

FOX TALES

Quarterly

A STUDENT PUBLICATION



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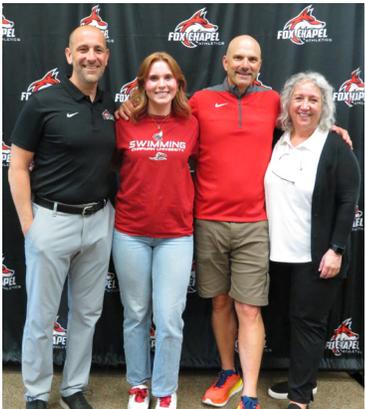


28. PMEA
States





Signing day



FC Receives Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Fox Chapel Area High School has earned the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded young women's access in AP computer science courses and improved gender representation in computer science.

A total of 1,127 schools were acknowledged for their work toward equal gender representation in one of the two AP computer science courses. In 2023, Fox Chapel Area High School was one of 834 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles.

"Computer science is the source code of our economy and much of the career landscape," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. "In the six years since we began the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, it's been heartening to see schools like Fox Chapel Area High School welcome so many more young women into this vital field."

The first year of AP Computer Science Principles in 2016-17 attracted more students than any other AP course debut, and participation is on the rise. In 2023, 164,505 students took the AP Computer Science Principles Exam – more than triple the number of exam takers in the course's first year. In 2023, 55,572 women took the AP Computer Science Principles Exam, more than four times the number who tested in 2017.

Students Qualify for National and International History Bees

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Regional History Bee in February. Senior Logan Dressman placed third in the varsity division and sophomore Karsten Buchert won sixth place in the junior varsity division. Both students qualified for the National History Bee and the International History Olympiad. The National History Bee will be held in Arlington, Virginia, in late April 2024, and the International History Olympiad will be held in July 2025 in London, England. The Western Pennsylvania Regional History Bee was held at South Side Area High School in Hookstown, Pennsylvania. The contest was sponsored by International Academic Competitions.



Logan Dressman



Karsten Buchert

PSAT/ NMSQT High Scorers

Thirty Fox Chapel Area High School rising seniors are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants on the 2023 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and have met the requirements to enter the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are: Omar Al-Bataineh, Murugan Ayyanar, David Black, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Noelle Dick, Maya DiPasquale, Benjamin Fiedler, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Rayna Huang, Moonyoung Hwang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Alex Kim, Evan Krieg, Arnim Kuchhal, Nathan Mackey, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Zhana Neumann, Pierce Osterholm, Rachel Pegher, Hyunoh Ro, Caleb Shirk, David Sorisio, Rohit Velankar, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou. More than 1.3 million students took the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT and these Fox Chapel Area students are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants on that test from across the nation and have shown outstanding academic potential.

Approximately 16,000 of these highest scoring students will be named National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists in September 2024, representing the top scorers in each state, and approximately 34,000 of the students will be commended for their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. The Semifinalists will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for about 7,140 Merit Scholarship awards to be offered in 2025.



Bots IQ Grand Champions!

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students was named the national grand champion in the 'Burgh Bash national invitational tournament, sponsored by the Southwestern PA BotsIQ, a workforce development program by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling & Machining Foundation. The Fox Chapel Area team was awarded first place in documentation, first place in competition (battle), and was crowned the national grand champion for the second consecutive year.

Senior club president Eduardo Phelan-Vidal designed this year's 15-pound combat bot, Black Bird. Senior Aiden Purcell helped with the design of the bot. Junior Jackson Hagler and sophomore Benjamin Sun handled the electrical engineering tasks and drove Black Bird during the competition. Additional manufacturing, construction, and documentation efforts were handled by team members seniors Ava McCaffrey and Lucy Rygelski; juniors

Riley Puklus, Graeson Santucci, and Keegan Scanlon; sophomores Jackson Biehl, Krisztian Salvador, and Jacob Williams; and freshmen Zhanyu "Eric" Jiang, Mikhail Lukichev, Ayush Patel, Mateo Phelan-Vidal, and Georgy Pistsov. The team was advised by teachers Ryan Siniawski and Justin Papariello; parent and engineer Edward Phelan;

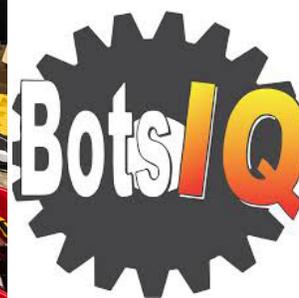
and its industry partner, Pittsburgh-based Aerotech Inc. A total of 33 high school and college teams from across the United States participated in the 'Burgh Bash national invitational tournament. The competition was held May 17 and 18, 2024, at Robert Morris University.

Prior to being named the overall

grand champion at the BotsIQ 'Burgh Bash national invitational tournament, the team participated in the Pennsylvania BotsIQ Finals Competition in April where they were named the overall grand champion.



BotsIQ is a workforce development program by the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Foundation. It nurtures youth's interest in manufacturing careers, offering hands-on learning experiences to foster STEM education, provide technical resources to schools, and connect students with industry mentors. BotsIQ aims to bridge the skills gap and build a competent future manufacturing workforce.



Students Explore Law Fields at Pitt

By Karsten Buchert

On April 15th, I and a handful of other Fox Chapel students had the pleasure of attending the Northern Area Gifted Consortium's annual "Law Day" event. This year it was held at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's Barco Law building. The program began with an engaging lecture from Professor Rob Wible on personal injury cases involving minors and the concept of negligence. Two legal cases were discussed, an actual one covering an incident where a minor was injured from touching a high voltage wire while traversing a tall structure at an old steel plant, and a fake one that was made up for the purpose of the lesson. We were asked to provide our own examinations and inquiries on the latter hypothetical case. While the circumstances he proposed were quite farcical, a five-year-old boy hijacking a piece of construction equipment and sustaining injuries, the potential for deep analytical thinking was most certainly there and gave us a look into the mind of a lawyer.



Students heard from current law students and engaged in a mock case study lesson with professor Rob Wible as part of the University of Pittsburgh Law Day.

Once the nearly hour-long mock lesson concluded, Pitt Law Director of Admission Michelle Yingling gave a brief presentation on getting into law school. Key takeaways were that virtually any undergraduate major will suffice (however

humanities are preferable and a STEM major would need to demonstrate reading and writing skills with courses), a high LSAT (the test you must take to apply to law school) score is 160 or above, and while earning their undergraduate degree, students interested in attending law school should consider reaching out to an advisor who can help them along their "pre-law" track. Finally, we participated

in an open Q&A session with a panel of current Pitt Law students. Overall the experience was certainly insightful and I found it beneficial to my understanding of a possible future career in law! If you are interested in attending next year, please keep up with QUEST monthly newsletters or reach out to Mrs. Gibson in the QUEST student center, room 168.

Carson Scholars



Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore Joanna Li was named a 2024 Carson Scholar, and senior Henry Koloc had his status as a Carson Scholar renewed and was

recognized for the fourth time. They were invited to attend the 20th Annual Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Awards Ceremony April 7 at Acrisure Stadium where they were honored for their accomplishments.

Thousands of students from across the nation are nominated each year by educators based on their high academic achievement and their commitment to their communities through community service. This year, 570 students from across the nation, and 89 from Pennsylvania, were named 2024 Carson Scholars. Additionally, 936 students (125 from Pennsylvania) had their Carson Scholar status renewed.

Each year the fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships and the coveted honor of being named a Carson Scholar to a select group of high-achieving students in grades 4-11 who not only demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, maintaining at least a 3.75 GPA, but also embody significant humanitarian qualities. The students also receive an Olympic-sized medal and a certificate.

To date, the Carson Scholars Fund has awarded more than 11,049 scholarships to students. The Carson Scholars Fund was started by Dr. Ben Carson and his wife, Candy, and is dedicated to impacting the nation in a positive way by cultivating future leaders who are academically talented and socially conscious. The fund is a nonprofit public charity based in Maryland.

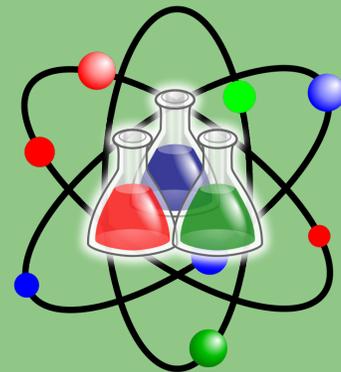


Joanna Li



Henry Koloc

Student Success at PJAS and PRSEF STEM Events



Fourteen Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students won awards as part of the 2024 Region 7 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). A total of seven of those students qualified for the state competition. Fox Chapel Area first-place winners were senior Lakshanya Rajaganapathi; juniors Anna Delale-O'Connor, Etash Jhanji, and Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj; and freshmen Rachel Kim, Heidi Stiger, and Param Thawani. The first-place winners qualified for the state PJAS competition which will be held May 19-21, 2024, at Penn State University, Main Campus. Second-place awards went to seniors Adhitya Thirumala and Gabriella Urso; junior Alison Clark; sophomores Joanna Li and Zehra Ozkaya; eighth-grader Divya Thirumala; and seventh-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy.

Additionally, Lakshanya received a perseverance award and the Carnegie Mellon University – Margaret Carver Diversity, Equity and Inclusion special award; Adhitya also received a perseverance award; Varnujah received a perfect score award; and Heidi won the Pitt Swanson School

of Engineering – Excellence in Engineering special award. The participating students (from several schools from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties) researched their science projects for several months. During the competition, each of the students was required to make a presentation in front of a panel of judges. The regional competition was held February 3 at Baldwin High School.

Nine Fox Chapel Area School District students won awards at the 2024 Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF). Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader Divya Thirumala was named the first-place winner in the intermediate division of the consumer science category. Seventh-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy

received first place in the intermediate division earth & environment category, a sponsor award from the Allegheny County Health Department, and an affiliated sponsor award from the Office of Naval Research. Sixth-grader Cora Good won first place in the junior division of the behavioral & consumer science category. As a result of their category wins, Divya, Rishabh, and Cora have all been nominated for the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge. Additionally, Fox Chapel Area High School junior Rohit Velankar received second place in the senior division physics & astronomy category. Senior Lakshanya Rajaganapathi won an honorable mention in the senior division of the medicine/health/microbiology category.

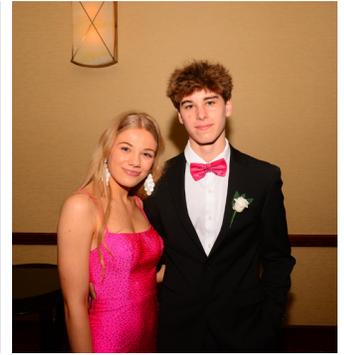
Junior Etash Jhanji won an honorable mention award in the senior division of the computer science/math category. Junior Benjamin Fiedler won an affiliated sponsor award from the Office of Naval Research. Freshman Param Thawani won sponsor awards from Aerotech and

Bayer. Sophomore Ulyana Kubini received a scholarship award from Mount Aloysius College. The PRSEF is open to students in grades 6-12 from 21 counties in Western Pennsylvania and Garrett County in Maryland. Each year, students from nearly 100 schools spend up to 12 months developing and executing a project and compete for more than \$1 million in cash, scholarships, and trips. All of the students who participated in the fair conducted individual science research and presented their projects to a committee of judges. The judging took place April 2 and 3 at the Carnegie Science Center, a virtual awards ceremony was held April 5, and a showcase for all first place winners was held April 6.



PJAS stands for Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, a nonprofit organization that promotes science and math interest in students in grades 7–12. PJAS was founded in 1934 by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science as an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair is affiliated with the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and sends four Senior Division students on an all-expenses paid trip to attend ISEF every year. ALL Senior Division students who participate in PRSEF may apply to attend Regeneron ISEF.





Annual Opportunities Fair Offers Students a Multitude of Choices

By Vesta Homayoun

The annual Opportunities Fair took place on April 18th during third period, providing students with an array of organizations and programs to explore. Each individual opportunity had a booth to showcase their objectives, ultimately allowing students to gain insight of the various chances available to them. These booths ranged in topic from life after high school to jobs and volunteer locations. The fair served as a valuable platform for students to jump into the diverse opportunities that matched with individual interests.

The presence of the Armed Forces added another dimension to the fair, with multiple branches being represented by their own booths. These booths, containing pamphlets and personal information sheets encouraged students to explore alternative career paths beyond traditional academia. It was also interesting to learn about the many ways in which the Armed Forces could help subsidize one's post-secondary education.

The fair also offered valuable insights into opportunities to give back to the community for those looking to do more community service. Notable organizations, such as the Cooper-Siegel Community Library and UPMC St. Margaret's were highlighted as potential locations for fulfilling service hour requirements. Not only does UPMC St. Margaret have a ton of volunteer opportunities, but high school students can also shadow professionals in virtually any department and can also get paid positions!

Additionally, this event presented students with job opportunities that offer experiences and skill developments. Jobs presented here included working at Pittsburgh Field Club, Chick-Fil-A, Kumon, and many more. This provides highschool students the chance to earn extra money as well

as gain valuable work experiences over the summer.

Ultimately, the Opportunities Fair not only serves as a chance for students to broaden their horizons, but also equips them with valuable insights and resources that can help them navigate their future endeavors. The annual opportunities fair has been offered for 20 years now

and has "grown tremendously during that time" according to school counselor John Baxter who is responsible for organizing the fair each year. He stated that "the purpose of the

Opportunities Fair is to expose all students in grades 9-12 vendors representing a variety of choices they can explore and take advantage of immediately. These

opportunities range from employment and volunteer options to studying abroad, summer camps,

internships, branches of the military, union trades and gap year options. In addition, we also have a large number of private and public colleges, universities, technical schools and trade schools representing multiple states. This year we had to cap our vendor

participation at 118. Each year we get tons of positive feedback from our vendors complimenting our school, the uniqueness of our event and our students professionalism and preparation. The fair results in many, many students connecting with options they will use moving forward." It will be very exciting to see what diverse range of options is offered next year!



Finished!



By Madeleine Stone

ACROSS

- 1 Back of a 45
- 6 "The Lion King" protagonist
- 11 Meas. for sound
- 14 Smell of some furniture polish
- 15 "Don't beat ___ horse"
- 16 Fighters' org. dealing with TKOs
- 17 Produces, as light
- 18 Listened compassionately
- 20 Sliding pane in a frame*
- 22 It's sandwiched between Fr. and Ger.
- 23 Vibe
- 24 Tall tale
- 25 Like so
- 28 Informal calling
- 31 Talk over (with "out")
- 32 Dry hair protector*
- 36 Portion of a circle
- 37 Must have this much
- 39 Bartender from "The Simpsons"
- 40 Dress for sleeping*
- 42 Track
- 43 Friendship
- 44 Pickling juices
- 46 Grounds
- 49 Draft picks
- 50 Furry critter inhabiting Endor

- 51 Tassel moving ceremony and a hint to the ends of the starred clues
- 57 Emergency vehicle with red lights and a blaring siren
- 59 Wash
- 60 Singer Carly ___ Jepson
- 61 Comfortably sleep outside
- 62 Meters, ounces, and stones for example
- 63 Hospital request (abbr.)
- 64 Opposite of a liability
- 65 "For ___ sake!"

DOWN

- 1 Wasted, as a chance
- 2 Word before circle or truck
- 3 Poker player's declaration
- 4 Morse code for 'A'
- 5 Fill with life
- 6 Dance or dip
- 7 It's represented by a light bulb
- 8 Clothing store section
- 9 Where you keep your rubber ducks in a row
- 10 Oral health org.
- 11 Uncool sort
- 12 What an 19D plays
- 13 Barrack leader nickname
- 19 Pro hooper
- 21 Kind of bitter humor
- 24 Worry
- 25 Comparative word
- 26 Spy Mata ___
- 27 Grp responding to an SOS
- 28 Like gum
- 29 Zombie's sound
- 30 Utterances to a gross sight
- 32 Word after coin or before machine
- 33 Informal calling
- 34 First rate
- 35 Like legs of some pirates
- 37 Cash dispensers
- 38 Letters before F?
- 41 3 lines, 17 syllables

- 42 Chapel with a famous ceiling
- 44 ___-ray disc
- 45 Rise on hind legs
- 46 Part of a Santa or Gandalf costume
- 47 "Shucks!"
- 48 Clear headed
- 49 Skilled
- 51 Guys' partners
- 52 Genetic chains
- 53 Highest point
- 54 Still vying
- 55 Bone prefix
- 56 Loch ___ Monster
- 58 JFK alt.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
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63							64					65			



Solutions on page 28!

Crazy Sports Around the World



Competitive events have become ingrained in human culture globally. It is hard to find someone who has never had the opportunity to watch some sort of sporting occasion whether it be an intense, professional-level hockey match or a little league tee ball game where the only spectators still awake are the overly ecstatic fathers. However, what if you are either just not into or end up finding yourself bored of mainstream sports? Lucky for you, I have compiled a collection of some of the most unique and exhilarating contests on this planet! Let us start our tour in the lush hills of Gloucestershire (I challenge you to name a more British toponym) in rural England. It is here that hundreds gather to chase a roll of cheese down a hill once every year. There is a relatively serious risk of injury to this and people willingly accept it despite the prize only being the at-that-point rather dirty cheese wheel.

In fact, the National Library of Medicine has archived a report on the 2006 cheese rolling contest where a bit of a “mass casualty incident” occurred. That year 25 individuals were hurt at this truly fascinating event. The tradition reportedly dates back over 600 years in local history with the cheese being made by a small family farm in town.

Moving up North in Europe, we come to the nation of Finland, allegedly the happiest country in the world at least according to statistical data. The Finns hold claim to

By Karsten Buchert

both the invention of swamp football and the man who is officially titled as the reigning world sauna champion. Swamp football is fairly self-explanatory; it is football (or soccer for us American snobs) played in a field of mud that can often be knee or even thigh-deep. Players must trudge through it in order to make goals. Finland is also the origin of the World Sauna Championships, a competition that was held in Heinola to see who has the highest heat endurance. The rules of play are simple: the last person left in the sauna wins. Saunas have long been a cultural icon in Finland and are considered sacrosanct places. The competition went on strong from 1999 until 2010. Continuation of the event was called off after Russian contestant Vladimir Ladyzhenskiy died and five-year winning Finnish champion Timo Kaukonen was hospitalized after suffering severe burns. Both spent six minutes enduring 110 degrees Celsius (230



Swamp football originated in Finland as a means of exercise for athletes and soldiers. Today, there are an estimated 260 Swamp Football teams worldwide.
Photo credit: bbc.com

degrees Fahrenheit). Going South, we stop in Germany, which is notable for its connection to motorsports with multiple acclaimed car companies and the infamous Nurburgring (which, fun fact, is a public toll road) track existing there. However, racing can be a bit fast for some. Germany is also home to the StaplerCup, a very methodical and prestigious forklift operation competition organized by forklift manufacturer, Linde. With both male and female competitors hailing from a wide array of countries, events

Crazy Sports Around the World,, continued...

include Jenga-like activities revolving around stacking or balancing objects as well maneuvering challenges. There is even a hall of fame for champions from the event. Benjamin Danker and Daniela Eilers are the most recent entrants.

If physical action and basically guaranteed risk of

injury is not your forte, then there is the immensely exhilarating, intense, sweat-inducing, Financial Modeling World Cup! This is an esport based on competitively entering data into Excel spreadsheets. Contestants must exercise their knowledge of all the keyboard shortcuts and functions.

Perhaps my personal favorite part of the competitions is how exciting the commentators make it seem, as if some

kind of gladiatorial fight to the death is about to occur.

The 2023 season champion was Laurence Lau who also



Timo Kaukonen is removed from a sauna at the 2010 World Sauna Championship, which featured competitors from over 20 countries. After the death of one and near death of another competitor in 2010 the yearly event was discontinued.

Photo credit: shutterstock.com

placed in 2022. The finals for the 2024 season will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. A full schedule of the 2024 seasons as well as the specifics to competing can be found on the event's website. To end with one more example, let's turn the spotlight to ironing clothes! But this is not just any clothes ironing, this is extreme clothes ironing. Essentially,



The Stapler Cup, held in the German town of Aschaffenberg, is a competition that tests the skills of forklift operators. Above, a contestant handles a tall load on a seesaw.

Photo credit: thedrive.com

contestants compete to iron their garments in the craziest place. These so-called "Ironists" have ironed in the Arctic Circle, 138 feet underwater, on Mount Everest, and many more obscure locations. The main challenge is lugging the ironing equipment to the desired location. The sport's few rules state that the ironing board

must have legs and be "a minimum length of 1 meter and a width of 30 centimeters." The iron must also actually be iron and clothes should be no smaller than a hand towel.

I feel like I have successfully dissected the highest tiers of human athleticism. While there is certainly a multitude of other odd sports such as chess-boxing, ostrich racing, and unicycle hockey just to name a few, a diverse range is discussed here. Perhaps this synopsis has inspired you to pursue a passion or adventure of your own!

Scholastic Writing Awards

Eighteen Fox Chapel Area School District students won awards for their submissions in the 2024 Pittsburgh Region Scholastic Writing Awards. Gold Keys were won by Fox Chapel Area High School junior Hannah Parker for her critical essay, "Letter to the Pennsylvania State Senate," and sophomore Joanna Li for her short story, "The Crimson Covenant," and Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader Eliana Wellman in the flash fiction category for "The Artist." All three of these Fox Chapel Area School District students have qualified for national judging. National award winners will be announced by Scholastics later in the spring.

Silver Keys were awarded to Fox Chapel Area High School juniors Anna Delale-O'Connor, Rayna Huang, and Sangyon Park; sophomore Veda Catone; and freshmen Nadre Digbohohou and Ella Ettinger; and Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader Talya Rubin.

Honorable Mentions went to Fox Chapel Area High School senior Emma Kim; sophomores Akshay Lath, Joanna Li (2 Honorable Mentions), and Zachary Rubin (2 Honorable Mentions); freshmen Nadre Digbohohou and Aislynn Senn; and Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders Sarah Dering, Amelia Tedesco, and Divya Thirumala (2 Honorable Mentions), and seventh-grader Rebecca Dorneich.

Hundreds of submissions spanning a variety of different genres of writing were received from students in grades 7-12 from across Allegheny County. The local competition is sponsored by the Point Park University Honors Program, which hosted a regional recognition ceremony for the winners March 23 at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

Sharing Our Similarities, Celebrating our Differences



By Rohit Velankar and Arnim Kuchhal

For the first time ever, DESI club and the DEI Council proudly presented multicultural week, a celebration of global traditions hosted from April 15th to 19th. For the over fifty students and teachers involved, it was the product

of many months of early morning meetings and post-dismissal practices, and surpassed all expectations of what such an event could achieve. One of the many events was Multicultural Night, an evolution of the DESI Night performance that DESI club has been hosting for over fifteen years.

Three school clubs (DESI, Asian Cultural Club, and Black Student Union) presented spectacular dances ranging in styles from traditional Indian to K-pop, while FC senior Clara Kelley took from her extensive extracurricular experience in Irish Dance and put on four incredible performances along with a close friend and fellow Irish dancer Olivia Lane, a junior from Norwin High School. In one highlight of the night, Fox Chapel teachers Mmes. Polesiak, Green, Machen, Reilly, Montgomery and Mr. Murray took to the stage in a highly anticipated teacher dance tradition, to the cheers of students and parents alike.

preceding the event was a festival of food, with a delicious Indian feast catered by local community restaurant Spice Affair as well as many global samplings offered by FC's very own German, Latinx, DEI, and Spanish clubs.

For the rest of the week, all students were encouraged to check out the food sales in the commons, which featured the same variety of international tastes: from ACC's bubble tea, to German Club's spaghettiis, to the BSU's soul food; all accompanied by festive decorations and

lively music. The organizers of Multicultural night would like to graciously thank the dozens of students who danced on stage and hosted food



Members of the Asian Culture Club perform Mua Hoa, a traditional Vietnamese flower dance, as part of Multicultural Week's DESI Night celebration.



sales, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Polesiak for their continuing support in organizing, the Diversity Council representatives and the volunteers without whom this event would not have happened, and Mr. Palucis's 3rd period Advanced Graphics class for screen printing over sixty t-shirts in record time.

With the help of an enthusiastic community and a strong student body, we are excited to announce that the new tradition of Multicultural Week will continue and become a ubiquitous part of school spirit and student culture.





FC Choir Visits the Big Apple

By Sienna Siegel



Photo courtesy of the FC Music Department

In the early hours of April 11, 89 FC choir students set off to conquer New York City. The bus ride lasted most of the day with a stop on the way at Susquehanna University to participate in a clinic with support and advice from the Susquehanna choir. Mrs. Amy Voorhees led the clinic and coached the students with her infectious energy and passion for music. After this initial stop the travelers continued towards the city. The students got ready for the Broadway show, *Hades Town* on the bus, and there was an exciting energy while driving through the city. They packed John's Pizzeria for a quick dinner and then made their way to the Broadway Theatre. *Hades Town* was incredible with its multitude of stunts, a moving stage, and a heartfelt soundtrack.

The following morning began with a visit to the September 11th Memorial. As one can imagine it was a deeply moving and emotional process as the group made their way through the museum. Later that afternoon, the group performed at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The beautiful space allowed for the sound of the choir to travel. After the performance they had some fun venturing 70 stories to the top of Rockefeller Center to enjoy the spectacular views of the city. They saw the ball that drops on New Year's Eve,



the Statue of Liberty, and the Empire State Building. After Rockefeller Center, the group walked to Ellen's Stardust Diner. This famous spot is especially appealing to musical theatre nerds. Aspiring Broadway performers are the waiters at the restaurant, and as they serve, they perform.

They sing karaoke songs from all of the famous musicals. It was a dinner full of laughing, and singing. After dinner it was time for a walk through Times Square to a different Broadway theatre to see *The Lion King*. Times square was overwhelming, exciting, eventful, full of touristy photos, color, and thousands of people. *The Lion King* featured puppets, huge set designs, and young child performers. It was as good a show visually as it was musically.

Saturday began with a quick shopping trip to one of the malls in the city, followed by lunch at Urbanspace.

The trip concluded with a final performance at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. This was a massive space that was full of art and history. After the performance



they loaded the buses again, and made their way back to Pittsburgh. The group arrived home a little before midnight, exhausted, but filled with unforgettable memories.

Tedesco Earns National Award For Community Service Impact

Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore Theodore Tedesco is being honored by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and InnerView Technologies as part of the 2023-2024 Community Service Impact Awards. The program is open to students across the nation and is designed to connect student community service activities, skill development, and commitment to Sustainable Development Goals to transform our world. The Kroger Co. is also presenting the fifth annual Zero Hero Awards to students for taking action to help create communities free of hunger and waste. Theodore was the winner of both awards, being named a National Community Service Ambassador (the highest award) which is given to students with at least 100 hours of community service, and is also being given a Zero Hero Award.

Theodore spends a great deal of time volunteering for various community service organizations. Among other things, Theodore organized and led a food drive for the Sharpsburg Library Little Food Pantry, served meals at North Way Christian Community, delivered meals to Jubilee Kitchen that serves the unhoused, volunteered with the Citizen Science Lab that serves students from underserved neighborhoods, donated snacks for students to the Sharpsburg Public Library, packed backpacks with food at the Pittsburgh Greater Community Food Bank, helped with the Living Stones fundraiser, raised money

for the national aviary, attended outreach training on conservation and sustainability, and served as an Audubon summer camp counselor.

High school students have a strong perspective on the most challenging issues and needs facing our communities. These awardees exemplify young leadership, harnessing their passion and skills to enact positive change in their communities and beyond,” says Kristine Sturgeon, CEO of InnerView Technologies. “We feel privileged to work alongside these change-makers daily, supporting their journey, unlocking opportunities, and commemorating their achievements.”



“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for addressing the world’s most pressing challenges. They also present a unique opportunity for UN member states, grassroots organizations, and advocates to work together to create a better future for everyone,” says Rachel Bowen Pittman, executive director of the UNA-USA. “Youth play a pivotal role in driving change forward, now more than ever. As an intergenerational movement of dedicated Americans, UNA-USA is committed to supporting the vital work of the United Nations and SDGs. We are thrilled to partner with InnerView again this year and celebrate the impact youth have made in advancing the SDGs. Congratulations to this year’s awardees for their dedication and inspired action!”

Students Bike C&O Canal Towpath



13 Fox Chapel Area High School students, four teachers, and one parent biked the C&O Canal Towpath from Cumberland, Maryland, to Washington, D.C. The students and chaperones logged nearly 185 miles, starting on Thursday, April 25, and finishing April 28. The group spent four days biking and three nights camping along the trail, all while being able to see many historical structures along the way.

Athlete Spotlight - Caitie Troutman



By Joe Yoshikawa

Spring sports are always a bright spot in the Fox Chapel Athletics Organization. Section titles, playoff berths, and championships are often won by the Foxes every year and bring pride to our school. This year, while the softball team did not make the playoffs or see much success, the Lady Foxes still enjoyed their time together on the field. Senior Caitie Troutman reflects upon her years on the team, the strides in progress she has seen, and what her senior year meant to her.

What made you so passionate about softball, especially as a kid?

My passion for softball originated from watching my older sister play, and like others with older siblings, wanted to follow in her footsteps. As I got older and began playing for travel teams I loved being able to travel to different states and compete.

Would your younger self be proud of what you achieved in your career?

Yes, I believe so. I think that my younger self would admire my perseverance and determination to do what I love. As softball has been a huge part of my life growing up, I think that it has shaped me into who I am today and I am very appreciative of what it had to offer.

What strengths do you have that make you better at your sport?

I find that some of my strengths include being a good communicator, and being able to be coached. It's very important to be able to take criticism from others, especially your coaches, and do what it takes to be better. Building relationships with my teammates has always come easy to me and it generally affects our performance in the game.

Did this season feel special to you? If so, in what ways?

Yes, this season did feel pretty special to me. You underestimate what it feels like to be a senior until you

actually become one. I loved being a leader and enjoying my last moments on the field.

What was your favorite moment as a Fox Chapel softball player throughout your four years?

My favorite moment is when we made it to states my freshman year. I was so nervous because I was on varsity and had never experienced anything like it before, but there were so many people there supporting us and it was such a great memory.

What challenges do you think face many softball players in achieving their dreams?

Softball is one of the most mental sports, if not THE most mental. It is very hard to always keep a positive mindset and be confident. It is also mainly an individualized sport that can serve as an obstacle in many ways.



Lean on Green

Knowledge You Need to Make the Earth Clean

JUNE 2024

Where to Get Involved

Tree Pittsburgh is a local organization dedicated to enhancing and protecting the urban forest. Tree Pittsburgh offers opportunities for volunteers to plant and care for trees, participate in tree nursery activities, and support educational initiatives. If you're looking for service hours, an opportunity to make a difference, or just a fun activity to do with your friends, then Tree Pittsburgh is the Organization for you! Who wouldn't support their vision to create a healthy urban forest for all by inspiring and engaging people to maintain, plant and protect trees. For more information

on Tree
Pittsburgh visit
treepittsburgh.org



Latest News in Green Technology



Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is a method designed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from industrial sources, such as power plants and factories. It involves three main steps: capturing the CO₂ from emissions, transporting it via pipelines or ships, and storing it underground in geological formations such as depleted oil and gas fields or deep saline aquifers. By preventing CO₂ from entering the atmosphere, CCS helps mitigate climate change. Additionally, some innovations focus on converting captured CO₂ into useful products like building materials or synthetic fuels. CCS is considered a crucial tool for achieving significant reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, especially in sectors that are challenging to decarbonize.

Why Action is Necessary

The World Health Organization reports that global heating will soon reach an all time high of 1.5°C due to greenhouse gas emissions from human activity. If humans do not make an effort increase sustainable practices, every additional tenth of a degree of warming will have a serious impact on people's lives and health. Climate change will affect clean air, drinking water, availability of food, spread of disease, and many more aspects of life. The rapid growth and high stakes of global warming makes saving Earth an issue of utmost importance.

Written and Designed By:
Henry Koloc

Easy Ways to be Green

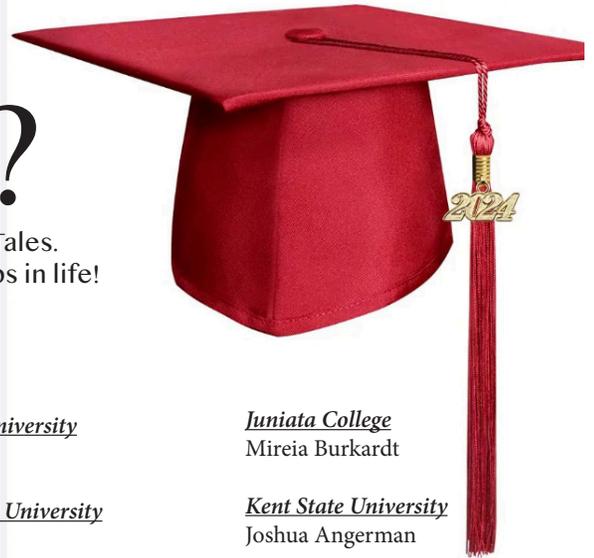
Being involved in an important environmental project is not the only way to help Earth. You can also make a difference through these changes to your daily routine.

- Recycle paper, metal, cardboard, plastic, and glass
- Eat with reusable utensils and plates
- Shut off lights in empty rooms
- Avoid bottled water
- Thrift clothes
- Buy local and organic foods
- Donate used goods



Class of 2024... What's Next?

Thank you to all who took the time to share their plans with Fox Tales.
We wish all of the graduates nothing but happiness in their next steps in life!



Allegheny College

Tess Bursic
Stephen Neal

American University

Lincoln Baldwin

Appalachian State University

Rowan Gwin
John Hook

Arizona State University

Lexi Biernesser

Augusta Solomon

Solomon Amemasor

Bella Capelli Academy

Molly O'Donnell

Belmont University

Claire Kinst
Ellie Nawrocki

Berkley College of Music

Duncan MacGregor

Bucknell University

Caroline Hinz
Anna Iasella

Butler County Community College

Braden Slater

Carnegie Mellon University

Eduardo Phelan-Vidal
Safiya Stewart

Case Western Reserve University

Emmett Gillespie
Oscar Ruff

Catholic University of America

Gabriella Urso

Chapman University

Claudia Smith

Chatham University

Alexander Balazs
Lily Clump
Marcelia Fraga Ruiz
Andrew Shepard

Coastal Carolina University

Elliott Stephany

Colgate University

Sarah Slember

College of Chareston

Ella Werner

College of William and Mary

Katherine Haas

College of Wooster

Kathleen Krebs

Colorado State University

Owen Cooper
William Hudic

Community College of

Allegheny County

Julia Baker
Cassady Chapple
Malachi Chapple
Marcello Gerasole
Ashley Hritz
Janiya Jones
Nasir Nelson
Christina Panza
Gabrielle Petruska
Caleb Supianoski

Connecticut College

Emily Torbert

Dalhousie University

Maxwell Kaizer

DePauw University

Nolan Childs

Douglas Education Center

Logan Galton-McCaffrey

Duquesne University

Scarlett Hancock
Elijah Herzer
Sophia River
Finley Tersine
Kiey Uyen Tong

Elon University

Gabriella Abdalla
Madelyn Jones

Emory University

Gloria Wen

Florida Atlantic University

Connor Scanlon

Florida Gulf Coast University

Maria Marasco

Florida Southern College

Kaeden Pekarcik

Florida State University

Sage Good

Geneva College

Laney Porterfield

George Mason University

David Fuhrer

George Washington University

Logan Dressman
Massimo Lagazzi
Harry Littwin
Rose Mullan

Georgetown University

Isabella White

Georgia Institute of Technology

David Feder

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Sophia Gass
Kyra Gdovichin
Maisy Hanley
Stella Hays
Addison Jump
Mia Pietropaolo
Christian Wilkinson

Indiana University at Bloomington

Isabella Barbour
Justin Ling

John Carroll University

Isaac Jacobs
Hayden Strittmatter
Troy Susnak

Johns Hopkins University

Dylan Work

Juniata College

Mireia Burkardt

Kent State University

Joshua Angerman

Kenyon College

Laura Carter

LaRoche University

Gabrielle Edge
Jefferson Moorefield-Brown

Lehigh University

Anna Troutman

Loyola University - Maryland

Whitney Jones

Marietta College

Tyrese Samuels

Marquette University

Evelyn Healy

Mercyhurst University

Nicholas Goodman

Methodist University

Oban McElwain

Miami University

Ashley Barnett

Miami University of Ohio

Fiona Brown
Dylan Byersdorfer

Michigan State University

Porter Hill
Tess Petrucelli

New York University

Alexander Kaufmann
Austin Kelly
Sophia Rike

Northeastern University

Chloe Kim

Oaklahoma City University

Elana Padnos



Ohio University

Joshua Alexander
John O'Brian

Pace University

William Kratsa

Penn State University

Skylar Byrnes
Micah Cagley
Sophia Carvelli
Nicholas Cusano
Rocco Didomenico
Jack Filter
Robert Hallman
Travis Malone
Ryan Napolitan
Anneliese Pham
Kristopher Pizzella
Lila Valkanas

Penn State - Behrend

Cadence Charmello
Maria Costantino

Penn State - Greater Allegheny

Madison Callicott

Princeton University

Henry Koloc

Providence College

Isabella Marcos

Purdue University

Joshua Correnti
Darren Jayaratnam
Nora Siri

Rhode Island School of Design

Mikayla Korczynski

Rice University

Adam Ferris
Abraham White

Robert Morris University

Matthew Ahern

Rollins College

Katharine Stumpf

Rochester Institute of Technology

Ava McCaffrey
Andrew Wagner

Saint Bonaventure University

Gavin Rosswog

Saint Joseph's University

Virag Salvador
Ella Washburn

Seton Hall University

Alexandra Sroufe

Slippery Rock University

Alyssa Berardi
Colby Helbling
Jillian Stahl
Sofia Liberto
Corbin Lorenz

Savannah College of Art & Design

Leanora Carson

South Carolina State University

Mason Miles

Stanford University

Lucas Gravina

State University of New York
at Courtland

Carolyn Caracciolo

Syracuse University

Mira Busch
Jacob Friedberg
Aiden Hirsch
Clara Kelley

Trade School

Justin Berardi - Triangle Tech

United States Military

James Gavin - Army
Lance Mills - Air Force

United States Naval Academy

Annalese Bartolacci

University of Alabama

Grady Cullen

University of Arkansas

Gabrielle Hodas

University of California - Davis

Emma Kim

University of Cincinnati

Jadyn Smouse

University of Colorado - Boulder

Gabriel Felman
Benjamin Werner

University of Illinois - Urbana
Champaign

Adhitya Thirumala

University of Kentucky

Frederick Hanna
Caitlin Troutman

University of Maryland

Molly Ben
Rowan Gladwin

University of Miami

Michael Shin

University of Michigan

Camryn Eisner

University of Montana

Jack Lynch

University of North Carolina

Mackenzie Ben (Wilmington)
Ryan Inglis (Charlotte)
Micah Shelley (Charlotte)

University of Pittsburgh

Joseph Berger
Emma Bergerud
Ella Bingler
Preston Breen (Johnstown)
Jack Cannon
Jeremiah Cessna
Mia Dunleavy (Bradford)
Madeline Fontenot
Carlo Gambotto
Emily Harajda
Julia Hernaez
Madeleine Ivanusic
Shriya Krishnamurthy
Owen Levy
RunLin Li (Greensburg)
Ethan Matsumura
Rachel Milcheck
Jacob Milgrub
Andrea Motschman
Megan Mulhern
Angela Ngo
Caitlyn Novak
Keya Patro
Lakshanya Rajaganapathi
Harlan Sheehan
William Siegel
Emily Staud
Madeleine Stone
Kieu My Tong
Jude Willison

University of South Carolina

Thomas Patterson

University of Southern California

Caroline Berger

University of Toledo

Bridget Yun

University of Utah

Jacob Siddons

University of Virginia

Lucy Larsen

University of Vermont

Rebecca Lokshanov

University of Wisconsin

Benjamin Myers

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Colin Lazzara

Vassar College

Dylan Berman

Virginia Tech

Can Pekkan
Joseph Rattner

West Penn Hospital School of
Nursing

Kathryn Price

West Virginia University

Zachary Zornan Ferguson

Work Force

Eva Arraujo
Kiersten Berardi
Emma Bolton
Gabriel Bryson
Zachary Butler
Devin Charles
Myla Chirico
Cian Conroy
Barron Loeffler
Eva Mazreku
Jordan Pajewski
Stephen Provenzano

Xavier University

Katherine Friday

Thank you, Mr. Aires, for insisting I watch Breaking Bad.

– Jake Anthikad

Thank you, Mr. Patterson, for always helping me out!

– Isabella Barbour

Thank you, Mr Murray, for getting me involved with the choir QRT so early. I couldn't have done any of this without you.

– Tess Bursic

Mrs U - Thank you for letting me talk your ear off since sophomore year - now we have to play paddle :)

– Sophie Carvelli

Thank you for all the great morning conversations and last-minute print outs, Mrs. Hollern!

– Logan Dressman

Thank you to Mrs.Cuda for teaching me everything there is to know about film.

– Gabrielle Edge

I want to thank Dr. Ward for always listening to me complain about my classes, giving me a place to study, laugh, cry, and vent, and most importantly, for just being her – the beloved librarian that has helped to mentor countless students and maintains relationships with many of them.

– Camryn Eisner

Thank you to Mr. Murray – you have been an incredible teacher both vocally and mentally.

– Kyra Gdovichin

Thanks to Ms. Gibson! You're radical! Sorry for barking at you that one time!

– Katie Haas

I would like to thank Mrs. Hollern for everything she has done for me and teaching me how to be a better person.

– Isaac Jacobs

I want to thank all my teachers for always supporting me!

– Madelyn Jones

Thank you Mrs. Cuda for supporting my passion for film and believing in me!!!

– Clara Kelley

Mr. Lesnik - Thank you for giving me so many cool opportunities and pushing me to be my best!

– Chloe Kim

Ms. Pap, thanks for always starting my days off on a high note!!

– Emma Kim



Thank you, Mr. Morley for making math a fun class.

– Massimo Lagazzi

Thanks, Mr Lesnik, you're a cool guy.

– Andrea Motschman

Mrs. Pap, you are the best ever and I love you dearly!

– Megan Mulhern

Mr. Murray - Thanks for everything!

– Kris Pizzella

Thank you Mrs. Congalton for being such an amazing teacher, mentor and advisor.

– Laney Porterfield

Thank you, Mr. Morley for making math a fun class.

– Massimo Lagazzi

Thank you, Ms. Tsambis, for being so incredible!

– Micah Shelley

Mr. Lesnik, thank you so much for all the fun times over the past four years.

– Judy Tong

Thanks, Mr. Barle – Linear Algebra was by far the best math class I've taken in high school.

– Adhitya Thirumala

Thank you, Mrs. Yac, for the best senior year. You da G.O.A.T.

– Michael Shin

Thank you, Mr. Kirk, for your tough love. You've prepared me more for the future than any other teacher I know.

– Henry Koloc

Thank you Mr. Lesnik for a fun four years! I enjoyed marching band!

– Heidi Tong

Thank you, Mrs. Cuda, for your genuine enthusiasm everyday!

– Andrew Wagner

Mrs. Yac - thanks for always making first period fun and helping me figure out what I want to do with my life!

– Abe White

Thank you, Ms. Klein, for making me an informed voter and active participant in democracy!

– Sophia Rike

Thanks you, Ms. Spurdute, for putting up with me the past four years in QRT!

– Mackenzie Ben

Mr. Norberg - Thank you for being very understanding and believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I hope you can inspire many other students throughout the years.

– Molly Ben

Thank you Mrs. Stewart for being an amazing teacher, artist, and role model!

– Gabi Urso

Thank you to the G.O.A.T. Ms. Susser.

– Kaeden Pekarcik

I would like to thank Mr Murray for an amazing 4 years of choir.

– Mia Dunleavy

Thanks Mrs. Yac for helping me with math and always making class fun and enjoyable instead of boring.

– Nicky Cusano

I would like to thank Mrs. Papariello for preparing me for future science classes, planning our proms, and everything else she does for us.

– Ben Myers

Thank you, Mr. Barle, for a really fun Linear Algebra class. The discussions were great!

– Shriya Krishnamurthy

Mrs. Congalton, thank you for always brightening my day and for being the best advisor and mentor!

– Gloria Wen

Mr. Siniawski, thank you for putting up with me for four years. You have been a mentor, teacher, and so much more than that. I am so grateful for you.

– Eduardo Phelan-Vidal

Mr. Lesnik, thank you for being so awesome.

– Andrew Wagner

Mr. Murray, thank you for being so patient and so fun.

– Ben Werner

MEMORIES

What was Your Favorite Memory at FC?

I really enjoyed all the extracurriculars I was in but one that really stuck with me was Marching Band. I really loved being in the Color Guard and meeting all these fun people. I will never forget those moments and I will hold them close to my heart forever.

– Tess Bursic

The Foxes Den.

– Sophie Carvelli

Water Polo Day 2024.

– Logan Dressman

Telethon week.

– Gabrielle Edge

I think my favorite memory of high school will be the library. The library has been a safe space for me throughout my years at Fox Chapel, whether it was an escape from my QRT sophomore year, spanish class sitting in the sunny window seat in the heat of Covid, or my second family that I found in the book club QRT. Dr. Ward and Mrs. Ryan have helped create a space that I know I will remember fondly for the rest of my life when I think back on high school.

– Camryn Eisner

Being on the frisbee team.

– David Feder

Doing the musicals every year.

– Kyra Gdovichin

Marching band and swimming.

– Katie Haas

The ice hockey team sophomore year and all the guys on the team.

– Isaac Jacobs

TSA States.

– Darren Jayaratnam

Last days of school every year.

– Emma Kim

Homecoming football games.

– Kaeden Pekarcik

Prom 2023.

– Jake Anthikad

Seeing my best friends every day.

– Isabella Barbour

Biking the entire GAP and C&O Trail with Mr. Battista my sophomore and senior year! It was the perfect conclusion to the end of my high school career by finishing all 335 miles!

– Clara Kelley

When Mr. Schubert blasted “The World’s Loudest Video” at full volume during APs.

– Chloe Kim

Mr. Morley’s Precalculus class.

– Massimo Lagazzi

Getting the same score as Michael on my stats test.

– Megan Mulhern

Mr. Miller’s stories.

– Kris Pizzella

Being a part of FBLA and its QRT.

– Laney Porterfield

Musicals.

– Micah Shelley

The final lap of the 3 mile during junior year.

– Michael Shin

Playing games in data structures with the squad.

– Adhitya Thirumala

Studying with friends.

– Kieu My Tong

The last week of school for every single year.

– Heidi Tong

Being a member of the ultimate frisbee team.

– Andrew Wagner

My failed gotcha attempt at 5:30 in the morning.

– Abe White

Senior prom.

– Henry Koloc

Going to PJAS junior year at Penn State.

– Gabi Urso

Performing in my very first production at this school in sophomore year (the Fall Play, Anne of Green Gables).

– Sophia Rike

I have too many great memories to remember them all :)

– Molly Ben

Swinging the bat to destroy the car my sophomore year and just varsity softball in general.

– Mia Dunleavy

Doing the car smash outside in the courtyard.

– Nicky Cusano

Friday night football games.

– Ben Myers

Training, racing, and bonding with my incredible swim/dive family.

– Gloria Wen

Winning the 2024 National Robotics Championship.

– Eduardo Phelan-Vidal

Performing in Fox Fest!

– Jack Lynch

Sitting in the bleachers with Marching Band at football games.

– Kathleen Krebs

Last show for The Little Mermaid - sitting in the pit.

– Eli Herzer

The Homecoming carnival.

– Keya Patro

Fox Fest.

– Emily Staud

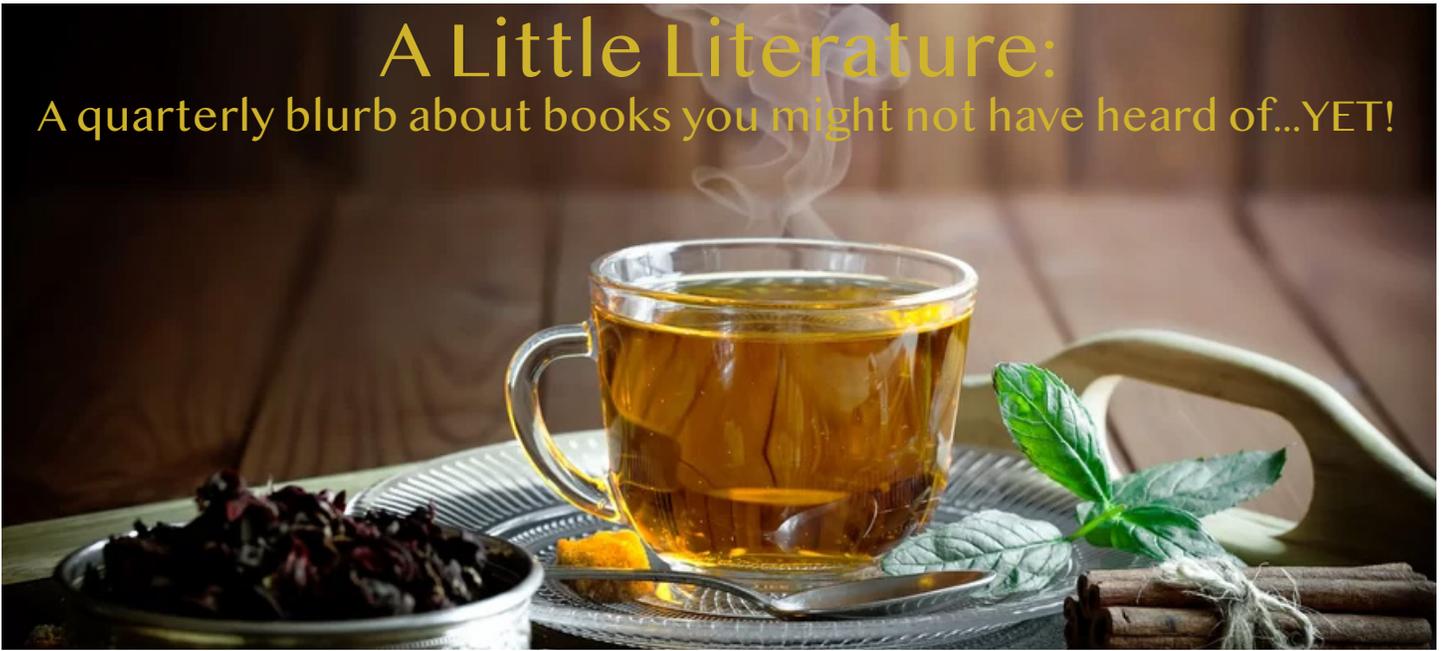
Water polo day with the swim team.

– Logan Dressman

Doing our final project in AP Physics Mechanics, all the creative corners in English class, and Yac’s horizontal tangent line.

– Lakshanya Rajaganapathi

A Little Literature: A quarterly blurb about books you might not have heard of...YET!



By Shriya Krishnamurthy

TODAY'S TOPIC: The Elegance of Tea!

As the school year rounds to a close, I decided to end with some cozy action-packed books about tea. Yes, the drink that soothes an upset tummy, alleviates a sore throat, and envelops a drinker with the feelings of home. I was surprised to come across two series in the past month that centered around tea, but the books didn't fail to impress. They were as sweet as chamomile with honey, as intriguing as a mystery blend, and as exciting with plot twists like tea steeped in ginger. So please, read on, and take a couple sips of these books!

A Tempest of Tea

by Hafsah Faizal (*Blood and Tea Series*)

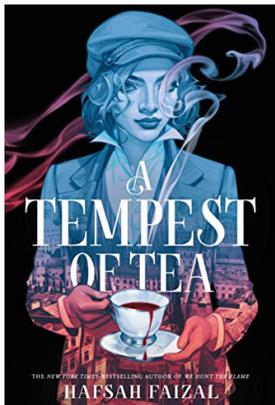


Photo: amazon.com

Meet Arthie Casmir, a street-smart orphan of White Roaring, owns a prestigious tearoom, Spindrift. Spindrift caters to the wealthy by day and turns into an illegal bloodhouse that caters to vampires at night. Yep, you heard right - vampires! When Spindrift is threatened, Arthie and Jin, her brother (not by blood) need to recruit a group of misfits, including the legendary artist Mateo, the ace forger Flick, and

the steadfast high guardsman Laith. Unfortunately, on their mission to save Spindrift, Arthie and her group of friends uncover a plot deeper than they could ever imagine - filled with lies, deception, and conspiracy. To get to the bottom of the conspiracy, Arthie and Jin concoct a plan to infiltrate the vampire society called the Athereum. Arthie herself is also hiding a deep dark secret, one that could put all her friends at risk. How far is she willing to go to protect the life she had built for herself? Read the book to find out! (I highly recommend it!)

A Magic Steeped in Poison

by Judy L. Lin (*The Book of Tea Duology*)



Photo: amazon.com

Check out this book steeped in the Chinese art of tea brewing (pun intended), *A Magic Steeped in Poison*. This story brews up a storm following Ning, a commoner who has the power of Shennong, the magic of tea-brewing. However, Ning no longer enjoys and celebrates her magic. Instead it is touched by grief, because it was she who created the poisoned tea that killed her mother and sickened her sister. When Ning is presented with an invitation to go to the royal palace and enter into a tea-brewing competition, she jumps at the chance of redemption, because the prize is a single favor from the princess. A single favor could get her sister the best medical treatment and hopefully save her life. So Ning steps forth into a cutthroat competition, filled with betrayal, backstabbers, and politics. This too, in the midst of a simmering rebellion against the ruling family. In this sweeping fantasy that is a must-read with tea as a central theme, follow Ning as she navigates a new world, conspiracy, and tries to save her sister.

Commercializing the Cosmos



Photo: iflscience.com

By Ian Wellman

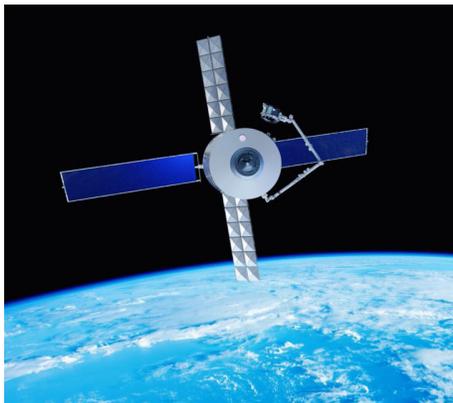
In the past 20 years, numerous companies have formed with the goal of making money from space travel. Most of the companies that are still around today started with contracts from space agencies and older communication companies. However, in recent years, companies have begun to expand into commercializing low earth orbit on a much larger scale with the stated goal of benefiting more people and making space a travel destination to those who can afford it. These areas of exploration can be divided into four primary fields that are at various stages of development: satellite constellations, private spacecraft, private space stations, and advanced material manufacturing.

The most developed field is space-based communication satellites. Improving communication satellites will benefit the most people. Whereas old satellite communication companies launched a few large satellites into geosynchronous orbit (an orbit in which the satellite orbits the earth at the same rate that the earth rotates), which allowed for more coverage per satellite, the latency was usually around half a second. Newer constellations such as Starlink and Project Kuiper are being developed that allow for less latency, cheaper coverage, and a higher data flow rate. As of the time of this writing, SpaceX has nearly 6,000 active Starlink satellites, out of a total of around 9,500 active satellites. The satellites are mass produced and are launched in groups of around 20 on the Falcon 9 rocket. The advantage of launching the satellites in house is that

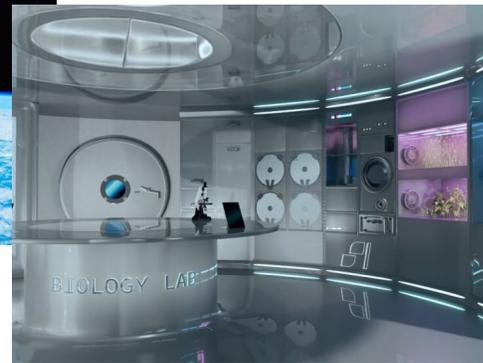
they are not losing money on profit margin for the rocket launch. In the near future, SpaceX will launch larger and more powerful Starlink satellites in larger numbers for an even lower cost when they get their latest super heavy rocket, Starship, out of the prototype stage.

Project Kuiper is Amazon's equivalent to Starlink, and is planned to have a total of 3,236 satellites; however, they have launched only two prototypes. Unlike SpaceX, Amazon has no rockets to launch their satellites and must pay other companies to provide launch services. They have currently contracted ULA, Arianespace, and Blue Origin (Jeff Bezos's equivalent of SpaceX)

to launch their rockets. Amazon will likely get a lower cost than normal when launching on Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket once the rocket has actually launched, due to



The Starlab space station, pictured above, is a new-era global space platform planned to be the first continuously crewed, free-flying commercial space station. Pictured to the left is a concept of the space craft's interior.



Photos: starlab-space.com

both companies being founded by Jeff Bezos. They plan on having more bandwidth than Starlink, however, they have to launch half of their satellites by June 2026 as part of their FCC license, and all but one of the rockets they have contracts for are under development. The aim behind these massive satellite constellations is to provide fast internet anywhere in the world.

The next best developed field, and the second most expensive for consumers, is flying to space. Consumers can either stay in a space station or take a flight to space in a spacecraft. There are currently two companies that launch private astronauts on suborbital trajectories for a massive profit and three companies that can or will have the ability to launch people into orbit. Blue Origin can launch up to six

people past the Karman Line in their New Shepard

Commercializing the Cosmos, continued...

spacecraft. Similarly, Virgin Galactic can carry eight people past the Karman Line in their reusable space plane. Neither have the capability to get to orbit and only remain in space for a few minutes. Boeing's Starliner, SpaceX's Crew Dragon, and Sierra Space's Dream Chaser are designed to enter earth orbit and return. Starliner has a crew capacity of five and is reusable. It is currently under development and will only take crew to the ISS in the near future, but will likely take private crew to commercial space stations further in the future. Crew Dragon has a crew capacity of four, is heavily modernized, and is also reusable. It currently takes crew to the ISS, as well as providing a trip to space for private

astronauts that lasts a few days. It will also take crew to private space stations in the near future. Sierra Space's Dream Chaser crew spaceplane will be developed once they test their cargo spaceplane; it will have the capability to carry crew to and from orbit.

It will service the ISS and private space stations.

SpaceX's Starship is currently

under development, but will have the capability to take people to low earth orbit as well as a flyby of the moon. It has been contracted to fly nine people around the moon in the "dearMoon" mission.

The third most developed field is private space stations. Many companies are developing space stations that will be contracted out by numerous public and private entities for private research, space tourism, and eventually manufacturing. There are currently five space stations that are in the process of being developed and constructed, however, many of these require the success of SpaceX's prototype super heavy rocket Starship. The first is the Axiom Station. Axiom is currently constructing its namesake space station, which they will build off of the ISS. They have designed it to be four major modules and will primarily contract it out for research and in-space manufacturing. Vast's Haven 1 space station, the second of

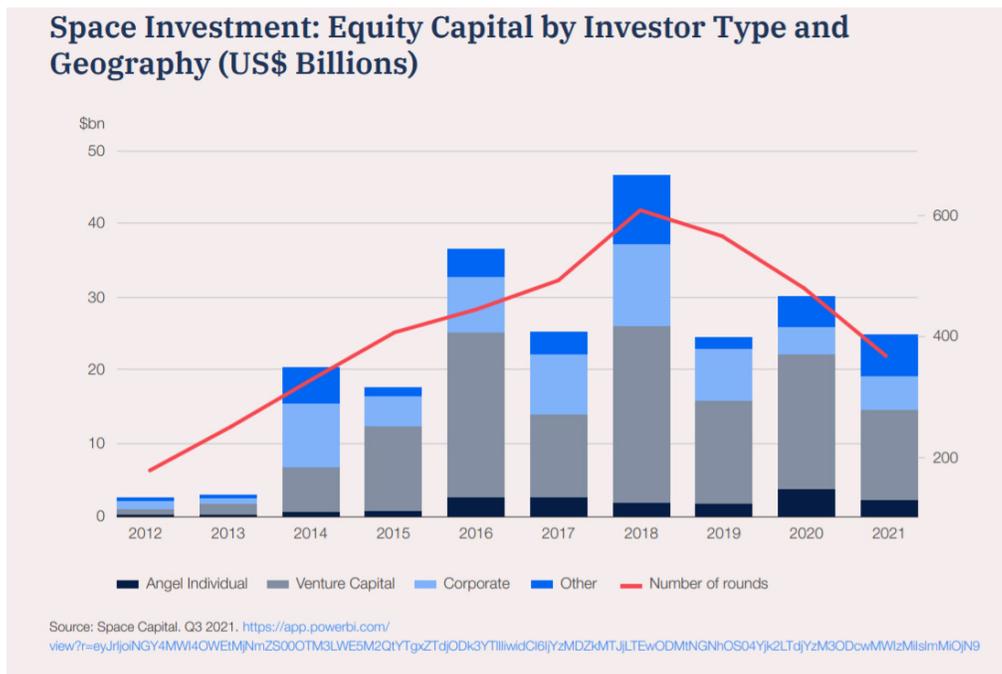
the five, is likely to be the first commercial space station in orbit due to the company's close relationship with SpaceX. Most of Vast's current employees used to work for SpaceX and close relationships will allow for faster development and construction. Haven 1 will be contracted for both space agencies and private entities. The third space station is Orbital Reef. Orbital Reef is a large space station being designed by Blue Origin, Boeing, and Sierra Space. It will consist of both rigid and inflatable modules and will cater to various companies and space agencies interested in research and manufacturing. The fourth space station, Think Platform, is a creative type of space station that will allow for a rigid hull, large spaces, and still fit in regular rocket fairings. It will launch with an average sized space station

module, a robotic arm, and a large number of hull plates. The robot will then weld the plates together, forming a large and rigid sphere that the contractor can use to suit their needs, such as research or manufacturing. The fifth space station, Starlab, constructed by Voyager Space and Airbus, will be launched on Starship and will have a large

interior volume with open space. Its primary contractors will be the European Space Agency and NASA, and it is primarily being designed for research purposes.

The least-developed field is in-space bulk manufacturing. Many structures form larger, much more uniformly under microgravity. One experiment has produced a fiber optic cable called ZBLAN, which has a signal loss that is orders of magnitude lower than normal fiber optics. Other experiments also take advantage of the microgravity to form complex microscopic structures that would collapse while forming on earth.

While it is unlikely that every one of the projects listed in this article will succeed, the fact that companies are trying to accomplish projects that global superpowers struggled to do a few decades ago is awe inspiring. With all of these advancements in the space industry, one can only wonder what these fields and new ones will bring to



The above graph, compiled by the World Economic Forum, depicts private investment in space.

What's the Deal with Streaming Services Nowadays?

By Katie Haas

When I was very young, streaming services didn't really exist. Back in the day, companies would mail DVDs that could be rented for a small period of time. I have vague memories of my two-year-old self examining the little pouch the DVD came in, and getting ready to watch whatever movie my parents ordered for us.

Then Netflix decided to up their game, and moved their entire library online. For a while, life was amazing! People could watch movies they didn't own whenever they wanted, without recording them on cable or ordering them one at a time. Netflix eventually started releasing their own original content to further incentivise subscribers.

Recently, I've noticed a shift in the streaming-service energy. Netflix has had streaming competition for a while, with companies like Hulu and Sling, but in the years since the pandemic, it seems that every single media company has developed their own service. There's Disney+, Paramount+, HBOMax, Peacock, etc. While I could go on for a while about how paying for 50 different services probably costs more than paying for cable, or how I hate that companies are cracking down on password sharing, that isn't the purpose of this article.

For a while now, I've had a particular question stewing in the back of my mind. Why do streaming services put tons of effort into creating their own original tv shows, just to cancel them after one or two seasons? Netflix, in particular, is guilty of this. They hire writers, actors, directors, (the whole enchilada) to develop a heartfelt, moving piece of media, and instead of putting energy into promoting and advertising it, they just release it one day, let it stew for a bit, and then cancel it.

"But Katie," you say, confused. "There are tons of original shows that are heavily promoted, watched, and renewed for many, many seasons. What makes the canceled shows different from ones like *Stranger Things*, *Heartstopper*, and the gazillion Marvel shows? Is it the ratings? The number of views?"

Excellent questions! Let's use a Netflix original as an example. About a year and a half ago, Netflix dropped the

second season of the TV series *Warrior Nun*. The internet went crazy for it, which I didn't really understand. A story about an elite organization of demon-fighting nuns seemed silly to me, and quite frankly, really stupid. Naturally, I decided to watch it out of morbid curiosity. *Warrior Nun* proved me very, very wrong. It was silly at times, but it was a layered, character-driven show, with lots of heart, plot twists, and nuance. Critics gave it some of the highest ratings a Netflix original has ever gotten. It was in the Netflix Top 10 for weeks.

I assumed, given the success and excellent reception of the season, *Warrior Nun* would be renewed for another season to wrap the story up. But nope – it was canceled in cold blood. Even though I haven't seen other Netflix canceled shows, like *First Kill* or *I Am Not Okay with This*, or the Disney+ and Prime shows *Willow* and *A League of Their Own*, I see a disturbing pattern. All the shows I've listed have had millions of views, and very solid ratings. In every other case, this is the formula for renewal. So what sets these shows apart? I have a hunch, and it's not pretty. Every one of these shows has (cue trumpet fanfare) a female main character who falls in love with another woman. But Katie,

you ask again. Companies renew tons of shows with queer leads, like *Heartstopper*, *Young Royals*, and *What We Do in the Shadows*. Queer romance clearly isn't the problem.

You're partially right! A lot of queer shows get renewed. But if you look closely at all LGBTQ+ shows, 9/10 the ones that get renewed have queer male leads. It appears to me that the problem isn't the presence of queerness, but the presence of female-queerness.

This likely isn't the only reason that streaming services are cutting shows left and right. But the number of times companies pull the plug on sapphic (Sapphic is an umbrella term for all girls who like other girls) shows compared to everything else can't really be a coincidence.

So there you have it. Next time you're watching a show, and a girl kisses another girl, brace yourself for cancellation, because queer women are apparently only allowed to have representation in moderation. Have fun watching!



Why do streaming services put tons of effort into creating their own original tv shows, just to cancel them after one or two seasons? Netflix, in particular, is guilty of this. They hire writers, actors, directors, (the whole enchilada) to develop a heartfelt, moving piece of media, and instead of putting energy into promoting and advertising it, they just release it one day, let it stew for a bit, and then cancel it.

Nine Students Represent Fox Chapel at PMEA States

By Mia Costello

This year's 2024 PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) All-State Convention was held in Erie, PA from April 17-20. Nine individuals were selected to represent Fox Chapel in four of the six ensembles: Bridget Yun (cello in Orchestra), Elliot Broyles (trombone in Orchestra), Marina Dunham (bassoon in Concert Band), Kris Pizzella (bass in Choir), Chloe Kim (clarinet in Wind Ensemble), Eli Herzer (bass clarinet in Orchestra), Joshua Shah (flute in Wind Ensemble), Patton Johnson (percussion in Wind Ensemble), and Mia Costello (violin in Orchestra).

These students participated in several preliminary rounds of PMEA events, auditioning for highly competitive spots each round. Students first audition for the Honors division, then apply for the District division. Fox Chapel and many other Pittsburgh schools fall into District I (there are twelve total). The top players from Districts, determined by blind seating auditions, will move on to Regions where they will audition against top players from five other districts—the Western half of Pennsylvania. After Regions, the top players will then advance to States. On the first day of the State convention, students find out their seating results from auditions they record in early April.

The first full day States involved a heavy rehearsal schedule for all ensembles. Usually, conductors run through pieces to get a sense of what work needs to be done. Then, specific sections are rehearsed throughout the day to get the piece in better shape. After dinner, students attended a concert featuring The United States Army Field Band. They played the familiarly patriotic tunes of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” along with some classic jazz works from Duke Ellington. As far as my experiences with jazz performances, that concert was the best jazz concert I’ve ever seen! It was definitely one of the highlights of my States trip, and everyone loved the energy that the Army brought.

On the second day of rehearsals, all ensembles worked

on more detail work, getting ready for performances the next day. For this night of concerts, students were able to watch their own peers in the Jazz and Contemporary A Cappella groups. The A Cappella group was an entirely new addition to the PMEA groups this year, so it was amazing to see renditions of more current repertoire! The Jazz ensemble was also incredible—that group is much smaller than the other band groups. Jazz is highly competitive due to the limited number of spots, and the students often get a chance to improvise over one of the pieces to showcase their instrument and abilities.

The following day was filled with performances from Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Chorus. The Orchestra performed Samuel Barber's Overture to

School for Scandal Op. 5, Jack Stamp's Iridium, and two movements from Florence Price's Symphony No. 3. Wind Ensemble performed many pieces including Just Flyin', Three Dances of Enchantment, two movements of Dances from Crete,

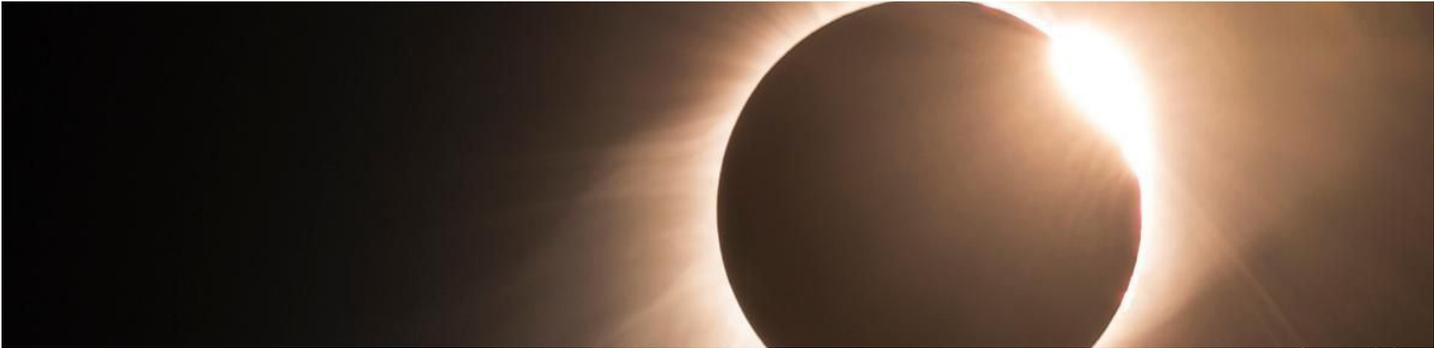
and Dance of the Jesters. As for Concert Band, they played Ceremonial Flourishes; Sound and Smoke; Governor's Own March; Portrait of a City; and Only Light, Only Love. Finally, Chorus performed Ring Out Wild Bells; Hear My Prayer; Come to Me, My Love; It's a Long Way; I Conquer The World With Words, The Dream Keeper - “Song”; and So I'll Sing With My Voice.

Congratulations to all of the students who performed in Warner Theater! 2024 has been a fantastic concert season. Many thanks to Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Lesnik, and Mr. Murray for all of their help in getting everyone to PMEA events—we couldn't do it without you!



Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Ensembles. Pictured above: front row, left to right, Bridget Yun, Marina Dunham, Chloe Kim, Joshua Shah, and Amelia Costello, and, back row, left to right, Elliott Broyles, Kristopher Pizzella, Elijah Herzer, and Patton Johnson.

April's Event Not to Eclipse the Proving of Einstein's Theory



By Abe White

On April 8th, 2024, the shadow of the moon passed through the United States in a solar eclipse. If you stayed in Fox Chapel for the eclipse, you could see near totality. If you drove about 30 minutes away, you could feel the chill and witness the eerie darkness of a complete solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes in front of the sun, casting a shadow on the earth. Due to the orbit of the moon around the earth and the earth around the sun, total solar eclipses are rare events, and one so close to us is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

Eclipse's aren't just fun to view; they can tell us about the fundamental structure of the universe. In the early 1900s, Albert Einstein redefined our model of gravity with his theory of general relativity. He theorized that mass causes the curvature of spacetime, and that this warping is where gravity comes from. But that's all it was -- a theory. But how could one test such a highly theoretical idea? It seemed almost impossible. That is, until researchers around the world came together for the Eddington Experiment. It aimed to use the solar eclipse of 1919 in Africa to prove general relativity. The idea stemmed from a core universal truth that light always takes the shortest path to get from one point to another. Because the sun is a massive body, it should warp space time according to Einstein's theory. That means light from stars behind the sun should have their paths bent by the sun, appearing

around the body instead of behind it. But of course, the sun is too bright to be able to see these stars.

But the eclipse provided the perfect opportunity: the moon would block almost all sunlight, allowing for scientists to photograph and observe the area around the sun. Eddington decided to test Einstein's theory: if stars appeared around the sun that should be behind it, then general relativity holds true. He packed his scientific equipment for the trip to Africa: telescopes, cameras,

and plenty of notebooks.

What he found catapulted Einstein to fame: starlight was deflected around the sun. General relativity had just become the current theory of gravity. Without the solar eclipse, it's likely that Einstein would not have become so famous, and

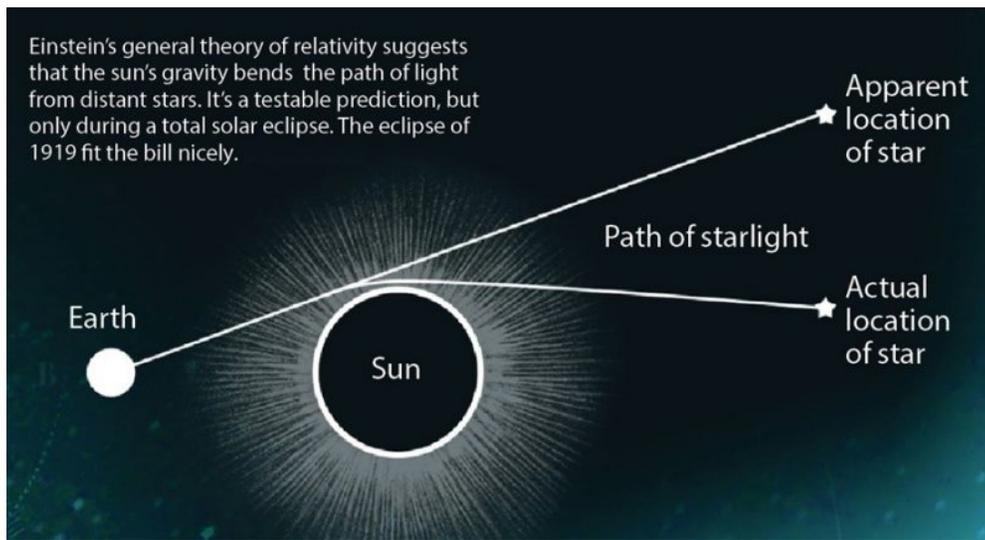


Photo: earthsky.com

one of science's most powerful ideas would have gone unproven.

If you missed the eclipse this year, and want in on the action, the next total solar eclipse occurs in 2026, passing through Spain, Greenland, and Iceland. I hope to see you there!

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MEET THE STAFF



Annalese
Bartolacci



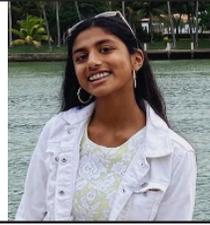
Karsten
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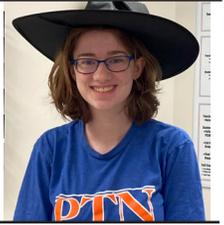
Mia
Costello



Josie
Giguere



Laila
Golla



Katie
Haas



Vesta
Homayoun



Henry
Koloc



Shriya
Krishnamurthy



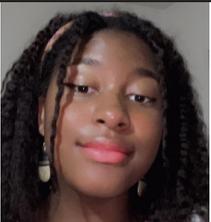
Alex
Navas



Eli
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Fox Chapel Area High School

Fourth Quarter, 2023/2024 School Year

Fox Tales is a quarterly news publication created by the students of Fox Chapel Area High School. The mission of this publication is to showcase the many positive happenings in the Fox Chapel Area School District and surrounding community. Fox Chapel Area School District is comprised of six municipalities: Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel and Sharpsburg boroughs, and Indiana and O'Hara townships. To contribute articles, photographs, or letters, please contact the Fox Tales faculty sponsor, Lisa Gibson, at Lisa_Gibson@fcsd.edu or 412-967-2479. Letters should not exceed 350 words.



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