



Positively



2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

“Our district has dynamic and determined people, and a learning climate that’s built around academically focused, rigorous and measurable standards.”

Dr. Mary Bucci, Superintendent

Message from the Superintendent

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Recognition



Our administrative team has been busy focusing on a multitude of projects in 2010. During the past several months, the district has been aligning programs and services K-12 providing parents and students with smooth transitions from building to building.

According to author and educator Elaine McEwan, there are 10 effective traits of successful schools*. Our district encompasses many of these traits by having dynamic and determined people, a learning climate that's built around academically focused, rigorous and measurable standards, an environment that promotes those standards, a network of communication channels that are kept open and filled with agreement of what constitutes acceptable behavior by staff, students and parents and a place where students are motivated and parents are involved in their children's education.

As your superintendent at Pine-Richland School District, I want to share my priorities with you, which promote McEwan's effective traits. They include:

- > Improving reading proficiency & promoting a love of reading among our students

- > Aligning our programs & services K-12 providing parents & students with smooth transitions from building to building
- > Continuing to document electronically a rigorous, standard-based curriculum that provides students with the appropriate level of challenge & personalization
- > Strengthening the role of the principal as a highly visible & engaged instructional leader
- > Providing teachers with research-based strategies & tools to maximize their effectiveness
- > Improving communications throughout our system
- > Providing for the efficient & effective use of our facilities & resources

As a team, we can achieve these goals and multiply our strengths. We have a wealth of talent in our own educational community—from students to parents and from staff to community members. We can strive for even more, when we work together.

Take time to enjoy the 2009-2010 Pine-Richland Annual Report as we highlight many of our successes, which we have achieved in the past year.

Dr. Mary Bucci
PRSD Superintendent

"Ten Traits of Highly Successful Schools," by Elaine K. McEwan, 1999

Did you know that...?

- > *Newsweek Magazine* ranked Pine-Richland High School 835 out of 1,500 of the top schools in the US in 2009.
- > *US News & World Report* awarded PRHS a silver rating placing it in the top 604 high schools in the nation in 2009.
- > *School Match* awarded Pine-Richland School District with the "What Parents Want" Award. Only 16 percent of the schools in the US earned that distinction.
- > "The Pittsburgh Business Times" ranked PRSD 12 out of 105 school districts in the region in 2009.
- > PRSD ranked in the top 17 percent of PA school districts for top scores on the 2009 Science Pennsylvania State System of School Assessments. PR is 81 out of 501 school districts.
- > PRSD is home to the 2010 PA Teacher of the Year Michelle Switala.



Photo by Marc Soracco

2010 National Merit Scholarship "Semifinalists" and "Commended" students with Superintendent Dr. Mary Bucci and PRHS Principal John Pietrusinski.

National Merit Scholarship Program Announces Top Students

The National Merit Scholars program is naming three Pine-Richland High School seniors as "Semifinalists" and nine PRHS seniors as "Commended" students in its 2010 program.

"Letters of Commendation" have been issued to: seniors Nicholas Donnelly, Derek Feger, Anne Graszl, Jennifer Jokl, Michelle Marano, Jennifer Soracco, Rebecca Stabile, Lauren Stanley and Alyssa Whittington.

In September, three students were named "Semifinalists" in the program. They included: Ann Jacob, Geoffrey King and Curtis Mahoney. "Semifinalists" are among only 16,000 seniors nationwide.

In 2009, graduate Mark Beatty was named a "Finalist," and PRHS graduates Daniel Bauer, William Cenk, Jacob Dowling, Meghan Marks and William Miller were named "Commended" students. PSAT scores are used to determine qualifying status.

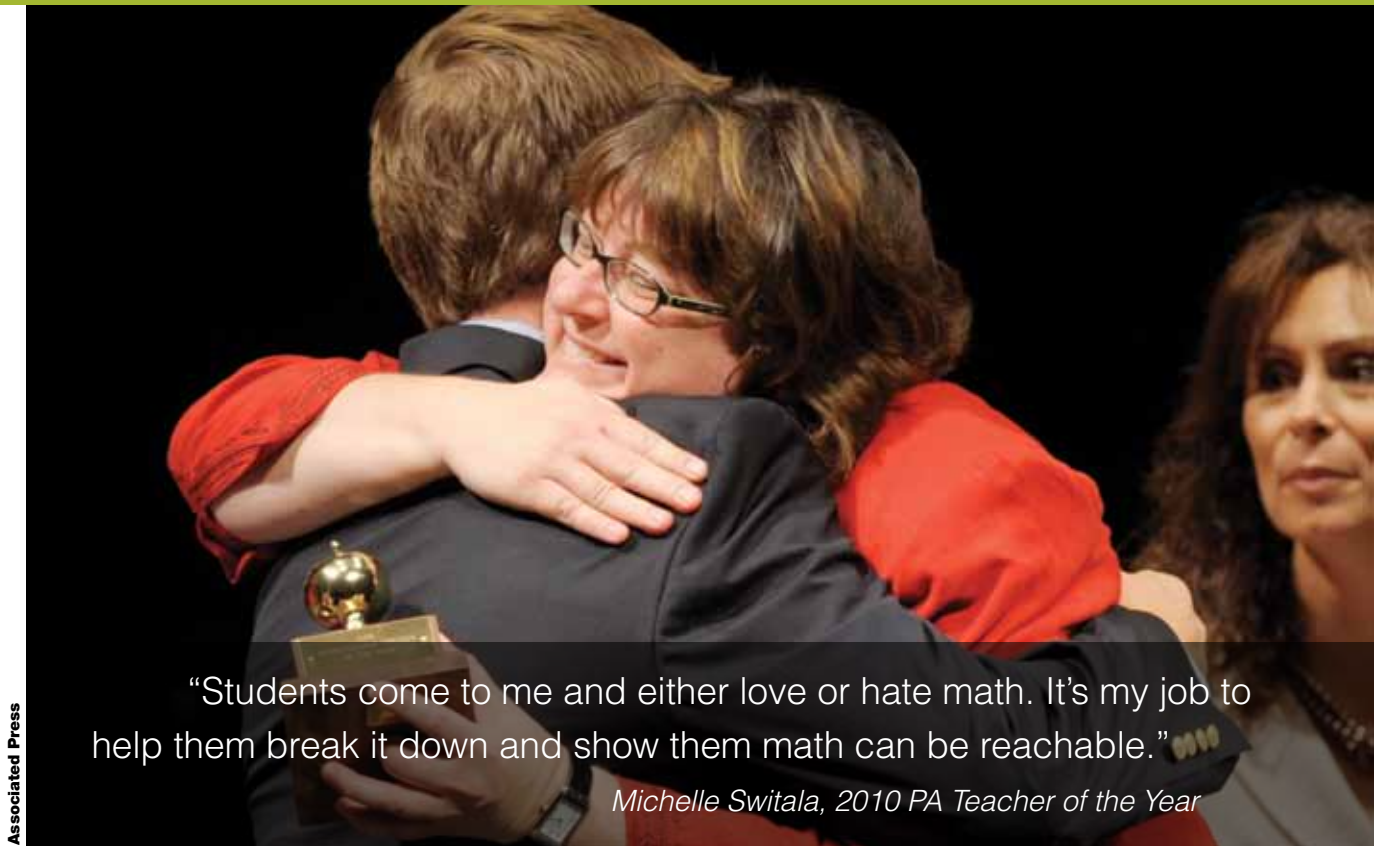
2009 National Merit Semifinalists & Commended Scholars



2009 National Merit Semifinalists and Commended students participate in the PRHS Senior Awards Program.

PR DISTRICT SCORECARD	
National Merit Scholars	Number of Students
Class of 2010	12
Class of 2009	6
Class of 2008	12
Class of 2007	10

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Associated Press

“Students come to me and either love or hate math. It’s my job to help them break it down and show them math can be reachable.”

Michelle Switala, 2010 PA Teacher of the Year

High School Teacher Named 2010 PA Teacher of the Year

The Pennsylvania Department of Education named Pine-Richland High School teacher Michelle Switala 2010 Teacher of the year.

Switala has been with the Pine-Richland School District since 1995 and teaches mathematics at the high school. She has taught all math courses at one time or other offered by PRHS, is dually certified in physics and serves as the PRSD Math Department Chair.

“She’s not only able to teach the very high fliers, but she’s able to bring that sophisticated knowledge down to the level that’s accessible by all students,” said Dr. Mary Bucci, PRSD superintendent.

She hopes her teaching methods help inspire everyone to love math.

“Students come to me and either love or hate math,” Switala said. “It’s my job to help them break it down and show them math can be reachable.”

PR senior Thomas Robinson, whose mother nominated Switala, says math isn’t his favorite subject, but Switala is an “extremely approachable teacher” who always has time for her students.

For the fourth consecutive year, a teacher from Western Pennsylvania has earned the award.

Earlier this year, Switala was named a finalist along with Hance Elementary School teacher Barb Cornibe. They were two of only 12 state finalists and the only finalists in southwestern Pennsylvania. In addition, Switala and Cornibe were named semifinalists along with Richland Elementary School’s Kelly Heckert.

The program is co-sponsored by the PA Department of Education and the Pennsylvania chapter of the National State Teachers of the Year Organization.

Switala will represent the state in the national competition. Four teachers from around the US will be selected as finalists in January 2010 with a national winner announced in April 2010.

2011 Program Names Five PR Teachers Semifinalists

The 2011 PA Teacher of the Year program is announcing that PRHS teachers John Dolphin and Thomas Joyce and Hance Elementary Teachers Carin Liberati, Kimberly McCoid and Jennifer Pavlin have been named semifinalists in the 2011 program.

BUDGET REVIEW

District Balances Budget Without Tax Increase for Sixth Year

While the district is already working on the 2010-2011 budget, the Pine-Richland School Board was able to balance its budget in 2009-2010 without a tax increase for the sixth year in a row.

The budget includes expenditures of \$61.4 million, revenues of \$60.2 million and a fund balance utilization of \$1.2 million which is reserved for capital projects.

“In these tough economic times, Pine-Richland was able to balance the budget without a tax increase for the sixth year in the row,” said Finance & Operations Director Doug McCausland. “I credit the board and district for dedicating their time and energy to make this happen.”

This budget represented a zero increase in real estate tax millage for the taxpayers of the district. This is the sixth consecutive year that the millage rate remains at 20.20 mills.

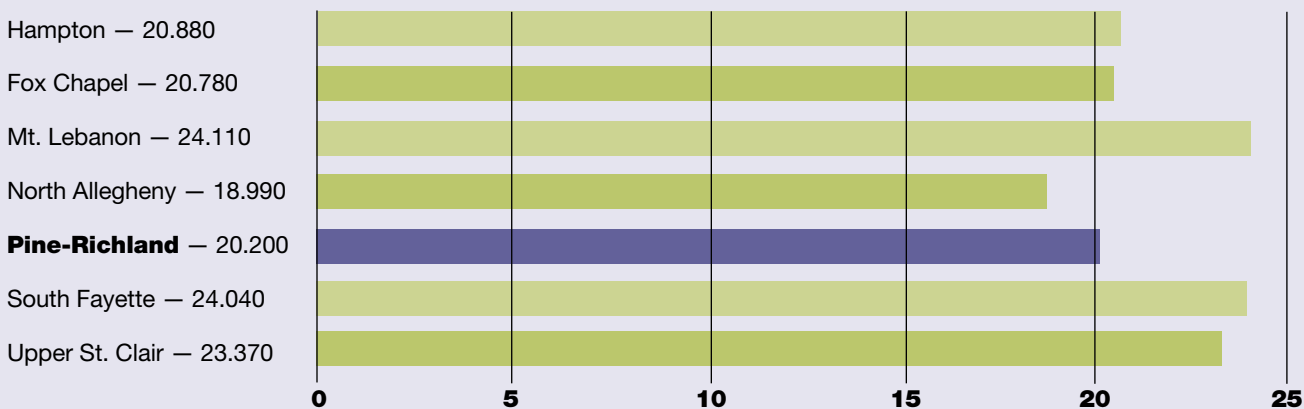


2010 PR School Board
 (Front Row: L-R) Directors Scott Stedeford, Therese Dawson, Aafke Loney and Treasurer Dennis Sundo, (Back Row: L-R) Directors Kevin Nigh, A. Robert Necciai, Jeffrey Banyas, Vice President Richard Herko and President Stephen Hawbaker

PR Offers Low Millage Rate in Comparison to Other High Achieving Districts

The average real estate millage rate is 22.699 in Allegheny County. Here's a look at where Pine-Richland School District falls with some other high-achieving school districts in Allegheny County.

The Value of Education—2009-10 Real Estate Tax Millage Rates High Achieving Districts



Budget Overview

- \$61,407,233** — Total Budget
- 1.4% Decrease** — From 2008-09 Budget
- \$850,563 Less Spending** — From 2008-09 Budget
- Sixth Consecutive Year** — Maintaining Millage Rate

BUDGET REVIEW CONTINUED

Creative Budgeting

The district took some cost containment measures which included:

- > Outsourcing substitute staffing
- > Participating in an energy curtailment program

Property Tax Relief

- > Based on the average assessed value in the district of \$216,013, each approved homestead is eligible for a reduction of property tax of \$212.
- > Senior citizens who met income eligibility requirements were entitled to a PA state rebate of up to \$650.
- > Seniors who met income eligibility and homestead eligibility were entitled to receive a rebate of up to \$650 from Pine-Richland School District with total possible rebates and exclusions of up to \$1,512.
- > The district issued \$49,000 in tax rebates to senior citizens ranging from \$250-650 per household. For more information on rebates for the 2009 tax year, visit www.pinerichland.org/rebate.htm.

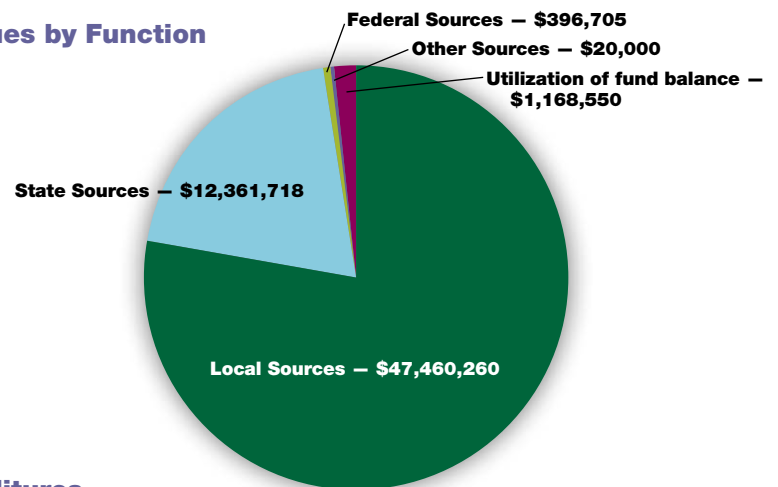
Academic Offerings Increased

While the district has taken great effort to tighten its budget, PRSD added course offerings in the following subjects:

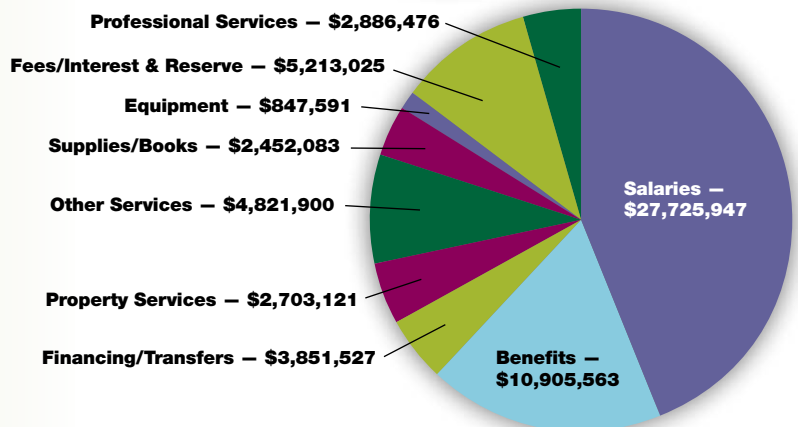
- > Pre-AP Environmental Science
- > AP European History
- > Mandarin Chinese
- > AP Psychology
- > AP Micro Economics

“We are pleased to offer increased course work, while tightening the budget without having to impact class size or reduce staff,” said Finance & Operations Director Douglas McCausland. “The PR Business Office made conservative revenue estimates to balance the budget, while the district tightened overtime spending, reduced field trip costs and summer work.”

Revenues by Function



Expenditures



NEW ADMINISTRATION

PR Works Behind Scenes to Provide Seamless Direction as New Administrators & Staff Join Team

The 2009-2010 school year brings new leadership. The hitch is to hire the best candidates, while providing uninterrupted direction to the district.

“We’ve added a new online job portal portion to the Pine-Richland School District website to aid in a more efficient application process,” said Legal Affairs & Human Resources Director Tony DiTommaso, Esq. “In addition, we are utilizing Kelly Staffing Services to provide substitutes on a daily basis.”

For 2009-2010, the district appointed Andrew Dugger as interim dean of students and hired several new educators. At the high school, they included: Math Teacher Timothy Converse, Business Education Teacher Brian Davis, Life Skills Teacher Benjamin Rings, Biology Teacher Regan Shebeck, Para Educator Laura Standish, Social Studies Teacher Brittany Taylor and English Teacher Angela Zastrow. New middle school teachers included: Life Skills Teacher Jamie Kuriger, Language Arts Teacher Kathleen Pfeifer

and Learning Support Teacher Christopher Shaulis. At Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, new faces included: Music Teacher Jennifer Noel and World Languages Teacher Erin Szymanski and para educators Anne Cress, Kimberly Mullen, Brenda Provenzano and Lauren Woods. At Richland Elementary, the school welcomed Special Education Teacher Stacey Carulli and Para Educator Rebecca Keller. At Wexford Elementary School, Special Education Teacher Tara Hillegas and Para Educator Michelle Rushmore joined the staff.

The district also hired two guidance counselors at the high school. They include Rachael Mandell and Leslie Straub. In the middle school guidance department, Christine Galbraith joined the staff as a secretary. At the high school, Kathy Duff was named receptionist.

PR hired or in some cases promoted administrators to some top spots in the district. Here’s a look at the new administrators and their priorities.



Dr. Mary Bucci

Superintendent

Promoted May 2009

Served as assistant superintendent/elementary for PRSD and has served many years overseeing secondary initiatives at New Brighton Area School District

Priorities: Aligning programs and improving reading K-12



Dr. David Foley

Assistant Superintendent

Hired October 2009

Hillview Intermediate School, Grove City, PA

Priorities: Maximizing use of research-based strategies to impact instruction and promoting a rigorous, standards-based curriculum to increase student achievement

NEW ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED



Dr. Laura Davis

Director of Staff Development

Promoted July 2009

Served as PRHS Principal

Priorities: Focusing on student learning through the professional development of all staff



Dr. Albert Wille

Director of Transportation & Security

Promoted July 2009

Served as PRSD Special Programs Coordinator

Priorities: To provide an efficient transportation system and safe school environment



John Pietrusinski

PRHS Principal

Promoted December 2009

Served as PRHS Assistant Principal

Priorities: Developing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program (an instructional approach that utilizes interdisciplinary instruction and connected learning activities) and verifying the curricular consistency between courses and grade levels



Rick Walsh

Wexford Elementary Principal

Hired October 2008

Served as Principal at Trinity East Elementary School in Washington, PA

Priorities: Focusing on student learning through a commitment of high expectations, innovation and collaboration

ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



2009 Valedictorian Patrice Zigrossi, Salutatorian Sean Bohan and Tertiary Natalie Affinito participate in graduation ceremonies.

In addition to Zigrossi, Bohan and Affinito, the following six students rounded out the top 10 of the Class of 2009 in order: Lauren Smith, Christopher Hensler, Francesco Salpietro, Colin Galey, Scott Miller, Brenna Unrath and Michael Georgiadis.

Pine-Richland School District Increases Academic Marks

Pine-Richland School District continues to strengthen its test scores and is making the mark academically in math, reading, science and writing. Across the board, a larger percentage of Pine-Richland students are scoring in the advanced and proficient range on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments than their peers statewide.

As you recall, the federal “No Child Left Behind” Act requires all students to be proficient in reading and math by the year 2014. The PSSAs measure whether students are proficient in math and reading skills.

Dr. David Foley, who was hired in October as assistant superintendent, says the district is always looking for ways to improve academic achievement. He is working with teachers to raise the bar even higher in 2010 by:

- > Clearly mapping reading curriculum to maintain high academic rigor and to provide a customized learning environment for each student

- > Establishing a consistent K-12 instructional focus each month to improve transitions between grade levels and buildings throughout PRSD
- > Utilizing diverse assessment tools to determine student learning and the efficacy of instructional strategies at all grade levels
- > Providing focused professional development for staff to maximize the learning opportunities of each student

“The instructional design is working,” said Dr. Mary Bucci, PR superintendent. “We can even do more with flexible grouping and by focusing on strategies.”

Academic Accolades

> The Pennsylvania Department of Education awarded PRHS and PRMS with Keystone Achievement Awards for achieving Adequate Yearly Progress in both the 07-08 and 08-09 school years. Due to re-alignment of grades, the elementary and upper elementary schools cannot qualify for the achievement awards until there is two-year's worth of data at those levels.

> The College Board School Scholar Roll honored several high school graduates and students with AP scholar awards. Scholar Award winners include: **Peter Bacher, Samantha Bergman, Korey Blucas, Alan Boyd, Leigh Charland, Rene Clark, Dwight DiPasquale, Nicholas Donnelly, Derek Feger, Alexis Green, Shelby Grubbs, Gregory Hartmann, Kaitlin Hayes, Adam Horn, Ryan Hunn, Katrina Jacob, Adrian Karas, Alissa Kasunich, Brooke Kelly, Wilm Kranz, Carly Krystyniak, Lisa Ley, Emily Loughead, Nicholas Maley, Hope Mango, Philip Marchetti, Meghan Marks, Edward Misback, Melissa Morgan, Melinda Novak, Patrick Nowak, Yanis Oukaci, Joseph Paulina, Laura Rakiewicz, Kevin Rezzetano, Melissa Sirera, Hannah Staiger, Gabriela Szewcow, Michael Weakland, Alyssa Whittington, Alyssa Wilden and John Yoo.** Honor Award winners include: **Holly Belkot, Sarah Blausler, Matthew Bogolin, Thomas Gage, Alexis Gutshall, Sarah Hein, James Jackson, Ann Jacob, Arielle Katcher, Sophie Macon, Jennifer Soracco, Meghan Sullivan and Cassidy Welter.** Scholar with Distinction Award winners include **Natalie Affinito, Daniel Bauer, Mark Beatty, Sean Bohan, Lauren Chan, Laura Eswein, Colin Galey, Michael**

Georgiadis, Christopher Hensler, Brian Killeen, Geoffrey King, Adam Kozemchak, Scott Miller, William Miller, Elena Paul, Francesco Salpietro, Lauren Smith, Rita Steckler and Brenna Unrath.

> PRHS senior **Lauren Smith** earned a perfect score on the writing section of the College Board SAT, graduates **Michael Georgiadis** and **John Yoo** earned perfect scores on the mathematics section of the test, and graduates **Mark Beatty** and **Jared Lang** earned perfect scores on the reading section of the exam.

> PRHS students earning perfect scores on the SAT reading portion include: **Derek Feger** (Reading), **Anne Graszl** (Reading & Math), **Curtis Mahoney** (Reading) and **Alyssa Whittington** (Writing). Graszl earned a perfect score on the math portion. The following students earned a perfect score on the ACT Reading portion: **Kayla Haskins, Alyssa Whittington** and **Eric Christenson.**

> PRMS School GATE students took top awards in a county online Stock Market Game. The following eighth graders earned first, second and third place out of 32 teams in the Allegheny County contest: **Oliver Snyder** (1st Place) **Tyler Fitzgerald, Michael McCarthy** and **Zachary Skirpan** (Team: 2nd Place) and **Sara Dugan, Kelly Rodgers** and **Kendyl Suvick** (Team: 3rd Place), under the direction of PRMS Teachers **Kathy Deal** and **Leah Reddinger.**

> PRMS students earned top awards in the middle schools National Geography Bee Contest. In order of placement, top award winners include **Lauren Brown, Alex Wilson, Benjamin Gongaware, Thomas Hyland, Zachary Skirpan, Brady Calhoun, Andrew Zelina, Thomas Krill, Liam Guido** and **Bobby Kang.**

DISTRICT PSSA SCORES		
Subject Area	Pine-Richland (Advanced & Proficient)	State (Advanced & Proficient)
Math	85%	73%
Reading	84%	71%
Science	73%	59%
Writing	86%	71%

ACADEMIC REVIEW	
2008-2009 Pine-Richland School District Scorecard	
Grade Level - Math & Reading	Exceeds Requirement
Grades 3-5	
Grades 6-8	✓
Grades 9-12	✓

Data collected from the PA Department of Education. Percentages may vary from source to source, due to rounding and/or the state's calculations which sometimes include margins of error/confidence intervals.

PRHS & PRMS		
District	Math (Advanced & Proficient)	Reading (Advanced & Proficient)
PRMS-Grade 7	81%	81%
PRMS-Grade 8	91%	93%
PRHS-Grade 11	77%	80%

EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY		
Group	Math (Advanced & Proficient)	Reading (Advanced & Proficient)
Grade 4	89%	89%
Grade 5	79%	77%
Grade 6	87%	83%

Successes in Science



Rebecca Stabile

- > Senior **Rebecca Stabile** earned semifinalist status in the Siemens Math, Science & Technology Competition. Stabile competed with more than 2,000 registered students nationwide by submitting a physics project. More than 1,300 projects were submitted. She was only one of seven in Pennsylvania to earn semifinalist status and the only semifinalist in Southwestern PA. Stabile's project was entitled "Physical Mechanisms of Parody Violation in Beta Decay in Observance of the Weinberg-Salam Model of Electroweak Interactions".
- > Senior **Michelle Marano** was named one of Westinghouse Science Honors Institute Top Voluntary Exam Finishers and was awarded a \$50 Best Buy gift card in 2009. The Westinghouse Science Honors Institute accepted **Steven Buffer, Sophia Chow, Zachary Dionise, Brittany Edwards, Anthony Machi, Owen Maley, Elizabeth Tomczak** and **Sowmya Yennam** into its 2009-2010 program.
- > Three PR students placed at the 70th Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Heinz Field. Award winners included: Ninth grader **Evan Klei** (3rd Place/Senior Biology category), Seventh grader **Hayden Stockwell** (2nd Place/Intermediate Biology) and seventh graders **Kyle Pomerleau** and **William Misback** (1st Place/Intermediate Team category).
- > The National Forensics League named Pine-Richland High School the Leading Chapter Award recipient in the Pittsburgh District in 2008-2009, under the direction of Coach **Jeffrey Byko** and assistant coaches **Leticia Mickey** and **Alexandra Batouyios**.

PP MATH & READING PSSAs			
Elementary Schools	Math (Advanced & Proficient)	Reading (Advanced & Proficient)	
Hance-Grade 3	91%	82%	
Richland-Grade 3	94%	88%	
Wexford-Grade 3	97%	92%	

PP ACADEMIC REVIEW			
School	Science (Advanced & Proficient)	Writing (Advanced & Proficient)	
Eden Hall			
PRMS	91%	78%	
PRHS	75%	91%	
	53%	90%	

PP COLLEGIATE SCORECARD			
Class	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2009			
2008	532	555	530
2007	542	565	532
	525	546	518

PP COLLEGIATE SCORECARD			
Pine-Richland compared to national and state scores.			
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Pine-Richland	532	555	530
Pennsylvania	493	501	493
National	501	515	493

THE ARTS



PRHS earns “Best Choreography” for its production of “Carousel” in 2009. In all, PR earned six nominations and two awards.

Photo by Marc Soracco

Artistic Ambitions

PRHS earned Best Choreography for its production of “Carousel”, and PRHS graduate **Arielle Katcher** earned a Best Supporting Actress Award for her portrayal of “Carrie Pipperege” in 2009. PRHS graduate **Joseph Paulina** earned a scholarship worth \$2,500. In addition to Best Choreography and Best Supporting Actress (Katcher), PR earned nominations for Best All Student Orchestra, Best Ensemble, Best Supporting Actor **Francesco Salpietro** and Best Supporting Actress **Christine Lamendola**.

PRHS graduates **Lauren Gigliotti**, **Stephen Chalker**, **Jacob Maxwell**, **Cody Hoellerman** and **Michael Weakland** were finalists in the preliminary round of the Annual Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at the O’Reilly Theater March 20, 2009, under the direction of Teacher **Michelle Bruno**.

PRSD students accepted into the 2009-2010 AIU Apprenticeship program include: **Cameron Barnes**/International Affairs, **Nicholas Bello**/Architecture, **Jordan Brennan**/Visual Arts, **Katie Brown**/Education, **Sophia Chow**/Biotechnology, **Rene Clark**/Marine Biology, **Daniel Clarke**/Business, **Lauren Deasy**/Journalism Careers, **Natalie DeLacio**/Business, **Katherine Dunn**/Journalism Careers, **Brittany Edwards**/Screenwriting, **Zachary**

Flaus/Conducting, **Deanna Fleming**/Architecture, **Anne Graszl**/Engineering, **Nigel Halliday**/International Affairs, **Megan Hawbaker**/Contemporary Dance, **Rachel Hilton**/Anthropology, **Sarah Khalbuss**/International Affairs, **Geoffrey King**/Biotechnology, **Kathryn Knapp**/Musical Theater, **Claire Kortyna**/Screenwriting, **Aaron Kovalchick**/Architecture, **Michelle Lattner**/Digital Photography, **Alyssa Lazar**/Journalistic Writing, **Mark Leibensperger**/International Affairs, **Cassandra Long**/Web Design, **Sophie Macon**/International Affairs, **Alexander Martin**/Filmmaking, **Catherine McAnney**/Journalism Careers, **Edward Misback**/Short Fiction, **Adam Moble**/Architecture, **Ryan O’Dowd**/Animation, **Kelly Parsons**/Avian Care, **Amy Paterline**/Journalism Careers, **Lisa Perry**/Advertising, **Anne Regan**/Journalistic Writing, **Ashley Schantz**/Nursing, **Samuel Sedory**/Journalism Careers, **Scott Simpson**/Visual Arts, **Katlin Simpson**/International Affairs, **Alena Smigla**/Conducting, **Emily Smith**/Playwriting, **Jennifer Soracco**/Anthropology, **Elizabeth Tomczak**/Green Design (Civil Engineering), **Alex Toa**/Conducting, **Tara Trombetta**/Business, **Samuel VanDusen**/Videography, **Claire Vetter**/Broadcast Journalism, **Alyssa Whittington**/Zoo Animal Care and **Edward Wojciechowski**/International Affairs.

PRHS student **Clarissa Suparman's** was the winner in Animal Friends' 2009 "Be Kind to Animals Week" poster contest.

PR-TV and Video Production Three students **Stephen Brooks** and **Jesse Schuckert** won an award in the Instructional Video category at the 16th Annual Robert Morris University's Video Festival in April 2009. PR-TV earned an award for best sports coverage of the Winter Classic Hockey Charity Game.

Career Ambitions

AW Beattie Career Center honored four PRHS students with the 2009 "Senior of the Year" award: Those graduates include: **Timothy Parsons** (Automotive Technology), **Katelin Abt** (Early Childhood Education), **Erin Lindell** (Emergency Response Technology) and **Jenna Lutovsky**. In addition, Lindell earned a gold medal for her work on her Health Occupations Portfolio. Lutovsky earned a silver medal for her work in the Technical Computers category.

Young Leader

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council selected **Adam Hannisick** to attend the CYLC National Young Leaders State Conference in Harrisburg Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

From Pen to Publication

The Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc., awarded students **Anna Cherry** (1st Place), **Jared Ohlund** (2nd Place), **Rebecca Torchia** (3rd Place), **Olivia Marchionda** (Wallace Stevens Chapter First Honorable Mention Award), **Abigail Jansen** (On the Lighter Side Third Honorable Mention Award) in its annual contest. Other awards students earned through writing include: National History Day State finalist **James Mullen**, Daughters of American Revolution Essay winner **Catherine Chleboski**, Allegiance Against Drugs Essay Contest winner **Sneha Iyer** and Mason's "What My Family Means to Me" Essay Contest winner **Kristen Murslack**.



Callie Andro

PRHS student **Callie Andro** was chosen as a Top 10 Winner in the Creative Communications Poetry Contest. Her work is being featured in the poetry anthology "A Celebration of Poets."

PRHS students **Eric Barth** and **Catherine Chleboski** earned awards in the 2008-2009 Daughters of American of the American Revolution Essay Competition.

IN THE NEWS...

Pine-Richland School District is highlighted in hundreds of articles and programs each year, but did you know PRSD is making the spotlight nationally and internationally. Most recently...

- > PRSD was featured in the "Post-Gazette" for its high rate of multiple births. The story was picked up by websites across the nation and world.
- > The PRHS Cheerleading Team could be seen in Season 10: Episode 27 of MTV's reality show "MADE". The program was about cheerleaders from Sunbury, PA, who wanted to be "MADE" into a high school competitive cheer squad.
- > PRHS graduates **Marc** ('93) and **Sara Pasquinelli** ('06) spotted a Wexford Elementary shirt in footage from an ABC report in Haiti. The image shows children waiting in line for water.

If you see PRSD making a name around the world, send an email to rathhorn@pinerichland.org. Visit www.pinerichland.org/innews.htm for more PRSD headlines.



International Coverage

A child in Haiti is shown wearing a Wexford Elementary shirt.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Citizen Tax Rebate Program Forms Available

PRSD approved a property tax rebate program for a second year in a row. The program, which is effective for the calendar year 2009, stipulates the filer must be a resident of Pine or Richland Township for all of 2009, have owned a home in Pine or Richland Townships for all of 2009 and used it as his/her primary residence and is a senior citizen and/or widow or widower. To download the necessary forms, please visit www.pinerichland.org/rebate.htm or stop in to pick up the forms at PRSD Administrative Offices, 702 Warrendale Rd. in Gibsonia.

Senior Citizen Bingo in Works

The Pine-Richland Middle School Leaders Club is hosting its annual Senior Citizen Bingo starting at 4 p.m. on April 22 in the Pine-Richland High School Spirit Room, 704 Warrendale Rd. in Gibsonia. Details will be available in early April by visiting www.pinerichland.org or by calling 724-625-3111.

Tickets Available for 2010 Musical

Pine-Richland High School is gearing up for its musical "Children of Eden". The musical will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on March 19, 20, 26 & 27 with an additional 2 p.m. showing on March 27 at PRHS, 700 Warrendale Rd. in Gibsonia. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens and open balcony \$8. A special dress rehearsal will be shown at 4 p.m. on March 18 and is complimentary for senior citizens. You can call 724-625-4444, ext. 1905 (voicemail) for ticket information or visit www.pinerichland.org. The choral boosters will host a spaghetti dinner on March 27 from 4:30-6 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant

Safe and Drug Free School and Community Grant funds supported participation in a regional drug prevention coalition. In cooperation with the Alliance Against Highly Addictive Drugs, the district "piloted" an Internet based "Prevention Video of the Month" program in 2008-2009 and worked to secure a grant from the PA Attorney General's Office to expand this program in 2009-2010.

The Alliance held its fourth annual awards luncheon in Wexford for its poster finalists. Nearly 20 schools participated with 4,000 entries. At the luncheon in June, 109 student finalists were recognized. PRMS student Emily Mongilio was named first-place winner.

PRSD has a comprehensive safe and drug free school and community program. Alcohol, tobacco and drug policy violations have remained low. School tobacco, alcohol and drug related code-of-conduct violations are reviewed annually. In 2008-2009, there were no ATOD policy violations in the elementary grades kindergarten through six. In grades seven through 12, there were two tobacco, five alcohol and three drug policy violations (Source: "Safe Schools Report").

Dual Enrollment Grant

Dual Enrollment Grant funds helped support the tuition, fees and books for 71 students taking college level coursework through the University of Pittsburgh, La Roche College and the Community College of Allegheny County.

Project 720 Grant

Project 720 Grant funds supported staffing and resources for college and career preparation programs. Project 720, which is named for the number of days students are in high school from ninth through the end of 12th grade, is helping provide career-planning opportunities for students and parents. In 2008-2009, high school students participated in externships and career information sessions conducted by regional employers. This project also supported implementation of FAMILY CONNECTIONS/ NAVIANCE, which allows families to connect with Pine-Richland through special software designed to access college and career preparation, planning and information resources (e.g., SAT Prep courses, placement scores and college recruiter visitation dates).

Act 30 State Funds

Act 30 state funds supported high school alternative education services for "at-risk" students, allowing students to successfully meet the requirements for graduation.

Accountability Block Grant state funds supported K-3 reading literacy programs and professional staff development.

Federal Program Grants

Title I, Title II-A Grant and Title V federal funds supported elementary reading literacy, class size reduction and school safety programs. Reading assessments in Title I classrooms showed gains in elementary program reading literacy. This year, the district continued to promote proper "hand-washing" and "cover-your-cough" etiquette.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Katrina Morgan collects baby items for a mission to the Dominican Republic.

Serving Others

Pine-Richland High School senior **Katrina Morgan** traveled to the Dominican Republic to deliver five 50-pound suitcases of baby items that she collected during a drive she organized to fulfill her Girl Scout Gold Award. She traveled with physicians, friends and family on a medical mission Jan 23.

Senior **Aaron Kovalchick** was awarded by *NEXT: A Guide to Life After High School* magazine with the Student Excellence Award. Aaron was nominated for his work on the “Stuff a Bus” project. Kovalchick was featured in the fall issue of the magazine.

The Central Blood Bank is honoring Pine-Richland High School for making its List of Top 20 successful blood drives. Under the direction of PRHS Teacher **Brittany Taylor**, students hosted four separate drives and collected 551 units of blood.

Wexford Elementary raised \$57,470 in five years for the Turkey Fund. Just this year, the school raised \$6,413 which is being matched by a local bank.

Highmark Foundation awarded Hance Elementary School \$3,500 for 2009-2010 with funding provided by the Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge Grant. Grant applicant **Terry Lea Wentz**, CRNP, says the grant is being used to support Hance’s Pacesetters Program K-3.

Richland Elementary raised \$1,500 in its “Silver for Soldiers” campaign for supplies for soldiers overseas.



Aaron Kovalchick and Tara Trombetta collect toys during the “Stuff a Bus” program.

MUSICAL NOTES



Jackie Evancho

Chamber Singers Debut on PBS

The Pine-Richland High School Chamber Singers and Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Fourth Grader **Jackie Evancho** made their debut on PBS. PRHS Choral Director Lee Rickard said they were selected to be a part of a televised event called "Celebrate America" being broadcast on PBS stations, which is available on DVD. PRMS Choral Director Heather Flora traveled to WQED studios in Oakland, PA on October 9, 2009 for a recording session with Eden Hall Upper Elementary student Jackie Evancho and PRHS Chamber Singers **Jordan Banyas, Jessica Barrett, Jared Berry, Matthew Ceurvorst, Jacob Chavara, Andrew Deutsch, Isaac Egyed, Amanda Ferguson, Annelise Gaus, Benjamin Gentzel, Megan Hawbaker, Sierra Hayes, Adam Janssen, Christine Lamendola, Lauren Lamendola, Patrick McMahon, Mitchell Meverden, Madeleine O'Neil, Kelly Parsons, Taylor Perz, Raychel Shipley, Emily Smith, Kemper Vogel** and **Jacob Wolfgang**.

Foundation Offering Endowment Opportunities

PROF is offering teacher grants, scholarships and endowment opportunities. If you would like to make a donation or start an endowment or scholarship program in memory of a loved one or friend or in celebration of a family, business or friend's name, please contact Co-Executive Director Rachel Hathhorn at 724.625.7773, ext. 6202 or email at rhathhorn@pinerichland.org. Contributions are tax-deductible.

What is PROF? The purpose of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund is to enrich, foster and promote education, to encourage and reward academic excellence and achievement.

Who Does PROF Benefit?: PROF benefits teachers and students. This year, PROF approved grants totaling more than \$5,500 including: the Cello Fury Workshop & Concert grant, Ceramic Artist in Residence program at Eden Hall Upper Elementary school and the Thespian Society Grant.

PROF will award nearly \$18,000 to students in its 2010 scholarship program. Most deadlines are April 9. Visit www.pinerichland.org/oppfund.html for applications.

Who Makes Up PROF?: President Don Foster, Vice President Hank Compennolle, Treasurer Larry Schuster, Secretary Cindy Dillen and trustees Sally Beatty, Kraig Cawley, Barbara Freitag, Leo Gensante, Liz Gensante, Paul Hightower, Linda Honeywill, David Lemley, Beth Montgomery, Janet Rader and Patti Sinetar serve on the PROF board. Non-voting trustees include: PRSD Board President Stephen Hawbaker, Pine-Richland Education Association President Jill Linsz, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Bucci and co-executive directors Anthony DiTommaso and Rachel Hathhorn.

Thespian Society Makes Debut

Pine-Richland Thespian Society members launched the society's premiere production "Almost Maine" in November.

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, which generates scholarships and teaching grants, awarded the newly formed group a \$2,000 grant, and Kohl's Department Store awarded the group \$1,000 to help fund the group's fall play and bring in professionals to conduct workshops throughout the year.

Teacher **John Dolphin** and the society's booster president **Stacy Burris** say the National Thespian Society is a student-run organization that allows members/participants to learn every aspect of the theater profession.

In addition to the entire crew working on the production, senior **Geoff King** composed the score for the production.

Alumni Accomplishments

1994 PRHS graduate **Amera Rizk** served as second assistant editor on the blockbuster Pixar film "UP", which was about a curmudgeonly old man who takes off on a journey by tying thousands of balloons to his house. Rizk, now a resident of Oakland, Calif., gave the computer-generated characters a voice by overseeing the dialogue recording session. Rizk says her mother and her teachers at Pine-Richland inspired her to follow her dreams. She's now working on the sequel to "Up".

2002 PRHS graduate Kristen Taylor is the National Marketing Director for USG Holdings. She is the president of Next Generations within the National Association for Professional Surplus Lines Organization. She was selected to give a presentation at the annual NAPSLO conference in Orlando, Fla. in November 2009.



Kristen Taylor



Photo by Marc Soracco

Adam Janssen

- > The American Strings Teachers Association selected **Adam Janssen** to perform with the prestigious 2010 National High School Honors Orchestra in Santa Clara, Calif. Feb. 16-20. Only 120 musicians were chosen.
- > PRHS students Zachary Dionise, Adam Janssen*, John Matune, Kayla McMurry*, Edward Misback and Alex Toa* were selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 West Band Festival at Bethel Park Feb. 12 and all qualified for regionals March 23-26 in Waynesburg (*First Chair).
- > Eighth grade violinist **Abigail Newell**, eighth grade viola player **Adam Kim** and ninth grade violinist **Camille Boufford** were selected to play in the PMEA Jr. High Orchestra Festival at Hampton Middle School on Feb. 5 and 6.
- > Violinist **Alena Smigla**, Cellist **Zachary Flaus** and Trombonist **Adam Janssen** were selected to participate in the PMEA Sr. High District Orchestra at North Hills Jan. 14-16.
- > PRHS students were chosen to participate in the PMEA Honors Orchestra Nov. 15 at Fox Chapel High School. They include **Stephanie Becker**, **Adam Janssen** and **Alena Smigla** on the violin; **Abby Williams** on the viola, and on the cello **Katherine Boufford** and **Zachary Flaus**.
- > The PRMS Orchestra participated in the Music in the Parks Adjudication at Kennywood and received a first place in their division and a rating of Excellent in 2009. The sixth grade orchestra also participated in the elementary division and earned first place and a rating of Excellent.
- > PRHS musicians **Alex Toa** (saxophone) and **Zachary Flaus** (cello) participated in Lincoln Park's "PA Summer School of the Arts" music program.
- > Eden Hall Upper Elementary students **Julia Solomon**, **Kendall Pomerleau**, **Alexa Jochims**, **Eric Geissler**, **Gabriella Katz**, **Heidi Plant**, **Hannah Reiling** and **Rachel Henry** participated in the Elementary Honors Orchestra Festival in April 2009 in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District.
- > The PRMS Orchestra participated in the orchestra invitational in the Fox Chapel School District in April 2009 for the first time.
- > PRHS students **Camille Boufford**, **Gretchen Plant**, **Sam Lewis**, **Bailey Werner**, **Jennifer Soracco**, **Stephanie Becker**, **Zachary Flaus**, **Katherine Boufford**, **Alena Smigla**, **Laura Herrle** and **Anna Goertler** participated in the Strings North Festival at Sewickley Academy in March 2009.
- > Violinist **Adam Janssen** participated in the PMEA Region Orchestra in Erie and was the first PR student to participate in the PMEA State Orchestra Festival in Valley Forge, PA in April 2009. In addition, **John Matune** played trombone in the All-State Band, **Samantha Bergman**, **Sarah Ceurvorst** and **Michael Weakland** performed with the All-State Choir. In addition, Matune played trombone in the All-State Band, Samantha Bergman, Cuervorst and Weakland performed with the All-State Choir.
- > PRHS Students **Adam Janssen** and **Bailey Werner** were selected to participate in the PMEA Sr. High District Orchestra Festival at North Allegheny School District in February 2009.
- > Violinists **Stephanie Becker** (concertmaster), **Alena Smigla** (Principal Second) and **Jennifer Soracco** (Principal Viola) and **Bailey Werner** (Principal Cello) performed with the Three Rivers Young People Orchestra this year.
- > Violinists **Nima Kamalpaur** and **Owen Maley** performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Orchestra.
- > Violinist **Camille Boufford** and **Gretchen Plant** and principal cellist **Katherine Boufford** performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Pops Orchestra.
- > **Zachary Flaus** (cello) and **Adam Janssen** (violin) performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra.



Geoffrey King

Photo courtesy of Sidney R. Davis, "Pittsburgh Tribune Review"

- > The Pittsburgh Concert Society held its 2010 Young Artists auditions and named PRHS senior **Geoffrey King** as one of 11 young artist winners. King performed Jan. 24 at Carnegie Mellon University.

SPORTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Photo courtesy: Wendy Compermolle



Fans cheer on the PR Football Team as it takes on Butler High School October 9, 2009.

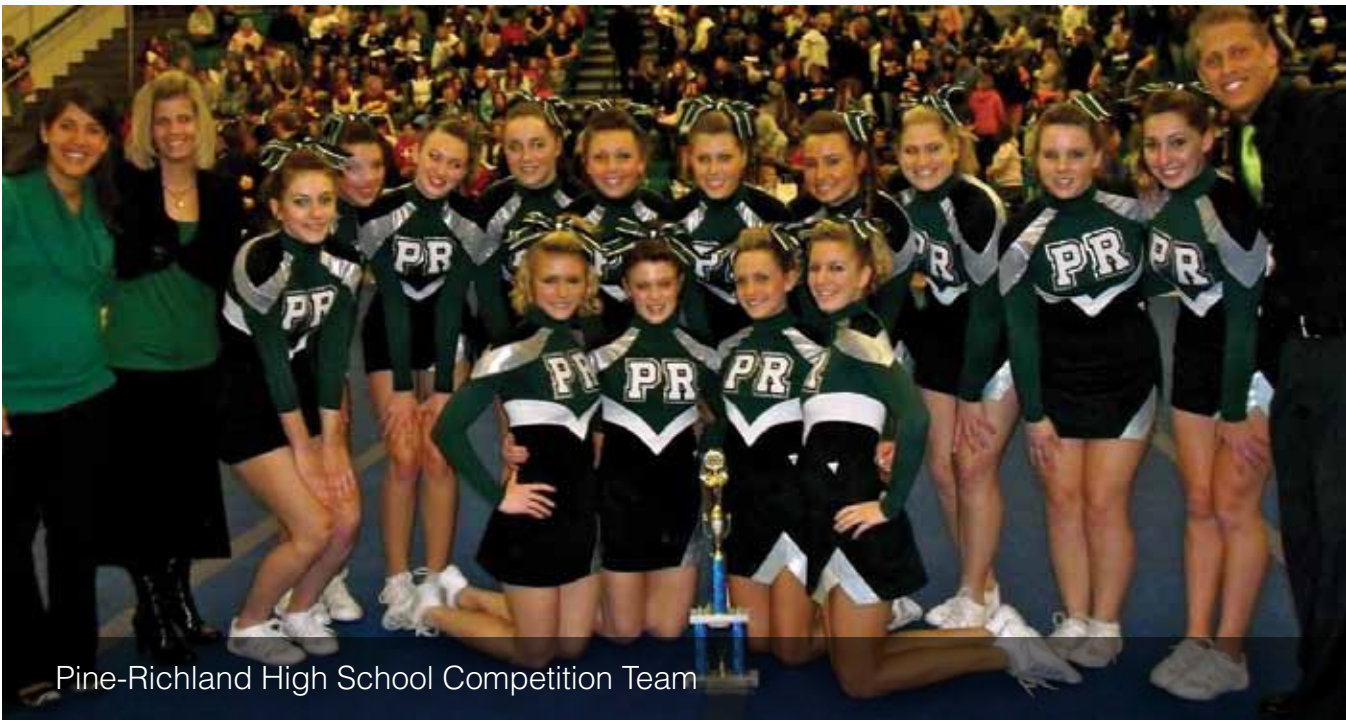
Athletic Accolades

- > Former Pine-Richland High School Hockey Player **Brandon Saad**, who is currently skating for the United States National Development program's Under-18 Team, is being closely watched by talent scouts. He is favored as one of the top 10 picks in the 2011 NHL Draft. Saad was the 10th overall pick by the Saginaw, Mich. Spirit in the first round of the Ontario Hockey League draft.
- > 1999 PRHS graduate **Brandon Hunt** was named director of Scouting for the Pittsburgh Steelers in February.
- > 2001 PRHS graduate **Jason Capizzi** signed with the Cleveland Browns in January.
- > 2003 PRHS graduate **Kevin McCabe** will play arena football in Florida.
- > 2004 graduate **Gregory Conti** will play pro football in Europe.
- > 2007 PRHS graduate **Meghan Klingenberg**, who plays soccer for the North Carolina Tar Heels, is being nominated in the Dapper Dan Awards Program as Sportswoman of the Year.
- > The PRHS Girls Volleyball Team made it to the WPIAL semi-finals this winter and was one game short of going to states.
- <The PRHS Boys Soccer Team won its section title and lost in the first round of the WPIALs in 2009.



Meghan Klingenberg

Photo courtesy: North Carolina Sports Information



Pine-Richland High School Competition Team

PRHS Competition Cheerleading Team Earns Recognition & PRMS Competition Team Competes for First Time

The Pine-Richland High School Competition Team earned a bid to compete in the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) High School Nationals in Orlando, FL February 13-14.

The team earned that bid by taking first place in the small varsity division at the UCA Regional Competition at Slippery Rock University Dec. 5-6, 2009.

The team also took first place at the Pennsylvania State Cheerleading Competition in Johnstown Nov. 21 and named state small varsity champs.

The PRHS team is shown during a cheerleading competition in Beaver, PA, which took place August 23. The PRHS Competition team was shown doing parts of the routine and winning the competition.

Congratulations to the cheerleading squad and coaches Daniella DeRenzo and Danielle Hitson.

For the first time ever, the middle school has a competitive squad. The Pine-Richland Middle School competition squad

took second place at the state competition in Johnstown, PA and first place in the UCA Regional Competition at Slippery Rock. Congratulations to the newly formed competition squad and coaches **Caitlin Bogosta** and **Sheria Mason**.



Pine-Richland Middle School Competition Team



Photo courtesy: Wendy Comperolle

Maureen Hilton

Senior Earns Rowing Recognition

Pine-Richland High School senior **Maureen Hilton** received national recognition by being named to the 2009-2010 USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll. Hilton, who rows with the PR Crew team, is one of only two students in Pennsylvania to receive the national honor, which recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing. Hilton has competed and earned medals in both sweep and sculling events. Most recently, she won a silver medal at the Speakmon Memorial Regatta in Columbus, OH in October racing in the open lightweight single.

When timely, accomplishments are featured in the PR Annual Report, at www.pinerichland.org and/or in the district e-newsletters. Not all accomplishments meet the required deadline. However, if we've overlooked a worthy accomplishment, please email Communications Director Rachel Hathhorn at rathhorn@pinerichland.org with details.

PRHS Students Earn Medals in PIAA Doubles Tennis

Pine-Richland High School senior **Olivia Helm** and sophomore **Taylor Perz** took second place in the PIAA Doubles Tournament in November 2009 earning medals. The duo earned the WPIAL Championship in girls' tennis for the first time in school history.



Olivia Helm and Taylor Perz

Varsity Baseball Team Qualifies for State Championships

The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Baseball Team qualified for the state championships even following a loss in the WPIAL Championship Game. They lost in the second round of the state championships.

Swimming Success

- > Senior **Caitlin Molloy**, who won the silver medal at AAA WPIAL swimming Championships in the 500 Freestyle set a new school record time of 502.31. At the PA State Championships, she set a new school record in the 200 Freestyle with a time of 154.38. Molloy received All-State Honorable Mention status from the PA coaches association in 2009.
- > Several students qualified for the WPIALs including: divers **Amanda Doer, Dominic Giordano, Lauren Lamendola** and **Stephanie Schlegel**; swimmers **Amy Carto, Larsen Engberg, Graham Fennell, Kayla Haskins, Rebecca Mobley, Adam Mobley, Allison Murslack, Kristen Murslack, Aliana Sanzi, Lydia Sargent, Spencer Sargent, Paul Schreiber** and **Eamon Trebilcock**; and relay swimmers **Erika Coke, Matthew Jackson, Alex Lee, Sophie Macon, William Macon, Samantha Rutter** and **Lauren Stanley**.



Gymnastic Team earns 2009 WPIAL Championship

Photo courtesy: Wendy Compermolle

PRHS Girls Gymnastics Team Earns WPIAL Championship

The Pine-Richland Girls Gymnastics Team won the 2009 WPIAL Team Gymnastics Championship. It is the third WPIAL Title for the Rams in its seven-year existence. The girls set a WPIAL record with a team score of 149.075. In the Diamond Division, **Sarah Hein** earned the WPIAL Championship on floor and also finished second on vault, second on bars, second on beam, and second all around. **Jessica Pritchard**

finished fourth on vault, third on bars, third on beam and third all around. **Lauren Lamendola** finished fifth on bars, sixth on beam and sixth all around. Pine-Richland also had a WPIAL individual champion in the Silver Division as **Nika Gill** took first place. **Alyssa Bove** also finished sixth in the Silver Division on the floor.

Pine-Richland Players Selected for All-Star Games

- > Several Pine-Richland players and coaches were selected to play in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League All-Star Games in January. They included: (Varsity 1): **Zachary Fleissner**, **Kevin Reich** and **Daniel Szymanski**; (Varsity 2 AA): **Eric Zarenko**, **Tyler Lawrence** and Coach **Daniel Wilt**; (JV 2): **Kevin Rader**, **Mackenzie Dowiak**, **Karl Dickensheets** and Coach **David Thomas**; (MS1): **Tyler Ziegler**, **Nicholas Scott**, **Nicholas Carnovale**, **Theodore Whitford** and Coach **Dustin Hendrickson**; (MS2): **Michael Kearns** and (MS3): **Ian Irvin** and **Kalani Reid**.
- > Several Pine-Richland hockey players were named to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League AAA All-Star Team. They included: **Daniel Szymanski** (3rd Year in Row), **Bryan Watt** (2nd Year in Row), **Stephen Brooks**, **Ryan Hanahan** and **Nolan Trombetta**.
- > Pine-Richland senior field hockey players **Katherine Klein** and **Rebecca Pereira** were named 2009 WPIAL AAA Section 1 All-Stars and senior **Claire Kortyna** and sophomore **Alyssa Lerda** were named 2009 AAA Section 1 Honorable Mention players.

STAFF & BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The University of Pittsburgh honored board members with the D. Richard Wynn School Board Award in 2009. Directors who served during the recognition period include: (Front Row: L-R) Retired Director Marilyn Reed, Directors Aafke Loney, Therese Dawson, Treasurer Dennis Sundo, Retired Directors Dr. Joseph Merhaut, Dr. James Werkmeister, (Back Row), Directors Kevin Nigh, Scott Stedeford, A. Robert Necciai, President Stephen Hawbaker, Vice President Richard Herko and Retired Directors Gary Deschamps and Michael Hinson.

Award Winning Board & Staff

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association officially recognized board president **Stephen Hawbaker** and retiring school director **Gary Deschamps** for eight years of service each at the state wide educational conference held in Hershey this fall. The two are being added to the PSBA "Honor Roll of School Board Service".

The board also earned the University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Area School Study Council's **D. Richard Wynn** School Board Award and was recognized at the Edgewood Country Club March 19 for its vision on academic rigor and personalized learning from 2007-2009. Board members serving during that time included: **Stephen Hawbaker, Therese Dawson, Richard Herko, Aafke Loney, A. Robert Necciai, Kevin Nigh, Scott Stedeford** and **Dennis Sundo**. Retired directors include: **Gary Deschamps, Michael Hinson, Joseph Merhaut, Marilyn Reed** and **James Werkmeister**. The award Council presents the award annually to a deserving school board. **Richard Wynn** was a graduate and professor of the University of Pittsburgh. He served as executive secretary of the study council.

Retired Superintendent **Dr. James C. Manley** earned the 2009 Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the University of Pittsburgh and was honored April 23, 2009 and named the Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

The Allegheny County Local Task Force on the Right to Education awarded Hance Elementary Life Skills Teacher **Deborah Grant** with an Honorable Mention in the Scott E. Folmer Memorial Student, Teacher and Exemplary Practice or Partnering Awards Program May 6, 2009.

The National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security recognized Pine-Richland para-educator **Mary Jo Kennedy** as an honorary member of its 2009-2010 National Nominating Committee.

Pennsylvania Kelly Educational Staffing named **Kathleen Hess** PA Substitute Teacher of the Semester for Fall 2009. She's now eligible to compete for the Kelly Educational Staffing Substitute Teacher of the Year award.

PRSD earned four "Awards of Excellence" from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association in its 2009 awards program for the district calendar, annual report, Eden Hall Upper Elementary brochure and public relations campaign for the district's 50th celebration. The district earned an "Award of Excellence" for its calendar from the National School Public Relations Association's publications contest in 2009.

Business Manager **Dana Siford** is serving as the president of the West Central Chapter of Pennsylvania School Business Officials, and Doug McCausland, director of Finance and Operations, is serving a second year as treasurer on the same board.

PRMS Teacher Goes Great Lengths to Spur Love of Science

- > A Pine-Richland Middle School science teacher went to great lengths to spur the love of science within her students. In September, PRMS teacher **Carol Scott** was one of only 120 teachers from across the US to be selected to participate in the 2009 Weightless Flights of Discovery program, aimed at inspiring students to want to learn more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This initiative is being made possible by the Northrop Grumman Corporation Foundation in collaboration with the Zero Gravity Corporation. In addition, Scott earned a Making Activities Grant from McDonald's. The money is being used to purchase equipment to help students understand projectile motion, which is one of the experiments she conducted on the weightless flight.
- > The Pennsylvania State Education Association's Western Region honored Pine-Richland School District Music Teacher **Jill Linsz**, who is president of Pine-Richland Education Association, at its ninth annual "Friends of Education Dinner" April 30, 2009 in Greentree.
- > PRMS Teacher **Katherine Pfeifer** earned the Pennsylvania Middle School Association's Outstanding Middle Level Student Teacher "Learning to Teach & Teaching to Learn" Award March 2, 2009, while serving as a student



Carol Scott

teacher from August 25, 2008 to December 5, 2008 through Duquesne University. She was also selected as Pittsburgh's most eligible bachelor/bachelorettes and supported the St. Barnabas Charities' Annual Fashion Gala.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Students Achieve Top Honors in Scouting

PRHS students **Maureen** and **Rachel Hilton**, **Stephanie Christel** and **Christina Maranowski** earned the highest award a girl can achieve in girl scouting—the Gold Award. The Hiltons organized a walk/run to benefit breast cancer research and Christel and Maranowski earned the award by collecting and sewing a new set of costumes for the play hosted by St. Alphonsus Church. Two high school students earned the Boy Scout's highest honor—the Eagle Rank. **John Lombardi, Jr.** earned his rank for conducting maintenance work and enhancements to the Salem United Methodist Church cemetery, and **Scott Simpson** earned his Eagle Scout for constructing a pavilion at Hance Elementary School.



Christina Maranowski & Stephanie Christel



Scott Simpson



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Cover Photo by Marc Soracco: Seniors become graduates in 2009.

Photo Below: Students are all smiles during an assembly at Pine-Richland Middle School.

