Volume 10, Issue 1

A Student Publication

Fox Tales

Quarterly



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Students Named 2025 National Merit Semifinalists/Commended Students

Seven Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists and 23 have been named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are David Black, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Benjamin Fiedler, Rayna Huang, Arnim Kuchhal, Zhana Neumann, and Rohit Velankar. The Commended Students from Fox Chapel Area High School are Omar Al-Bataineh, Murugan Ayyanar, Noelle Dick, Maya DiPasquale, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Moonyoung Hwang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Alex Kim, Evan Krieg, Nathan Mackey, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Pierce Osterholm, Rachel Pegher, Hyunoh Ro, Caleb Shirk, David Sorisio, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou.



The Fox Chapel Area High School National Merit Semifinalists are, from left to right, Arnim Kuchhal, Rohit Velankar, Rayna Huang, Anna Delale-O'Connor, David Black, and Zhana Neumann, and back row, Benjamin Fiedler.

All of these students were selected based on their 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. Each year, more than 1.3 million juniors complete the PSAT/NMSQT and are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and the Commended Students scored in the top 5%. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Semifinalists must also participate in school and community activities, demonstrate leadership abilities, and receive other awards and honors. The Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. The Semifinalists now have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly $26 million to be offered in the spring of 2025.

FCAHS Team Named State Finalist in STEM Competition

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students was a state finalist and named among the top 20 teams in the 10th annual Pennsylvania Governor's STEM Competition. The team members were 2023-2024 juniors Rayna Huang and Etash Jhanji and 2023-2024 sophomores Ulyana Kubini, Joanna Li, and Joseph Shin. The theme of the competition this year was "Creating a Commonwealth with Universal Design in Mind." The Fox Chapel Area team developed a product called LocknProtect, a modern-day pill protector they created to keep opioid medications locked away from children and teens. Facilitated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Governor's STEM Competition challenged and engaged 75 teams of high school students from around the state to work together to research, design, and present a device or project that could help improve the lives of Pennsylvanians and fulfill real-world needs. The projects were then judged by STEM industry experts.



From left to right: Etash Janji, Ulyana Kubini, Joanna Li, Rayna Huang, Joseph Shin

"STEM education prepares today's learners for tomorrow's high-wage, in-demand careers, and the Governor's STEM Competition takes hands-on learning to the next level," said Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin. "By engaging in STEM activities that directly impact the world around them, participants are not only learning, but are also creating solutions to benefit their whole community." The Fox Chapel Area High School students' advisor was gifted support facilitator Lisa Gibson.

Students and Graduates Named AP Scholars

A total of 181 current Fox Chapel Area High School students and 2024 graduates were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations taken in May 2024. The College Board recognizes three levels of achievement based on the number of courses and exams.

The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: 2024 graduates Jacob Anthikad, Annalese Bartolacci, Dylan Berman, Micah Cagley, Jack Cannon, Jeremiah Cessna, Joshua Correnti, Amelia Costello, Grady Cullen, Nicholas Cusano, Eliza Davis, Logan Dressman, David Feder, Gabriel Felman, Adam Ferris, Madeline Fontenot, Emmett Gillespie, Lucas Gravina, Katherine Haas, Julia Hernaez, Anna Iasella, Isaac Jacobs, Darren Jayaratnam, Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Alexander Kaufmann, Clara Kelley, Chloe Kim, Emma Kim, Henry Koloc, Kathleen Krebs, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Massimo Lagazzi, Lucy Larsen, Harry Littwin, Rebecca Lokshanov, Jacob Milgrub, Rose Mullan, Benjamin Myers, Thomas Patterson, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Oscar Ruff, Michael Shin, Nora Siri, Madeleine Stone, Adhitya Thirumala, Kieu My Tong, Emily Torbert, Gabriella Urso, Andrew Wagner, Gloria Wen, Abraham White, Isabella White, Dylan Work, and Bridget Yun; and 2024-2025 seniors Murugan Ayyanar, David Black, Milo Chiu, Elena Curran, Anna Delale O'Connor, Noelle Dick, Reed Echnat, Kai Edwards, Brooke Fenton, Benjamin Fiedler, Gabrielle Generett, Gabriella Hample, Rayna Huang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Alex Kim, Arnim Kuchhal, Peter Mascilli, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Wyatt Muller, Salome Navas Grijalva, Zhana Neumann, Kyle Ong, Sangyon Park, Hannah Parker, Hyunoh Ro, Varad Sant, Rohit Velankar, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou.

The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: 2024 graduates Lincoln Baldwin, Isabella Barbour, Molly Ben, Maria Costantino, Camryn Eisner, Sage Good, Mikayla Korczynski, Jenna Lazaro, Connor Mazzoni, Rachel Milcheck, Ryan Napolitan, Can Pekkan, Anneliese Pham, Miguel Quercia Marcano, Gavin Rosswog, Claudia Smith, and Emily Staud; and 2024-2025 seniors Omar Al-Bataineh, Ainsley Anderson, Rebecca Chang, Malik Choset, Ava Condron, Eleanor Dering, Maya DiPasquale, Olivia Dugan, Moonyoung Hwang, Anna Kitner, Jonah Kline, Charles Larsen, Weidi Li, Swati Mylarappa, Aidan Ortz, Rachel Pegher, Ava Persichetti, Francesco Pistella, Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, Josiah Rivera, Addison Rossi, Caroline Slember, Paige Solomon, Sophie Thorne, Luke Tsai, Samuel Ummer, Colette Walter, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, Timothy Ye, and Altai Yumak.

The following graduates/students qualified for the AP Scholar award by receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams: 2024 graduates Ella Bingler, Mireia Burkhardt, Mira Busch, Anna Dering, Jack Filter, Porter Hill, Caroline Hinz, Aiden Hirsch, Owen Levy, Kristopher Pizzella, Sophia Rike, Micah Shelley, Sarah Slember, and Parv Tahiliani; 2024-2025 seniors Katherine Banyas, Nicholas Clump, Tyler Goldstein, Natalie Hanlon, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Madeleine Jones, Nicole Kang, Grace Kovach, Even Krieg, Joshua Lowe, Nathan Mackey, Alina Minturn, Stella Minturn, Anna Mohn, Pierce Osterholm, Vanessa Perez Milano, Melisa Pietz, Margaret Rusche, Keegan Scanlon, Jane Stone, Gianna Tavolario, Owen Zaremby, and Luca Zgurzynski; and 2024-2025 juniors Sophia Feng, Priscila Hayetian, Zinta Jacob, Ulyana Kubini, Simon Littwin, Max Melocchi, Joshua Shah, Lorenzo Smiraglio, and Anais Wang.

Advanced Placement exams are graded on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest. Most of the nation's four-year colleges and universities award credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores. Every year, AP examinations are offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions.

Kai Edwards Places in National FBLA Competition

2023-2024 junior Kai Edwards placed at the 2024 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference. Kai won seventh place in Entrepreneurship, and this was his second consecutive year to place at nationals. The FBLA National Leadership Conference was held in Orlando, Florida, June 29-July 2. More than 15,000 students from high schools across the United States, Canada, and China participated in various business, technology, and presentation events at the competition. The Fox Chapel FBLA sponsor is Mrs. Congalton.



Students Win 2024 Teen Media Award

Juniors Akshay Lath and Rodrigo Silva were named winners in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's 2024 Ralph Munn Creative Writing and Teen Media Awards. Akshay and Rodrigo were awarded second place in the short film category for their submission, "The Hill District: A History of Jazz."

"The sheer talent showcased in this year's entries is truly inspiring," said Simon Rafferty, library services supervisor – STEAM Learning. "We are so grateful that these brave young artists chose to share their work with us." Kizuwanda Raines, also of STEAM Learning, praised this year's entries saying, "These teens are so inspiring and have motivated me to try my hand at something!"

The contest, sponsored by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, was open to all high school students in grades 9-12 across Allegheny County. More than 300 submissions were received in the categories of poetry, short prose, cover art design, short film, music, photography, 3D art, 2D art, and fashion, and a total of 28 first-place, second-place, and honorable mention winners were named in the categories.

The winning entries in poetry, prose, and works of art are on display at the main library in Oakland through September. The entries of the winners and others are also published in an anthology which is distributed to all public libraries in Allegheny County. This year, 43 teens had their poetry and prose published.

All of the winners were recognized for their creative content at a reception during the library's end-of-summer extravaganza.



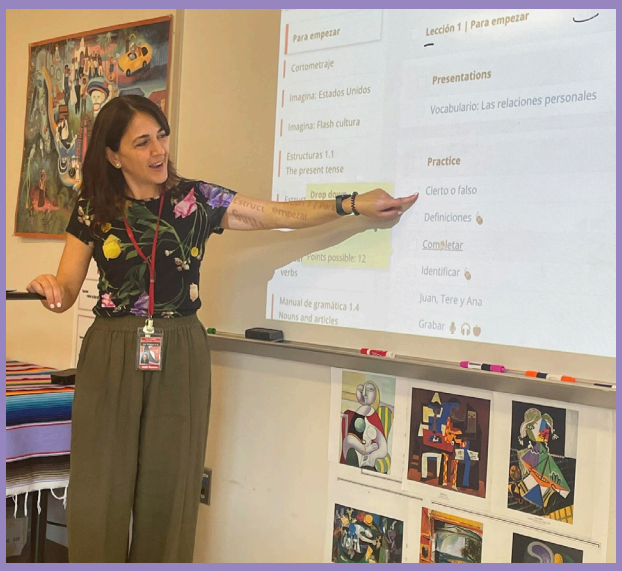
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

FCAHS Teacher Named Global Educator

World language teacher Kelly Barone has earned the distinction of being named a Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) Global Educator.

According to an email from Dr. Jan Hostler Stewart from the PSMLA Global Scholars Program, the honor reflects the culture, environment, and priorities that the Fox Chapel Area School District has established to encourage and recognize insight and forward-thinking in preparing students for success in today's world.

"Kelly has provided the opportunity for and mentored her students to consciously select courses and activities to become PSMLA Global Scholars Graduates for at least two consecutive years. Her dedication and commitment to her students, her school, and this program are inspiring and commendable," Dr. Hostler Stewart said. "Today's world presents unprecedented global challenges about which instantaneous communication provides a superabundance of information. Thanks to Kelly, the PSMLA Global Scholars in the Fox Chapel Area School District may be more well-equipped to process, understand, and disseminate this knowledge and use it as the basis for developing wider perspectives which will be beneficial as they move forward in life."



Spanish Kelly Barone is dedicated to her profession and subject interest. She has now been honored twice for her efforts to guide students towards becoming PSMLA Global Scholars.

This is the second time Barone, a Spanish teacher, has been named a Global Educator by the PSMLA. Her certification as a Global Educator is valid for two years.

AFS Conroy Guyer Scholarship Offers Enriching Study Abroad Opportunity

By Ulyana Kubini

This past summer, I had the amazing opportunity to travel abroad thanks to the AFS Conroy Guyer Scholarship. AFS, or the American Field Service, is a travel abroad organization operating in over 45 countries with 40,000 volunteers across the globe. I was able to travel to Spain with a group of fellow AFS high school students from across the country.

Setting foot into a completely different country was quite surreal. Even the airport had a unique aura and architectural style to it. Once we arrived in Madrid from New York, which was about an eight-hour flight, we headed off to meet our host families. I stayed in a village called Zaratan, not far from Valladolid. Village life in Spain is both peaceful and exciting. There were parties going on nightly – particularly loud ones after Spain's soccer team won against England – and yet there were calm fields, relaxing pools, and plenty of time to just think in the countryside.



Ulyana at the Wall of Cuéllar, an protective wall renovated by the 2nd Duke of Albuquerque during the 15th century.



One of the many tourist entrances to the El Castillo De Cuellar in the region of Castile and León, Spain.

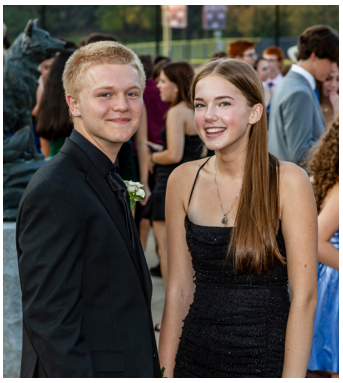
The AFS experience includes many extra activities aimed to help the students further understand the country they are staying in. As a group, we participated in several tours. Everyone had plenty of time to shop and explore the vibrant capital of Madrid. Other particularly notable events to me were the tours of the giant Segovia castle and Salamanca's famous university building. It is said that those who can find a frog outside the giant building will have good luck for the entire semester (I am testing that out this year)! Speaking of buildings, Spain has a multitude of different historical sites and museums we frequented too. The AFS group was able to see Ferdinand and Isabella's original authorization for Columbus to explore the New World. Other museums were focused on religion; both the museums and churches featured incredible sights.

In addition, each of the AFS students had time to spend with their host families. Everyone did something different. My family was fond of Spain's North, which is beaming with a plethora of beautiful beaches and mountains. We even got to swim in a part of the Atlantic Ocean. At one point, I was invited to a party in a nearby village – Cigales. There was music, dancing, and festivities all the way up until four in the morning. Traveling abroad also gives you many opportunities to try out unique cuisines. In Spain, perhaps the most famous (and delicious) dish is a rice and meat/seafood-based meal called Paella. Another Spanish summer classic is Gazpacho, a chilled tomato soup that is incredibly refreshing in the summer heat. Almost every meal is capped off with some local fruit, like the incredibly tasty Paraguaya or "donut peach." Spanish cuisine includes many strong spices that I never knew existed!

All of these amazing experiences were made possible due to the generosity of the late Fox Chapel English teacher, Mr. Conroy Guyer. The admissions committee informed me about Mr. Guyer's passion for travel; he wished more students had an opportunity to explore the world around them. Through this scholarship, his generous and adventurous spirit continues to inspire students like me to this day.



HOMECOMING DANCE











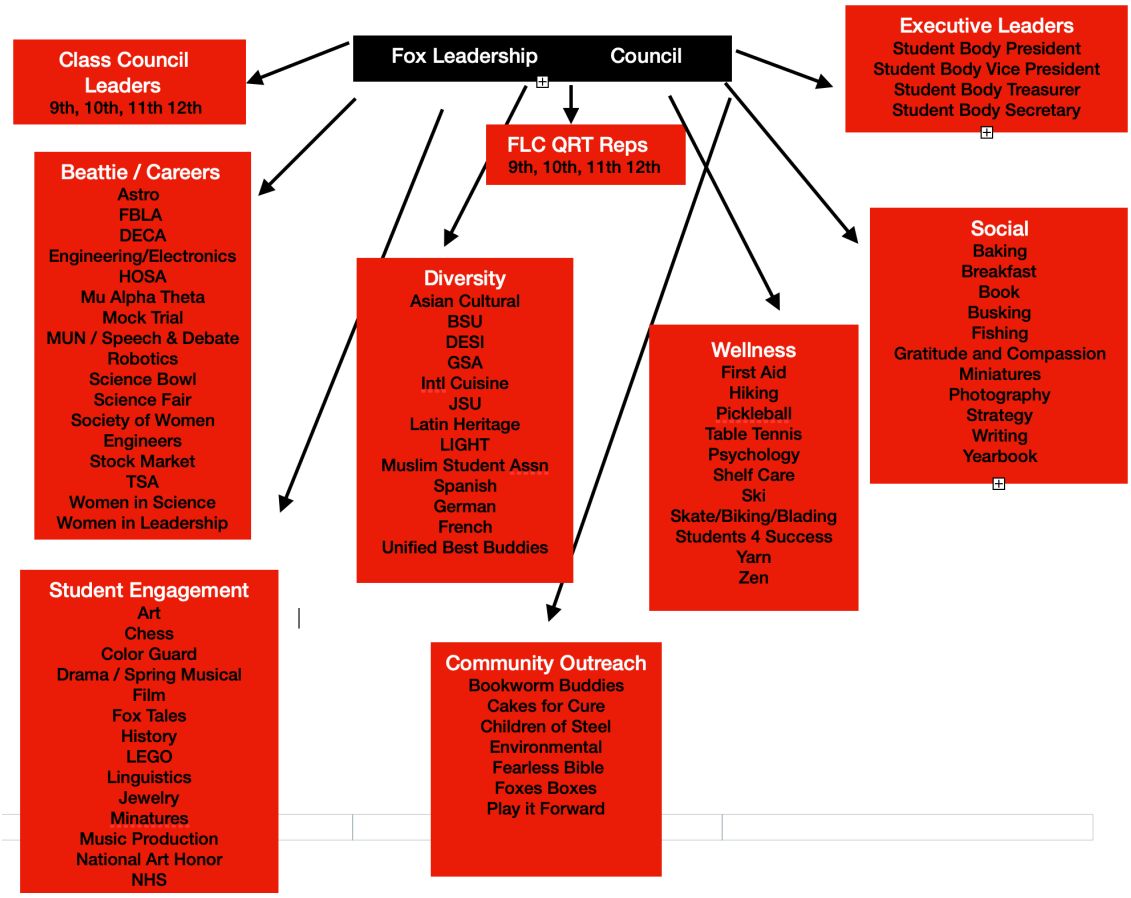







The Foxes Leadership Council Explained

By Zehra Ozkaya



Foxes Leadership Council? Sounds fancy and complicated, doesn't it? Well it actually isn't. Recently, Fox Chapel Area High School switched from a traditional high school student government to the Foxes Leadership Council. The Foxes Leadership Council (FLC) can be defined in very simple terms, it leads the Foxes. However, the FLC branches out to cover more areas of Fox Chapel Area High School than the student government did. Some things that the student government contained were transferred over to the FLC. There is still a similar set up with executive leaders of the student body: a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Each class also has their own class council. This consists of students that were elected from each township by the entire student body. These individuals make up the QRT that the council represents. The teacher of this QRT acts as their sponsor and faculty representative. Each class council contributes to the district and plans activities to fundraise for their class for the entire school year. For example, last year's banner contest was executed by the class of 2027's student council and the dodgeball tournament by the class of 2026's. Each event helped to raise money that the corresponding class needed for expenses and future events as well.

The Foxes Leadership Council also oversees many of the school's prominent clubs. This includes the Wellness Council, Diversity Council, and the Student Engagement Team as well as many more. Utilizing these clubs, the FLC encourages students to generate more club engagement within their own clubs. These clubs reach out to the Fox Chapel Community in a multitude of ways. The Wellness council does exactly what its name entails, helps students to work on their mental and physical health. In collaboration with the Zen Den, a room in the high school where students can go to relax and take a break, the Wellness council has activities that are designed to help the mental health of students. Similarly, the Diversity council organizes activities to encourage respect towards each other's culture, race, and sexuality. By aiding these clubs in their activities, the FLC shows the standard they wish to display to the Fox Chapel community.

In addition to the clubs that the FLC oversees and the class councils that fundraise for the entire student body, the FLC has a branch for QRT representatives. These representatives are in charge of participating in monthly meetings where they receive information about large events that the school has programmed. One person from each QRT attends this meeting and will then return to their said QRT to explain the most important aspects of the meetings. This method allows information to reach every student in the school as well as the teachers, supplementing the already prevalent Schoology posts and emails.

The Foxes Leadership Council is now a staple at our school that helps to organize and monitor many of the activities that are held throughout the year. The entire FLC contains many branches that are organized by the council as a whole—think of it as a collaboration instead of a government.

The FLC's Reptilian Mascot—Frankie

By Mateo Phelan-Videl

The Student Activities office has recently welcomed a bearded dragon as the FLC's mascot. However, what is a bearded dragon? What makes them unique and different from other reptiles? And most importantly, why is one in the student activities office? In nature they eat insects, plants, and live in desert environments. Bearded dragons originated in Australia and made their way to the United States as exotic pets. Bearded dragons are called bearded dragons because of the obvious beard of scales under their chin which can puff up to indicate moods. However, this is mainly a behavior that males exhibit. A female's head bobs to communicate mostly when territorial. These emotions and innovative personality makes them a good pet for certain people.



But what exactly makes bearded dragons so unique and different from other reptiles? As said before, they communicate with their beards which can turn dark in males under stress. Also, bearded dragons change color to absorb or reflect heat. When they are cold, they turn darker to absorb more light, but when they are too hot they become lighter to reflect more light. They detect changes in light with a small third eye in the back of their skull, which is actually common in a lot of reptiles.

Finally, why does the Student Activities office have one and what are some characteristics of the school's bearded dragon? The idea behind having a bearded dragon in the Student Activities Office is for the FLC to have a mascot. The members of the QRT chose the bearded dragon as in concept it is a good and easy pet. We asked them why they chose this specific one in the pet store and they answered with the fact that it had an interesting pattern and that it stood out from the others. After the gender reveal party, it was officially determined to be a girl. They later held a survey to choose the name and settled on "Frankie." So in closing, please welcome to Fox Chapel Area High School, the mascot of FLC, the bearded dragon Frankie!

Young Leaders: The 2024-2025 FLC Council

By Emilia Sutkowski

Fox Chapel enjoys when the inclusion of the student body is seen and its voice is heard. Every year, during the spring, there is an election allowing students to make a decision on who will represent them the best and help advocate for the body as a whole. Thus, in the spring of 2024, the student body (freshman, sophomores, juniors) voted for candidates that ran for each position. The winners included: Annie Mohn as President, Kellen Bleier as Vice President, Nathan Mackey as Treasurer, and Ridglee Boychuk as Secretary. These four officers play key roles in planning events around the school and work together to promote student engagement.



From left to right: Nathan Mackey, Annie Mohn, Kellan Blair, Ridglee Boychuck

Since these students were named elected officers, their job entails representation of the student body from different clubs, sports, and after school activities. Every sector of the school gets representation through these leaders. All four of the FLC leaders participate in a fall, winter, or spring sport or sports. They strive to be heavily involved in clubs such as FBLA and the Student Engagement Team.

Annie Mohn and Ridglee Boychuk are both Varsity players for the Fox Chapel Field Hockey team. Last year, the team had made it all the way to the division 3A finals. This year, both these girls serve as Varsity team captains for the 2025 Field Hockey Team. Along with a busy extracurricular schedule, Annie Mohn is the Telethon Head Chair for the second year in a row! Last year the fundraiser accumulated an enormous gross revenue of $66,775 (all proceeds were donated to Backpack for Hunger). Working right beside the ladies, both Kellen Bleier and Nathan Mackey are heavily involved in different events around the school community. Kellan is the boy's soccer team captain. Nathan is the captain for the boy's tennis team.

On top of balancing their many activities with schoolwork, these students attend several meetings throughout the school year where they work with administrators. By way of these meetings, they plan events around the school and discuss how to get increased involvement from various different groups of students whether that be a club, sport, or a whole grade itself. Their job takes hard work, integrity, and responsibility. These students stand out by showing resilient characteristics through prioritizing the overall good of the school over their own interests. Fox Chapel Area High School is fortunate to have them!

Fox Chapel Area Named One of the Best Communities For Music Education

The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named among the 2024 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the 13th year that the district has received this designation. Fox Chapel Area is one of 139 in the state of Pennsylvania and one of 975 school districts in the nation chosen for this honor. It recognizes districts that demonstrate outstanding music achievement and that provide an exceptionally high commitment and access to all students to music education.

The districts were selected through a program sponsored by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation which recognizes and celebrates outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education for all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities for Music Education designation, Fox Chapel Area music teachers responded to a detailed survey with questions pertaining to funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit that celebrates and promotes the intrinsic value of music education.

Safety Nets for Students

By Paige Solomon

With school back in session, stress and anxiety levels can be high; it's important to know what safety nets are provided when you need a break or someone to talk to. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a 24⁄7 call or text number that can help people experiencing suicidal, substance abuse, or mental health distress. You can also call this number if you are worried about a loved one. This number has saved many lives and is super important to know and be aware of. An alternative number to know is 741741, which directs to the Crisis Text Line that is also 24/7. You can text this number "hello" and a trained Crisis Counselor will answer within seconds. Another place to ask for help is the counseling office. There are six guidance counselors, plus Dr. Frazier who is a mental health specialist. The guidance counselors are implementing the "Counselor's Corner," where a guidance counselor will be in the commons during all lunches. This is a great opportunity to meet with a counselor if your QRTs or classes are too busy to talk to them.



The Zen Den is located in room 225, near the langauge hallway and CRC.



The Foxes Burrow is located near the new MPR (102) and the Swift Fox Media studio.

Other places that are open for students are the Zen Den, Foxes Burrow, DEI Room, and Library. The Zen Den is room number 225, near the language hallway and CRC. The Foxes Burrow is located near the new MPR room and Swift Fox Media studio. This is open and free to anyone in the high school who needs food, clothes, hygiene products/ cosmetics, school supplies, and much more. The DEI Room is open during lunch and is a safe space to relax. The DEI Club also hosts meetings during QRT and serves as a great way to get involved and meet new people!

Finally, the library is usually open during QRT (unless there are meetings or career speakers). There are computers, comfy seats, and of course, books! It's super important to know what safety nets the school offers. Never be afraid to ask for help or talk to someone. You are never alone.



Students Partake in PennDOT "Paint the Plow" Contest

FCAHS art students participated in PennDOT's annual "Paint the Plow" contest. This year's theme is "Use your reason when it's FREEZIN." The design was created by Caroline Grimsley a level two student. Several students had their hands on the project. Emily Kiro, Shayna McDermotte, Lillian Salva, Ava DeBruyn, Emilia Sutkowski, Raina Guzman, Nora Kelley, Oliver Seibert and Mira Owens.

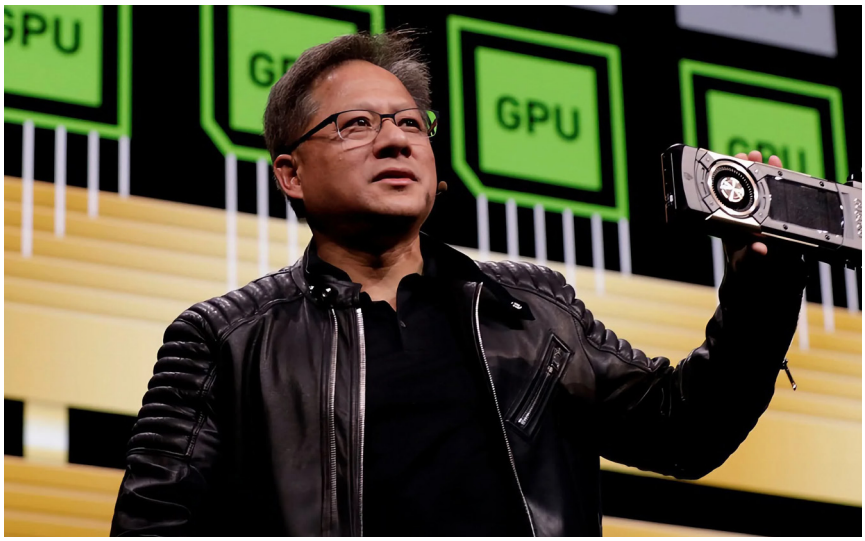


NVIDIA's Role in AI Development

By Arman Alborzi

Although NVIDIA started out as a company focused on graphical processing units, it is now a powerhouse that drives advancements in artificial intelligence. A company that began focused on gaming and visual rendering is now a key leader in AI, providing hardware and software infrastructure to fuel innovations.

Most of AI's recent advancements are dependent on NVIDIA's GPUs, which are used in developing machine learning and deep learning algorithms. GPUs offer significantly more processing power when compared to central processing units (CPUs) that are designed for sequential processing. This allows large datasets and complex computations to be handled for AI tasks. NVIDIA uses CUDA (Compute Unified Device Architecture) in their GPUs. This architecture optimizes AI workloads, allows developers to harness the full potential of their GPUs, and is why NVIDIA is a dominant leader in the AI hardware industry.



NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang displays one of the company's high end computer componets.

NVIDIA's A100 Tensor Core GPU is crucial to training and developing AI models across the world. This GPU is designed for high-performance AI applications, which makes training AI models extremely efficient. This chip alongside others is the biggest reason why NVIDIA is the leader in AI development.

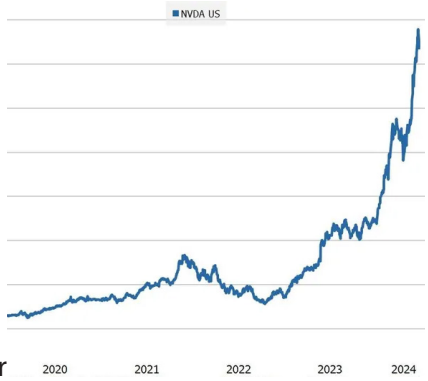
NVIDIA is a company that is considerd to be at the forefront of AI technology.

Although the biggest contributor to NVIDIA's dominance, hardware is not the only thing that contributes to their success. Through the company's hardware, NVIDIA has built an extensive AI ecosystem. Ecosystems such as TensorRT or cuDNN let developers perfect their AI models for deployment. These ecosystems along with partnerships with cloud providers like Google Cloud make NVIDIA's technology more accessible than ever. NVIDIA's infrastructure becomes necessary as AI expands through different industries.

This wave of AI growth has benefited NVIDIA's stock too. The rising need for AI chips and infrastructure has led to solid financial gains, especially in their data center business, which is now a big part of what they do. Investors are feeling good about NVIDIA's constant push in AI hardware and research. Just in the past year, their stock shot up by a whopping 244.56%!

NVIDIA's stock usually gets a boost whenever they announce something new in AI—like a fresh AI chip or a new deal with a major cloud company. These announcements tend to drive up the stock price because the market gets excited about the potential for more business. Still, this rapid growth doesn't come without challenges—rivals like AMD and Intel are trying to catch up, and there are always geopolitical issues that could mess with supply chains.

In the bigger picture, NVIDIA has become a key player in the global AI boom. Their top-notch GPUs, along with their AI-friendly hardware and wide-ranging software tools, have made them a leader in the space. This position hasn't just pushed tech forward; it's also driven big increases in their stock value. As AI keeps advancing, NVIDIA's focus on pushing boundaries with both hardware and software is likely to keep them on top and help maintain their stock growth.



The company's stock price is seeing a consistent rise with their innovation in artifical intelligence. Graphic source: Forbes.com

Sources:
https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/NVDA/
https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/deep-learning-ai/solutions/data-science/
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Advice for Current Freshmen

By Sienna Sigel

1. Make as many new friends as possible

This may be the most important point on the list. It is really important that you expand your friendships, and make the effort to meet new people. People change and evolve after middle school, and you may find yourself enjoying a new group at the high school. First impressions mean so much, and having friends at the high school will make the days feel shorter and more enjoyable. Remember that everyone is feeling the same feelings, and nervous, so don't be afraid to sit at a new lunch table, or choose to be partners in class with someone you don't know! Make an effort to talk to people in your class, it will make the days far more enjoyable.

2. Get involved in clubs

Our school has a club for everything, and if you think that they are missing something, then you can start your own! I am still in most of the clubs that I joined freshman year. Clubs are meant to be a fun outlet where you can come together with people of your same interest, or goals. Being involved in clubs also looks really good on college applications, and shows your ability to work with groups, and better develop your specialized interest. My freshman year I joined FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), and through the past three years I have been involved with the fundraisers, donations, and the competitions. I know that I want to be involved with business in my future, and FBLA has surrounded me around others who have the same goals as me. The high school has heritage clubs, food clubs, wellness clubs, and so many more categories. It is important to be involved with the school, because you can form connections with teachers, and peers.

3. Join a sports team

Join a sports team! In my opinion, sports is the best way to meet people. You can relate over a common interest in the sport, and you will be together for practices during a season. It is also a way to be involved with the advanced athletic program at Fox Chapel. Sports also offer the opportunity to get to meet upperclassmen, and have friends in other grades. Being a part of a sports team in high school is so rewarding, and it becomes something to look forward to during the school day.

4. Go to school events

High school is very different from middle school when it comes to school spirit. Football games are so much fun, and personally one of the many highlights of my high school experience. Go to games, and dress up for the theme. Take pictures, and be social. It can be intimidating at first, but most of you will come to love going to football games for the social aspect. Not only do I encourage football games, I also encourage going to other sporting events. Talk to a few friends, and plan on attending a basketball game, or a swimming meet. It may also inspire you to consider joining the team. Need a game day outfit? Stop in the Foxes Den and pick something out! Another amazing aspect of the social life at the high school is the dances. As a freshman you will be eligible to attend any dance except Prom (unless you get invited by an upperclassman). It is not a requirement to go, but I strongly encourage everyone to go, and experience at least one high school dance. You can go with a date, or with friends, and enjoy a carefree night of dancing and socializing. Usually people go to dinner before, take pictures, and dress up nicely. Dances are something to look forward to, when the schoolwork may feel overwhelming. Get excited about the opportunities offered at the high school, because the four years will pass quickly!

5. Be productive

As I have been listing event after event, you can see how your calendar will quickly fill up. It is important to first and foremost prioritize school work. After a long day of school, you may go to a practice or rehearsal, and then have a lot of homework to do when you get home. Unfortunately it is common that high schoolers have to stay up later to get their work done. The best piece of advice I have for you is to be productive and don't procrastinate! Sleep is also important, and with early mornings, it is really beneficial to get to bed at a decent hour. It is also common that teachers will give time at the end of class to work on homework. Use that time! You will thank yourself later. Make sure to also prioritize time to relax and regroup after a long day.

6. Get to know your teachers

As you come into the high school, you will be working with many teachers: guidance counselors, elective teachers, language teachers, etc. It is essential that you become acquainted with them. The better you know your teachers, the more inclined they are to help you out. Some teachers at the school are strict, so it is beneficial if you are friendly and respectful with them. Make a good first impression that will land you good graces through the rest of the semester. If you are struggling in a class, make sure to go see them in QRT or after class. They are here to help, and want to see you succeed. You also will all have guidance counselors. The counselor is there to listen, give advice, help with schedule changes, or any other activities that you may want to be involved in. They help you to be on track for your graduation requirements, and give you advice on what classes they think you should be in. Get to know your counselor, because they will be with you for the next four years! You will also have a QRT teacher for the next 4 years. Their job is to help keep track of your grades, your graduation requirements, and speak with you about important matters. Get to know them!

Overall, I hope this helped to make any freshman readers less nervous about the transition. It may seem like a lot right now, but just be reassured that it will all work out. You have so many people who are ready to guide you through. High school is ready for all of you!

DECA

INSPIRE. LEAD. ACHIEVE.

This year, Fox Chapel is introducing DECA in the high school. Also known as Distributive Education Clubs of America, this club equips students with the skills to successfully transition from high school to a career. With a variety of involvement levels, we offer opportunities involving workshops, social events, awards, and the Business Bowl, which is a student-developed competition. All of these events cater to each student's interests whether it's marketing, personal finance, hospitality, or something else! Please reach out to us on Instagram @Fcahsdeca or Email us at: Fcahsdeca@gmail.com if you have any questions. We can't wait to see you all in DECA this year!

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month

By William Kelly

November is a time to recognize diabetes and its impact on approximately 30 million Americans, almost 10% of the US population, and over 500 million adults worldwide. Diabetes is a chronic disease, estimated to contribute to almost 15% of deaths globally. It occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is an essential hormone, especially for those who suffer from this disease. Insulin aids in supplying your body with energy as well as managing blood sugar levels. The most common effect of diabetes is raised blood sugar, which over time, leads to extreme damages in systems of the body.

Diabetes comes in three variations: type one (juvenile), type two (adult onset), and gestational (during pregnancy). Type two diabetes is the most common, with over 90% of cases being type two. Type two diabetes is commonly caused by lifestyle habits, where type one is autoimmune. Type one typically develops during adolescence. The third type, gestational, is contracted during the phase of pregnancy known as gestation, between conception and birth. Gestational diabetes is caused by hormonal changes that lead to insulin resistance. Diabetes can be treated with medicine and insulin injection, which type one patients require to survive. Most chronic diseases are not paid as much attention to, as they are stereotyped as less serious. However, during the month of November, we should all show support for friends, family, and others living with diabetes or other chronic diseases.



Sources:
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Advice for Current Freshmen from the Pros (a.k.a Current Seniors)

Compiled by Sienna Sigel



Claire Auffenberg: "If you don't know a lot of people in your classes, make new friends!"



Margaret Rusche: "Make a relationship with your teachers, it goes a long way!"



Ava Persichetti: "Work hard in all of your classes every year because all of your grades matter."



Ridglee Boychuk: "Get involved and make the most of your four years; it goes by fast."



Gus Passerrello-Carnevali: "Even if you are dreading the work, or are nervous about an upcoming test, go into it with a positive mindset and oftentimes it works out."



Nathan Mackey: "Don't take anything too seriously, and try to enjoy every moment."



Jonah Kline: "Today's hard work builds the foundation of tomorrow's success, and make the most of every opportunity because you rarely get two chances. "



Matthew Begg: "Get involved in a school sport, because it is really valuable to have a team. "



Peter Mascilli: "Find an activity that you love and excel in it."



Maddie Grimsley: "Take time to try a bunch of different things to figure out what you're passionate about before your four years are done. "

Join us for Saturday STEM!

By FC SWE (Marin Airik and Vesta Homayoun)

Are you looking for an opportunity in STEM while earning valuable community service hours and experience working with kids? Then our Saturday STEM programs, facilitated through the Society of Women Engineers Club, might just be for you! Join us for our monthly program that gives you a chance to help kids explore the world of STEM through hands-on challenges.
On the third Saturday of each month, volunteers help kids dive into interactive activities that encourage creativity and critical thinking. For example, our most recent event featured balloon launchers, where elementary schoolers learned about aerodynamics through a mini lesson launching balloons themselves. It is a great way for them to experiment and have fun while still gaining insight to engineering concepts that are used everyday in today's high-earning, highly coveted jobs.

Why should you join us? You can make a difference: as a volunteer, you will inspire younger students to explore the world of STEM. You can connect with friends and meet other students who share your interests! There will be opportunities to collaborate on projects and create lasting friendships. Looking for ways to fulfill the graduation service hour or National Honor Society requirements? You can earn community service hours! Volunteering with us is a fantastic way to give back to the community while gaining valuable skills.



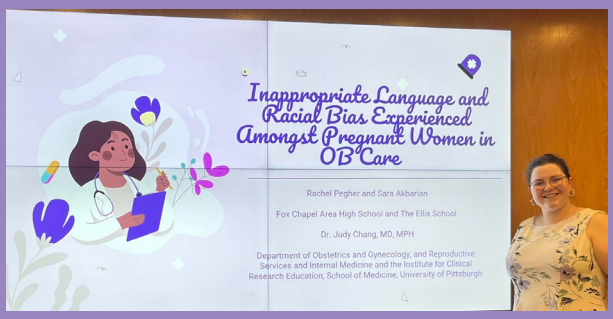


We are consistently seeking volunteers to help make these events a success. Volunteering is a great way to earn community service, or NHS hours while working with kids and inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. This is just one among the various opportunities that Society of Women Engineers offers. Make sure to contact fcahs.swenextclub@gmail.com or homayoun_vesta@student.fcasd.edu to get involved in the club and the Saturday STEM Program!

Exciting Healthcare Internship for High Schoolers

By Rachel Pegher

Over the course of six weeks, Rachel Pegher dedicated 240 hours to her personal co-founded research project, "Inappropriate Language and Racial Bias Experienced Amongst Pregnant Women in OB Care," under mentor Dr. Judy Chang. Such a project was done for the Magee-Womens Research Institute High School Summer Internship Program, a highly selective and application based internship program for high school students interested in initiating their own research and possibly making a career in academia. For example, Rachel Pegher wants to pursue an MD-PhD focusing on demographic-based research on healthcare. Her research project–and its found statistical significance–will continue to be considered by Duke University and the University of Pittsburgh in their longitudinal study on patient-provider relations when addressing OB healthcare issues. Additionally, Joanna Li, also from FCAHS, was accepted into this program. She worked on a way to consistently test the quality of a product used for women to prevent HIV transmission.



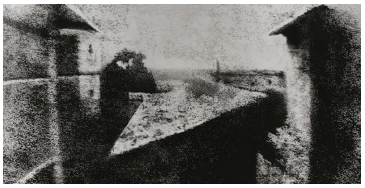
Rachel Pegher presents her research project from Magee-Womens Research Institute High School Summer Internship Program.

Magee-Womens Research Institute was the one of the first hospitals in the United States to primarily focus on womens' health, specifically their reproductive health. Because of the hospital's history, this specific research program is fantastic for people who want to go into demographic-based research. Students interested can apply December 1st-January 31st for this summer internship. Though quite competitive, it is highly encouraged for any student who wants to pursue a career in this field to apply. Email Pegher_Rachel@student.fcasd.edu if you have any questions on the extensive application process.

A Subjective Listing of History's Best Captures and the Stories Behind Them

By Karsten Buchert

History can be experienced through a diverse range of mediums, whether that is listening to an acclaimed professor lecture, watching a documentary, or flipping through a book. However, one of the most common ways through which we immerse ourselves in history is photographs. There's a reason why high school history textbooks make an effort to include numerous visuals. Compared to the entirety of human history, photography is a very recent invention. The first camera was invented in 1816. Both that feat and the earliest surviving photograph are accredited to Joseph Nicéphore Niépce of France. The photo (1) is titled "View From the Window at Le Gras." Supposedly requiring eight hours to take, it is estimated to have been shot between 1826-1827. While exact years are hard to put down, photography became a common practice somewhere during the mid-nineteenth century.



(1) "View From the Window at Le Gras" is considered the world's first photograph.



(2) Dorothea Lange's recognizable "Migrant Mother" image from 1936.

So, photography is established as an available medium for humans to capture moments with, now what will they capture with it? Well, many recognizable and impactful photos will be taken accompanied by equally famous photographers. A notable example is Migrant Mother by Dorothea Lange (2) which is praised for highlighting the conditions of migrant workers that were a combined result of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Ultimately though, what deserves to be considered "most recognizable or impactful" is up for heavy debate so I tried to compile a "top five" list of pictures, as well as the stories behind them, that I feel are just particularly interesting. Some may be recognizable, others likely not.



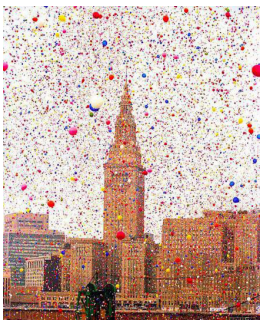
(3) One of the other takes of the Abbey Road album cover.

To start with one that everyone has definitely seen at least a reference to at one point, Abbey Road by Iain Mcmillan. The iconic image that features the members of the Beatles Striding across a crosswalk in Northwest London looks like it was carefully staged and in the works for a while. However, the idea for the album's title, Abbey Road, was thought up fairly late in its composition. In the picture, the band is actually walking away from the office of the studio they were working with. Getting the shot was a tactful effort; Mcmillan utilized a step ladder to get the right angle while a police officer stopped traffic. In one of the six photos taken, you can actually see a line of cars waiting, including an iconic red London bus (3). Okay, famous album cover, cool right?

Yeah, well let's get weird. How about this picture (4) of Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th president of the United States, at his ranch, in a pool, with his grandson and dog, reading a memo. The dog, Yuki, was perhaps Johnson's most beloved dog. His daughter found the mutt abandoned at a gas station on Thanksgiving Day of 1966. Now it is no secret that LBJ was quite an "exotic" fellow in his personal life outside of being Commander in Chief. Within his first week in the White House, Johnson requested some plumbing modifications be made to the shower, allegedly asking for multiple extra nozzles to be fitted all with water being ejected at the "pressure of a fire hose" and with "needle-like intensity." He claimed that if he could "move 1,000 troops in a day," plumbers could "fix the bathroom" any way he wanted. I like to imagine every time LBJ took a shower, the water pressure in every other building in Washington, D.C. dropped significantly. Going back to the photo, it was taken on his 60th birthday which he spent at his Texas ranch dubbed the "Texas White House" due to the amount of time he spent there. It is now a property of the US Department of the Interior basically meaning that LBJ's vacation destination is now a national park. In case you're curious, yes: it did feature a multi-nozzle high pressure shower. There's a number of other strange quirks with LBJ, a surprising amount focusing around a part of his body that is definitely not appropriate for a high school publication, but I've got more photos to discuss. Johnson's personal life and its "obscure" details could be a whole other article.



(4) President Lyndon B. Johnson is pictured in the pool of his Texas ranch.



(5) Balloons cloud the view of the Terminal Tower on the 27th of September, 1986.

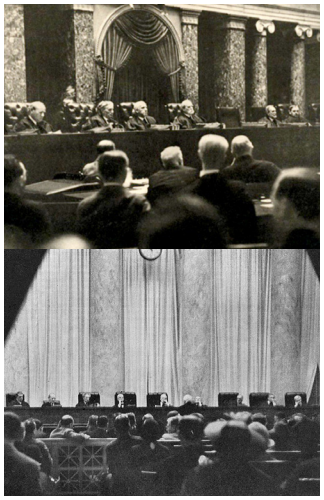
What would've made LBJ's 60th birthday celebration better? Why balloons of course! But what if you had 1.5 million balloons and instead of for a party, they were part of an elaborate charity event. Well, look no further

than BalloonFest 86' held in Cleveland. Unlike their sports teams, it was very… nevermind, it was just like their sports teams – quite the failure. While the organizer, United Way, was successful in accumulating balloons, the issue came with the release of the them. Wind gusts caused balloons to end up in unexpected destinations; a whole airport had to shut down due to balloon coverage. The Coast Guard was allegedly unable to find two overboard fishermen due to balloons in the water plus some of them resembled life vests. The balloon blitzkrieg caused numerous other issues including traffic accidents and environmental concerns. Thankfully, this magnificent event was documented extensively in photographic form (5), the images tend to have a surreal quality to them in my opinion.

Let's sadly shift to some less positive captures. Remember how I mentioned Dorothea Lange? Well she is responsible for many photos that illustrate the US during the mid-20th century, Migrant Mother just serves as her hallmark piece. Some of her work that I find particularly intriguing is her coverage of Japanese internment. What is that you may ask? Well in an undeserving basic summary, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1941, the American public became suspicious of Japanese-Americans believing that they could be a national security threat. In other words, Americans feared a fifth-column consisting of Japanese individuals existed. In response, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, forcing all Japanese-Americans, whether they were US citizens or not, on the West Coast to relocate to internment camps. The issues with this are obvious and there are many more intricacies with the historical situation but hopefully sufficient context has been established.



(6 & 7) Japanese - American children are seen pledging alligence to the flag at elementary schools in California.



(8 & 9) Rare photos of the Supreme Court in Session – the top one is Salomon's capture.

Dorothea Lange was actually contracted by the United States government, specifically under a special agency called the War Relocation Authority (WRC). This agency acted as a propaganda machine of sorts. Their goal, outside of conducting the "relocation," was to document it in a way that made it seem humane. Lange shot everything from Japanese-owned businesses shutting down to day-to-day life in the internment camps. The key thing though is, Lange's photos ended up not turning out to be what the WRC wanted; they showed too much hardship. Many were denied viability for publication. Vox has a great video on their Youtube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waOUNwZA4aQ that goes in-depth into this. Notably, a couple photos (6 & 7) that were liked by the WRC featured Japanese-American public school students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. It's a little bit ironic that these photos were taken only a year prior to West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette which determined that forcing children to salute the flag was unconstitutional. I wonder how these pictured children would've been treated if they didn't recite that pledge the morning of these photos? The choice of the WRC to show this also demonstrates their questionable nature. It paints a picture of loyalty by the Japanese but in reality there was a lack of trust that Japanese were loyal thus exclusion was considered to be a necessary path. Nevertheless, Lange's work with the WRC on the organization's manner of censoring her photography serves as a chilling reminder of a grimmer moment in our country's past.

To conclude, speaking of Supreme Court cases, it is notable that have only ever been two pictures of the Supreme Court in session. The court, which has a history of shrouding its deliberations in secrecy, does not permit cameras in its courtroom while the court is in session under Federal Rule 53. However, according to University of Georgia School of Law asscociate professor Sonja R. West, to date there have been two instances, both in the 1930s of all times, where this custom has been violated. The first incidence was in 1932 (8). Witty photojournalist Erich Salomon, famous for being witty with snapping his shots, was able to sneak a camera into a Supreme Court. He did this by claiming he had a broken arm and hid a camera in his sling. The photo was circulated intially via its publication in *Fortune* magazine. The second photo (9), found in a 1937 *Time* publication, was allegedly taken by an anonymous female photographer who disguised a camera in a handbag.

Photographs have become a keystone to history. Within just the past four years, there have been numerous images which will likely be easily recognizable to any history student of the future. Just to recap some major events that will certainly be mentioned in the history books, we experienced a global pandemic, America elected a new president, and multiple conflicts have either been intiated or escalated to a level of international concern. Also, we've gotten a fair share of oddities, like some of the pictures I covered, as well. I'll leave the pondering of what images fit that specification to you.

Polaris Dawn Demonstrates Success of Commercial Spaceflight

By Ian Wellman

A few decades ago, commercial space flights only existed in science fiction, and cheap, reusable rockets were thought to be impossible; human space travel was only affordable for the wealthiest countries. After SpaceX created the Falcon 9, a surge in innovation led to the creation of humans on commercial spacecraft. While these missions are still very expensive and primarily science oriented, they are now available to private individuals. Jarad Isaacman created this mission to improve humanity's understanding of space and improve space technologies, as well as raise hundreds of millions of dollars for child cancer research.



The Polaris Dawn crew poses for a picture. From left to right, they are Anna Menon, Scott Pottet, Jared Isaacman and Sarah Gillis.

The Polaris Dawn mission was crewed by Jared Isaacman, Scott Poteet, Sarah Gillis, and Anna Menon. Jared Isaacman was not only the crew commander but also provided the funding for the mission. Scott Poteet served as the mission pilot. Sarah Gillis served as a mission specialist as well as a SpaceX representative. Anna Menon was the mission specialist and the medical officer.

In their mission, they aimed to conduct experiments while flying through the Van Allen belts (radiation belts in space around the earth), conduct the second, long duration commercial spaceflight that did not dock with the ISS; test SpaceX's new EVA suits (extravehicular activity suits) plus in space laser communications through the Starlink satellite network, and study the health effects of being in deep space. In addition, donations raised hundreds of million dollars for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. These experiments will help pave the way towards building bases on the Moon and Mars. Experiments in the Van Allen belts gave data on how high levels of radiation can affect humans and habitable spacecraft, and how deep space affects the human body. Laser-based communications will allow for the transmission of significantly more data across large distances, and SpaceX's new space suits allow for astronauts to work in space more easily, since the suits are slimmer than the traditional EVA suits.



Pictured above, one of Polaris Dawn's main aims was to test SpaceX's new EVA suit pictured above.

The mission launched on top of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket during the early morning of September 10th, 2024, and landed on September 15th. Within this time period, they went 1,400 kilometers from the Earth, the farthest any human has been since Apollo 17. They broke the record for the most people in the vacuum of space at a time, with all four crew members in their EVA suits simultaneously.

Polaris Dawn was a mission that NASA would never have had budget approval on, yet it provided priceless data for the public and private sector alike.

FCAHS Students Participate in "KD Quiz," Airing November 9th

Three Fox Chapel Area High School students compete in a new episode of "KD Quiz" airing Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 11 a.m. on KDKA-TV (CBS Pittsburgh). The Fox Chapel Area High School team members this year are seniors Anna Delale-O'Connor and Rohit Velankar, and junior Eloise Johnson. In the November 9 episode, the Fox Chapel Area High School team competes against students from Moniteau and Springdale high schools. The Fox Chapel Area High School "KD Quiz" sponsor is gifted education facilitator Lisa Gibson.



From left to right the 2024 KD Quiz team is Rohit Velankar, Anna Delale-O'Connor, and Eloise Johnson

"KD Quiz" is a Saturday-morning high school academic quiz show presented by KDKA-TV in partnership with GBU Life. It is open to students from the KDKA-TV viewing area from 81 high schools who compete in teams of three and answer questions from a variety of curricular areas. The program host is KDKA meteorologist Ray Petelin.

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Congratulations to the 94 new inductees! This is certainly an exciting moment in your academic career and all of us in the Fox Chapel Area School District community look forward to seeing where you'll go!

Logic Puzzle

By: Rishi Krishnamurthy

Please see the clues to the right of the puzzle.

		Student					Favorite Class					Club				
		Alice	Benjamin	Cora	David	Eddie	Mathematics	Literacy	Science	History	Geography	Newspaper	Debate Club	Yearbook	Photography	Swimming
Grade	5th Grade															
	6th Grade															
	7th Grade															
	8th Grade															
	9th Grade															
Club	Newspaper															
	Debate Club															
	Yearbook															
	Photography															
	Swimming															
Favorite Class	Mathematics															
	Literacy															
	Science															
	History															
	Geography															

Grade	Student	Favorite Class	Club
5th Grade			
6th Grade			
7th Grade			
8th Grade			
9th Grade			

1. The five students are the one who likes literacy, Eddie, the fifth grader, the student in yearbook club, and the one who likes geography.

2. Benjamin is in a higher grade than the student in debate club, and the one whose favorite class is science is in a lower grade than Eddie.

3. The student whose favorite class is geography does not swim, and the student whose favorite class is mathematics is in a lower grade than the person in yearbook club.

4. Either the seventh or ninth grader likes literacy class, and this student is in debate club. Cora is not this student.

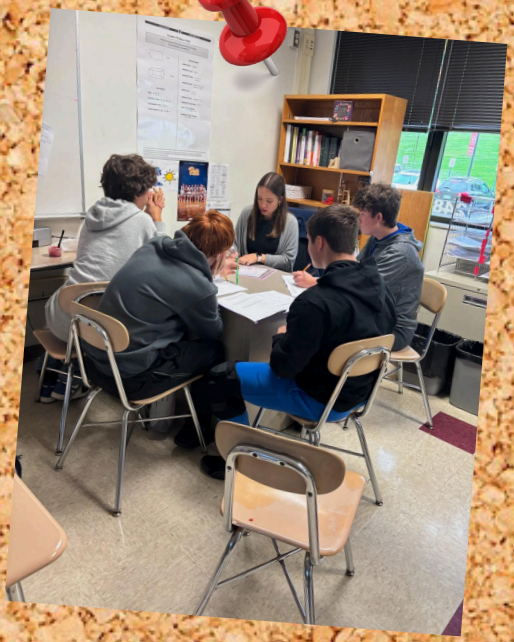
5. Of Dave and Eddie, one is an eighth grader and the other is a fifth grader in the photography club who does not like science class.

Answer Key on Pg. 30

GET TO KNOW MS. DOLAN

By Maeve Beresford

Meet our school's newest mathematics teacher, Ms. Dolan! This year, Fox Chapel is thrilled to welcome Ms. Dolan, who teaches Algebra I and Elements of Math, in the blue hallway. She loves teaching and is excited to educate as well as get to know all of her students this year. Ms. Dolan wants every student to know that she is always there for them. She encourages students to come and see her during QRT if they are not understanding concepts in her class. Her door is always open! You might have seen Ms. Dolan last year, as she was a student teacher for Mrs. Ubinger's class.



Students say that "she always brought a positive and fun attitude to class every day!" Ms. Dolan loves to plan engaging activities that make math fun for all students. Her objective is to teach students that math can be fun! She would often host math-based scavenger hunts and jeopardy games on review days. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Dolan enjoys hiking and taking in the great outdoors. She loves to travel and spend her time with her family. If Ms. Dolan could take her students anywhere, she would venture with them to Egypt. The Great Pyramids of Giza, located in Greater Cairo, include lots of math!

Also, if Ms. Dolan wasn't a teacher, she would be a National Geographic wildlife photographer. Some fun facts about Ms. Dolan: she grew up in Pittsburgh, supposedly makes great chocolate chip cookies, and her sister is a professional spikeball player — number one for women in Ohio! Her greatest motivations are her family and her faith. She credits them to where she has ended up today. Ms. Dolan feels that the best part of teaching is the students. She loves getting to know every student. The worst part of the profession for her is the lack of flexibility in her class time. She wishes that she could plan even more fun activities in the classroom.

GET TO KNOW MR. RUMBLE

By Prachi Behal

Mr. Rumble, the new Ceramics and Fibers teacher, hopes that all students who take his class find it challenging but rewarding. A successful day at work for him would involve students having fun while staying on task and finishing projects they are proud of as well as excited to take home. Although he wasn't the "art kid" growing up, he developed a passion for it over time. If he won the lottery and decided to stop teaching, he would buy a building and convert it into a large studio space to continue the practice of his craft. Speaking of growing up, his students might find it interesting that he lived on a sheep farm as a kid.

One of his hidden talents is spinning plates on his fingers. During summer breaks, he returns to his hometown in Washington and enjoys spending time outdoors. This usually entails hiking and visiting the state's many National Parks. In college, he received the prestigious Presidential Scholar Award, an honor typically given to students studying engineering or business, making this achievement as an art student even more unique. He takes great pride in this accomplishment in addition to completing tasks with care and excellence, whether that be in his art or home projects.



If he could take his students on a field trip anywhere in the world, he would choose Japan. At age 16, he was an exchange student there and was deeply inspired by the rich history and beautiful artwork he observed. For Mr. Rumble, the best part of being a teacher is engaging with students while doing what he loves. He enjoys sharing the message that "this too shall pass"—that even though things may be tough, the difficulties won't last forever, and students will eventually see the bigger picture.

A quote Mr. Rumble lives by and considers in his profession is, "creativity is a part of human nature and can only be untaught." This philosophy guides his teaching, as he encourages creativity in all his students. They, in turn, inspire him; he finds himself constantly learning from them, gaining new ideas and insights. Passionate about art and eager to work with students, Mr. Rumble joins the art wing staff in room 164, excited to spread his creativity and zeal.

FIELD HOCKEY "CLICKS," FINDS IMMENSE SUCCESS THIS SEASON

BY ELI OLIFSON

As the Field Hockey regular season comes to a close at Fox Chapel, the team has kept a respectable 10-6-1 record at the time of writing with one game to go against a team the Foxes have beaten twice this year. Field Hockey at Fox Chapel has been good the past few years, but this year something feels different for those who are on the team. This is something that might not be noticed when taking a look at the team's record, which appears quite similar to the impressive records in the last few seasons. Varsity goalie, senior Gina Fitzsimmons, believes that this year's team is exceptional over the others. Fitzsimmons says, "This is the first year of field hockey that I feel as though our team has really clicked," elaborating on that by stating, "Our team has been working particularly hard to apply the skills and techniques we practice every day into games and I have noticed it has really been paying off." Fitzsimmons has played an important role in keeping every game close and making sure the team stays in it. She's had seven games in which opponents scored zero goals on her, and three in which they have only scored one. The top-notch defense, coupled with an impressive offense that averages around 1.5 points per game, has allowed the squad to have a winning record entering the playoffs.



While speculators may point at the team's losses and argue that they can't compete with other well-performing teams, the truth is that the team has only lost to five opponents, and ended up beating two of them later on. As for the three whom the team failed to get revenge on, they were some of the best teams in the state, such as Pine Richland and North Allegheny. The girls have also held opposing teams to two or fewer points in all but one game. This is no easy task, considering it is against teams who tend to outscore opponents by a margin that seems unfair. It is no lie that the Foxes have had a brutal schedule this year, and being able to come out of it saying they competed and won more than half their games is an accomplishment on its own. A main reason the team has been able to have such success against good opponents is the mindset they carry into their games. Fitzsimmons says, "I think it's all about mindset during games like this" and "Facing opponents like Pine Richland and Penn Trafford allow us opportunities to work as a unit and exhibit mental toughness which are vital skills we must utilize as we approach playoffs." Instead of approaching the good teams as an obstacle, the team sees them as an opportunity to improve their game, as well as prepare for playoffs. Therefore, it is clear to see that this team is playoff-ready, as they have played and competed against the best, and are willing to learn from their mistakes.

No matter how hard the competition, the Foxes always find a way to come out with a respectable record and carry the success into the playoffs. Fitzsimmons believes that this winning culture will not leave with the class of 2025, saying, "The underclassmen this year are hardworking and full of potential," and that "their positive mindset and ability to work together already makes me believe that they will be super successful in future years." This says a lot about the younger players coming from a senior who has observed four teams in her high school career, though it is no surprise that the upperclassmen have hope for the future of this team. The Foxes have not had to rely too heavily on seniors; while many seniors contribute in huge ways to the team, many juniors, sophomores, and occasionally freshmen have stepped up in important spots and helped the team in key moments. The skill from the younger players in addition to the positive attitudes they are surrounded with ensures that the team will continue to have great success in years to come.

While winning certainly does make the program respectable, more importantly than that, it gives members of the team fond memories to look back on. For example, when asked about her favorite field hockey memory from all four years of high school, Fitzsimmons answered, "playing in the WPIAL finals. We made it to this round of playoffs in 2021 and in

2023 against Penn Trafford." Having such successful seasons has created new opportunities for the girls on the team, such as the aforementioned WPIAL finals. The coaches allow players to have fun year in year out, while simultaneously winning. Not only did Fitzsimmons say her favorite memories were the WPIAL finals, she also commented on the team's hopes for going deeper this year. She added, "Our team came home with a silver medal both times but this year we're working hard to make it back, once again, to the finals and go for gold." Gina speaks for the team when she shares their appetite for success, and her shifting from remembering good times, to sharing new goals speaks volumes for why the team has had so much success each year; they do not stop thinking about winning and how to do more of it.



As of present, Fox Chapel Field Hockey entered the playoffs over .500, with realistic goals surrounding them. The team is led by strong seniors, backed by talented younger players, who all want to win. The combination of the Foxes' winning passion, hard schedule, and talent have led them to a good spot. In fact, as of the present, the team managed to secure a 2-1 win over Penn-Traford in the WPIAL semifinals. The Foxes will play in the WPIAL championship game on November 2nd at W&J College.

NEW HOPE FOR FOXES FOOTBALL

BY JOE YOSHIKAWA

The Fox Chapel football team has faced many hardships over the past few years. The 5A section is known to host some of the top teams in Pittsburgh, and the Foxes were caught in the thick of it. With injuries and stiff competition facing them every week, the team went 0-20 over the 2022 and 2023 seasons. However, the tide started to turn in 2024. The team completely rebranded their logo and with it, they berthed a new spirit in the Fox Chapel Area. In week one of the season, they traveled to Baldwin in a pivotal non-conference game. They looked to bounce back from the tough 20-9 loss against Allderdice and they did just that. Touchdowns from Victor Nernberg, Joey Geller, and Max Melocchi, along with three field goals from Harran Zureikat led to a decisive 38-7 win over the Fighting Highlanders. The game stands as a testimony to the hill that the upperclassmen had to overcome.



Unfortunately, the Foxes encountered a six-game losing streak that stretched through the heart of the season. Players went down with injuries, and morale did not seem high at season's close. All this changed at the last game, where East Allegheny came to James Burk Stadium for the last game of the year. After a quiet first half where the Wildcats led 7-0, Fox Chapel rallied on touchdowns from Sully Slater and Luca Poli, re-energizing the spirit of the players and fans. After a fumble recovery in the last minute of the game, the team cherished every moment of the night with a 16-14 victory, the first home win since November 5th, 2021.

Coach David Leasure often speaks to his players about how the game is supposed to leave them with memories and friends for a lifetime, and during those nights, he was never more proud of his upperclassmen. For juniors, they had never even experienced winning a high school football game until the Baldwin game. For seniors, they hadn't won a game since their freshman seasons, and they saw it as one of their last chances. Though a 2-7 record may not seem all that impressive to an outsider, it meant the world to the team. The sacrifice and effort they had put into long practices for years finally equated to a positive memory, something that is sure to stick with them forever.

SOCCER TEAMS STAY HOT AT FOX CHAPEL

BY ELI OLIFSON

Spirits are high surrounding the Fox Chapel soccer program, and fans have great reason to believe that this feeling won't be going away anytime soon. Senior Milo Chiu from the boys' team believes that they will continue to be strong in the years to come: "The underclassmen bring a strong mentality that I believe can help them find success in the future years." With players like David Zakrocki, Paul Fitzsimmons, Sharif Zureikat, and Carson Torres starting and getting playing time on varsity, it is clear that the younger grades have strong players that will make an impact on the team both now and in the future. The Foxes haven't had an easy schedule either, playing at a high level against historically good teams, such as Seneca Valley, whom Fox Chapel beat in their first meeting 2-1. Seneca Valley went 15-1-3 last year, finishing in first place in the 4A WPIAL Conference.



The Foxes came within one goal of making history and going undefeated halfway through the season for the first time in years. This notable achievement came down to a game against North Allegheny, one of the strongest teams in the state, where the Foxes narrowly lost 0-1 in a defensive battle. Chiu says he believes the reason for their success early on is not quite what one would expect. "The bench," Chiu answered when asked what a key factor had been for this near-historic start to the season. He explained "The members of our team have incredible passion and a lot of the success we have seen so far has been a result of the energy off of our bench." If you go to a game, this energy is hard to miss. From the first whistle to the last, the sideline is buzzing with excitement. Both Varsity and JV players encourage their counterparts on and off the field to stay engaged and fully focused. Even the slightest play made by the Foxes is met with a loud, energetic reception from the bench that appears to leave opponents rattled.



A large reason why the group is so good this year and in years past is because the coaching staff allows the team to grow closer to each other and have fun, while still improving their skills before the school year even starts. This strategy creates a bond between players similar to a family, something that does not go unnoticed by the soccer fans or players. Chiu has noticed this firsthand, and when asked what his favorite FC soccer memory is, he answered, "My favorite moment has been preseason with the team. The sessions are after summer and everyone is anticipating school to start. In between practices, we all go to the Waterworks to get food, relax, and return for more soccer. It is a week of hanging out with friends all day and every day; there is never a dull moment during the soccer preseason." The boys' bond goes way beyond soccer; the team acts as a family, something that can be observed by fans when a player makes a mistake in the game: every single member of the team helps them keep their head up, rather than putting them down. A strong bond like this will help them go far and is arguably more important than skill.

Between the strong players, tough opponents, and a tight bond between members of the team, the boys' soccer team is destined to go far into the playoffs, and a similar argument can be made for the reigning WPIAL Champion girls' team. "Because of our success in 4A last year, the team holds high expectations for ourselves and we hope to win WPIALS in 3A and have a longer run at states than we did last year," said Senior Madeline Grimsley. Many teams cannot realistically state that these are their goals for the season; Fox Chapel girls' soccer is not one of those teams. Coming off of a 2023 season that can only be described as dominant — in which the girls went 15-5-2, won the WPIAL Championship against rival North Allegheny, and narrowly lost 3-2 in the quarterfinal matchup of the PIAA State Championship — the Foxes have no reason to not set their goals so high this year. With one of the strongest teams they've had in recent years, the girls' team has been rolling through their schedule, boasting a 15-1-1 record at the time of writing. One of the two games the team didn't win

was a 2-2 tie with Seneca Valley–a game that went to double overtime. So far, the Foxes have shown that they do have what it takes to achieve their high goals.

Before the season began, the girls' team was moved down to the 3A Section, meaning they will now compete with smaller schools. Despite the relegation, and just because they aren't playing big schools, the team's attitude has not changed. Grimsley still has respect for these smaller teams, saying "Because we moved down a section, a lot of people have been telling us that they expect us to win against these smaller districts. The competition in 3A is just as fierce as 4A". The Foxes' hard work ethic and determination to go farther than last year leaves them in a good spot for the playoffs, but due to the success of last year's team, there might be more pressure on the team this year. Grimsley answered this question by stating, "Because of our success, many are determined to take us down in the playoffs as soon as possible. But after feeling how good it was to win last year, a lot of our team uses that as motivation to make it happen again". With the section change and the girls' current success taken into consideration, the team and the fans have all the reason to be confident about the playoffs. Still, the Foxes have done a good job of keeping level heads and not letting any expectations get the better of them.



Unlike many teams the Foxes play against, the team is not led solely by the upperclassmen; in fact, some underclassmen have played a huge role in the success of the girls so far. Grimsley says, "A quality I see in the younger grades that gives me hope for the program in the future is that they are competitive." She adds that they are "not easily intimidated by girls who are older and stronger than them." This is a key characteristic of the team that has led them to a beyond-successful regular season and allowed them to possess high hopes for the playoffs. One underclassman who has been able to get the job done constantly for the Foxes is sophomore Emily McKee, who averages an astonishing 1.7 goals per game, with 26 goals in just 15 games this year. It goes without saying that without the vital contributions from younger players like McKee, the team would not be feeling so good as they barrel toward the playoffs.

This year, Fox Chapel soccer has exceeded all presumptions and silenced anyone who believed they would struggle this year. From an undefeated girls' team at the time of writing, to a boys' team that is fighting with some of the best in Pennsylvania, it is safe to say that soccer in Fox Chapel is on the rise, and fans have many exciting years ahead of them.

CARSON KITTSELY TAKES THE GOLD AT PIAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sophomore Carson Kittsley captured the PIAA Boys Golf AAA Championship by shooting 68-68 over two rounds at the Penn State White Course. Carson overcame a back nine deficit with six birdies in his last nine holes including birdies on 17 & 18 to win by two. Carson is Fox Chapel's first boys PIAA golf champion since Frank Fuhrer captured the title in 1976. His effort and resulting is achievement is beyond impressive. Kittsely will compete in the Orlando Hurricane Jr. Golf Champions Tour in December.





FALL SENIOR ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS

BY LAILA GOLLA

This autumn, Fox Tales' Laila Golla interviewed senior athletes participating in fall high school athletics and asked questions regarding their growth in the sport they play and advice they would give to future teammates. She asked each athlete the same three questions:

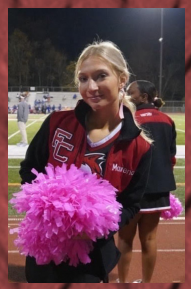
1. What is the biggest lesson your sport has taught you?

2. What would you tell someone thinking about joining this team in the future?

3. What do you feel has most grown your love for this sport and why?

Here are their responses.

MAURENA CLIENTI



1. The biggest lesson cheer has taught me is to never give up because when things get hard, and you are failing to succeed, you just need that extra push or that extra motivational talk. When you get frustrated you need to use that frustration and turn it into determination to be the best that you can be because it puts you in a whole new spot.

2. I would tell someone trying out for cheer in the future to keep giving 100% always and to never let down your team. You are all in this together and if one person gives up it leads the team not to succeed in the sport they love to do.

3. I feel that the friends that I have made along the way have most grown my love for this sport because we all have to be super close to succeed in things like stunting in cheer and you have to treat them like a family. I feel like everyone loves each other and looks out for everyone and that makes me love cheer. The friendships I have made and the determined people I have met have been the best experience of my life.

NICHOLAS CLUMP - CROSS COUNTRY



1. Cross country has taught me just how much hard work pays off.

2. I would tell them to trust the process. If you stick to the mileage chart and do what you are supposed to do, you will improve drastically.

3. Definitely running with amazing team mates. I've been running with the same guys since freshman year. We all have improved so much and seeing all our hard work pay off really makes me appreciate the sport.

FOOTBALL - KRISTOPHER BANDURSKI



1. The biggest lesson playing football has taught me is that you have to come everyday ready to do whatever it takes to get better physically and mentally.

2. Joining the team is worth it. It builds character, physical growth, and teaches accountability. Plus, the friends you make you'll have for your whole life! It's also extremely fun!

3. Everything about football has made me love it. Every aspect of the game from the summer workouts, to film studies, to game days — everything about the game really!

FIELD HOCKEY - AVA PERSICHETTI



1. Field hockey has taught me how to work well with a team, on and off the field. During games, it's important to talk and collaborate on the field, and having a good bond and good team work helps unite the offense and defense. Off the field, working hard at practice with your team helps build up the bond and work ethic that helps you win games.

2. Field hockey is a fun sport, but takes a large amount of work and time to improve. But, overall, it is a fun and competitive environment that pushes you to be better.

3. Showing up and working hard with your favorite group of people makes field hockey so special. Having fun during practice or on the bus to a game is something I always look forward to. But even more

than that, I love field hockey because playing a game and picking up the stick to work hard is the best feeling.



FIELD HOCKEY - ANNIE MOHN

1. Field Hockey has taught me that having confidence in myself and my teammates will serve me well on and off the field.

2. Whether you have played field hockey your whole life or never played before, you will immediately be surrounded by amazingly supportive girls. We have an incredibly welcoming team that celebrates everyone's success and pushes each other to work hard.

3. My love of field hockey has grown from the experiences I shared with my team. Over the past four years, we've endured many highs and lows but have kept our heads held high throughout it all. I have built so many amazing friendships as a member of this team that have made the commitment to the sport well worth it.



BOYS' GOLF - DAVIS KITTSLEY

1. Golf has taught me to be an honest and honorable person; it is where many people can meet and learn about each other. I have made many friends on the golf course.

2. I would tell someone considering joining the team to definitely try out. I have had a great time being in this golf program — it's been a blast.

3. The reason I love golf is because it's a sport you can play for the rest of your life. You can make many friends and memories playing it.



ICE HOCKEY - TYLER GOLDSTEIN

1. The biggest lesson hockey has taught me has to be the importance of teamwork. It sounds cliché, but being a "band of brothers" and having connections across all grade levels is extremely important. Especially in such a team sport, having interconnectedness and trust in your teammates to do their job allows the team to flow like a well oiled machine.

2. I'd tell someone that this is the team for you if you're looking for a welcoming, but tight knit community. Knowing that you'll have someone at your back, or a place to sit at lunch, the comforting aspect of the FC Hockey Team is unmatched.

3. My love for the sport started young, but recently has been accelerated by the sheer enjoyment levels that the FC Hockey team gives. Being able to be around friends and teammates multiple times each week just makes you want to play even more.



GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL - ADDY BURSICK

1. The biggest lesson volleyball taught me is how to be disciplined and push through hard times. We had tough seasons my freshman and sophomore years as we were not very successful in winning games. We learned from that and put in a lot of hard work to make it to playoffs last year for the first time in seven years.

2. I would tell someone that is thinking about joining the volleyball team to work hard in the off season. Continue to get touches on the ball and go to every open gym or workout that is offered. Your hard work in the off season will really show when the actual season comes around.

3. My teammates have played a big part in growing my love for volleyball. I have been with my fellow seniors since seventh grade and they've always been so supportive and really made games and practices a lot of fun.



GIRLS' TENNIS - SIENNA SIEGEL

1. I have learned to push myself even when I don't want to play, and to find the fun in being competitive.

2. I would say join not just for the fun of it, but also to dedicate yourself to getting better in the process.

3. My coaches through the years have kept me going. I have worked with about eight different coaches in tennis over the last ten years, and every single one has helped me in different ways.

GET TO KNOW MRS. FLINT

By Marin Airik



One of the newest teachers at Fox Chapel Area High School is Madame Flint, a French teacher. Whilst teaching at a school in America, she is able to share the French language and culture with this country. If she could take her students on a trip anywhere in the world, she would take them to France. Visiting all of France would be the goal, but a specific place in the country that would be a definite stop is Normandy, located in Northern France. She always hopes her students know that she is happy to help them when they need it, and that there is never a need to worry.

Madame Flint also wants to offer words of wisdom by encouraging her students to try and enjoy school. You will never know how quickly your time as a student goes by until it is over, as well as how truly nice it is to be a student and not need to work in a career field yet. She aspires that her students remember her class as a place where they experienced good times, as any teacher would most likely expect. She doesn't want her students to find her class boring. Even though students may lose their ability to speak French overtime if they end up not sticking with the language, her goal is for them to at least remember the culture of France.

Overall, her favorite part of teaching is keeping in touch with the younger generation of students, hearing their views, and learning more about them. She finds the hardest part of the job for her is trying to convince students to do their homework. Although Madame Flint holds many aspirations and cares for her students, she maintains a life outside of being an educator. She engages in many hobbies during breaks including traveling, baking, gardening, visiting museums, and reading. Specifically, she enjoys baking tarts and brioche, well known French pastries. She also enjoys visiting Europe and seeing her home in France as well as visiting family around Europe.

An accomplishment of hers that goes along with her travels is the rather impressive fact that she has gone down different career paths in two separate countries: the US and France. If she won the lottery and decided to give up teaching, she would like to help volunteer with charities to give back to the community. If she was given a superlative when she was in school, it would have most likely have been for being the "Most Organized," that certainly denotes a useful skill which still carries into the present for Madame Flint!

GET TO KNOW MR. SCISCIANI

By Alex Navas

Mr. Scisciani is the newly hired Spanish teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School, teaching levels one and two of Spanish. A detail about him many students may be surprised to learn is that he spent time in the Peace Corps. During his service, Mr. Scisciani kept bees for two years. One of his hidden talents is having a very loud glottidean stop, also known as clicking your tongue! Additionally, he was given "class loudest" as his high school superlative. The accomplishment that fills him with the most pride in being a teacher is the ability to see the change he can make on a student in class. This indicates that he is succeeding at his job.

Mr Scisciani loves to spend his summer breaks traveling the world, his favorite place being Guatemala where he resided for two years, allowing him to take in the culture and the language. This is why when he was asked where he would take his class on a field trip, the answer was Antugua, Guatemala. He would hope to allow his students to take in the amazing views. When asked for one piece of advice he would give to his students, his love for travel has inspired him to advise his students to experience a new culture, travel anywhere, and see life through a new lens. Most importantly though, he encourages his students to never be afraid of failure.

A successful day at work for Mr. Scisciani consists of connecting with his students, laughing and being able to make an impact on his pupils. Mr. Scisciani's favorite part about being a teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School is watching his students grow, especially starting as freshman then seeing them become seniors; being able to be there for that journey and support them is what teaching is all about for Mr. Scisciani. He hopes to be remembered by his students as the teacher that made an impact and allowed them to communicate in a different language. Most importantly, he wants them to remember having a good time and enjoying his class.



December is Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month

By William Kelly

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression distinguished by a recurrent seasonal pattern, with symptoms lasting about 4–5 months out of the year, typically starting around November or December and ending around March or April. Symptoms include low energy and fatigue, mood swings, concentration difficulties, insomnia, loss of appetite, depression, and much more. SAD can be caused by several things, mainly hormonal changes, like decreased levels of serotonin due to reduced sunlight exposure or varying melatonin levels due to disruptions in sleep patterns. Risk factors include living in a polar area, age (18-26), genetic history of SAD, and gender (prevalent in women). SAD can be combated with light therapy (exposure to bright artificial light), cognitive-behavioral therapy (psychotherapy), antidepressants, or frequent exercise.



Common strategies to preclude SAD during onset could be regular exposure to natural light, maintaining sleep and exercise routine, and especially staying active outdoors during cold months. Studies have shown that the most effective treatment and prevention is a change in lifestyle, such as in exercise or sleep. About 5% of US adults suffer from SAD (about 13 million), and about 3.8% of the global population (about 300 million). It is important to recognize the battle that people have with SAD, especially during December but also throughout the whole year. It is crucial to understand that SAD can come in different intensities, and though some types may have lesser effects on some, we should still provide support. Catching SAD early is ideal, as it can progress to more severe depression, functional impairment, and social withdrawal. Late SAD patients are notorious for coping with their condition with substance abuse. The combination of depression and substance is shown to have led, in most cases, to suicidal thoughts. Although this is only in a serious case, early intervention is still vital to prevent progression.

If you know someone who suffers or has suffered in the past from SAD, or any condition for that matter, during the month of December, make sure to reach out and let them know you are there for them. At our school, there will be therapets (dogs) scheduled to be in school to relieve stress at least once per month, more frequently during finals weeks.

Sources:
www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/seasonal-affective-disorder
www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/seasonal-affective-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20364651

Why Are Black Cats Unlucky?

By Karsten Buchert

In Western folk and, with the mass celebration and commercialization of Halloween, even mainstream culture, black cats have become synonymous with bad luck. What is the backstory to this? The superstition dates back to the Middle Ages where black cats became associated with witches—women who were accused of carrying out the duties of Satan. Pope Gregory IX is well-known for declaring all cats, especially black ones, satanic. There are theories that this paranoia over felines, which led to people killing them out of scrupulosity, was a contributor to the spread of the Bubonic Plague as cats are predators to small rodents which were the common vectors of the disease.

Logic Puzzle (Answers) Pg. 19

By: Rishi Krishnamurthy

Solution:

Grade	Student	Favorite Class	Club
5th Grade	David	Mathematics	Photography
6th Grade	Cora	Science	Yearbook
7th Grade	Alice	Literacy	Debate Club
8th Grade	Eddie	History	Swimming
9th Grade	Benjamin	Geography	Newspaper

Boo Bash: a Spooktacular Success

By Josie Gigure

On the evening of October 23rd, hundreds of excited children and parents gathered in front of the high school for the annual Boo Bash, a fundraising event sponsored by FC's National Honor Society students. This hauntingly fun community celebration offered children in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade a safe and interactive way to celebrate Halloween. Participating families were asked to consider donating much needed food, toiletries, and money for two local charities that help families in our area. The response was overwhelming, raising $2000 and multiple cases of food for Backpack for Hunger as well as a multitude of items to stock the shelves of the Foxes' Burrow (a free store at the high school for any student in need of toiletries, clothing, school supplies, and more).



Attendees were given a "scary good" welcome. Offering a donation to support local charities was encouraged.



A multitude of clubs participated in the Boo Bash by hosting activities for visiting families.

Upon arrival, families were greeted by a spooky performance by the Busking Club, who learned some new Halloween songs just for the event. There was no shortage of activities to engage in, with nearly 40 FCAHS clubs represented and more than 100 student volunteers dressed in their costumes to interact with the kids. Some of the crowd favorite activities of the evening included hair tinsel from the Psychology Club, the Robotics Club's 'Bonk the Bot' game, History Club's paper plate mummy craft, and the haunted egg hunt that awarded some fantastic prizes from the National Honor Society. The Baking Club, Cakes for Care, and International Cuisine Club prepared awesome goodies for their bake sales and the Class of 2026 sold all of their freshly popped popcorn for the cause too.



NHS faculty sponsor Mrs. Gibson poses with a fairy-vampire.

When asked about the success of this year's Boo Bash, NHS sponsor, Mrs. Gibson shared, "I think that mixing things up by moving the event outdoors this year made a big difference in the attendance numbers. The beautiful weather helped, too! This is the largest crowd to-date and we more than doubled the amount of money collected from prior years. I am so proud of the students for their enthusiasm and dedication to helping make the event memorable for the children!"

Interested in joining the fun next year? Be on the lookout during the first quarter for information from Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Gibson, the NHS faculty sponsors.

Boo Bash: a Spooktacular Success































Interested in joining the fun next year? Be on the lookout during the first quarter for information from Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Gibson, the NHS faculty sponsors.

Math Minute: A Quarterly Report About Numbers and Mathematics Today's Topic: Can Spiders Use Trigonometry?

By Rishi Krishnamurthy

Imagine that you are King Bruce of Scotland and after six battles with England, you are forced to flee and hide in a cave during a bad storm. Then, you see a spider attempting to spin a web between two sides of the cave six times and failing because it is unable to get the silk to stick to the cave. Finally, on the seventh attempt, it manages to do this. However, instead of learning the moral to not give up, you think, "This spider is so foolish! If only it had used trigonometry to calculate the distance needed to form a side of the web from the angle of incline to the wall, it would have managed to create the web in one attempt!"

My name is Rishi Krishnamurthy, and I am an eighth grader at Dorseyville Middle School. Every quarter, I write a piece about numbers and mathematics. My plan is to continue this through when I am a senior. So, make sure to check out A Math Minute every issue!

In the last issue, I discussed the incomprehensibility of infinity. To recap, there are several barriers to comprehending infinity which can make one see seemingly trivial concepts of mathematics in an entirely different manner. Additionally, infinity can appear to be greater than or less than itself!

In this issue, I will discuss trigonometry. Just the very word terrorizes so many of us; however, do not stop reading just yet! Most of you likely know that the three basic trigonometric functions are sine, cosine, and tangent. The sine of an angle in a right triangle can be calculated as the ratio of the opposite side to the hypotenuse, the cosine is the ratio of the adjacent side to the hypotenuse, and the tangent is the ratio of the opposite side to the adjacent. This can be remembered using the acronym SOH-CAH-TOA. Learning formulas and calculating functions of angles of right triangles may be tiring in class, but there are so many applications of trigonometry in real life.



For a spider to successfully form a web in a cave, it is helpful to know distance from trigonometry. Trigonometry can be used to calculate how tall a tree is by measuring an angle from the ground to the top of it. Did you know that the PA Turnpike has a maximum grade of three percent – this means that for every hundred feet of travel, the road can have a maximum of three feet in incline or decline? Why is this? Mathematicians calculated that the most practical angle to allow vehicles to travel easily through difficult terrain year-round would be three hundredths of a radian, which resulted in the incline corresponding to a grade of three percent.

Trigonometry is used everywhere. Machines that employ rotations and gears work because of trigonometric calculations. We are able to build skyscrapers and bridges because of trigonometry. Surveying land to determine boundaries and distances uses trigonometry. Radio signals use sinusoids (sines and cosines) for communication. In fact, the reason you can watch a video on your cell phone is because of trigonometry!

There are numerous books about trigonometry, but I want to suggest a newer book titled Love Triangle: How Trigonometry Shapes the World, by Matt Parker. Despite however you may feel about trigonometry, I can assure you that rather than going into trigonometric identities and formulas, this book provides an overview of the essential applications of trigonometry since the times of Pythagoras such as playing the piano as a human voice and launching ships into space. The purpose of this is to help the reader understand the deceptive beauty of trigonometry.

Finally, I will, as usual, end with a math pun. This week's joke is about two right triangles who visit a lawyer about a relationship between their side lengths and angles. The lawyer said, "In order to finalize the situation, I need one of you to sine this paper here, and I need the other to cosine here. Then, you will have to fill out this form for me by tomorrow because I am a very busy person. Why, just this morning I had to go to the grocery store because my milk had soured…." The lawyer kept on talking while the triangles signed and thought, "He always goes off on a tangent." I hope you enjoyed this issue of Math Minute, and coming up in the next issue, I expect to talk about some famous mathematicians of the past.

Fox Tales Quarterly: Meet The Staff

2024 - 2025



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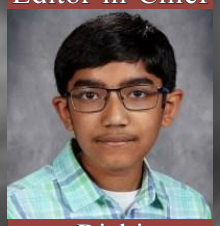
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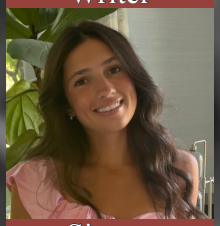
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Homecoming Festivities