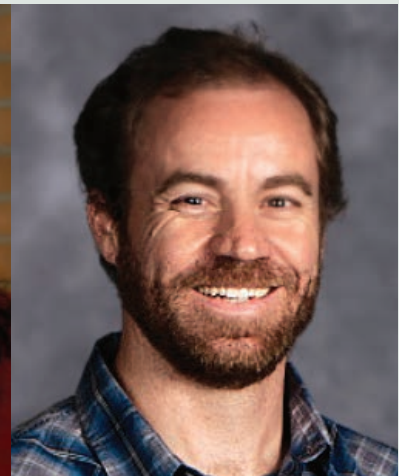
Music Teacher **Kimberly Campbell**
Wexford & Richland Elementary



Teacher **Patty Cekella**
Pine-Richland Middle School



Teacher **Carin Liberati**
Hance Elementary School



Teacher **Matt Roberts**
Pine-Richland High School

Judges named three Pine-Richland teachers as semifinalists in the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year program during their annual program in 2013. They include: Wexford Elementary School/Richland Elementary School Music Teacher **Kimberly Campbell**, Pine-Richland Middle School Eighth Grade Math Teacher **Patty Cekella** and Pine-Richland High School Social Studies Teacher **Matthew Roberts**.

Hance Elementary School Teacher **Carin Liberati** represented the district as a finalist in the 2012 PA Teacher of the Year program.

"Traveling to Hershey was a wonderful experience," Liberati said. "It was such an honor to be there representing my colleagues at Pine-Richland."

Fifth grader **Rob Palmieri** and his brother **Ryan**, a second grader, who nominated Liberati were on hand to honor her in Hershey, PA, as she was recognized as a finalist.

Rob Palmieri says Liberati is an excellent teacher, because she teaches her students to be confident, to take risks, to possess important skills for the future and to be kind and accepting of all people.

"When you think about it, isn't that what being a good teacher is all about?" he asked. "Mrs. Carin Liberati deserves to be PA Teacher of the Year. Her kindness, caring and love of her students make her the kind of teacher I'd like to be some day."

Eden Hall Library Media Specialist **Beth Shenefiel**, Richland Elementary Third Grade Teacher **Kathleen Giegel** and Cekella were named semifinalists in 2012.

Staff & Volunteer Notes

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge awarded Pine-Richland High School Teacher **Charles Connolly** with a scholarship to attend the "Teaching American History and the Medal of Honor Legacy" graduate teaching program July 21-26, 2013. Participants heard from medal of honor recipients, studied about World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan and learned more about using the "Medal of Honor Character Development" curriculum. The teachers also developed supplementary curriculum in conjunction with the American History Common Core standards.

PRHS Social Studies Teacher **Matthew Roberts** participated in the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad 2013 study tour in Japan June 24 – July 23, 2013. During the program, Roberts pursued an independent study project to develop curriculum for his classroom.

The Western PA Writing Project (WPWP) selected Richland Elementary Teacher **Kathy Giegel** to participate in a Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics project through the WPWP and Carnegie Science Center. The project is a two-year partnership to develop program models to reach a more diverse

Staff & Volunteer Notes

range of youth and educators and to increase exposure to STEM-rich learning experiences.

Hance Elementary Teacher **Carin Liberati** was inducted into the Allegheny Valley School District Alumni Hall of Fame for distinguished public service, academic achievement and professional contributions on April 27, 2013.

People magazine editors featured PRHS Teacher & Wrestling Coach **Ben Rings** in their March 2013 edition for being an amazing educator. Rings teams up his wrestlers with students with special needs through the Best Buddies program, which has helped build bonds between students. In addition, wrestler & actor Kurt Angle stopped off at PRHS on April 24, 2013 to talk to the wrestlers and coaches because he saw their work with the Best Buddies program.



(L-R) Student Andrew Schepp and Coach Ben Rings



People Magazine/March 2013

The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials recognized District Finance & School Services Director **Dana Siford** for being renewed as a Pennsylvania Registered School Business Administrator for a period of four years. The renewal signifies Siford has met the rigid personal, ethical and professional standards established by the program. Siford has been with Pine-Richland School District since May 2003.

PRHS Teachers were featured in the March 2012 edition of the Pennsylvania State Education Association *Voice* magazine. Editors featured the teachers for hosting dress-down Fridays. Each staff member donates money to participate. Staff members donated \$3,800 to Kid's Chance of PA. The fundraiser was started by Teacher **Michelle Switala** and is organized now by teachers **Ashlyn Brill** and **Beth Sipe**.

PRHS Teacher **Eroica Poulakos Hreha** earned her doctorate in March of 2013 in educational policy at the University of Pittsburgh, and **Melissa Kuban Ramirez** earned her doctorate in school psychology from Duquesne in 2011.

Kelly Educational Staffing awarded PR Substitute **Eric Farmer** with the Kelly Educational Staffing PA Substitute Teacher of the Year Award. KES Branch Manager **Karen Houseman** said Farmer was a perfect candidate for the award because he went above and beyond and completed many same-day assignments. Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal **Mary Catherine Reljac** nominated Farmer for the award. Farmer's latest assignment was serving as a long-term substitute teacher at Richland Elementary School and prior at Eden Hall Upper Elementary School.

Pine-Richland parent volunteer **Christine Misback** earned the Pennsylvania State Education Association's Friends of Education Award on April 26, 2012. Misback was nominated by Teacher **Kathy Giegel** for her contributions to public education. Giegel says that Misback has really made a difference in helping student academic growth. Misback serves as a trustee on the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, a foundation that strives to provide grant money to the district and scholarships to seniors. Misback also coordinates the community blood drives and serves on the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics Advisory Committee.

PRHS Teachers **Ken Bogartz, Mark Cadamore, Evan Clark, Aaron Koehler, Jeff Maple, Shawn Scott** and **Jeff Seybert** earned Project Lead the Way certification in 2012-2013. Most of the educators received their certification through Penn State University Berks in Reading, PA. Through this professional development, they have the opportunity to increase their content knowledge and skills in relation to PLTW courses. PLTW curriculum provides students with engaging, hands-on STEM courses to prepare students to be leaders in science, technology and engineering.

Congratulations to the following employees who retired in 2013: **Barbara Cornibe, Sandra Gordon, Richard Thoma** and **Susan Wagner**. 2012 retirees included: **Clair Altemus, Larry Creeks, Harry Daniels, Lynn Campbell, Carol (Denny) Densmore, Julie Forsyth, Diana Hufnagle Melinda McKinnis, Nancy Merriman-Koegler, Karen Lee, Carol Pearson, Kathryn Rezzetano, Sally Schuster, Carol Shanholtz, Kathleen Smalstig, Donald Thomas, Richard Todd** and **Joanne Yingling**.

Academic Accomplishments



Class of 2013

Left: (L-R) PRHS Valedictorian Marcus Colella, Salutatorian Chloe DiPasquale and Tertiary Marissa Di prepare to accept their diplomas during graduation exercises on Friday, June 14, 2013.

Below/Left: Class of 2012 valedictorians Laura Herrle and Lucas Axiotakis, Salutatorian Catherine McAnney and Tertiary Ji-Ho Park gave speeches at the graduation ceremony.

Below: The Class of 2011 had two salutatorians. Graduate Michael Matty was named valedictorian, Zachary Dionise and Daniel Nigh both were named salutatorians and Elizabeth Tomczak was named tertiary.



Class of 2012



Class of 2011

PR Named to AP College Honor for Third Year in Row

The College Board is commending Pine-Richland School District for being one of nearly 540 school districts in the US and Canada for earning a spot on the Advanced Placement Honor Roll across the US and Canada. This is the third year College Board is honoring schools, and the third year in a row that PRSD made the list.

In Pennsylvania, 37 school districts earned a spot on the list. Of those, only 18 have been honored more than one time. In Allegheny County, only Pine-Richland, Upper St. Clair and South Park school districts have been named to the honor roll for multiple years.

The Annual AP District Honor Roll recognizes districts for increasing access to Advancement Placement course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of three or higher on AP Exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's AP program, because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated and academically prepared students who are likely to benefit most from rigorous AP course work.

Initial Keystone Scores Unveiled & Timeline Delayed

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is releasing the first results of a new set of assessments called the Keystone Exams, which are designed to evaluate proficiency in content areas of Biology, Algebra I and Language Arts.

Beginning with the class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency in these area to graduate. The district is working to help all students obtain proficiency on these exams.

In December, secondary level students who completed any of those courses in previous school years were tested. The exam results were sent home to parents this past spring.

Student scores fall into a similar assessment range as they do on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. The boxes below provide a preliminary look at how Pine-Richland School District scored on the first round of Keystone Exams.

While PDE is releasing those numbers, the state released a new timeline for the Pennsylvania Common Core-aligned PSSAs for the following grade levels:

- > Grades 3-5 - Embedded field test items to be added in 2013 & 2014
- > Grades 6-8 - Embedded field test items to be added in 2014
- > Grades 3-8 - Operational English Language Arts & Mathematics assessments to be administered in 2015

The delay allows schools more time to create and implement curriculum that reflects the rigor found in the revised assessments.

Grade	Algebra I	Biology	English Language Arts
7th	100%		
8th	100%		
9th	87%		
10th	57%	89%	
11th	78%	73%	89%

Advanced & Proficient

Grade	Algebra I	Biology	English Language Arts
7th	100%		
8th	91%		
9th	43%	96%	82%
10th	25%	67%	86%
11th			100%

Advanced & Proficient

Students Earn AP Scholar Status

More Pine-Richland High School students than ever are challenging themselves by taking Advanced Placement exams and earning AP Scholar Status. To earn the prestigious title as a National AP Scholar, a student must earn a score of four or higher on eight or more AP exams. Seniors **Natalie Blandino, Hannah Christenson, Marcus Colella, Marissa Di, Nicholas Jones** and **Jared Ohlund** earned National AP status. 2012 graduates **Lucas Axiotakis, Cameron Barnes, Nigel Halliday, Laura Herrle, Justin Olshavsky** and **Ji-Ho Park** earned this distinction.

2011 graduates **Zachary Dionise, Michael Matty, Daniel Nigh** and **Elizabeth Tomczak** earned this national recognition. Other levels of distinction include AP Scholar with Distinction (three or higher on five or more exams), AP Scholar with Honor (three or higher on four or more exams) and AP Scholar status (three or higher on three or more exams).

Year	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total Honors	167	137	115	108
National Scholar	6	6	4	2
Scholar with Distinction	53	42	41	32
Scholar with Honor	36	29	22	30
Scholar	72	60	48	44

of students who earned AP awards

2012 PSSA STATE SCORES

Advanced & Proficient*

PSSA Subject	Advanced & Proficient
Math	76%
Reading	72%
Science	62%
Writing	73%

*2013 Scores unavailable at time of publication.



Alianna Sanzi

Senior Alianna Sanzi was named a candidate in the 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars program. To be selected is a great honor, since only 3,000 students are chosen from a pool of 3.4 million graduates from U.S. high schools for their exceptional performance on their the College Board SATs or the ACT assessments.

Pennsylvania System of School Assessments

Pine-Richland School District continues to strengthen its test scores on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs), which are being phased out by the Common Core-aligned PSSAs. The district:

- Increased the number of students districtwide who have achieved advanced and proficient status from the previous year.
- Achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in 2010-2011 & 2011-2012 districtwide.
- Worked to strengthen the high school reading scores for special education.

UPPER ELEMENTARY PSSA SCORES
Advanced & Proficient – 2013

Grade	Subject	2013 PSSAs	2012 PSSAs
4th	Math	90%	96%
	Reading	83%	91%
	Science	92%	94%
5th	Math	91%	86%
	Reading	81%	82%
	Science	75%	77%
6th	Math	90%	94%
	Reading	88%	86%

PRIMARY PSSA SCORES
Advanced & Proficient – 2013

School/Group	2013 PSSAs		2012 PSSAs	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
Hance	92%	92%	94%	89%
Richland	95%	87%	99%	96%
Wexford	97%	92%	97%	92%

COLLEGIATE SAT SCORECARD
2012

Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Pine-Richland			
Pennsylvania	543	561	535
National	491	501	480
	496	514	488

*PRHS Class of 2013 results unavailable at production time.

COLLEGIATE SAT SCORECARD*

PRHS Class	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2012	543	561	535
2011	546	571	533
2010	544	568	532
2009	532	555	530

*PRHS Class of 2013 results unavailable at production time.

SECONDARY PSSA SCORES
Advanced & Proficient – 2013

Grade	Subject	2013 PSSAs	2012 PSSAs
7th	Math	90%	93%
	Reading	88%	94%
8th	Math	93%	96%
	Reading	94%	95%
	Science	84%	82%
	Writing	92%	93%

PR Students Prove Perfection Can Be Obtained on College Entrance Exams

PR students are proving they can earn perfect scores on the College Board SAT. From the April 2011 through 2013, the following students earned perfect scores on the Collegiate SAT, SAT II and/or the ACT: **Lucas Axiotakis** (ACT Math), **Meher Babbar** (SAT Reading), **Alessandro Bamonte** (ACT Reading), **Maria Battaglia** (ACT English/Reading), **Nicholas Bello** (SAT Math), **Nisha Bhat** (SAT Writing), **Selina Bitting** (ACT Reading), **Brenna Budd** (SAT Reading & Writing), **Daniel Calabrese** (SAT Math), **Hannah Christenson** (ACT Science & SAT II Chemistry), **Matthew Clive** (SAT Math/Writing & SAT II Math 2), **Marcus Colella** (SAT Writing & SAT II Chemistry, Math 2 & US History), **Marissa Di** (SAT II Math 2), **Emma DiAntonio** (SAT Math), **Chloe DiPasquale** (ACT Reading), **Casey Donnelly** (ACT

Math & Reading), **Sara Dugan** (SAT Reading), **Branden Glass** (SAT Writing), **Nigel Halliday** (SAT II US History), **Laura Herrle** (SAT II Chemistry & Math 2), **Rishab Humar** (SAT II Math 2), **Kevin Klingensmith** (SAT Math & SAT II Math 2), **Jeong Kwon** (SAT II Korean), **Jonathan Marks** (ACT Science & SAT II Math 2), **Luke McDonough** (SAT Math), **Rebecca Olson** (SAT Critical Reading), **Emily Mongilio** (SAT Math), **Grace Noel** (SAT Math & Writing), **Christine Ostrowsky** (ACT Reading), **Ji-Ho Park** (SAT II Math 2), **Peter Pearson** (SAT II Math 2), **Gabrielle Romeo** (SAT Writing), **Alianna Sanzi** (ACT English & Reading & SAT II Molecular Biology), **Aleksandra Watson** (ACT Reading) and **Sowmya Yennam** (SAT Writing).

Student Spotlight



Career & Field Studies

PR fourth grader **Jessica Harby** took first place in the Sodexo Annual Future Chef competition on March 14, 2013 at Eden Hall Upper Elementary School for her chicken craisin salad roll-up. In addition to Harby, sixth graders **Brianna Caputi, Sara Coleman, Elaina Harris, Kenzi Wolfe** and fifth Grader **Levi Wentz** prepared healthy recipe samples for judges, parents, friends and teachers who attended the event, which was aimed at showcasing the importance of healthy eating habits. Food services provider Sodexo hosts the annual Future Chef Challenge. In 2012, ninth grader **Don Bryant's** "Roll-Out-the Door" Omelet recipe was selected as one of 29 regional winners in the Sodexo Future Chef Competition. He qualified for the regional level as an eighth grader. The other top two winners at the middle school level included: now ninth grader **Jessica Avallone** and now eighth grader **Mark Mongilio**. Bryant crafted a healthy, yet delicious breakfast meal, with eggs, cheese, crumbled turkey sausage and a potato and carrot puree folded up into a whole grain tortilla.

PRHS students competed against more than 3,500 students at the Future Business Leaders Association State Leadership Conference on April 16, 2013 in Hershey, PA. State award winners included: second-place winner **Hannah Reiling**, third-place winners **Taylor Rowe** and **Kelly O'Keeffe**, fourth-place winner **Aaron McClure**, fifth-place winner **Angad Guglani** and eighth-place winners **Aafke Loney, Jillian Schmidt** and **Emily Reiling**. Other state qualifiers included: **Ali Bello, Maria Battaglia, Jordan Berresford, Brendan Bogosta, Meghan Bradley, Elli Cikovic, Sonali Dadoo, Ross DiPasquale, Taylor Derk, Tess Drotar, Mike Dugan, Rachel Ebner, Nick Haas, Claudia Hurt, Lindsey Jacks, Kevin Kunkel, Brandon McCuen, Carrie Leibensperger, Kathleen Mangano, Grace Noel,**



Top: First-place winner Jessica Harby (center) poses with other top contenders in the 2013 Sodexo Future Chef Challenge. Above: PR student Don Bryant is shown prepping for the Sodexo Future Chef Healthy Recipe Competition. Bryant, who was a regional winner in 2012, says cooking is a great skill to learn and a great art form, because you can use your imagination. He came back to help judge the 2013 program.

Lena Ogiwara, Laila Ohlund, Chad Rarig, Amanda Reha, Brett Rogers, Grace Roller, Nick Roth, Brendan Swan, Andrew Vislosky and Bennett Zynn. In 2012, PRHS national qualifiers and state finalists included first-place winners Leibensperger, Ogiwara and Dadoo; and second-place winners **Angad Guglani, Mangano** and **Drotar**. Other state finalists included: fifth-place winners Guglani, **Dominic Navarro, Cameron Rowe,** and **Eamon Trebilcock**, eighth-place winner **Taylor Derk** and 10th-place winner **Kasey Elkin**. Other state qualifiers included: **Tori Barrett, Battaglia, Bello, Bogosta, Lauren Dailey, Derk, Kasey Elkin, Carissa Falcone, Chad Feldman, Tyler Fitzgerald, David Harrington, Marisa Hombosky, Nick Kappeler, Kunkel, Kristy Long, McCuen, Julia Palmieri, Reha, Maggie Roller, Zach Skirpan,**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Chris Stanford, Bethany Stokoski, David Suparman, Swan, **Nick Tomczak** and **Lilli Weinreich** and **Zack Richey** (qualified for semifinalist round).

Organizers at the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education are granting PRHS juniors **Alex Honeywill, Michael Gleyze** and **Emily Reiling** and sophomore **Kaylyn Rocher** scholarships to attend Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week 2013 on the campuses of Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA this summer. The opportunity is a weeklong economic education program that offers students an inside look at the private enterprise system and the way the free market functions.

Dozens of PRHS students participated in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Apprenticeship program. The 2012-2013 student apprentices included: **Callie Andro, Meher Babbar, Lauren Berlin, Rachael Berry, Alec Buss, Laura Celedon, Joey Clark, Amy Clarke, Josh Cohen, Marcus Colella, Sonali Dadoo, Daniel Devor, Kyle Donnelly, Sara Dugan, Julia Duken, Kasey Elkin, Nicole Ettore, Cameron Foxhall, Daniel Gleyze, Rachel Halliday, Erica Heide, Andrew Hein, Sigita Ivaska, Josh Janssen, Nicholas Jones, Karol Kalinski, William Lazar, Kristin Long, Sara Machi, Rachel Maley, Melissa Martin, Austin McWilliams, Paul Notarangelo, Caroline O'Neil, Lena Ogiwara, Christine Ostrosky, Anna Perry, Tessa Petak, Nicholas Raczkiwicz, Olivia Razum, Emily Reiling, Cassandra Rosemeyer, Samantha Schaefer, Jillian Schmidt, Olivia Shipley, Michael Stephen, Bethany Stokoski, Jared Todorowski, Olivia Todorowski, Nick Trombola, Anna VanDusen, Kripa Venkatakrishnan** and **Alysia Welsh**. During 2011-2012, Babbar, **Erich Barth, Alexander Bellows, Rachael Berry, Nisha Bhat, Taylor Bittle, Selina Bitting, Jeffrey Burgess, Alayna Cagno, Hannah Christenson, Kaelin Clogan, Casey Donnelly, Dugan, Cassie Dunn, Kylie Dunn, Kasey Elkin, Gabrielle Feliciani, Mike Gleyze, Rachel Halliday, Erica Heide, Nicholas Jones, Karol Kalinski, Kathryn Knapp, Nathan**

Langer, Nicholas Lehmann, Alexandra Marshall, Caeli Mulvaney, Ogiwara, **Justin Olshavsky, Madeleine O'Neil, Ashley Profozich, Divya Ramalingam, Nathan Roberts, Raychel Shipley,** Ivaska, **Sneha Iyer, Michael Stephan, Clarissa Suparman,** Todorowski, **Rachel Verbanac, Carlin Welters** and **Wyatt Wojciechowski** participated in the program.

PRHS students **Katie Given** (Culinary) and **Andrew Rudolph** (Emergency Response Technology) were inducted into the AW Beattie Career Center's National Technical Honor Society in 2013. Prior inductees included **Emily DeStefano** (Health Science Technology), **Jason Fleishner** (Carpentry/Building Construction) and **Ronald Hunter** (Emergency Response Technology).

PR's **Amanda Maynard** earned second place in the Culinary Division in the 2012 Family, Careers & Community Leadership State Conference Competition. She graduated in June 2012 from PRHS and from the Beattie Career Center's program. She earned more than \$3,000 in scholarships.

The PRHS *Rambler* Yearbook earned a "First Class" Rating by the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) and a gold medal by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The 2012 *Rambler* yearbook was critiqued along with more than 1,030 publications nationwide by the NSPA. The 2012 edition, entitled *expand*, also received "Marks of Distinction" in the categories of Coverage and Design by the NSPA. Student editors of the 2012 edition included 2012 graduates: Editor-in-Chief **Nicole Berezo**, Design Editor **Suzu Sarabok** and Business Editor **Sara Kallams**, along with Design Editor **Kaitlyn Bradley**, who is now a senior. Teacher **Val Orwig** sponsors the student publication. The 2012 edition is cited in Walsworth Publishing Company's *Possibilities* book for excellent design of the field hockey layout in the *Rambler*. The 2011 *Rambler Out of the Box* earned a "First Class Rating" and a silver medal for good photography, clean design and interesting writing and excellent editing.

Communications & Writing



Rachel Halliday



Nigel Halliday

PRHS Junior **Rachel Halliday** took third in the state in the National Forensic League commentary category, and senior **Patrick Tobin** earned sixth in the state in poetry in 2013. Other top 10 finishers included **Savannah Ruhe, Ben Zerbe** and **Kenny Kutzer**. The PRHS Forensics Team took first place awards at the North Catholic Forensic Tournament and the Mercyhurst-McDowell Forensic Tournament this past school year. 2012 PRHS Graduate **Nigel Halliday** placed fourth in the Commentary category at the National Forensic League National Tournament as a senior, during the week of June 10, 2012.

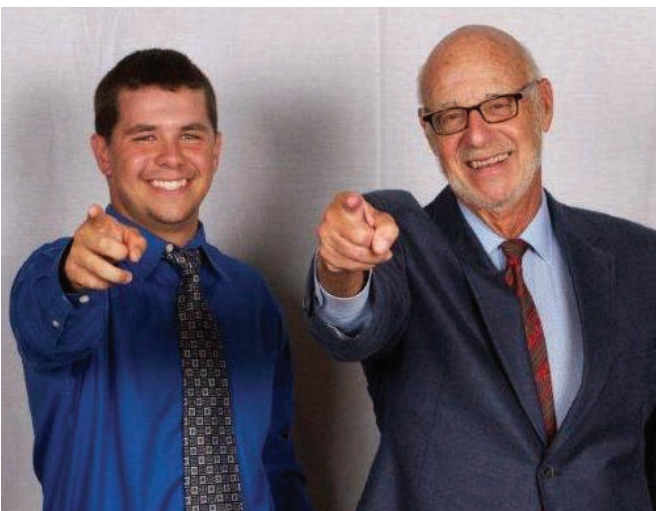


Alexandra Marshall

PRHS graduate **Alexandra Marshall**, as a senior, placed first in the statewide speech and debate competition hosted by the Pennsylvania High School Speech League at Susquehanna University March 23-24, 2012. Marshall competed in the fast-paced commentary category with only 30 minutes of preparation time. **Ben Zerbe** and **Erick Sovich**, as juniors, also earned honors by making it to the semifinal round and **Rachel Halliday** who made it to the quarterfinal round as a sophomore.

The National Forensic League recognized the PRHS Forensic Team, coached by PRHS English Teacher **Jeff Byko**, for being in the top 10 percent of the chapters nationwide in 2011-2012 for a second year in row. **Barbara Bastianini** serves as the first assistant coach and PRHS graduate **Cara Bastianini**, who was a forensic competitor, serves as the second assistant coach. The PRHS Forensic Team consists of about 40 official members.

Senior **Matthew Clark** earned a second-place award in the 2013 Edgar Snyder Words to be Heard Scholarship contest. He received a \$2,500 scholarship for his winning piece. Clark, who



Senior Matthew Clark is shown here with Edgar Snyder.

will be attending the University of South Carolina this fall, wrote and performed a rap song, discouraging drinking and driving. He was one of seven winners of 300 entries.

PRMS eighth graders **Evan Luellen** and **David Fassler** were named first place winners in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Patriot's Pen Contest and were honored at the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Awards Program at the West View VFW on April 26, 2013.

PRMS seventh grade GATE students placed first at the Northern Area Gifted Consortium Wordsmith Competition on April 13, 2012 at the Baierl Center in North Allegheny. The first place team included then seventh graders: **Rebecca Flieder**, **Amanda Labuda**, **Kendall Pomerleau** and **Trevor Russell**. Flieder also took first place in the individual competition.

PRMS Pre-Advanced Placement English students earned awards in the 2012 Arts & Writing Competition, which was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh. In the Poetry category, **Monica Shope** earned a first-place award and **Kendall Thene** earned second place, as eighth graders. In the Short Story Creative Writing category, **Katie Clouse** earned second place, and **Megan Hughes** took third place, as eighth graders. They competed in the "Children and Their Rescuers: The Visible and the Invisible" competition and were up against nearly 400 entries. The project began with a classroom study on the Holocaust, followed up by a lecture held in Oakland and was capped off with the writing competition.



Kitties, a Couscous Collective Collection

A student at Hance Elementary is a published author. Third grader **Joselyn Henry** had her story, "The Adventures of a Cat-Loving Girl," published in the book *Kitties, a Couscous Collective Collection* in 2012. Her 34-year-old cousin **Shae-non Garrity**, in San Francisco, illustrated the pictures.

Critical Thinking

The PRHS Odyssey of the Mind Team earned third place in its division on Feb. 16, 2013. The competition called “Spontaneous Fun Day” was held at Linton Middle School in the Penn Hills School District. Team members consisted of sophomores **Joshua Cherry, Bennett Cromer, Beckett Cromer, Matthew LeDonne, Quin McLaughlin, Ryan Saunders** and **Nicholas Stevens**. The members also won special recognition medals because they submitted a suggested problem that was chosen and used in this year’s competition.

PRHS students earned fourth place in the Pennsylvania Bar Association State Mock Trial state finals held on March 29-31, 2012 in Harrisburg. Qualifiers included graduates: **Alexandra Marshall, J. Alexandra Brachocki, Nigel Halliday, Erich Barth** and seniors **Eric Behr, Christine Ostrosky** and **Cameron Lwin** and junior **Rachel Halliday**.

In November of 2012, ninth, 10th and 11th grade students participated in the Northern Area Gifted Consortium Mock Trial. PR had two teams, which went undefeated winning both the plaintiff and defense cases. Those participating included **Lauren Brown, Anya Chopra, Ben Gongaware, Rachel Halliday, Thomas Krill, Zack Lehmann, Jen Lott, Andrew Rechenberg, Emily Reiling** and **Angie Sporrer**. In November of 2011,

two PR Teams remained undefeated and included: Brown, Halliday, Chopra, Gongaware, Krill, Lehmann, Lott, Reiling, Rechenberg and Sporrer. At the University of Pittsburgh’s High School Mock Trial Tournament, the PRHS state team earned one win and the 9th/10th grade team won three wins. Those competing included: **Erich Barth, Eric Behr, J. Alexandra Brachocki, Brown, Chopra, Gongaware, Nigel Halliday, Rachel Halliday, Krill, Lehmann, Lott, Cameron Lwin, Alexandra Marshall, Christine Ostrosky**, Rechenberg, Reiling and Sporrer.

PRMS GATE students earned the College Bowl championship section title at the Northern Area Gifted Consortium Academic Triathlon hosted at the North Allegheny Baierl Center in March of 2012. The winning team included students: **Carly Duncan, Olivia Gormley, Benjamin Harris, Leann Klingensmith** and **Matthew Lacek**, who participated as eighth graders. At the high school level on Nov. 21, 2012, the ninth/10th grade team finished first and included now juniors **Meher Babbar, Kristen Rose Baxter, Lauren Berlin, Rachel Halliday** and **Jen Lott**. The 11th/12th grade team finished second and included graduates **Erich Barth, Ji-Ho Park** and **Peter Pearson** and sophomores **Julia Herrle** and **Jia Kim**.

Global Relations

Judges selected PRHS junior **Woo Tae Kim** as a finalist and honoree for the 2013 Outstanding Korean-American Student of the Year award. The Asian American Heritage Committee of the Federal Executive Board of Pittsburgh honored Kim for his outstanding academic, extracurricular and community service track record on May 3, 2013 at a special celebration in Pittsburgh.



Woo Tae Kim

PRHS senior International High School ASSE Exchange Student **Farida Abbasova**, from Azerbaijan, was selected to attend the Better Understanding for a Better World Conference April 17 – 21, 2013 in Baltimore, MD. The program promotes peace, understanding and appreciation between American high school students and students from around the world.

The PRHS Cultural Communications Alliance Team placed third in the Cultural Communications Alliance International Marketing & Business Competition May 3, 2012 at the University of Pittsburgh. Team members included: **Ethan Bence, Shaine Coon, Skyler DeWitt, Emily Reiling, Kristy Long** and **Kripa Venkatakrishnan**.

Several PRHS students earned awards at the 2012 Three Rivers German Day Competition at Washington & Jefferson College on March 27, 2012. First-place winners included graduate **Ji-Ho Park** (Non-Fiction Writing), senior **Kelsey Stark** (Proverb Poster), junior **Jessica Thompson** (Technology), junior second-place winner **McKenzie Sciolla** (Painting) and third place winners **Alysha Oldfield** (Painting) and **Becky Olson** (Poetry Recitation). Olson is a senior and Oldfield a junior.

PRHS students earned the second highest awards given at the University of Chicago’s 24th Annual Model United Nations Feb. 2-6, 2012. Honorable Mention winners included: 2012 graduates **Cameron Barnes, Nigel Halliday, Ji-Ho Park** and **Madeline Smithgall** and senior **Cole Gessner**.

History & Geography

PRMS student **Joseph Mullen** earned first place in the state in the 2013 National History Day Competition. The eighth grader wowed judges with his entry entitled "The Advent of the Free Press." He took first place in the Junior Individual History Paper category for grades sixth through eighth. He now qualifies for the national competition. Eighth grader **Julia Solomon** took third place in the Junior Individual Performance Category in Grades 6-8 at the state level. Her performance was of Ludwig Van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. In addition to the state awardees, eighth grade regional winners included first-place winner **Megan Henriksen**; second place winners **Sarah Dawson, Ellis Fritz, Lindsey Hartmann, Rita Lakhssassi, Isabella Sanzi and Brienn McWhirter**; and third-place winners **Noah Adams, Hunter Baxter, Logan DeWitt, Evan Juncal, Richard Kwon, Olivia Palmieri, Victoria Trott and Melissa Zentz**.

In 2012 as an eighth grader, **Kylie Manuppelli** earned first place at states for her individual documentary entitled: "Henry John Heinz: The Revolutionary Entrepreneur of the Processed Food Industry." Students **Nathan Carnovale, Peyton Lane and Kiel Hillock** placed first in the group documentary; **Elizabeth Hassett** placed third in the paper category; and **Brandon Singer and William Newell** placed third in the group website.



Joseph Mullen

Students **Maren Dennison, Sarah Libby, Alexandra Spallek and Rachel Steliotes** earned honorable mentions. At the regional competition in Pittsburgh students **Leann Klingensmith, Maddie Hess, Kass Walker and Sophia Symanski** placed third.



Kylie Manuppelli

Seventh Grader **Cooper Snyder** earned first place in the 2012-2013 National Geographic Bee sponsored by Google on Nov. 20, 2012. Eighth grader **Trevor Russell** earned second place and eighth grader **Danny Larrimer** earned a third-place award. In 2011-2012, **Anthony Zhang** won first place and qualified for the state level of the National Geographic Bee held on May 24, 2012 as a seventh grader. Now eighth graders **John Michel** and **Matthew Di** placed second and third respectively.

PRMS earned third place at the Allegheny County History Bowl Competition held at the Heinz History Center Nov. 2, 2011. Team members included eighth graders **Rebecca Flieder, Olivia Gormley, Leann Klingensmith and Hannah Reiling**.

Mathematics

The PRMS Math Club earned Gold Level Status in the 2012 MATHCOUNTS Club Program. Participating students included then eighth graders: **Arushi Bandi, Jack DiNucci, Ben Harris, Maddie Ince, Hyunwoo Kim, Matthew Lacek, Kylie Manuppelli, Nick Raczkiewicz, Tyler Riggins, Grace Roller, Chelsea Rourke, Brandon Singer, Max Skirpan, Sydney Smith** and then seventh graders **John Michel** and **Kendall Pomerleau**. Students completed challenging math activities and tasks during the school year.

Science & Technology

PRHS seniors **Daniel West** and **Rishab Humar** earned first place in the PA Robotics competition at the Technology Students Association's State Conference April 17-19, 2013 at Seven Springs, PA. West and seniors **Chris Reuter** and **Ben Tilley** also placed first in the Systems Control Technology category and sophomore **Jordan Lish** and freshmen **Chris Lang** and **Jacob Reuter** placed first in the PA Remote Control Race and second overall. West and junior **Ivan Weis** took third in the video game design category. Humar & West placed fifth in the technology problem solving category. Juniors **Chris Harby** and **Mark Schantz** placed 10th in the PA Robots competition. In 2012, Humar and senior **Joey Kwon** placed eighth at the National TSA Championship in Nashville TN June 21-24, 2013 in the VEX Robotics event. At states in the same category, West and Schantz placed first; Humar and senior **Aaron Rock** placed fifth; and Tilley and Reuter placed seventh. In the Flight Endurance category, Humar placed first and Rock placed fourth. In the Systems Control Technology category, Kwon, **James Burgess** and **Ben Prusick** placed fifth and West, Tilley & Reuter placed 10th on April 18-21, 2012.

A team of seventh and eighth grade GATE students placed first in the division regionally and in the state and second nationally at the 2013 Technology Student Association Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics & Science (TEAMS) competition. Students included: eighth graders **Arushi Bandi** and **Trevor Russell** and seventh graders **Nathan Chang**, **Kyra Halbert-Elliott**, **Kobe Hassenzahl** and **Aubrie Knapp**. Another PRMS team placed second in the region and state and fourth nationally. Team members included eighth graders **Noah Adams**, **Matthew Di**, **Casey Mann** and **John Michel**, and seventh graders **Benjamin Cohen**, **Allison Lehmann** and **Mahak Sethi**. On March 8, 2012 at the high school level, students earned first place in the TEAMS competition at PRHS. Sophomores **Andy Aukerman** and **Julia Herrle**; juniors **Mike Gleyze**, **David Harrington**, **Rachel Halliday** and **Kyle Pomerleau**; seniors **Marcus Colella**, **Nicholas Jones**, **Kevin Kunkel**, **Tyler Mikita**, **Nate Roberts**, **Bayne Royall** and **Amulya Yennam** and graduates **Laura Herrle** and **Peter Pearson** all placed.

Two PRHS students qualified for the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences State Finals, which were held May 13-15, 2012, at Penn State University in State College, PA. PRHS students **Sonali Dadoo** qualified for states as a sophomore, and **Johnathon Schubert** as a freshman.



PRHS senior Maggie Burris works on her Regional Science & Engineering Fair project. She is shown working with polymers in the quest of creating an affordable and effective water containment system to address rising sea levels.

PRHS students earned awards at the F1 in Schools Championship program at Robert Morris University March 12, 2013. The Star Racing Team placed second overall and won for best marketing. The team consisted of **Stephen Arcaya**, **William Hutchinson**, **Dylan Means**, **Ben Tilley**, **Mike Miklavic** and **Stan Szafranski**. The Lunar Racing Team placed fourth overall and won best team display and engineering portfolio award. Members included: **Alec Drzemiecki**, **Gretchen Plant**, **Kevin Sherman**, **Ivan Weis** and **Daniel West**.

PRHS students **Samantha Holland** and **Kaylyn Rocher**, as sophomores, helped the "Girls of Steel" Robotics Team earn the Engineering Inspiration, Volunteer of the Year, Website and the Dean's List awards at the Pittsburgh Regional Robotics Competition March 8-10, 2012. The awards earned them a spot in the national championship competition in St. Louis.

PRHS students **Kristen Rose Baxter**, **Andrew Bellows**, **Aditi Bokil**, **Joshua Cooper**, **Sonali Dadoo**, **Haley Delligatti**, **Julia Duken**, **Emily Fitzpatrick**, **Kote Geguchadze**, **Michael Gleyze**, **Matthew Grassucci**, **William Hutchinson**, **Kimberly Lubic**, **Hannah McNulty**, **Kanzy Mourad**, **Caroline O'Neil**, **Aiden Reuter**, **Nicholas Salpietro**, **Angeline Sporrer** and **Andrew Vislosky** were accepted into the 2012-2013 Westinghouse Science Honors Institute. Students **Maggie Burris**, **Marissa Di**, **Kyle Donnelly**, **Sneha Iyer**, **Nicholas Jones**, **Mitchell McCaffrey** and **Alianna Sanzi** were accepted into the 2011-2012 program.

PRHS senior **Maggie Burris** and junior **Evan Stephenson** earned perseverance awards, and PRHS junior **Sonali Dadoo**, and PRMS seventh graders **James Baxter**, **Nathan Chang** and **Mahak Sethi** earned sponsor awards at the Pittsburgh



Tyler Mikita

Regional Science & Engineering Fair in March 2013. In 2012, Burris earned seven scholarship/sponsor awards for her research project scholarships valued at \$54,000. Dadoo earned the BioGENEius Challenge and a scholarship from Carnegie Mellon University valued at \$5,870 for her project. Graduate **Evan Klei**, as a senior, earned a Perseverance "Associate Scientist" Award for his project. Stephenson and **Olivia Folmer** received sponsor awards. In addition, Folmer won an Honorable Mention award in the Behavioral and Social Science category.

PRHS Science Bowl Teams competed at the Robert Morris University Science Bowl on March 17, 2012. Both teams made it to the semi-finals with the top two spots. PR Team B, which included students: **Andrew Aukerman, Maggie Burris, Peter Pearson** and **Kyle Pomerleau**, won first place and earned a model "Green Car," which was donated to the Technology Education Department for use as an instructional tool. The other team, which made it to the semifinal round included students: **Kevin Klingensmith, Ji-Ho Park, Aiden Reuter** and **Allyson Whitsett**.

PRHS earned first place in its division and placed fourth in the Southwestern PA Finals of the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the US Department of Energy's Technology Laboratory, on March 7, 2012 in South Park Township. Students, who helped the team to capture fourth place, included juniors and seniors **Maggie Burris, Kyle Donnelly, Laura Herrle** and **Peter Pearson**.

PRHS earned two awards at the 2011 Chemistry Olympics competition at the University of Pittsburgh May 4, 2011. Third place winners earning first year honors in the chemistry category included: **Kevin Klingensmith, Mike Cikovic** and **Maria Battaglia**. In addition, **Mike Matty, Jonathan Marks** and **Casey Donnelly** earned fifth place in the AP Chemistry Category.

PRHS senior **Tyler Mikita** earned first place in the National Association of Women in Construction CAD/Design/Drafting Competition sponsored locally by Lami Grubb Architectural firm. He also earned first place regionally. **Erika Coke** earned second place and **Nathan Roberts** third place locally. In 2012, **John Oleska** earned first place. Other award winners included **Kevin Collins** and **Kelly Kusevich**.

PRHS students from TV Production, Advanced Video Production and Video Production classes participated in the 2013 Annual Robert Morris University Television & Video Teachers Spring Student Video Festival. Senior **Patrick Hampson** earned third place in the Music Video category, juniors **Alex Lynch** and **Pat Hampson** earned an Award of Excellence in the Show Introduction category, junior **Dave Randolph** earned an Award of Excellence in the Public Service Announcement category and the PR-TV Class earned an Award of Excellence in the School. View winning entries at www.pinerichland.org. In 2011-2012, PR-TV graduate **Selina Bitting** won an Award of Excellence in the Animation/Graphics category. Graduate **Jessica Malandro** won first place in the Student Judged Music Video category. Graduates **Jeff Burgess** and **Davis Karran** won an Award of Excellence in the Digital Cinema category. Students in PR-TV won an Award of Excellence in the Live Event category for their coverage of Pine-Richland Football vs. Butler, which was directed by graduate **Karl Dickensheets**. Students in PR-TV won an Award in the Best of Morning Announcements category.

The PR Rammy Awards showcases and honors the district's best scholastic filmmakers. 2013 winners included seniors **Danielle Johnson** (Editing Category), seniors **Alex Grant** and **Will Burgman** (Audience Choice Award) and 2012 graduate **Jeff Burgess** (Best in Show). 2012 winners included: PRHS Teacher **Mario Oliverio** (Staff, Alumni or Resident "At Large" Category), 2012 Graduate **Tristan Webster** (Editing Category) and graduates **Jared** and **Cullen Grubbs** (Audience Pick, Best in Show & Directing Categories).

Senior **Alex Grant** and sophomore **Madeline Collins** earned first place in the 2013 PR PSA Safety Contest. Second place winners included juniors **Ian Murrin, Luke Regan** and **Cara Clark**. Third place winners included juniors **Matt Kamenicky** and **Cody Mahon**. Students were challenged to come up with a video about campus safety.

Did your achievement, team's achievement or child's achievement get overlooked? Please submit complete information to rhathhorn@pinerichland.org for posting on our additional list of accomplishments at www.pinerichland.org/prnews.



PRHS Women's Ensemble

Musical Notes

> The Pine-Richland High School Women's Ensemble was selected to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Conference in Erie April 19, 2013. Choral Director Lee Rickard says this is the second time in three years the ensemble has been selected from hundreds of applicants. Participants included **Lauren Berlin, Abby**

Bissell, Alison Celigo, Sara Dugan, Alyssa Elms, Gaby Feliciani, Kristen Gustovich, Kelsey Hillock, Ali Kashur, Hannah Kelly, Nikki Koch, Mariah Kutchko, Isabelle Miller, Gabrielle Mueller, Caroline O'Neil, Tessa Petak, Megan Rains, Tori Remo, Madison Schaefer, Ellecia Sieber, Olivia Shipley, Olivia Todorowski, McKenzie Trader, Hannah Verneti and Izzy Werner.

Musical Production Earns Awards Nominations

> Pine-Richland High School students earned two nominations in the 2013 Gene Kelly Awards program in Pittsburgh for their presentation of "Big". More than 300 students worked on the production that told the tale of 13-year-old Josh, who wanted to be a grown-up. Students earned nominations for Best Musical in the Budget Category III and Best All-Student

Orchestra. In 2012, students performed "The Wedding Singer," and earned two nominations. **Abby Dionise** received the nomination for Best Actress for her part as Julia as a sophomore. The production was nominated for Best Direction for Overall Performance.



Photo by Marc Soracco

PRHS freshman Rush Hodgin portrays Josh in the musical "Big" in 2013.



Graduate Jeff Burgess and Junior Abby Dionise are shown here on the set of the "Wedding Singer" in 2012.



PR hosts the PMEA District 1 Senior High Orchestra program.

- > PR Teacher **Brian Scott** says that PRHS students **Camille Boufford** and **Woo Tae Kim** participated in the PMEA All-State Orchestra; **Rowan Grieb** in the All-State Choir and **Jennifer Laufmann** in the PMEA All-State Wind Ensemble. **Boufford**, **Kim**, **Abby Newell** and **Joe Shannon** participated in the PMEA Regional State Orchestra held at Hollidaysburg Area High School on Feb. 20-22, 2013.
- > In 2012 for the first time in PR's history, three students earned a spot at the PMEA All-State Orchestra that was held April 18-21, 2012 in Lancaster, PA. They included: **Alena Smigla** (violin), **Camille Boufford** (viola) and **Woo Tae Kim** (viola). The students participated in the PMEA Western Region Orchestra Festival on March 23 at Mars Area High School. **Taylor Perz** qualified for the PMEA All-State Festival Chorus.
- > Pine-Richland hosted the PMEA District 1 Senior High Orchestra program January 10-12, 2013. Orchestra Teacher **Elisa Mata** said the program involved more than 40 school districts. Students **Lauren Berlin**, **Camille Boufford**, **Amy Clarke**, **Christine Dawson**, **Jia Kim**, **Woo Tae Kim**, **Sam Lewis**, **Abby Newell** and **Emily Reiling** represented PR. From Nov. 10-11, 2012, Boufford, Dawson, **Rachel Henry**, **Hannah Kim**, **Gretchen Plant**, **Heidi Plant**, **Sam Lewis** and Reiling earned spots at the PMEA Honor Orchestra Festival hosted at Carson Middle School.
- > PRHS students **Colton Croskey**, **Max Dugan**, **Gabby Feliciani**, **Rowan Grieb**, and **Bri Janosko** participated in the PMEA District Chorus program at Quaker Valley High School on Feb. 9, 2013. Croskey, Feliciani, Grieb and Janosko also qualified for the PMEA Regional Choir in March of 2013 at Moon High School. In 2012, high school students Croskey, **Abby Dionise**, Feliciani, Janosko, **Bella Miller**, **Taylor Perz** and **Raychel Shipley** were selected to participate in the program which was held at Elizabeth-Forward High School Jan. 25-27, 2012.



(L-R) Sophomore Woo Tae Kim, junior Camille Boufford and senior Alena Smigla are shown here with Orchestra Director Elisa Mata.

- > Several PRHS and PRMS students were selected to participate in the Allegheny Valley Honors Band Feb. 5, 2013. They included high school students: **Katie Benedum**, **Emily Butler**, **Katie Clouse**, **Lauren Donahoe**, **Christopher Harby**, **Ross Ivey**, **Bobby Kang**, **Jia Kim**, **Matthew Lacey**, **Aidan Lakshman**, **Jennifer Laufmann**, **Evan Lynch**, **Will Misback**, **Will Newell**, **Kyle Pomerleau** and **Daniel Zoelle**. PRMS students included: **Mark Farino**, **Kyra Halbert-Elliott**, **Kobe Hassenzahl**, **Alex Lamendola**, **John Michel**, **Christin Miller**, **Elena Mueller**, **Savannah Null**, **Nick Romano**, **Troy Rowlands**, **Zach Steck** and **Samantha McGrath**.
- > PRMS choir groups earned superior ratings at the "Music in the Parks" Choral Festival in Hershey, PA on May 10, 2013. The PRMS Seventh Grade Choir took first place in the Mixed Choir 1 category, the PRMS Eighth Grade Choir earned first place in the Mixed Choir 2 Category and the PRMS Women's Ensemble took first place in the Women's Choir category and received the highest score of any middle/junior high choir earning "Best Overall" trophy. In 2012, the PRMS Seventh Grade Choir earned first place, the PRMS Eighth Grade Choir earned first place and "Best Overall," and the PRMS Women's ensemble earned second place. The first-place winning groups earned a rating of superior and the top three overall scores.

Art Accolades



Above: 2013 National Silver Award Winner Maddie Snyder

Top: 2013 Scholastic National Art & Gold/Silver Portfolio Winners

> Pine-Richland High School student **Maddie Snyder** earned a national Silver Award for her digital artwork entitled "Ghost of the Past" in the Scholastic Art Competition. She is one of only 78 students from the state of Pennsylvania and one of only 1200 award winners in the country to be honored at a special awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 31, 2013. Pine-Richland was among the top schools with the most winners in the area. The following students had their entire portfolio of eight works of art recognized: Gold Key winners **Ashley Profozich** and **Kelsey Stark**, and Silver Key portfolio winners included: **Liz Beatty**, Stark and **Emily Williams**. Honorable Mention portfolio winners included: **Madelyn Barrante**, **Cameron Foxhall**, **Paul Notarangelo**, **Adrienne Remo** and **Brenna Thorslund**.

> 2012 graduate **Samuel Sedory** was recognized at Carnegie Hall in New York City for earning a National Gold Key Award for his Photograph "Infinity". He was one of only 350 National Gold Keys selected. 2012 graduate **Carla Steppan** earned the "Best of Show" award in 2012 for a watercolor painting and ink drawing entitled "Equilibrium". Gold Portfolio winners included: **Deanna Deley**, **Tate Gardner Leone**, **Suzu Sarabok** and **Carla Steppan**. Silver Key Portfolio winners included: **Noreen Kress**, **Jess Marfisi**, **Joni Mulvaney** and **Chase Werner**.



Above: 2012 National Gold Award Winner Samuel Sedory

Left: 2012 Scholastic National Art & Gold/Silver Portfolio Winners



Iceburgh visits Maggie Allwein at Wexford Elementary School.

> Wexford Elementary School student **Maggie Allwein** earned a special visit by Iceburgh. She won the visit through a Valentine's Day card contest through the TGIF Penguins Club. Iceburgh spent an hour visiting students in the library at Wexford Elementary School.

> Pine-Richland High School senior **Devan Donovan** placed second in the 2013 Congressional Art Competition for the 12th District of Pennsylvania on May 7, 2013. Donovan earned the award for her drawing of a fellow senior **Brenna Thorslund** as Rapunzel.



The International Thespian Society at Pine-Richland High School staged the production of "The Giver," under the direction of Teacher John Dolphin Nov. 16-17, 2012.



> Judges chose the artwork of seventh graders **John Anthony Michel** for his Native Australian dot drawing and **Elizabeth Wymard** for her watercolor "Still Life," and eighth grader **Kylie Manuppelli** for her linoleum block elephant print to represent PR at the 2012 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board Convention Art Display on March 16, 2012.

Left: Pine-Richland High School Theater students presented "Alice in Wonderland," under the direction of Teacher Michelle Bruno Nov. 1 - Nov. 2, 2012.

Sports Accomplishments



(L-R) PRHS senior athletes Allison Murslack, Dominic Giordano, Kristen Murslack, Tess Drotar, Abigail Dix and Taylor Thene signed official "Letters of Intent" to Division I schools on Nov. 14, 2012.

Baseball & Softball

The PRHS Baseball Varsity Team earned a spot in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Semifinals and earned the section championship title in Class AAAA Baseball. During the week of April 24, 2013, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* named senior **Marcus Colella** – Athlete of the Week. Colella was instrumental in founding the Wolfe Pack, a volunteer organization that supports Baseball Coach **Kurt Wolfe**, who was inducted into the WPIAL Hall of Fame and awarded the Courage award for battling cancer. Senior baseball player **Matthew Clark** earned the title of PA's "Most Positive High School Athlete" on April 20, 2013.

The United Baseball League drafted graduate **Dave Angle** to the minors in Texas. Graduate **Matthew LaNeve** was drafted by the Florida Marlins. Pirates third baseman **Neil Walker**, a 2004 Graduate, was named to the 2012 WPIAL Hall of Fame.

WTAE named senior **Ryan Hannahan** as a Clearview Student Athlete of the Week in 2011-2012.

The PRHS Lady Rams Softball Team finished a successful season and earned a spot in the WPIAL playoffs in 2012-2013 season.

Basketball

The Pine-Richland Eighth & Ninth Grade Basketball teams won their divisions in the North Pittsburgh Basketball Tourna-

ment, which was held at Pine-Richland School District Feb. 15-16, 2013. The Eighth Grade Team also finished the season with a perfect 25-0.

PRHS 2012 graduate **Andy Andrie** scored 41 points in his final high school game as a senior on Feb. 13, 2012 against Summit Academy ending his high school career with 1,009 points. Andrie has been only the fifth player at PRHS to score 1,000 points.

Cross Country

The Pine-Richland Girls Cross-Country Team finished fourth in their section with a record of 5-3 with a fifth place finish in the WPIAL AAA Championships at Cooper Lake near Slippery Rock, PA on October 25, 2012. This is the third consecutive year that the PRHS Girls Cross-Country Team has finished fifth or higher at the WPIAL AAA Championships. 2012 Co-Captain **Matti Davis** finished 12th at the WPIAL AAA, earning All-WPIAL honors as a top 15th medalist. Sophomore **Paige Suvick** finished 24th. Both Davis and Suvick qualified for and competed in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) AAA Championships held on Nov. 3, 2012 in Hershey, Pa.

The PRHS Boys Cross Country Team finished second in their section with a record of 7-1 in Nov. 2012. This was the second year the team finished second in their section and achieved a record of 7-1. The team finished eighth in 2012 and seventh at the WPIALs in 2011. 2012 graduates **Tom Reinhart** and **Derek Zynn** finished 76th and 96th respectively at the PIAA

Cross Country Championships in Hershey Park Nov. 3, 2012. Both qualified for the championships at the WPIALs on Oct. 25, 2012 at Cooper's Lake Campground near Slippery Rock, Pa. Zynn, who also qualified the year before, finished 15th and Reinhart finished 24th.

Field Hockey

Three Pine-Richland girls were named to the Gladiator National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School Academic Squad for achieving a high GPA. Graduates **Kaitlin Hudok**, **Alex Sharer** and **Madeline Smithgall** earned the accolades as seniors. Graduates **Elita Marchetti** and Sharer were named 2011-2012 AAA Section 1 WPIAL All-Stars.

Football

Senior **Patrick Kline**, an offensive/defensive lineman, signed to play football with California University of Pennsylvania. Kline, who earned a scholarship, is also one of only seven recruits to sign with the California University of PA Football program this fall. **CJ Jackson**, a tight end, earned a scholarship to play football with Indiana University of Pennsylvania. **Grant Goldberg** will be playing for the University of Pittsburgh. Other students who announced they would be walk-ons include running back **Brock Baranowski** (Penn State University), linebacker **Nicolas Elms** (University of Pittsburgh), wide-receiver **Luke Merhaut** (Clarion University), tackle **TJ Muzzonigro** (Tufts University) and tight end **Kevin Rader** (Youngstown State). Coach **Clair Altemus** retired as Pine-Richland School District's athletic director at the end of the 2011-12 school year, but coached the football team this fall to a 2-5 WPIAL Class AAAA Northern Eight Conference record and 4-5 overall. He spent 38 years as a coach. The district named Coach **Eric Kasperowicz** as Pine-Richland's new football coach.



PRHS Football Players TJ Muzzonigro, Patrick Kline, Luke Merhaut, Brock Baranowski, Kevin Rader, Nicolas Elms and CJ Jackson participate in College Signing Day on Feb. 6, 2013.

Golf

The PRHS Girls Golf Team qualified for the WPIAL Championships for the first time in the team's history in the fall of 2012. Coaches **Patti White** and **Kristen Levan** say the varsity team included: **Anya Chopra**, **Simrin Guglani**, **Julie Hutchison**, **Maura Kelly**, **Hope Lowry**, **Jessica Vorndran** and **Stephanie Wilson**. In the spring of 2012, **Megan Okuda** was named to the All-Section Golf Team.

Graduate **Mike Van Sickle** shot 1-over-par 71 to win the Frank B. Fuhrer Jr. Invitational Title A at the Pittsburgh Field Club in Fox Chapel on June 26, 2013.

Gymnastics

Junior gymnast **Carrie Leibensperger** earned the title of PA's "Most Positive High School Athlete" on April 20, 2013. She was one of only 23 students honored from a pool of 450 nominations.

PRHS sophomore **Andy Aukerman** captured first place in the 2013 Pennsylvania State USA Gymnastics Championships in two Level 8 events – the pommel horse and rings. In addition to the gold medals for the pommel horse and rings, Aukerman brought home second-place silver medals in high bar, floor, and in the all-around categories. The state championships were held March 17, 2013 in Allentown, Pa. He qualified to advance to the Region VII Men's Gymnastics Championship. For the second year, Aukerman was named to the USA Gymnastics Academic All-American First Team.

SPORTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Sophomore Andy Aukerman captured championship medals at the 2013 PA State USA Gymnastics Championships.



Athlete Hines Ward honors junior Carrie Leibensperger.



PRMS eighth grader Megan Monfredi earns a bronze medal in the floor category at the Level 9 Eastern National Competition in Battle Creek, Mich.

PRMS eighth grader **Megan Monfredi** earned a bronze medal in the floor category at the Level 9 Eastern National Competition on May 4, 2013 in Michigan. At the regional competition, she earned a silver medal in the floor competition and a bronze medal on the beam, on the vault and in the all-around category. At states she earned the gold medal on the floor for the second year in a row.

Hockey

The PR Hockey Team skated in the Penguins Cup Finals earning the silver medal in March of 2013 and advanced to the semifinals in 2012. Former PR Hockey Player **Brandon Saad** played in 22 playoff games helping the Chicago Blackhawks earn the Stanley Cup this year. Graduate **Ty Loney** helped the Denver University Hockey Team reclaim the Gold Pan from Colorado College.

Inline Hockey

Three of the PR Inline Hockey teams played in the PIRHL Championship playoff games. The MS3-Dickensheets Team played in the semifinals. The Elementary Team earned one win at the state championship matchup, and the V1 Team also played in the championships. They placed first in their division. 2012 graduate **Nate Fleissner** represented the United States at the Junior World Inline Hockey Championships in Roccarasso, Italy in July 2011. The US Team compiled a 5-1 record only losing to the Czech Republic in the final championship game.

Lacrosse

PR lacrosse players **Monica Frazier, Marina Miller, Gianna Lazzaro** and **Kendall Gessner** earned the Spirit of the Game awards in 2013. Players **Hannah Christenson, Kaelin Clogan, Maddy Collins** and **Tess Drotar** were named Girls All-Section Division 1. Clogan and Drotar were named All WPIAL Girls Division 1. Clogan earned the Jackie Pitts Award. Christenson, Clogan, Drotar, **Taylor Thene** and **Emily Thill** earned US Lacrosse Academic All-American status.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Women's Lacrosse announced that PRHS graduate **Drew Hayden** is one of six players to join the team.

The PRHS Women's Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team earned a spot in the 2012 PA State Quarterfinals. The team was undefeated in section play earning the section championship title and was the runner-up in the WPIALs, the best showing in the team's history.

2012 graduate **Brittany Byerly**, who earned a Division I Scholarship to Robert Morris University, was named an All-American, an Academic All-American and a WPIAL All-Star lacrosse player. On Nov. 14, 2012, seniors **Tess Drotar** and **Taylor Thene** signed to play lacrosse at Division I schools. Drotar is expected play with Duquesne University and Thene at Furman University.

The PRHS Boys 9-10th Grade Lacrosse /JV Lacrosse teams had undefeated seasons. The PRHS Boys Lacrosse Team honored several students who were named 2013 scholar athletes. They included **John Bamonte, Michael Colamarino, Robby Fetterman, Cole Gessner, Nicholas Gailey, Austin Goncz,**

Luke Krebs, Riggs Leone, Ryan Means, Will Newell, Matt Pickels, Ben Roadarmel, Chris Rust, Brandon Singer, Max Skirpan, Zach Skirpan and Brandon White. In addition, senior **Ron Richwalls** earned the First Team All Section award.

Lacrosse players **Evan Juncal, Sam Skirpan, Jack Naughton and Luke Anderson** each earned 2013 Spirit of the Game awards. PRMS **Dillon Bryant** and **Michael Steliotes** were selected to represent the WPIAL in the Keystone Games. In 2012, PRHS Boys Lacrosse Coach **Jim Vollberg** was named the WPIAL Division 1 Coach of the Year and **Matt Mahood** was named the All-WPIAL Defense Player of the Year. A group of players also earned First Team All Section Awards, which included graduating seniors: **Matt Whitford, Jake Savitz, Alex Fetterman, Nick Norris** and **Matt Mahood.**

Rowing

Four PRHS rowers qualified and rowed at the US Rowing National competition June 8, 2013 on the Cooper River in Cherry Hill, N.J. They included seniors **B. Michael Miklavic** and **Benjamin Tilley**, junior **Oliver Snyder** and sophomore **Banks Wilson**. Assistant Coach **Zach Petronic** will participate in the 2013 World University Games Selection Camp in Boston, Mass. PRHS rowers did well at the Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints held on May 6, 2013. Top rowers included: boys 4x silver medal earners **Connor Karran, Miklavic, Oliver Snyder** and Tilley. Boys 4x bronze medal winners included: **Beckett Cromer, Bennett Cromer, Alex Engel** and **Ryan Saunders**. Boys novice 8+ bronze medal winners included: **Alec Buss, Tucker Fowkes, Eric Geissler, Bailey Hopkins, Malek Khalifa, Bela Loskoch, Cameron Schwartz, Riley Straw** and **Joseph Weider**. Girls JV 4+ bronze medal winners included: **Dani Deley, Carissa Falcone, Caia McGee, Cassidy Oberst** and **Kaylyn Rocher**. At the Pittsburgh Indoor Sprints Championships, Falcone and Wilson earned gold medals and Engel earned a silver medal. At the North Allegheny Indoor Rowing Championships Falcone earned a gold medal, and Deley, Engel,

McGee and Tilley earned silver medals. Bronze winners included **Gwyn Neumont**, Saunders and Wilson. In October 2012, Deley and Rocher earned gold medals, and Wilson earned a silver. **Paul Notarangelo** and Oberst both earned bronze medals. Four other boats placed in the top five in their respective events. In addition, Head Coach **Florin Curuea** rowed for the Romanian Team in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. 2012 graduate **Amanda Zalno** signed to row at the University of Louisville and helped the women's team earn second in the varsity four finals in the Big Eastern Conference Championship. In addition, Zalno helped her teammates (second varsity four boat) claim a gold medal.

Soccer

The PRHS Boys Soccer Team finished fourth place in the WPIAL during the 2012 season. Senior soccer player **Tyler McCarthy** trained with the Riverhounds and returned to West Ham in March for his third stint with that team. West Ham United is a team in London.

Senior boys soccer player **Grant Goldberg** earned the title of PA's "Most Positive High School Athlete" on April 20, 2013.

Graduate **Drew Klingenberg**, who was named Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* (PG) Player of the Year, earned national honors his senior year in 2012. He was named to the All-American 1st Team, the WPIAL All-Stars Section II Finest 15 and the WPIAL 1st Team All-Star (District 7). He was named *Tribune* All-Region 1st Team member and a *Post-Gazette* All North Region WPIAL 1st Team member. 2012 graduates **Victor Osio** and **Tyler McCarthy** were named to the WPIAL All-Stars Section II Finest 15 as well. Osio was named to the WPIAL 1st Team All-Stars (District 7), *Tribune* All-Region 1st Team and *PG* All North Region WPIAL 1st Team. McCarthy earned a 1st Team All-Star Honorable Mention. 2007 PR soccer graduate **Meghan Klingenberg** was named an alternate on the U.S. women's soccer team that played in the London Olympics in June of 2012.

Soccer players **Lexi Hurt, Olivia Brandy, Haley Wessel** and **Lydia Sargent** were named to the all-section team this year. Hurt, Brandy, and Wessel were also named to this year's All-WPIAL Team. Brandy, a forward, earned a scholarship to play Division I soccer at Penn State University.

Swimming

Members of the Pine-Richland High School Swimming & Diving team competed at the PIAA Swimming & Diving Championships at Bucknell University on March 15-16, 2013. Senior diver **Dominic Giordano** won the diving competition and brought home a gold medal to PR with 584 points. Senior swimmer **Kristen Murslack** placed second in the 200 Individual Medley and fourth in the 100 breaststroke. Senior swimmer **Allison Murslack** finished sixth in the 500 freestyle race. The medley



PR Rowing Coach Florin Curuea (left) rowed for the Romanian Team in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

SPORTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Senior Kristen Murslack placed second in the 200 Individual Medley at the PIAA Swimming & Diving Championships at Bucknell University March 15-16, 2013.

team of **Siani Null, Kristen Murslack, Allison Murslack** and **Lydia Sargent** placed 12th in the medley relay. **Allie Sanzi** was also a member of the PR State team.

In 2012 at the PIAA Swimming & Diving Championships, the girls' team placed seventh out of 61 high schools in the state. This is the highest finish since the team moved to AAA. Diver **Lauren Lamendola**, who earned a full scholarship to dive at the University of South Carolina, placed first in the 1-meter diving competition, and swimmer **Kristen Murslack** finished second in both the 100-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard individual medley setting a new team record. Swimmer **Allison Murslack** finished seventh in the 500-yard freestyle and 12th in the 200-yard freestyle. The relay team, which consisted of **Siani Null, Allie Sanzi, Allison Murslack** and **Kristen Murslack**, finished 14th in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Giordano will dive for Florida State University. Kristen Murslack will swim at Auburn University, and Allison Murslack will swim for Eastern Michigan this fall. All three signed "Letters of Intent" to the Division I schools on Nov. 14, 2012.

Track & Field

The PRHS Track & Field Girls 4 X 800 Relay Team finished 16th and the girls 4x100 relay team finished 18th at the PIAA Track & Field Championships at Shippensburg University on May 24, 2013. Senior **Tom Reinhart** finished 23rd in the 1600. The girls 4 x 800 relay team included: **Jess Gale, Gillian Ahrendt, Matti Davis** and **Gabby Romeo**, with alternate **Margo Dolgos**. The girls 4 X 100 relay team included: **Sydney Pellegrini, Aafke Loney, Sabrina Pellegrini** and **Kat Quigley**, with alternate **Grace Ficco**. On May 25, 2012, graduate **Ashley West** finished second in the WPIAL in the high jump at the state

championships for a second time in her high school career and tied ninth in the high jump. Reinhart finished 16th at the PIAAs and fifth at the WPIALs in the 1600-meter run as a junior.

Eden Hall fourth grader **Danielle Bryant** qualified to run in the Youth National Track & Field Competition for the 200 and 400 along with her brother **Don Bryant**, a ninth grader, who qualified to run the 100 on June 27-29, 2013. In 2012, **Danielle Bryant** placed 16th in the nation in the 200-meter and 11th in the nation in the 400-meter at the National Junior Olympics Track & Field Meet held at Morgan State University. She ran personal bests and finished the year as a member of the National Elite Youth Honor Roll in the 400-meter.



Eden Hall Upper Elementary student Danielle Bryant qualified to run in the Youth National Track & Field Competition for the 200 and 400 on June 27, 2013.

Volleyball

On Nov. 14, 2012, senior **Abigail Dix** signed to play Division I volleyball with Providence College in Rhode Island.

Wrestling

Sophomore wrestler **Brendan Burnham** finished the 2012-2013 season as section champion. He earned third place in the WPIALs and seventh in the state championships in the 152-lb weight class. Senior **Pat Kline** was named section champion, and sophomore **Bryce deLeon** placed fifth in the section, both qualifying for the WPIALs.

Wrestler **Andrew Wood** was honored in a ceremony at the Heinz History Center for being a Western Pennsylvania's Most Positive High School Athlete, during his senior year on April 21, 2012.

Graduate **Ben Balish** was presented the Extra Effort Award for success in wrestling and academics. In 2012, Balish placed first, **Brendan Burnham** placed third, **Austin Killian** and **Andrew Wood** placed fourth and **Luke Esswein** finished fifth in their respective weight categories during the wrestling section championships, which qualified them for the WPIALs.

Dance & Cheer

The PRHS Competitive Cheerleading Team placed third in the nation in the small varsity division out of 57 teams from across the country at the Universal Cheerleading Association National Competition in Orlando, Fla. on Feb. 9-10, 2013. The team was named "First Runner Up" in the small varsity division at the PIAA Inaugural State Cheerleading Championships in Hershey, Pa. Notably on Jan. 12, 2013, the team placed first place in the first-ever WPIAL Championship at North Hills High School.

The PRHS 2012-2013 Dance Team attended the Universal Dance Association Summer Camp and won several awards at Slippery Rock University. Each dance team member earned blue ribbons. Graduates **Callie Andro**, **Kayla Raber** and **Cassy Rosemeyer** received UDA All-American Awards for their excellence in the All-American competition and was invited to perform in the London New Year's Day Parade in 2013. The team earned second place for their "Home Routine" performance and a superior rating and first place in the individual drill-down competition. Senior **Alexis Loiselle** placed first in the individual drill-down competition and received the drill-down queen award. Andro received a "Pin-It-Forward" award by the UDA staff for her effort during dance sessions. The team earned the Dance Team Leadership and Spirit Award. Dance Team Coach **Kathy Deal** received the UDA's Coach Certificate of Excellence & Leadership Award.

The University of Richmond selected 2012 graduate **Kathryn Knapp** as a Richmond Scholar with the Dance designation, which earned her a full scholarship.

Graduate **Natalie Sarver** was part of the Penn State University Lionettes Dance Team which earned first place in the National Dance Association's Competition in April 2012.



The PRHS Competitive Cheerleading Team placed third in a national competition.



2012-2013 PRHS Dance Team

2007 PRHS graduate **Ashley Kasunich** performed with the Rockettes during the Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York City on Nov. 11, 2011 through Jan 2., 2012.

Staff Successes

Hance Elementary Teacher **Megan Kruth** participated in the Ironman Triathlon on Sept. 9, 2012 in Madison, Wis.

Hance Elementary Teacher **Jennifer Kinross** ran her first half-marathon within two hours in Pittsburgh on May 6, 2012. Carol Conner ran the Columbus Marathon on Oct. 21, 2012 and just missed qualifying for Boston by four minutes.

PRHS Teacher **Charles Connolly** ran the Pittsburgh Marathon, his 40th marathon, on May 5, 2013 and finished 132 out of 4,832 finishers, which qualified him for the Boston Marathon. Several others finished the half-marathon in 2011 including PRHS teachers **Tim Converse** and **Chris Scherer** and PRHS Librarian **Lauren Super** and PRHS Teacher **Kate Gardner**.

PR's Dentist **Tim Chips** ran the US Marine Corps Marathon in D.C. on October 2012 and a triathlon during the summer of 2012.



Kathryn Knapp

Did your achievement, team's achievement or child's achievement get overlooked? Please submit complete information to rathhorn@pinerichland.org for posting on our additional list of accomplishments at www.pinerichland.org/prnews.

PR Approves 2013-2014 Budget & Explores Alternative Revenue Sources

The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2013-2014 school year with total expenditures of \$69,541,750 and total revenues of \$69,266,250 with a fund balance utilization of \$275,500 for capital improvements. In addition, the board established the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2013-2014:

- > **Real Estate Tax rate of 19.2083 mills (increase of 2.61 percent over 2012-2013)**
- > **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

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

Cost Saving Measures

Elimination of Post Employment Medical Benefits
Reduction in Programs with Elimination of Five & A Half Physical Education Positions & One Music Position
Refinancing Bond Issues
Vacant Positions Unfilled within District

Individual Taxpayer Savings Opportunities

- > The board approved the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution for the upcoming tax year. The resolution provides for property tax reduction through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion," which is provided by the state gaming industry/casinos. Residents should have an application on file with Allegheny County indicating the house they live in is their homestead. They will also receive a reduction in assessed value for their school tax. Each approved homestead will receive a real estate tax reduction amount of \$192.08. The reduction in real estate tax assessed value on a resident's tax notice would be in the amount of \$10,000.

- > The board approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for tax year 2012 and 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 63.5 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 16.93 percent of the salary cost from 12.36 percent in 2012-2013, which translates to \$1,390,120 in the 2013-2014 budget. This rate is set by the PSERS Board of Trustees and mandated by state legislation.

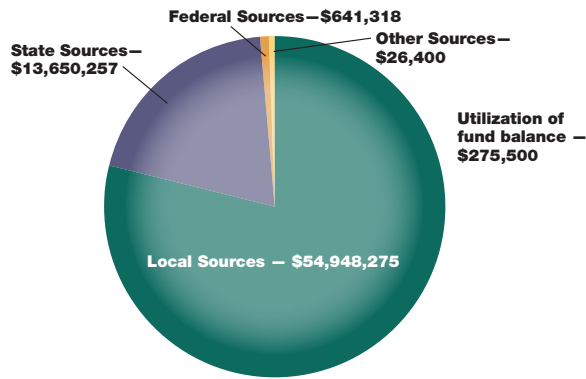
Premium Costs - Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium premium costs will increase by seven percent for PPO plans and five percent for HMO plans, for covered employees. Overall group health insurance expenditures are expected to increase this year by \$285,580.

Tuition Expenditures - The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$512,000 for 2013-2014, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools.

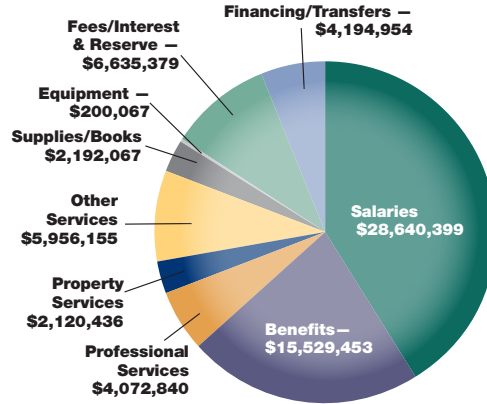
PR Earns Communications Awards

The Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association awarded Pine-Richland School District with the 2012-2013 PenSPRA Excellence in Communications Award of Honor for the district's website. The website earned high marks in the writing category for having well-written, interesting and substantive copy pertaining to the school district and its achievements, priorities and educational goals overall. In addition, the district received high marks for the website's design and use of photos and for overall impression of the 30-3-30 principle (offering something for each visitor whether spending 30 seconds, 3 minutes or 30 minutes).

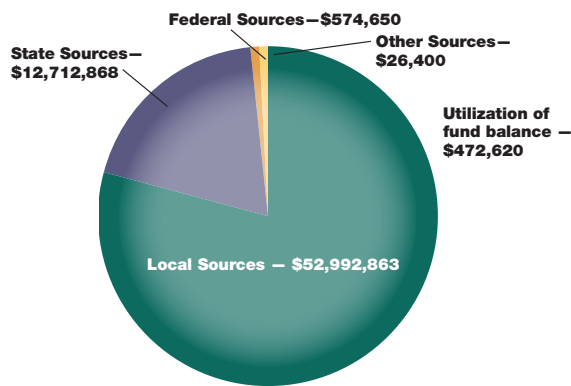
2013-2014 Budgeted Revenue



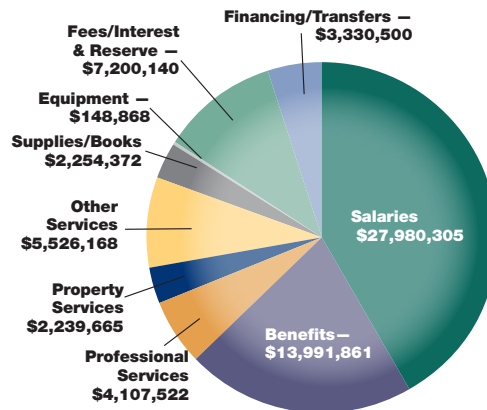
2013-2014 Budgeted Expenditures



2012-2013 Budgeted Revenue



2012-2013 Budgeted Expenditures



PR School Board Makes Meetings Available Online & on TV

The PR School Board regular and planning sessions are being taped and televised on PR-TV and are available online on Consolidated Communications Channel 404 and on Armstrong Cable Channels 50 and 211.

Regular and planning meetings will air:

- > 1 a.m. following the meetings each night
- > 10 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
- > 7 p.m. Sunday, Monday & Friday

Board meetings will be available by 1 p.m. the next day following a regular or planning meeting online at <http://pinerichland.pegcentral.com>.



2013 PR School Board: (Back Row: L-R) Director Laura Ohlund, Treasurer Dennis Sundo, Vice President Jeffrey Banyas, Director Therese Dawson and Director Stephen Hawbaker. (Front Row: L-R) Directors Virginia Goebel, President Peter Lyons, Katie Shogan & Marc Casciani.

Service & Leadership



Elementary students enjoy the new playground equipment donated by the Richland Elementary PTO.

Service & Leadership Evident Year Round at PRSD

Pine-Richland students, staff and parents truly serve the community. As you can see from just a few examples below, students implement, organize and carryout service and leadership projects from start to finish.

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

Seniors **Cameron Leonard** and **Evan Lynch** and junior **Ben Roadarmel** earned the highest honor in scouting, the Eagle Scout award, for organizing and completing service projects. Leonard improved the condition and access to Pine Community Park by raising funds, clearing trails, creating a trail map, coordinating installation of signage and even building a swale crossing. Lynch earned his award for constructing a sand volleyball court at the Family Retreat Center. 2012 graduates **Alex Bellows** and Chris Lusnak also earned Eagle Scout awards.

PRHS sophomores **Anya Chopra** and **Laila Ohlund** and senior **John Goebel** traveled to Washington, D.C. Oct. 2-7, 2012 to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security's "Exploring American Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defense" program. 2012 graduate **Jonathan Mueser**, who is attending Robert Morris University, was selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum and went on to major in cyber forensics & information security in 2011-2012.

Wexford Elementary raised more than \$10,00 for the KDKA Turkey Fund, which benefits local families.

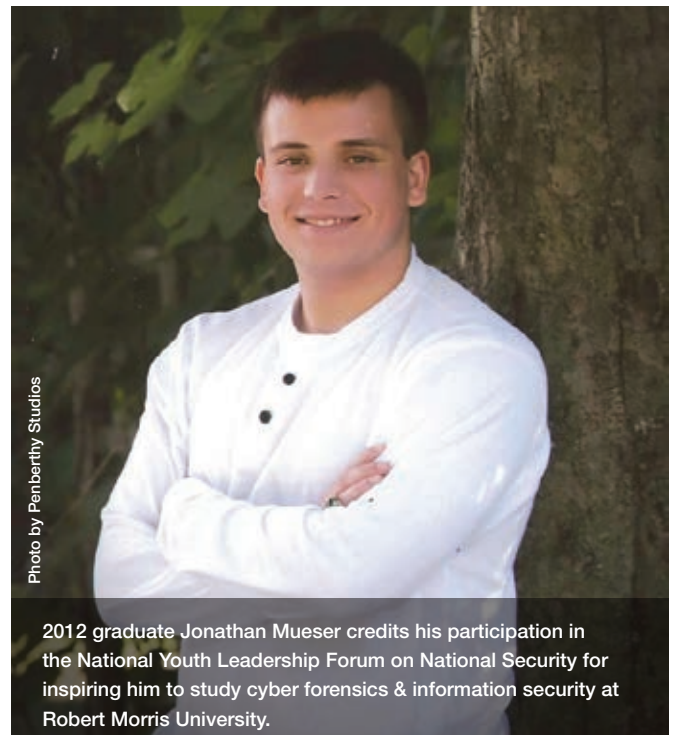


Photo by Pemberthy Studios

2012 graduate Jonathan Mueser credits his participation in the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security for inspiring him to study cyber forensics & information security at Robert Morris University.

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

The PRHS AFJROTC crew prepares to take to the skies in a C-130.



- > PRHS Air Force JROTC Cadets took a C-130 Incentive Flight at the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township on Nov. 29, 2013.
- > PRHS, PRMS, and Eden Hall Upper Elementary School all joined forces this year to support Toys for Tots by stuffing five buses full of toys, under the direction of **Nick Tomczak**.
- > PRHS and PRMS students **Paul Nussbaum, Malek Khalifa** and **Ian Holland** were chosen to participate in the 2012 National Young Leaders State Conference.
- > PRHS collected 12 boxes of school supplies for those devastated by Hurricane Sandy.



Eden Hall collects \$3,000 for UNICEF.

Eden Hall students collected \$3,000 for UNICEF in October 2012. During the second semester students and staff collected non-perishable food items in a “Souper” Bowl challenge to support the North Hills Community Food Bank.

Organizer **Denise Duerksen** said Richland Elementary parents, students and staff collected a little more than \$2,010 in change for Operation Troop Appreciation in its annual Silver for Soldiers collection.

Wexford Elementary raised more than \$10,00 for the KDKA Turkey Fund, which benefits local families.

Members of the Wexford Outreach program collected \$545 for Oklahoma Relief fund.

Throughout the year, participants collected school supplies, made bagged lunches and filled vases full of flowers for seniors at local nursing homes and coordinated a collection for a local food pantry.

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP



PRHS students show off one of the ceramic bowls created for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser.

Students from the PRHS Interact & Key clubs and the ceramics and family and consumer science classes hosted the annual "Empty Bowls" sale on, Dec. 1, 2012 and raised at least \$2500 for the Lighthouse Foundation's food bank.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

The Richland Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization generously donated \$12,000 to install a multi-level climbing playground structure, which replaced a dated set of monkey bars at Richland Elementary.

Hance Elementary School raised \$4,914 in the Jump Rope for Heart event in February 2013 to support the American Heart Association (AHA).

AHA Youth Market Director **Kelly Wilding** accepted a check for \$5,200 during the PRMS "Schools to Watch" celebration, after the school hosted various fundraisers.

The PRHS Air Force JROTC Drill & Color Guard Teams earned third overall at a drill competition at Parkersburg South High School on March 16, 2013. The other categories, the crew earned top awards, included: armed drill team (third/led by Cadet **Zach Scott**), unarmed drill team (third/led by Cadet **Joe Shannon**) and inspection team (first/led by Cadet **Christian Russell**).

APRIL – MAY – JUNE – JULY

The PRHS Key Club volunteered more than 2,000 volunteer hours to local causes and raised more than \$4,000 for Make-A-Wish in April 2013.

The PR Baseball Team participated in the 5-K Run for Colon Cancer Awareness and raised \$2,605.

The PR Lacrosse organization fundraised in April 2013 raising more than \$14,500 for the HEADstrong Foundation, a lacrosse based blood cancer organization, in honor of high school student **Maria Ciarrocca**.

The Wexford PTO raised \$11,325 during its Spring Fling event on April 27, 2013 for a fitness and walking trail thanks to businesses, community members, parents, staff members and students who helped sponsor the event.

2012 graduate **Brian McWilliams** (gold medal), senior **Nicholas Salpietro** (gold medal) and 2012 graduate **Hannah Todorowski** were honored by the Outstanding Young Citizen Program in April 2012.

The U.S. Naval Academy invited AFJROTC junior cadet **Kelly Rodgers** to participate in the 2013 U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar program.

The PR AFJROTC program earned the Distinguished Unit Award for the 2011-2012 school year.

Representatives surprised PRHS student **Jennifer Lott** at an awards ceremony on

May 16, 2012 with an invitation to participate in a weeklong leadership training program at the FBI National Academy.

PRHS student **Marissa Torchia** helped raise more than \$400 to help a family who lost belongings in a fire in May 2013 by organizing a monetary collection on Facebook.

Judges for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program named 2012 PRHS graduate **Brian McWilliams** a Distinguished Finalist medallion winner for his community service projects and for raising \$50,000 for Alex, the son of his former teacher and coach.



AFJROTC Cadet Kelly Rodgers

PROF Awarded more than \$23,000 in scholarships to the class of 2013 on June 11, 2013. The scholarships are generous donations by friends, family and alumni and administered by the foundation. For more information on the scholarship program, to make a donation or to learn more about the trustees visit www.pinerichland.org/prof.

Members of the National Honor Society logged more than 4,425 volunteer hours in 2012-2013.

PRHS hosted several blood drives throughout the year and collected 173 units of blood helping 519 local patients, under the direction of organizers **Christine Misback** and **Brittany Taylor**.

Right: PROF President Hank Compennolle presents the Ruth V. Mattison/Ruth Lefevre Long Memorial Award Scholarship to senior Samantha Travis, who hopes to pursue a major in education.



Alumni Notes



2007 graduate Krystle Grandy



2008 graduate Michael Naper

1988 graduate **Jill Ferguson** and her brother **1991** graduate **Eric Ferguson** were both inducted into the LaRoche College Distinguished Alumni Circle for their successes professionally as outstanding leaders. She is an award-winning writer and educator, and he is the president and founder of Metanoia Missions International.

2007 graduate **Krystle Grandy** is now a talent agent at the Talent Group. Prior, she has worked in production for FOX studios, in the music video department at Capitol Records and on the reality show called "The Voice". She spoke to students in 2012 about her work.

2008 graduate **Michael Naper**, a software Engineer at Google, visited PR on May 30, 2013 to talk to students about his experience as an intern at Google's headquarters in Mountainview, Calif.

2009 graduate **Holly Belkot** earned a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant assignment in Macau, China.

Belkot is a **2013** graduate of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa., where she majored in international studies and history.

The Richland High School (RHS) Class of **1963** is hosting a reunion 6-10 p.m. on Aug. 17, 2013 at the Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North in Cranberry Township. For details, contact **Esther Shmiedel Nagy** at rhsclass1963@yahoo.com.

The RHS Class of **1988** is hosting a 25th year reunion. Members should email **Rachel Kress Hathhorn** their contact information at rhathorn@pinerichland.org.

Eden Hall Alum Performs & Stars in Movie

Pine-Richland's own **Jackie Evancho** continues to tour across the US and most recently performed at the Capitol Independence Concert in Washington, D.C. on July 4, 2013. She also made her acting debut as Robert Redford's daughter in the movie "The Company You Keep".

Full Steam Ahead

PR's Moving Full STEAM Ahead

Pine-Richland dedicated the new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) wing during a special open house program on Sept. 13, 2012. The district teamed up with Sodexo, who provided refreshments and snacks. During the program, the community had a chance to tour classrooms and the updated music, global studies, food court and cafeteria areas. The building is conducive to providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and to provide programs to develop skills connected to career aspirations in STEAM-related fields.

The district formed a STEAM committee in 2012. Community leaders have been working with Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Foley to develop strategies to involve the help of



community professionals in STEAM-related careers as well as addressing short and long-term goals in relation to curriculum, instruction and assessment strategies.

All grade levels have been offering STEAM-related programs such as special guest speakers, hands-on learning lessons and science fairs.



Above: The PRHS STEAM addition.

Right: PR families participate in the grand opening of the STEAM addition.

Foundation Highlights



PRHS Teacher Jeff Maple is shown here with some students at the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund fundraiser with Tom Henry Chevrolet. Students created car designs, which were judged by the vice president of General Motors.

Foundation Teams Up with District

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) has been teaming up with the district on STEAM-related initiatives. Most recently, PROF hosted a fundraiser at the grand opening of the new showroom at Tom Henry Chevrolet in Gibsonia. The program caught the eye of the vice president of General Motors, who judged racing cars designed by Pine-Richland students. The

PRHS Art Department and Music Department also participated in the event. PROF is an independent non-profit organization committed to enriching and investing in the educational experiences of the Pine-Richland student community through staff grants, scholarships and partnerships.

School Safety

Student and staff safety is always a priority at Pine-Richland School District. As we work to provide the most secure and safe environment as possible, keep in mind:

- > The district security team continues to meet with Northern Regional Police and other security experts in an ongoing effort to address security procedures, best practices & safety drills. The district has a security officer who is working with the district on an ongoing basis to review the district's safety operation plan.
- > The district is asking visitors to make appointments before visiting the school. We understand last minute needs might occur, but scheduling an appointment will help us with our efforts.
- > The district and law enforcement personnel request parents/community members to report concerns to building administrators and/or at **724-449-TIPS**. This is a joint service of the police department, Consolidated Communications and the school district.

PINE-RICHLAND'S MISSION

Why We Exist

Our mission is to provide a strong academic foundation which challenges students to realize their fullest potential and encourages them to become engaged, thoughtful citizens.

PINE-RICHLAND'S VISION

Our Ideal Future

Pine-Richland School District is a community where learning is challenging, people are inspiring and students are enriched by their experience.

Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Strives to Build Partnerships



The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is busy forming partnerships and re-organizing. PROF is an independent, non-profit organization committed to enriching and investing in the edu-

cational experiences of the Pine-Richland student community through staff grants, scholarships and partnerships. From 2008-2012, PROF awarded nearly \$38,000 in grants to PR teachers and more than \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors.

The foundation is made up of 20 trustees and two liaisons. The executive board consists of President **Hank Compennolle**, Vice President **Moira Singer**, Treasurer **Randall King**, Secretary **Catherine Vesco-Freyvogel** and trustees **Sara Antol**, **Sally Beatty**, **Elizabeth Farbacher**, **Linda Germ**, **Jill Gruber**, **Paul Hightower**, **David Jeter**, **Jay Kucinic**, **Aafke Loney**, **Rebecca Lucore**, **Deborah Lund**, **Christine Misback**, **Jim Neill**, **Monica Nielsen**, **Gabe Pellathy** and **Peter Ten Hagen**. PRHS Teacher **Lauren Super** and PR School Director **Katie Shogan** serve as liaisons.

PROF Awards Nearly \$23,000 in Scholarships

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund awarded nearly \$23,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors. 2013 winners include:

Scholarships	Amount	Winners
Crawford Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	James Mullen
Gallagher Lynne Scholarship	\$6,500	Summer Mazza
Jeff Calhoun Performing Arts Scholarship	\$5,000	Elizabeth DeVale
King Family Scholarship	\$3,000	Lydia Sargent
Pasquinelli Family Scholarship	\$1,000	Daniel McMurry
Richland Civic Club Scholarship	\$1,000	Cassandra Rosemeyer
Ruth V. Mattison/Ruth Lefevre Long Memorial Scholarship*	\$5,000	Samantha Travis
Team Alex Scholarship	\$1,000	Catherine Chleboski
Wexford PTO Scholarship	\$500	Daniel McMurry

* This was the last year for the Ruth V. Mattison/Ruth Lefevre Long Memorial Scholarship. We want to commend and thank benefactor Vernon Long for helping set up the scholarship to help students pursue their dreams of becoming educators.



How Can You Help?

If you would like to contribute to the success of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, contact the trustees either by phone at 724-625-7773, ext. 6900 or by email at prof@pinerichland.org. PROF's United Way Donor Option number is 921848.

Left: PROF Trustee Christine Misback sets up an informational display at the PRHS Art Show next to the silk screen print projects students created thanks to a PROF grant that helped the PRHS Art Department purchase semi-professional screen printing equipment.



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Pine-Richland Middle School Named “School to Watch”

(L-R) Seventh graders Tyler Goncz, Nick Berexa and Jake Betush await for an assembly to start in celebration of PRMS being re-designated as a “School to Watch”. This is the second time the team has re-designated PRMS as an outstanding middle school. The school earned national recognition by being designated a “School to Watch” originally in 2007 and was re-designated in 2010. Schools are selected based on academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels.

A Word About the 2012 & 2013 Annual Report

Please know that 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. We hope you have enjoyed this edition, which encompasses two year’s worth of information.

