

# Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence

2008 PINE-RICHLAND ANNUAL REPORT



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**As Pine-Richland School District celebrates 50 years of success**, the district is moving forward with a vision of transformation, which is evident with the opening of the Eden Hall Upper Elementary School building for grades four through six. The elementary



buildings now include kindergarten through third grade. The middle school includes grades seven through eight and the high school grades nine through 12. Along with this physical transformation of the buildings, we are undergoing an academic transformation allowing Pine-Richland to realize its vision as a leader in education.

How Pine-Richland carries out this vision is spelled out in the district's "Transformation Blueprint" document, which provides a strategic course for even higher levels of excellence. The goal is to provide Pine-Richland graduates with a competitive advantage in the global marketplace.

There have been many successes, as a result of our work on the blueprint. Curriculum mapping is ongoing K-12. Opportunities for students to engage in an ambitious curriculum have been expanded through elementary reading enrichment and pre-AP courses in the middle and high school.

The blueprint has helped us to focus our professional development. The concepts and ideas that our leadership team values are articulated and function as a point of common ground in our discussions with staff, students and parents. They include the "Family Model" for our primary schools, the "Community Model" for our upper elementary and the "Mentoring Model" for our secondary schools.

The annual report highlights district successes along with student and staff achievements during the 2007-2008 school year. I am very proud of our accomplishments, as we strive to continually get better each and every day.

Enjoy the 2008 Pine-Richland Annual Report and congratulations to everyone highlighted in this publication.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Manley, Ph.D." The signature is written in a dark ink on a light background.

James C. Manley, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



*Pine-Richland School District's Mission: As a community of learners that cares intensely for each person, Pine-Richland creates a strong academic foundation and enables students to realize individual strengths and passions toward their life's fulfillment.*

## Pine-Richland School District...

- > Ranks among the top four percent of high schools in the U.S. in *Newsweek's* 1,000 best high schools.
- > Ranks ninth out of 105 school districts in the *Pittsburgh Business Times Guide to Western PA Schools* in 2008.
- > Ranks 26th out of 498 school districts in Pennsylvania in the *Pittsburgh Business Times Guide to Western PA Schools* in 2008.
- > Achieved higher College Board SAT scores than schools across the US and state in 2008 with a near 91% participation rate.
- > Earned an "Award of Excellence" in the National School Public Relations Association's annual publication contest for the 2007-2008 PRSD Activities Calendar *From Past to Present: Celebrating 50 Years*. Judges issued only 11 awards of excellence in the US & Canada in this category. Only one other district in PA earned an "Award of Excellence" in this category.
- > Earned "Awards of Excellence" from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's publication contests for its activities calendar and its annual report.

### DISTRICT SCORECARD

The *Pittsburgh Business Times Guide to Western PA Schools* ranked PR in the top 10 out of 105 school districts in its annual Honor Roll Rank, which takes into account PSSA exams.

Year	Ranking	Total Schools
2007-2008	9	105
2006-2007	9	105
2005-2006	12	105

Pine-Richland is ranked in the top five percent out of 498 school districts in Pennsylvania and in the top four percent of high schools in the U.S.

- > Received a "Standard of Excellence" Award from the Pennsylvania Family and Consumer Sciences Association for having the best Family and Consumer Sciences Department at the middle school, among middle and high schools in the state.
- > Earned the National Association of Student Councils "2008 National Gold Council of Excellence Award" for exemplary record of leadership, service and activities that serve to improve the school and community through the PRMS Student Council program.

## AN INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY

*“Eden Hall Farm has been a landmark in the community for the past 70 years,” said Robert Cooper, Eden Hall Upper Elementary principal. “Although the purpose of the Mueller estate has changed in some ways, the memory and positive character of Mueller can live on. Students in Pine-Richland need examples of character and values in which to model their own lives. Knowing the history of the land on which the new school sits can become a vehicle towards that goal.”*



### Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Opens Doors

The Pine-Richland School District’s dream to create a building around a program is being realized, as it celebrates the opening of Eden Hall Upper Elementary School for students in grades four through six. The community is invited to an official dedication program scheduled for 2 p.m. on November 2, 2008 and an inaugural gala 6:30 p.m. on November 8, 2008.

foreign language instruction in an area central to the classroom neighborhoods.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School is the first building in PRSD to be built or remodeled, since the unprecedented events of September 11, 2001. This tragedy and other incidents, in schools across the country, have made educational leaders more aware of school security and the need to ensure the safety of the students and staff at all times. The most noticeable security feature of the building is the main entrance’s enclosed entry. The front office staff will be able to electronically monitor and lock doors. Other safety measures include a separate entrance for buses to use and parents to drop off and pick up their children. Also, state-of-the-art surveillance cameras are used throughout the campus.

#### **Eden Hall Ensemble Program**

**The Eden Hall ensemble program offers more opportunities for students while promoting enrichment in:**

- Band**
- Chorus**
- Musical Theater**
- Orchestra**
- Dance**
- Recorder**
- Guitar**

While construction was just completed, planning and designing the 189,000 square-foot school began more than four years ago. Programming needs drove the architectural design of the school. Although Eden Hall is a large building with a capacity for more than 1,200 students, the academic space was designed to provide an intimate learning environment. The building is divided into two communities to promote a team teaching concept.

Within each community are two neighborhoods made up of grade level houses of four classrooms with common collaborative space. This design allows teachers to bond with the students and develop knowledge of their academic strengths and needs. Services common to the grade levels are centrally located. Space is provided for speech and language services, special education, computer laboratories and

### What’s in a Name?



The district named Eden Hall’s “Exploratorium” after Sebastian Mueller, a Heinz executive who founded Eden Hall Farm in the 1930s. This large group instruction facility is unique, because it features retractable seating and a flat floor allowing entire grade levels to occupy the space at once.

## Building's Interior & Exterior: From Past to Present

- > The white, exterior brick resembles an old farmhouse that once stood on the site.
- > The brickwork symbolizes the state-of-the-art technology students are using inside the building.
- > The walls, countertops, carpeting and accents throughout the school feature colors representing the Earth's five biomes— aquatic (dark blue), desert (tan), forest (dark green), grassland (light green) and tundra (light blue), a physical expression of concepts in the district's elementary science program.
- > Pitched roofs, curved corridors, varying ceiling heights and large windows make the structure feel smaller and help children identify their section's of the building.

## Proud to Be Green

The new building exudes an environmental feel in décor and in design by:

- > Featuring natural lighting through skylights
- > Including plants and trees in the building native to PA
- > Incorporating non-mowable grasses on the grounds
- > Promoting classroom designs in outdoor areas (amphitheater and walking trails)
- > Installing heat-reclaiming devices for efficiency
- > Adding sensors in rooms to monitor and control CO<sub>2</sub>, lighting and heat
- > Including wood paneling to keep noise down
- > Topping building with a white roof to reflect heat



Eden Hall Upper Elementary School

- > The district named the new upper elementary school after Eden Hall Farm, which was part of a 390-acre tract of land and served as a retreat center for female employees of HJ Heinz Company.
- > Several years ago, the district bought a parcel of land to construct the new building.
- > Eden Hall Foundation donated the rest of the land to Chatham University.



Eden Hall Farm

## TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

### District Earns Participation in Year Three of Classrooms for Future

The Pennsylvania Department of Education awarded Pine-Richland School District with \$45,413 for year three of the Classrooms for the Future initiative. Overall, the district was awarded \$756,000 to reform high school instruction in the core subject areas of math, English, social studies and science. In 2007-2008, the district:

- > Installed hardware for 35 additional designated classrooms, bringing the total to 47 by installing wireless capabilities and projectors and interactive board mounts.
- > Hired CFF coach Danielle Czegan.
- > Coordinated professional development activities.
- > Hosted a CFF Penn State University evaluation program at PRHS.
- > Participated in online 21st century skills courses.

### Accomplishments in Technology

Sixth through 12th grade teachers used Blackboard (a learning and content management system), to increase student access to course-related materials and engage them in online activities.

PRSD upgraded its network infrastructure, researched replacement student information and email solutions, configured and installed technology components for Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, maintained individual student accounts for access to network resources and participated in the advancement of a regional wide area network connecting Allegheny County school districts.

### Communications

For increased communications, the district:

- > **Began using a rapid notification system to alert parents of major announcements.**
- > **Added an electronic newsletter in the elementary school buildings in 2007 to provide parents with information regularly.**
- > **Added an electronic newsletter at Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, Pine-Richland Middle School and Pine-Richland High School in 2008.**
- > **Unveiled the PRHS Virtual Guidance Site, which can be accessed at [www.pinerichlandguidance.org](http://www.pinerichlandguidance.org).**

*"Now that we've thrown this cool technology into the mix, the kids are eager to answer a question," said Sheria Carll, PRMS teacher. "The whole class is ready to participate." Pine Creek Journal – November 7, 2007*

*Carll was referring to a Promethean ACTIVboard, which was purchased for the school through a \$100,000 technology grant secured by state Rep. Mike Turzai, R-28. The interactive device allows educators to project a computer image onto a large whiteboard and manipulate it with wireless devices.*



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

*“A child needs to learn within a safe environment,” said Pennsylvania’s Auditor General Jack Wagner. “We thought it was vitally important to add a safe schools component within audits. The audit is for us to help educate school districts ... and they help educate us. We are learning from very progressive school districts like Pine-Richland.” Post-Gazette – June 12, 2008*



## School Safety

Pennsylvania State Auditor General Jack Wagner toured Pine-Richland High School and Eden Hall Upper Elementary School in June 2008, to highlight the state’s new initiative on school safety. As part of the initiative, auditors are conducting field audits in school buildings in Pennsylvania, to make sure they have basic safety features such as a single entry point and locked windows and doors.

Based on the district’s field audit report, Wagner held a news conference to showcase Pine-Richland School District as a model district, when it comes to safety.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School has been outfitted with 27 surveillance cameras, an open-door alarm system and a special sign-in area for school visitors.

The district put in place a new access control system for the middle school and high school, which include magnetic locking doors, camera systems and proximity card badges for employees.

## Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant

- > Safe and Drug Free Schools funds support district-based and regional drug prevention programs. This year, Pine-Richland Middle School seventh grader Kriepa Venkatakrishnan earned second place in the Alliance Against Drugs Poster contest for her award-winning poster “How I Can Help Myself Stay Drug Free.” Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger honored winners during a special luncheon.
- > Internet based “on-demand” drug prevention education courses are available to parents and teachers on the Alliance web site at [www.drug-alliance.org](http://www.drug-alliance.org). Course usernames and passwords are available by contacting building guidance counselors.
- > School tobacco, alcohol and drug related code-of-conduct violations are reviewed on an annual basis.

In 2008, there were no tobacco, alcohol or drug policy violations in the lower grades (K-8). High school policy violations were very low (i.e., five alcohol policy violations and one tobacco violation).

## Dual Enrollment Grant

- > Dual Enrollment Grant funds helped support the tuition, fees and books for 47 students taking college level coursework through the University of Pittsburgh, La Roche College and the Community College of Allegheny County.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED



*Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger shows off PRMS student Krieva Venkatakrisnan's winning poster at an award luncheon.*

## Project 720 Grant

Project 720, named for the number of days students are in high school from ninth through the end of 12th grade, is helping districts to provide career-planning opportunities for students. In 2007-2008, 127 students participated in externships and informative sessions with experts in many fields including:

- Accounting**
- Athletic Therapy & Training**
- Customer Service/ Retail**
- Engineering**
- Government**
- Human Resources**
- Law Enforcement**
- Patient Care**
- Pharmaceutical**
- Steel Industry**
- Technology**

As this program continues in 2008-2009, Pine-Richland will be looking for mentors from our own community. If you would like to provide expertise in your field, please call (724) 625-7773, ext. 6000.

## State Grants

Act 30 state funds supported high school alternative education services for 10 students, allowing students to successfully meet the requirements for graduation.

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

## 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 special campaigns were conducted to promote proper "hand-washing" and "cover-your-cough" etiquette. Pennsylvania Auditor Jack Wagner recognized the district as a model program.



*"My visit to an architectural firm was very useful," said PRHS student Lauren Smith, who participated in a Project 720 program. "Seeing the day-to-day operations helps me narrow down my career aspirations."*



# BUDGET REVIEW

## District Balances Budget without Tax Increase for Fifth Year in Row



(Front Row: L-R) Director Scott Stedeford, Vice President A. Robert Necciai, President Stephen Hawbaker, Treasurer Dennis Sundo, (Back Row: L-R) Directors Therese Dawson, Richard Herko, Gary Deschamps, Kevin Nigh and Aafke Loney

- > Adding girls field hockey and boys volleyball as fully-funded inter-scholastic sports
- > Improving the district's technological network and replacing teacher laptops and equipment leases
- > Facilitating Classrooms for the Future grant for year three
- > Relocating technology department within the district
- > Repairing the parking lot at the middle school and stadium
- > Replacing lockers and improving hallways and cafeteria areas at the middle school
- > Continuing improvements at Richland Elementary
- > Replacing the high school stage floor

The Pine-Richland School Board balanced its budget without a tax increase for the fifth year in a row.

The final general operation fund budget for the 2008-2009 School Year includes \$62,257,796 in expenditures and total revenues of \$60,472,618 with an unreserved designated fund balance of \$1,785,178 for capital projects.

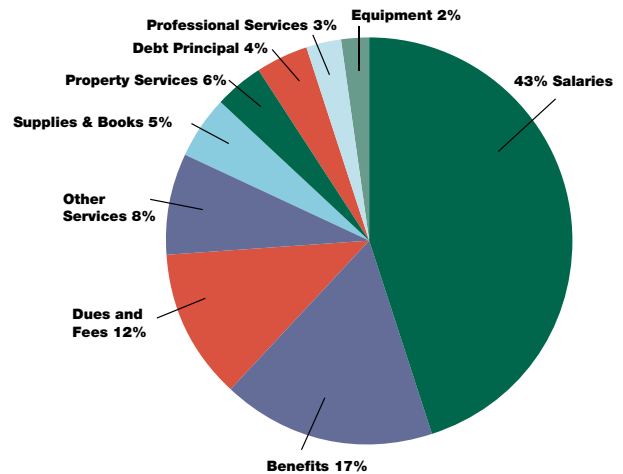
This budget represents a zero increase in real estate tax millage, which will remain at 20.20 mills.

"Members of the Pine-Richland Board of Directors should be commended for their responsible approach to formulating the final budget," said Director of Fiscal & Management Services Doug McCausland. "The budget provides for the continuing growth of the Pine-Richland School District, maintains and enhances student programs and services and supports new initiatives, while placing no additional tax burden on district homeowners."

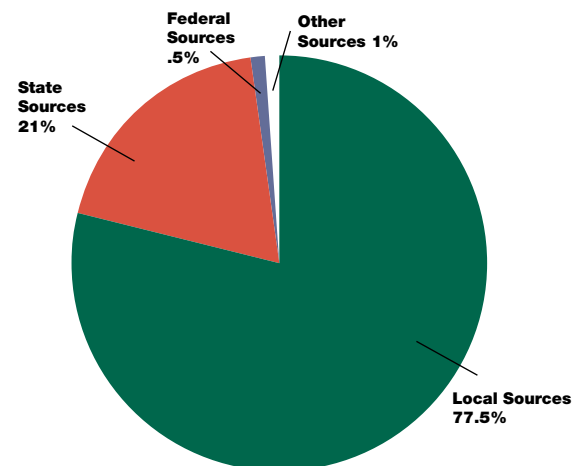
The 2008-2009 proposed final budget provides for some significant educational and capital enhancements for PRSD. Some of the enhancements include:

- > Following a rigorous and personalized academic learning environment, as outlined in the district's "Transformation Blueprint"
- > Opening Eden Hall Upper Elementary
- > Introducing World Languages in sixth grade
- > Providing electives for eighth grade students
- > Purchasing new fitness equipment for middle school students
- > Adding additional coaches, as the football program moves to Quad A

### 2007-08 Use of Funds



### Revenue by Source



## ACADEMIC REVIEW



*Nationally known author and paleontologist Don Lessem visited Hance Elementary School April 9, 2008 to talk to students about writing, which is an important component of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments.*

### Pine-Richland School District Makes Mark Academically

Pine-Richland School District is making the mark by achieving in math, reading and writing at all five school buildings. Pine-Richland adopts programs that promote rigorous academic standards. A higher percentage of students scored advanced or proficient on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments at PRSD than at the state level. The federal “No Child Left Behind” Act requires 100 percent of the student population to be proficient in reading and math by the year 2014. The PSSAs measure whether students are proficient in math and reading skills. Through 2008, NCLB requires: 63 percent of the students to be proficient or advanced in reading and 56% in math.

### Graduation Rate

PRHS maintains a 98% graduation rate.

### District Strengths

- > 94% of students in grade 11 are proficient in writing.
- > 91% of students in grade six are proficient in reading.
- > 90% of students in grade three are proficient in math.

PR ACADEMIC REVIEW	
2007-2008 District Scorecard	
Grade Level – Math & Reading	Exceeds Requirements
3rd Grade	✓
4th Grade	✓
5th Grade	✓
6th Grade	✓
8th Grade	✓
11th Grade	✓

### District Vs. State

PR has a higher percentage of students who are proficient or advanced, when compared to students who are advanced and proficient across the state in math and reading.



Nearly 80 PR ninth graders and 60 eighth graders took pre-AP English and history classes in 2007-08. These students were challenged to choose a piece of artwork for their AP journals.

### COLLEGIATE SCORECARD

The PRHS Class of 2008 had the highest College Board SAT scores in the history of the school district.

Class	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2008	542	565	532
2007	525	546	518
2006	524	550	515

### 2007-2008 COLLEGE BOARD SAT

Pine-Richland compared to national and state scores.

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Pine-Richland	542	565	532
State	494	501	483
National	502	515	494

#### National Merit Scholars

Graduating Class	Number
2008	12
2007	10
2006	8
2005	10
2004	5

### WRITING SCORECARD – AYP MET

Group Level	Writing (Advanced & Proficient)
Pine-Richland High – Grade 11	94%
Hance Elementary – Grade 5	74%
Richland Elementary – Grade 5	71%
Wexford Elementary – Grade 5	67%
Pine-Richland Middle – Grade 8	91%

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

HANCE ELEMENTARY – AYP MET		
Group	Math (Proficient & Above)	Reading (Proficient & Above)
Grade 3	89%	88%
Grade 4	89%	83%
Grade 5	89%	84%

RICHLAND ELEMENTARY – AYP MET		
Group	Math (Proficient & Above)	Reading (Proficient & Above)
Grade 3	86%	85%
Grade 4	88%	86%
Grade 5	79%	66%

WEXFORD ELEMENTARY – AYP MET		
Group	Math (Proficient & Above)	Reading (Proficient & Above)
Grade 3	95%	93%
Grade 4	90%	84%
Grade 5	88%	81%

PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE – AYP MET		
Group	Math (Proficient & Above)	Reading (Proficient & Above)
Grade 8	77%	76%
Grade 7	81%	86%
Grade 6	90%	91%

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH – AYP MET		
Group	Math (Proficient & Above)	Reading (Proficient & Above)
Grade 11	77%	77%

## ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- > A selection committee named graduating seniors **Julie Behr**, **Sara Deuschle**, **Brenna Jones** and **Nicholas Park** as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program in 2007-2008. Only 16,000 students across the country were named semi-finalists. Graduating seniors **Michelle Calabrese**, **Carolyn Deutsch**, **Travis Donnelly**, **Elizabeth George**, **Nithyapriya Ramalingam**, **Vincent Salpietro** and **Benjamin Whiting** were named commended students and were among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition by taking the PSAT.
- > Of the more than 330 students in the Class of 2008, 94 percent planned to attend college with three percent planning to attend a business or trade schools. The top 10 in order include: **Michelle Calabrese**, **Julie Behr**, **Ben Smithgall**, **Neena Davisson**, **Margaret Christenson** (tied in fifth place), **Travis Donnelly** (tied in fifth place), **Brian Shoemaker**, **Dana Rosen**, **Ryan Nelson**, **John DeLacio** and **Kristen Killeen**.
- > The Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence selected six Pine-Richland High School students and two alternates to participate in its 2008 program. This year, 3,736 applicants vied for 788 positions. Students earning spots include: **Holly Belkot** (Global Entrepreneurship), **Alexis Gutshall** (International Studies), **William Miller** (Information, Society & Technology), **Hannah Staiger** (Teaching), **Emily Wobb** (Visual Arts) and **Patrice Zigrossi** (Health Care) and alternates **Alissa Kasunich** (Arts/Dance) and **Joseph Paulina** (Arts/Dance). Students are selected on the meritorious basis of their artistic or academic talent as demonstrated through their applications.
- > A record 38 PRHS students were accepted into the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Apprenticeship program for the 2007-2008 school year. They include: **Mark Beatty** (Biotechnology), **John Bute** (Acting), **Lauren Chan** (Biotechnology), **Nicholas Donnelly** (International Affairs), **Brad Foster** (Broadcast Journalism), **Michael Georgiadis** (Engineering), **Kayla Haskins** (Short Fiction), **Jake Heddaeus** (Videography), **Adam Janssen** (Conducting), **Alissa Kasunich** (Dance Academy), **Brooke Kelly** (Associated Artists-Art Careers), **Geoffrey King** (Conducting), **Kathryn Knapp** (Contemporary Dance), **Claire Kortyna** (Memoir/Non-Fiction Writing), **Cassie Long** (Anthropology), **Scott Miller** (Marine Biology), **Francesco Salpietro** (Opera and Voice Coaching), **Jill Smith** (Dance Academy/CLO), **Jennifer Soracco** (Visual Arts), **Gabriela Szewcow** (Journalism Careers) **Cassidy Welter** (Advertising/Public Relations) and **Alyssa Whittington** (Short Fiction), **Alyssa Wilden** (Musical Theater) and 2008 graduates: **George Cashion** (Playwriting), **Sarah Cavanaugh** (Advertising/Public Relations), **Gabrielle Conlon** (Architecture), **Kevin Connelly** (Journalism), **Carrie Deutsch** (Engineering), **Trey Dillen** (Videography), **Elizabeth George** (Marine Biology), **Adam Horn** (Biotechnology), **Ian Kelly** (Zoo Animal Care), **Alexandra Kluthe** (Business), **Kate Kostilnik** (Education), **Nick Park** (Filmmaking), **Nithyapriya Ramalingam** (Nursing), **Natalee Ranii-Dropcho** (Advertising/Public Relations), **Vincent Salpietro** (Advertising/Public Relations) and **Alex Thomson** (Civil & Environmental Engineering).



2007-2008 National Merit Semi-Finalists

- > A team of six students from the Pine-Richland School District placed 19th at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD May 31 – June 3, 2008. The students earned the right to compete in this event by placing second in their division, during the state competition held at Altoona Area High School April 12, 2008. Students **Michael Clouse**, **Sarah Clouse**, **Isaac Egyed**, **John Matty**, **Michael Matty** and **Tim Skillen** presented a humorous performance which included a team-created “problem”. The team was coached by parents **Heidi Clouse** and **Carol Matty** and sponsored through GATE.

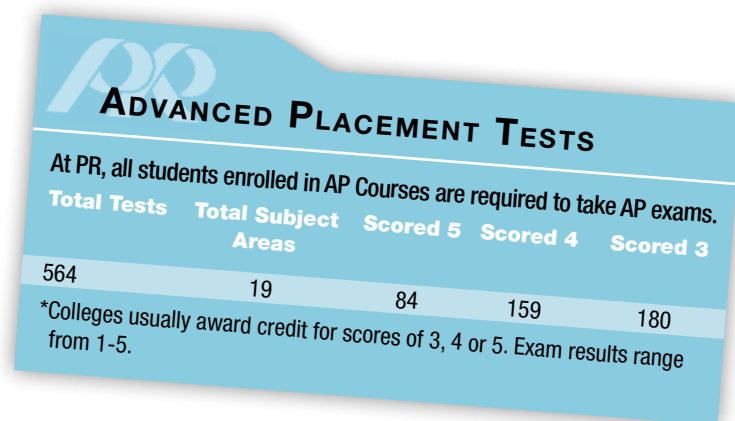


Class of 2008 PRHS Top Three

- > Pine-Richland Middle School students earned third place in the National Middle School Regional Science Bowl Competition March 7, 2008. Winning students, who are now ninth graders include: **Jonathan Marks** and **Peter Pearson** and now eighth graders include: **Maggie Burris** and **Thomas Ferrell**. The students participated in a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car race at North Allegheny's Baierl Center in Wexford and in the Science Quiz Bowl, which was held at LaRoche College in McCandless Township. Students had to design, build and race model cars powered by hydrogen. PRMS GATE teachers **Kathy Deal** and **Leah Reddinger** and PRMS design technology teacher **Mark Cadamore** sponsored the program.
- > The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation named 2008 graduate **Christina Knapp** as a semifinalist in its 20th anniversary Scholars Program. Knapp is among only 2,000 high school seniors across the country to earn the distinction. The program recognizes a diverse group of extraordinary high school seniors who have demonstrated academic and civic excellence in their schools and communities.
- > 2008 graduate **Maggie Christenson** earned a spot to compete at the National Forensics Tournament in Las Vegas, NV June 15-20, 2008.
- > Students from the World Language Department earned third place overall in the individual Spanish language division at the 23rd Annual Slippery Rock University World Language Competition Feb. 19, 2008 and first place in the overall individual German II competition and an honorable mention in both in the overall individual German IV and Spanish V competitions. First place winners included: **Ed Misback** (German IV) and **Danny Nigh** (German Vocabulary Level II & German Grammar Level II).

#### Class of 2008 Top Three Students

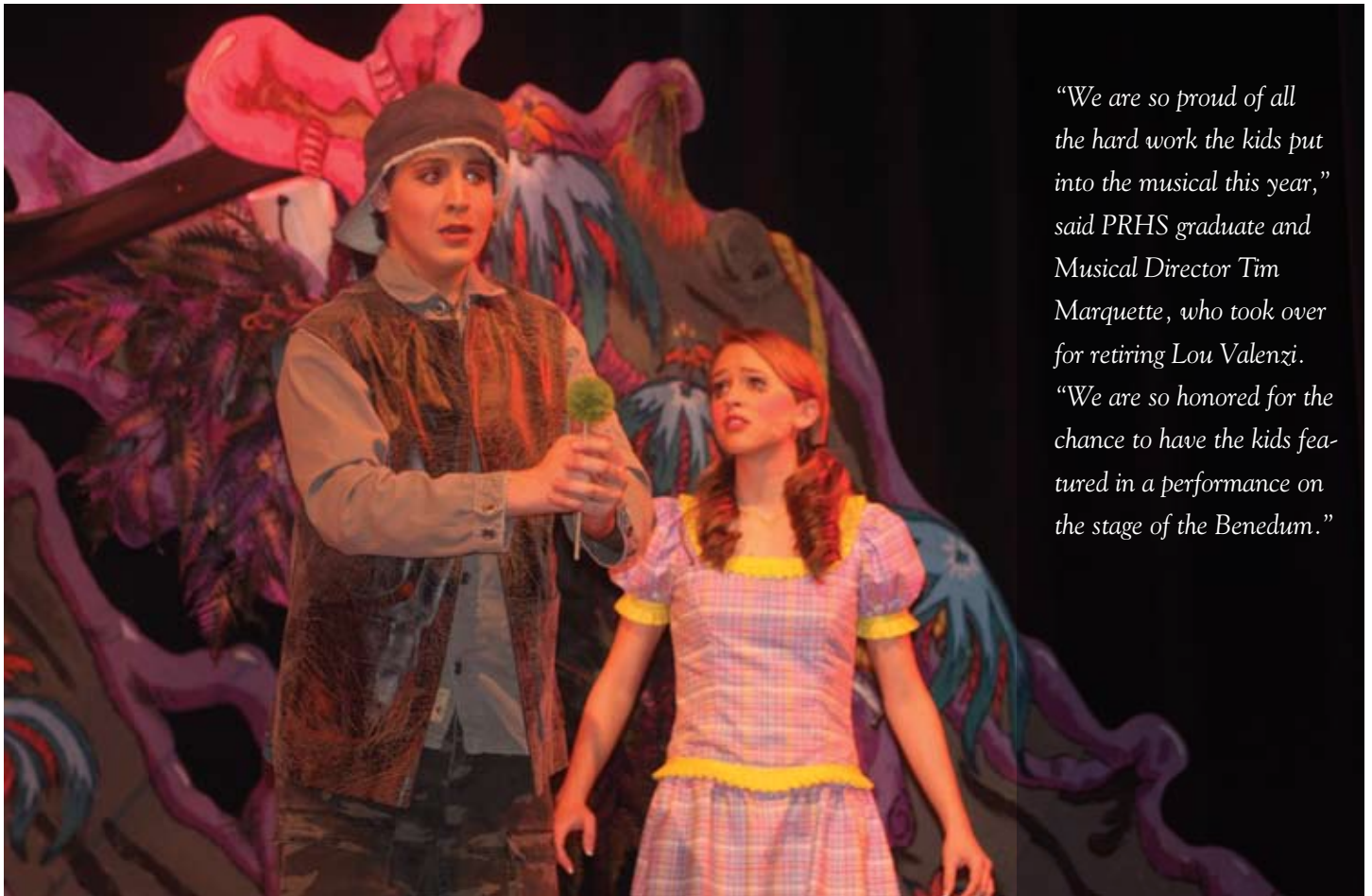
Rank	Name	College
1	Michelle Calabrese	University of Pennsylvania
2	Julie Behr	Penn State University
3	Benjamin Smithgall	University of Chicago



**Emily Smith** earned second place in Spanish II Grammar and an honorable mention in Spanish II. **Zach Dionise** earned third place for German Culture Level II and an honorable mention for German Grammar II. Other students earning honorable mentions include: **Meghan Blumer** (Spanish Vocabulary III) **Shelby Grubbs** (Spanish Grammar Level III) and **Travis Donnelly** (Spanish V).

## THE ARTS

### PR Arts Program Proves to Be Top Notch



*“We are so proud of all the hard work the kids put into the musical this year,” said PRHS graduate and Musical Director Tim Marquette, who took over for retiring Lou Valenzi. “We are so honored for the chance to have the kids featured in a performance on the stage of the Benedum.”*

The Pine-Richland School District is taking center stage when it comes to its outstanding arts program.

The cast, crew and orchestra of Pine-Richland High School’s production of “Seussical the Musical” earned four Gene Kelly Awards. Presenters announced the awards during the annual CLO Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Programs on May 24, 2008 at the Benedum in Downtown Pittsburgh. PRHS earned:

- > Best Musical/Budget III
- > Best Ensemble
- > Best Costume Design awards.
- > Best Actor (Cody Hoellerman for his portrayal of the “Cat in the Hat”)

This is the school’s fourth Best Musical Award earned, in the past five years. In all, PRHS received 11 nominations in this year’s program. In addition to Best Musical/Budget III, Best Ensemble, Best Costume Design and Best Actor nominations, PRHS earned nominations for:

- > Best Set Design
- > Best Lighting Design
- > Costume Design
- > Orchestra Direction
- > Choreography
- > Best Actress (Lauren Gigliotti for portrayal of Gertrude)
- > Best Supporting Actress (Arielle Katcher for portrayal of Mayzie)

Musical Director **Tim Marquette** and Musical Producer **Carole Rost** said they were especially proud of the number of awards PR garnered, since there were so many talented schools.

## Musical Marks

The district continues to leave its mark in the area of music. On January 23-24, 2009, the district will host the District One PMEA Junior District Orchestra rehearsal and concert at Pine-Richland High School, according to Eden Hall Teacher **Susan Wagner**. Below is a look at just a few of the many accomplishments students earned in 2007-2008.

- > While a sophomore, PRHS student **Adam Janssen** was accepted to perform in the PA All-State Band & Orchestra in Hershey April 16-19, 2008 and was named first chair in the state. Teacher **Brian Scott** says Janssen qualified for the "All East" Honors Band, which is comprised of the best musicians from the Eastern states.
- > PRHS student **Geoff King**, a pianist from Wexford, was among five winners in the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra (PCO) contest and performed the first movement from "Piano Concerto No. 2" by Dmitri Shostakovich with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra January 26, 2008 at Upper St. Clair High School.
- > The PRHS Chamber Singers performed at Heinz Chapel on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh February 17, 2008. Choral Director **Lee Rickard** says students participated in the "Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Festival," which is all a cappella music.
- > PRMS students **Max Dugan**, **Kenny Kutzer** and **Carrie Leibensperger**, Hance Elementary School students **Alison Celigo** and **Laura Ferguson** and Richland Elementary School students **Melanie Berexa** and **Sarah Craig** participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District I Elementary Sing Fest in March at Winchester Thurston School in Pittsburgh. Music teacher **Jill Linsz** says the festival is for students in grades five and six who have exhibited commendable vocal talent.



Each year, thousands of students and parents participate in homecoming festivities. In 2008, 220 students from the middle school marched during halftime with the PRHS Marching Band, under the direction of the PR Music Department.



PRHS student Adam Janssen was accepted to perform in the PA All-State Band and Orchestra programs and is shown here performing at the district's 50th celebration on March 26, 2008.

- > 2008 graduate **Andy Stadterman** (Alto Sax) and PRHS Jazz Ensemble students **Mike Georgiadis** (Trumpet), **Adam Janssen** (Trombone), **John Matune** and **Alex Toa** (Alto-Sax) earned spots in the PMEA District 1 Honors West Jazz Festival Dec. 7-8, 2007 at South Fayette High School, under the direction of Jazz Director **Dave Supinski**. In addition, Janssen, Matune and Stadterman performed at the prestigious PMEA Honors Concert Band at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland November 25, 2007. Between 500-600 students vied for 120 seats.
- > The Pine-Richland Middle School Orchestra participated in the Music in the Parks festival at Kennywood. Teacher **Elisa Mata** says students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade orchestra earned an "Excellence" rating May 3, 2008.
- > Six students from Pine-Richland School District participated in the PMEA Junior High Orchestra program at Upper St. Clair High School April 11, 2008. They included: **Alena Smigla** (Violin), **John Michael Oleksa** (Cello), **Ji-Ho Park** (Violin), and **Justin Wilt** (Trumpet) and ninth graders **Kelly Parsons** (Viola) and **Peter DiCocco** (Bass), under the direction of teachers **Elisa Mata** and **Dave Belchick**.

## THE ARTS



TV production student Jeff Burgess helps (center) produce a film in New York City in July 2008.

### TV & Video

- > TV production student **Jeff Burgess** was one of 100 young filmmakers, from across the US, chosen to participate in the Samsung Mobile Fresh Films Competition in July of 2008 in New York City. As a sophomore, he helped produce a film entitled “Regularly Scheduled Programming,” which can be viewed online at [www.fresh-films.com/comedy.htm](http://www.fresh-films.com/comedy.htm).
- > PRHS earned two awards from the 15th Annual Robert Morris University Television and Video Teachers’ Consortium Awards Program in Moon Township April 15, 2008. PR competed against 15 schools from Western PA and Ohio and earned awards in the “Performing Arts” and “School Announcements” categories. Graduates **Trey Dillen** and **Tyler Deal** and Video Production III student **Leo Frazier** earned an award in the Performing Arts Category for a music video they created for a band called Calling Attraction. In addition, the entire PR-TV class earned the award for “School Announcements” category. Teacher **Aaron Koehler** says this is the first time PRHS has earned awards at the festival.
- > 2008 Graduate **Kevin Connelly** served as a sideline reporter for [www.highschoolplaybook.com](http://www.highschoolplaybook.com) for WTAE-TV 4, during the 2007-2008 school year.



- > Pine-Richland High School student Natalie Ficco, while in ninth grade, took home a top award in a national contest. She earned first place in the “Make Sense of Your Makeup” Braincake design contest and earned a \$250 scholarship. The contest was part of the Girl, Math & Science Partnership, through the Carnegie Science Center, an initiative aimed at engaging, educating and embracing girls as architects of change.

### Awareness Through Art

- > Pine-Richland Middle School student Lindsay Miller was a finalist in the Highmark Healthy High 5 Anti-Bullying Poster contest. The sixth grader was one of 10 other students to make it to the final competition with her entry entitled “Bullying Isn’t a Good Reflection”.





## Architecture & Technology

2008 graduate **Lauren Novak** earned second place in the nation in the Association of Women in Construction Architectural Drafting Competition. She earned first place at the regional and local levels. At the local level, **Shelby Merilli** earned second place and **Evan Hunter** earned third place. Students in Teacher **Jeff Maple's** class had to create designs for a dentist office.

Judges named Pine-Richland High School (PRHS) as "2008 Overall Winner" at the 17th Annual Drafting Competition and Technology Fair at Butler Community College (BCCC) for the fifth straight year on April 30, 2008. In the architectural drafting by hand category, the following students earned awards: **Nathan Irwin** (First), **Stuart Mon-ske** (Second Place) and **Lauren Novak** (Third Place). Other award winners include: **Scott Simpson** (First Place/Mechanical Drawing by Hand) and **Julien Legendre** (Third Place/Solidworks 3D Mechanical Software Category). In the Architectural Desktop via Computer category **Shelby Merilli** (First Place), **Gabrielle Conlon** (Second Place) and **Phil Marchetti** (Third Place) earned awards.



Scott Simpson

Eleventh grader **Scott Simpson** participated in the Fallingwater Student Residency Program July 9-16, 2008. He was one of only 12 students from around the US, Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Puerto Rico and Korea to participate in the program. Each summer, participants view Frank Lloyd Wright's creation in Mill Run, PA, sketch and learn from experts in the field.

2008 graduates **Cath-erine Franks** (Seventh Place/Transportation Modeling), **Nik Capitano**, **John DeLacio**, **Nick**

**Feldman**, **Justin Shao**, **Alex Whittington** and **Lauren Novak** (Eighth Place/CAD Architectural 2D) and juniors **Ariel Kelley**, **Rich Burgess**, **Zach Simmonds** competed at the National Technology Student Association's National Conference June 27 – July 2, 2008 in Orlando, under the direction of TSA Advisor Evan Clark. Team Catalyst took fifth place and Team Rampage took ninth place. At the PA State TSA Championships held at Seven Springs Resort April 9-12, 2008, Novak (CAD Architectural 2D) placed first, Burgess placed eighth (CAD Engineering 3D), **Caitlin Devor** (Desktop Publishing) placed fourth (Desktop Publishing) and third (Extemporaneous Presentation), **Matt Oldfield** placed sixth (Cyberspace Pursuit) and 10th (Engineering Design), **Brian Seaman** placed 10th (Engineering Design), **Chris Zoelle** placed fifth (Radio Controlled Transporta-

tion), **Mike Hagan** placed fifth (Radio Controlled Transportation), Franks placed third (Transportation Modeling). Team Rampage and Team Catalyst placed second out of nine teams, earning the spot to compete nationally. Team Rampage members included: Whittington, Simmonds, Shao, Burgess and Feldman. Team Catalyst included Capitano, Franks, Kelley and DeLacio.

## Leadership

- PRMS student **Cameron Barnes** attended the National Young Leaders State Conference in Pennsylvania Feb. 28-March 2, where he joined a very select group of some of the most highly acclaimed students in Pennsylvania to take part in an extraordinary leadership conference sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. Barnes has been invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration on January 9, 2009. Barnes also participated in a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC March 17-23, 2008.



Cameron Barnes

- 2008 graduate **Sarah Clouse** earned the Gold Award, the highest honor a female scout can achieve in the Girl Scouts. To earn the honor, she organized the Miles for Meals 5K run in North Park April 20, 2008.
- The Girl Scouts – Trillium Council announced 2008 graduate **Michelle Calabrese** as an honoree in its 2008 Women & Girls of Distinction Awards program for demonstrating achievement in the category of technology and innovation. She was honored at an awards reception on May 6, 2008 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel in Pittsburgh.
- 2008 graduates **Tyler Grubbs** and **Nate Blandino** (1st Place/Management Decision Making), earned fourth place at the National Future Business Leaders Competition in Atlanta in June of 2008. Pine-Richland High School students earned several top state awards at the PA State Future Business Leaders of America Competition in Hershey, PA on April 1, 2008. Winners included: Grubbs and Blandino (1st Place/Management Decision Making), **John DeLacio** and **Phil Rader** and senior **Alan Boyd** (2nd Place/Entrepreneurship), seniors **Cory Lammie**, **Joe Kwon** and **Nick Capitano** (3rd Place/Management Information Systems), 2008 graduate **Peter Hilton** (5th/Networking Concepts) and junior **Derek Feger** (7th/Business Law) under the direction of FBLA sponsors **Joe Domagala** and **Beth Fox**.
- The *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* named PRHS students **Kayla McMurry**, **Caitlin Molloy**, **Claire Senita** and **Stacey Weismann** "Outstanding Young Citizens" for community service and academic achievement.

## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Inducts Alumni Into Hall of Fame



Jeff Calhoun



Jonathan Passavant



Martin McKinney



Stephen Frick

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund inducted three more honorees into the Pine-Richland Hall of Fame on March 26, 2008. PROF made the announcement, during the district's 50th celebration and a special PR's finest concert at Pine-Richland High School. Inductees included:

- > 1978 Richland High graduate **Jeff Calhoun**, who is directing the stage performance of "Disney's High School Musical on Tour" internationally
- > 1997 PRHS graduate **Jonathan Passavant**, model and founder of the Model Home Project, which works to assist Habitat for

Humanity

- > Former Pine Elementary student **Martin McKinney** for his community work and work with Together for Retarded Youth (TRY), Inc.
- > **Stephen Frick**, 1986 RHS graduate, was the first inductee into the hall of fame and was recognized for his recent mission. Frick commanded the crew aboard the space shuttle Atlantis to deliver the European Space Agency's Columbus laboratory and return Expedition 16 flight engineer Daniel M. Tani to Earth. The mission touched down Feb. 20, 2008.

Calhoun announced that he would sponsor a \$5,000 arts award each year to a deserving senior pursuing a career or degree in theater arts.

PROF President **Don Foster** helped introduce the new inductees as well as some retired teachers: **William Machiko**, **Robert Marshall** and **John Seftas**.

#### 2008 PROF Board of Trustees

President <b>Don Foster</b>	Trustees	<b>Paul Hightower</b>
Vice Pres. <b>Michael Young</b>	<b>Sally Beatty</b>	<b>Linda Honeywill</b>
Treasurer <b>Larry Schuster</b>	<b>Hank Compennolle</b>	<b>David Lemley</b>
Secretary <b>Cindy Dillen</b>	<b>Thomas Doaty</b>	<b>Beth Montgomery</b>
	<b>Barbara Freitag</b>	<b>Janet Rader</b>
	<b>Leo Gensante</b>	<b>Patti Sinetar</b>
	<b>Liz Gensante</b>	

Non-voting trustees include: **Stephen Hawbaker**, PR School board president, teacher **Jill Linsz**, representing the Pine-Richland Education Association; and **Dr. James C. Manley**, PR superintendent. Co-executive directors include **Anthony DiTommaso** and **Rachel Hathhorn**.

The purpose of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund is to enrich, foster and promote education, to encourage and reward academic excellence and achievement, while supporting unique, creative and innovative instructional and educational programs for students and to reward, encourage and recognize students.

Please read more about PROF and how you can contribute to the foundation's cause by visiting: [www.pinerichland.org/oppfund.html](http://www.pinerichland.org/oppfund.html).

#### Athletic Alums

- > 2004 PRHS graduate **Michael Van Sickle**, a Marquette University golfer, took third in the 50th Annual Porter in July 2008 in Lewiston, N.Y. The college senior is ranked No. 36 in the Scratch Players World Amateur Ranking.
- > 2005 PRHS graduate **Julia Buck**, who is playing women's tennis and majoring in Christian ministries at Geneva College, was named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor in the fall 2007 semester, along with 2004 PRHS graduate **James Fawcett**, who is earning a communication degree and playing football. The academic honor roll honors student athletes who are excelling academically in their studies.

## STAFF RECOGNITION



Dr. James C. Manley earns the 2007-2008 Tri-State Area School Study Council's Distinguished Educator Award. Colleagues and family help celebrate the occasion.

## Professional Awards & Accomplishments

The University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Area School Study Council awarded **Dr. James C. Manley**, Pine-Richland School District superintendent, with the 2007-2008 Distinguished Educator Award in December 2008. Dr. Manley serves as the co-chairperson of the Allegheny County Superintendents Management Committee and on the executive board for the Superintendents' Forum. He is a member of the Board of Governors for the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. This year, he spoke on "Data Management and the Transformation Blueprint" at the workshop for new superintendents in Pennsylvania. He will present the "Transformation Blueprint" again this fall at the PASA-PSBA State Conference in October 15, 2008, along with **Dr. Bille Rondinelli**, assistant superintendent/secondary, **Dr. Mary Bucci**, assistant superintendent/elementary and PR school director **Rich Herko**.

Westminster College awarded **Dr. Bille Rondinelli**, assistant superintendent/secondary, with an "Alumni Citation" Sept. 28, 2007. She was one of only five to receive the prestigious award in 2007 that recognizes alumni who achieve significant accomplishments in his/her profession. She will be presenting Oct. 30, 2008 at the University of Pittsburgh's Tri-state Summit, along with Pupil Personnel Services Director **Michael Loughead**, PRHS Assistant Principal **John Pietrusinski** and PRHS Teacher **Michelle Switala**, who also participated at the National Curriculum Mapping Conference in Utah in July 2007. Leadership Pittsburgh XXV Board of Directors invited

Dr. Rondinelli to participate in their program and offered her an Educational Leaders fellowship from the Grable Foundation. She will have the opportunity to study, propose innovative solutions and network with other established leaders in the community.

**Dr. Ronald Meisberger**, technology director, was named a finalist in the Pittsburgh "CIO of the Year" Award in the Enterprise category on February 6, 2008. The program recognizes chief information officers who are deemed leaders in technology.



CIO Finalist of Year

Pupil Services Director **Michael Loughead** will present at the Power of Two: Progress & Achievement 2008 National Value-Added Conference in Columbus, OH on October 6-8, 2008.

**Paula Schmitt**, director of special education, serves on the Pine-Richland Youth Center's board for Special Needs SERVE (Social Enrichment, Emotional Supports, Recreational Outlets, Vocational Awareness and Educational Achievements) program.

Director of Fiscal & Management Services **Douglas McCausland** and Business Manager **Dana Siford** presented at the Public Association of School Board Officials "Elements of Budgeting & Planning" workshop on Oct. 5, 2007 in Warrendale, PA. In addition, McCausland served as a PASBO project review team member in a review of New Kensington-Arnold School District business operations. He was elected as treasurer of West Central PASBO for a two year term beginning June 1, 2008, appointed to the PSBA Insurance Trust Advisory Committee for 2008-09, and chosen to serve as a member of the PASBO transportation and security committees. McCausland and PR School Director **Rich Herko** will present a session on "Designing and Using Paperless Budgetary and Planning Models to Meet Changing Needs of Districts" at the National School Board Association Technology & Learning Conference in Seattle, WA in October 2008.

Business Manager **Dana Siford** served as treasurer for PASBO's West Central Chapter in 2007-2008 and has been promoted to vice-president for 2008-2009 and will serve as president in 2009-2010. Siford was recognized for fulfilling all personal, ethical and professional requirements established by the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials. Siford and McCausland also taught a PASBO course "Elements of Governmental Fund Accounting" on Oct. 25, 2007.

Schools & Community Relations Coordinator **Rachel Hathhorn** earned six awards of excellence in the 2007-2008 publications contests sponsored by the National School Public Relations Association, the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for the calendar, annual report and Eden Hall poster. In addition, Hathhorn presented a session on "Surviving the 6 O'clock News" at the NSPRA "Power of

Transparency and Integrity in Communications" conference in Washington, DC On July 8, 2008.

The Western Pennsylvania Librarians Association awarded Pine-Richland Middle School (PRMS) Principal **Dr. Kathleen Harrington** with the WPSLA Advocate of the Year Award at a school board meeting on May 20, 2008.



Dr. Kathleen Harrington, shown here at a senior citizen dinner, earned the Western PA Librarians Association's Advocate of the Year Award.

**Dr. Al Wille** serves as a board member for the Pine-Richland Youth Center, on the advisory board at Indiana University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Counseling and as board president of the Northern Area Alliance Against Highly Addictive Drugs.

**Dr. Yvonne Hawkins**, accepted a position as director of curriculum and instruction at Chartiers Valley School District. She serves as co-director of the Slippery Rock University Professional Development School Executive Council.

**Dr. Richard Pysch**, Hance Elementary principal, served on the Value of High Stakes Testing panel at the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary Principals conference in March in Harrisburg. In addition, he was among 30 nominees for Pennsylvania's representative for National Distinguished Principal.

**John Pietrusinski**, assistant high school principal, and Pysch present at the University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Politics on a session in regard to the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System at Southpointe, Pa in June 2008.



Vince Thearle

Pine-Richland High School teacher **Vince Thearle** earned National Board Certification in art from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He is one of only two teachers in Pennsylvania to achieve national certification in art in 2007.

Teachers **Erika Ferczak** and **Rachel Lancaster** accepted the Standards of Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania Family and Consumer Sciences Association for its Pine-Richland Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences Department for having the best program among

middle and high schools in the state on April 11, 2008 at the 85th Annual PAFCS Conference in Lancaster, PA.

For the second year running, computer technician **Matthew Over** has been apple-recertified.

Teacher **Holly Angeloff**, **Laurie Jones** and **Jennifer Latronica** were inducted into the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's Alpha Xi Chapter, an international honor society of women educators, on May 3, 2008 in Ben Avon, PA

## Teachers Earn Record Number Nominations in PR History

The Teacher Excellence Center honored Hance Elementary teachers **Anne Haught** and **Shelley Byers** for being named to the 2008 Hall of Fame and PRHS teacher **Tom Joyce** and Hance Elementary teacher **Donna Faux** for being named honorees in this year's program. In all, a PR record number of 91 PRSD teachers were nominated.



Teachers Tom Joyce and Donna Faux earn Teacher Excellence Awards.

## PRHS Varsity Cheerleaders Capture Seventh Place in National Competition

The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Cheerleaders earned seventh place at the United Cheerleading Association's National Competition held at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL, February 7 – February 12, 2008. The team qualified for participation in nationals, during a regional competition at Slippery Rock University. The girls made it to the semi-finals, along with 48 other teams. Winning squad members include: now sophomore cheerleaders **Natalie Cunningham**, **Ashley Henley**, **Stephanie Kamenicky**, **Kim Rossi** and **Erin Wise**, now junior cheerleader **Rochelle Roberts**, now senior cheerleaders **Emma Holmes**, **Alexis Meyers**, **Alicia McDonald**, **Jordan Sender** and 2008 graduates **Julie Banyas**, **Caitlin Brunner**, **Chelsea Crawford**, **Casey Garrow**, **Emily Hitechew**, **Alyssa McAnney**, **Shannon McGorry**, **Lauren Roberts**, **Jackie Schindler** and **Kara Sloniger**. Winning coaches include **Danielle Hitson** and **Daniella DeRenzo**.



PRHS Varsity Cheerleaders compete in Orlando, FL.

## SPORTS

*The Pine-Richland Hockey Team earned its first Class AAA Penguins Cup title in 2008. However, this was the third PIHL high school hockey title in a row for the Rams, after winning back-to-back crowns in Class AA.*



### Baseball

PR junior **Mitchell Elliott** was selected to the All-Section Baseball Team.

### Football

The Rams earned the Co-Greater Allegheny Conference Championship Title, and quarterback **Vinny Nittoli** made First Team All-State as a Linebacker.

### Gymnastics

The Rams took home first place in floor exercise, second place on the uneven bars and balance beam, and fourth on the vault from the WPIAL Gymnastics Championships held at Moon Area Middle School on Feb. 9, 2008. Overall the team, placed third in the competition. In the advanced/diamond division, now-senior **Sarah Hein** was the uneven bars champion, placed third on the floor exercise and earned fifth in the all-around. Now junior **Jess Pritchard** placed second on uneven bars, balance beam, the floor exercise and the all-around. In the intermediate one/gold division, now-sophomore **Alyssa Wozniak** was the floor exercise champion. 2008 graduate **Brittany Wozniak**, competed on the uneven bars placing sixth in the gold division, despite having an injury.

### Hockey

The Pine-Richland Hockey Team earned its first Class AAA Penguins Cup title, and the third PIHL high school hockey title in a row for Pine-Richland, after winning back-to-back crowns in Class AA. PR is the only team to earn back-to-back penguin cups in two different classes (AA and AAA).

The Saginaw Michigan Spirit selected hockey player **Brandon Saad**, who at the time was a freshman, in the first round of the Ontario Hockey League draft in May 2008.

The Pine-Richland Middle School Inline Hockey Team defeated the Burrell Buccaneers and earned its first gold medal in the Bladerunners U14 In-House League Championship. The PRMS JV White Inline Hockey Team earned gold, as well, after defeating Latrobe at Neville Island, the Varsity Inline Hockey Team placed second in the championships and PRMS Tier placed third for PR.

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League ranked five Pine-Richland players in its top 10 player standings in their respective divisions. They include: **Nate Fleissner** (Fourth/JV Tier II), **Nick Carnovale** (Ninth/MS Tier II), eighth graders: **CJ Matthews** (First/MS Tier III), **Matt Whitford** (Third/MS Tier III) and **Matt Hrydil** (Fourth/MS Tier III).

Students who made the National Field Hockey Coaches Academic Squad during their senior year in 2007-2008 include: **Julie Behr**, **Maggie Christenson**, **Gabrielle Conlon**, **Maggie Cuddy**, **Jessica Gage**, and **Lauren Novak**. These students achieved at least a cumulative 3.5 out of 4.0 scale in the first quarter of their senior year.

### Lacrosse

Goalie **Evan Malchano** earned US Lacrosse All-American status for the 2008 season and player **Ryan Nelson** earned US Lacrosse Academic All-American status for 2008 season: These are the highest level awards given to high-school lacrosse players.

### Rowing

The Pine-Richland High School Women's Junior 4+ Rowing Team placed 10th overall and the women's junior 2x team placed 12th overall in the Scholastic Rowing Association of America's National

## PR Rams Move Up to Quad A



*The Pine-Richland Rams Football Team began a new era this fall, as it joins the ranks of North Hills, North Allegheny and Shaler in Class AAAA. "We are really excited about it," said Pine-Richland Athletic Director and Football Head Coach Clair Altemus. "This has meaning and is our chance to bring in bigger crowds and build new rivalries." North Journal, January 30, 2008.*

Championship Regatta in Oakridge, TN May 23 and May 24, 2008. On May 10, 2008, the Pine-Richland Crew competed in the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships against 29 other high school scholastic rowing programs from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Western Pennsylvania. The PRHS Women's Junior 4+ was successful in placing fourth overall. The PRHS women's 2x also qualified and competed against 12 other high school teams. Rowers include: **Stephanie Zang, Kate Jeffrey, Ashley Wright, Maureen Hilton, Liz Young, Rachel Hilton** and **Lora DeVenzio**.

### Soccer

Students **Michelle Calabrese, Tori Pikur, Adrienne Steckel, Christie Kimball** and **Katie Wise** were named All-Section in soccer, Calabrese, Steckel, Kimball, Wise were named All-WPIAL, Steckel, Kimball, Wise were named All-State, and Steckel and Kimball were named Regional All-American.

### Swimming

Senior swimmer **Caitlin Molloy** earned All-American status in swimming for the 2007-08 season for her performance in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:02:38. Molloy earned 10th in the state in the 500 and 12th in the state in the 200 at the PIAA State Swimming Championships March 12-13, 2008, at Bucknell University. She set new PR records in the 200 Freestyle (1:56.66) and 500 Freestyle (5:02.38) events.

### Tennis

2008 graduate **Sarah Lynch** finished up her high school tennis career with a fourth place finish in the PIAA State Championship Singles Tournament in Hershey, PA on Nov. 2 and Nov. 3, 2007. She earned sectional singles championship at the WPIAL Championships. The last time that Pine-Richland had a sectional singles champion was 16 years ago. **Olivia Heim** finished third.

Senior **Casey Watt** earned his third WPIAL Class AAA Singles Tennis Championship over Upper St. Clair's Jay Jones on April 18, 2008, at North Allegheny. He is ranked among the top 10 seniors in the country.

### Track & Field

Pine-Richland High School eleventh grader **Katie Wise** took eleventh in the women's triple jump at the PA State Track & Field Championship Meet at Shippensburg University on May 24, 2008. She recorded a jump of 36'11 1/2". Coach **Brian Devinney** says this is a personal best for Wise and a new school record.

### Volleyball

Player **Carolyn Steger** earned a spot on the Pennsylvania Class AAA All-State Volleyball Team.

### Wrestling

2008 graduate **Sam Brehm** qualified for states as a senior. Brehm is the only PR student to ever qualify for AAA states in wrestling. He has had 116 career wins, a school record for victories.

## New Initiatives

### Guidance Website Launched

In an effort to provide parents with more information, the district developed a comprehensive site, which can be accessed at [www.pinerichlandguidance.org](http://www.pinerichlandguidance.org).

Specifically, the site will give parents and students access to the following resources:

#### Guidance Counselor Information

#### Graduation Planning

#### Academic Enrichment Opportunities

#### Testing Information

#### Career Planning & Assessment

#### College Preparation

#### Alumni Outreach

#### Calendar of Events

### Senior Citizens Volunteer Program

The district is working on finalizing a senior citizen volunteer program. School Director Aafke Loney says the district is drafting the SMILES program, which stands for Senior Motivators in Learning and Exchanges Services. The initiative is designed to tap into the expertise of senior citizens right here in the Pine-Richland Community. For more details, contact Schools and Community Relations Coordinator Rachel Hathhorn at (724) 625-7773, ext. 6202. While the program does not have any tax breaks associated with it, senior citizens are encouraged to sign up for the PA State Tax Rebate program. For more information, visit [www.pinerichland.org/rebate.htm](http://www.pinerichland.org/rebate.htm) for details. Seniors have until Dec. 31, 2008 to sign up for a rebate.



### High School Expansion

The Pine-Richland School Board authorized the administration to approach firms about conducting an expansion feasibility study at the high school. The building was expanded in 2000 to hold 1,500 students. The building is at near capacity with more than 1,450 students enrolled. The district hopes to start the feasibility study by January and complete it by the end of the 2008-09 school year.

### SAFE/DO The Right Thing

The district instituted the Do the Right Thing/See Act Follow through Every Day (SAFE) initiative in 2007-2008. The program encourages staff members and students to be vigilant by watching for strangers on school grounds and to report incidents in which someone is harming others. As a result, students have been participating in sessions about responsible reporting, cyber safety and cyber bullying.

## Pen to Publication

PR student **Branden Glass** earned first place in the National Daughters of American Revolution 2007-2008 Essay Contest. While as an eighth grader, he wrote an essay entitled "I Spy Espionage During the American Revolution." He traveled July 10, 2008 to DC to present his essay. Glass also earned first place in the DeMolay, "What Is Right with America" oratorical competition and named winner of NexTier Bank's Essay Competition, "Why Saving Money Is Important".



Branden Glass

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency along with the PA Middle School Association named **Branden Glass** as winner

of the "Month of the Young Adolescent" Essay Contest. Nine other pre-AP English students were finalists. They included: **J. Alexandra Brachocki, Raychel Shipley, Rachel Baur, Jonathan Marks, Laura Herrle, Ellen Graszl, Eric Barth, Cameron Barnes** and **Annie Milano**.

Fifth grader **Sarah Libby** was named a finalist in the River of Words Environmental Poetry and Art Contest, in affiliation with the Library of Congress Center for the Book. She earned the status while a fourth grader at Richland Elementary.

The Ancient Scottish Rite of Freemasonry named **Jonathan Marks**, an 8th grade student at Pine-Richland Middle School, as a winner in its annual "What My Family Means to Me" essay contest.



The Class of 2008 made a generous gift to future generations at Pine-Richland School District. They had a sand volleyball court built near the middle school and stadium. 2008 graduate John DeLacio, shown here, helped spearhead the project. Photo courtesy: Doug Oster, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



**PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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