

St. Clair SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

INSIDE...

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGEpage 2

KUSHNER'S KORNERpage 3

BRAVOS AND KUDOSpage 3

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2009-10 GENERAL FUND BUDGETpage 6

USCSD ADOPTED 2009-10 CALENDARpage 10

ART SPRING EXHIBITpage 11

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Upper St. Clair ranked #1 for fourth consecutive year...

Congratulations to the Upper St. Clair School District students, staff, administrators and parents for being ranked for the 4th year in a row as the No. 1 school district in Western Pennsylvania.

story - page 2

USC Grads go to Mt. Everest

Upper St. Clair Class of 1984 graduates, Lesley (Retallick) Lee and Jill Yarussi, are members of the 2009 NASA Everest Trek Team. Inducted into the Upper St. Clair High School Hall of Fame in 2005, Ms. Lee is the Project Scientist for EVA Physiology, Systems & Performance. The group headed to Nepal on April 16 to catch up with former astronaut Scott Parazynski preparing for his second attempt at making an ascent to the summit from the Mt. Everest Base Camp.

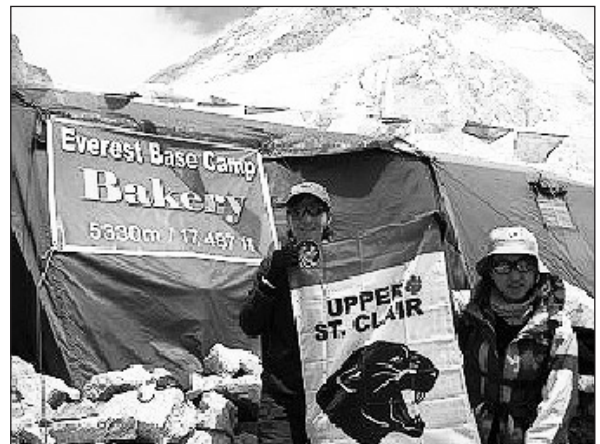
The 2009 NASA Everest Trek Team performed several scientific experiments to and from the Everest Base Camp. These experiments, many of which have been performed by astronauts in space aboard the International Space Station, range from studies of

behavioral patterns and awake/sleep adaptation to searching for snow algae at high altitude.

Ms. Lee and Ms. Yarussi's team was never planning to go for the summit; their climb to the base camp was difficult enough. They are only there to support Mr.

Parazynski and to "learn more about our planet by seeing it from its highest point." Before she left, Ms. Lee asked USC teacher Pat Palazzolo for the Upper St. Clair flag "Panther Pride." The one in the photo

came from the office of USCHS Principal Dr. Michael



Proudly displaying the Panther flag at base camp in Nepal, two Upper St. Clair School District graduates are with the NASA team at Mount Everest: Lesley Retallick Lee (left) and Jill Yarussi.

Ghilani. The Everest Trek team recently returned from the mountain, but Scott Parazynski is still there hoping to try again for the summit. To learn more, go to the NASA group blog at 2009everesttrek.blogspot.com.

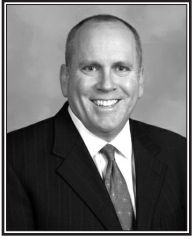


Upper St. Clair League for the Arts Spring Exhibit Top Prizes

page 11

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Patrick O'Toole



I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some exciting news regarding our School District, as well as information regarding the proposed middle schools renovation project and preliminary 2009-10 budget.

Pittsburgh Business Times Honor —

Once again, our USC students outperformed all other Pennsylvania public school students on the state assessments. I am proud to commend our students for this outstanding academic achievement. I also wish to thank our parents, community, Board of Directors, and staff for their support of our high performing students. Kushner's Corner (page 3) details our state assessment rankings.

Middle School Renovations — We are approaching decision time regarding the scope of our middle school renovations. The District plans to receive construction bids by late July or early August. Once the bids are received and evaluated, the Board will make a decision regarding moving forward with the projects. Our planning process has been extensive and transparent. Our website hosts a comprehensive link to the project status. I encourage you to visit this site (www.uscsd.k12.pa.us) for information.

Budget — I thank the staff for their work during the budget process, their strong commitment to moving the

District forward, and for presenting the Board with a budget that is not only fiscally responsible but also maintains the excellence of the School District. Based on the preliminary budget adopted in May, expenses for 2009-10 budget would increase by only 1.9% over the 2008-09 budget.

The USC administration, teachers, and parents have worked hard the past few years to secure additional funding to enhance our traditional revenues from property and income. The following list represents some of these additional revenue sources:

State Classrooms for the Future Grant (\$580,000)

E-rate Funding for Technology (\$285,000)

PJM Energy Demand Response Program (\$115,000)

Increase in ACCESS Reimbursements (\$110,000)

Freeman Foundation Grant for Asian Studies (\$86,000)

State Grant for Distance Learning through Senator John Pippy (\$25,000)

State Safe Schools Grant (\$34,000)

Model Cleaners Basketball Tournament Sponsorships (\$30,000)

Bayer Foundation I.B. Funding (\$20,000)

Our District is also fortunate to have the ongoing financial support of the P.T.A and the Booster Clubs who contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to support enhancements to our technology, classrooms, sports, and activities programs.

Retirements - With regret, I wish to acknowledge our retirees who represent 755 years of experience at USC. Please take a moment to thank the following retirees for the impact they have made on the lives of your children:

Central Office — Terrence Kushner
Baker — Mariann Adler, Ingrid Empey, Dorothy Moreau, Sheena Noe

Eisenhower — Margaret Crossan, Rachel Friedman

Streams — Magdalena Hudson, Janice Rankin, Helen Rishel

Boyce — Janet Atutes, Patricia Betz, Michele Desmond, Gary Navoney, Debra Obrosky

Fort Couch — Jean Austin, Leroy Bittner, Fran Kayatin, Matoula Rice, Karen Slaven

High School — Nancy Dombrowsky, Donald Hersh, Joseph Kallis, Nancy Kirschner, Thomas Labanc, Ted Petersen, Thomas Smedley, Barbara Wagner

In closing, I wish to thank all of our students, staff, administrators, and parents for a productive school year and for always striving to continue the Upper St. Clair School District tradition of excellence. I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

USC Ranked #1 for Fourth Consecutive Year!

Congratulations to the Upper St. Clair School District students, staff, administrators and parents for being ranked for the 4th year in a row as the No. 1 school district in *The Pittsburgh Business Times' 2009 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools*.

Based on three years of data from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in math, reading, writing, and (beginning this year for 11th, 8th and 4th grades) science

exams, the Guide ranked Upper St. Clair as First Place out of 106 school districts from the surrounding seven counties.

In addition, the Guide also featured a ranking of all 501 school districts statewide. Based on standardized achievement test scores, Upper St. Clair was named No. 1 in the state, followed by four districts in the suburban Philadelphia area.

KUSHNER'S KORMER



Dr. Terrence Kushner

Each year for the past five years, *The Pittsburgh Business Times* has compiled the *PBT Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools* to provide “a comprehensive look at the region’s primary and secondary educational offerings.”

I am very pleased to report that for the fourth consecutive year *The Pittsburgh Business Times* has ranked the Upper St. Clair School District as the top

school district in the state of Pennsylvania. Once again, this is quite an honor and accomplishment for our students, staff, school and community.

PBT Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools ratings are based on the Pennsylvania System of Student Assessment (PSSA) scores over the last three years, with the current year given the most weight. Ethan Lott, researcher for *The Pittsburgh Business Times* cautions, “It is important to note that these rankings do not determine the best schools in the regions — overall quality is too complex to be distilled to test scores alone.” He further adds, however, that “these rankings do show

which regions have the highest-scoring students.” For the fourth year in a row, our students have scored at the top of the state.

The recent rankings are a particular source of satisfaction for me personally, as I am completing 23 years of tenure at Upper St. Clair with my official retirement at the end of June. This article is my final “Kushner’s Korner” and marks the end of my responsibilities associated with the publication of the ST. CLAIR SCENE newsletter. It has been a very rewarding 23 years for me working in this fine district, and I wish the students, staff, and community continued success and good fortune in the future.

BRAVOS and KUDOS



Students in grades five through twelve participated in the Shakespeare Monologue and

Scene contest on March 17, 2009, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Public Theater. The Boyce students were Eliana Ondrejko, Carson Mafrice, Melissa Levine, Sarah Violi, Ananya Cleetus, Morgan Cook, Lydia de

la Parra, Julia de la Parra, Isabel Goodman, Brooke Ball, Louie Collins, Mariya Savinov, Amanda Mittelman, Deepikaa Sriram, Hannah Tyger, Giana Vierheller and Riley Urbano. The Fort Couch students are Brenna Carse, Brigid Kennedy, Grace Chen, Virginia White, Spencer Davis, Sean Ketchel, Sarah Meiman, Mandy Seiner, Macy Miller, Jenna Ravasio, Victoria Cavrich, Kathy Chen, Bethany Mittelman, Julia Dixon, Jacob Ryave, Lizzy Faeth, Jillian Vlah, Anna Rosati, Shannon Spence, Jonathan Wang, Ryan Zalla and Ryan Harding. The high school students are Samantha Dreyer, Brent Heard, Vanessa Murray, Poorwa Godbole, Mohini Walavalkar, and Maya Chandrasekaran. Sponsors were Gary Navoney, Diane Ecker, Sue Fleckenstein, Pat Palazzolo, Mary Muffly, and Marjie Heins.

The following Upper St. Clair High School Students were selected to the PMEA Region I State Band: Laura Rollick — Oboe, Jun Iida — Trumpet and Joe Merchant — Bassoon.

They performed at Ambridge Area High School on March 4 - 6. All three are members of the Wind Symphony under the direction of Frank Eisenreich.

Macy Miller and Jenna Ravasio, 7th graders at Fort Couch Middle School, and Samantha Dreyer a freshman at Upper St. Clair High School, achieved the Showcase of Finalists in the annual Shakespeare Monologue and Scene contest. The contest is held at the Pittsburgh Public Theater every year and more than a thousand thespians from 81 schools competed.



The following students successfully auditioned for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region State Chorus Festival held at Derry Area High School February 18-20: Caroline Campanella (Soprano I — 1st chair), Martina Caruso (Soprano II), Emily Summers (Soprano II), Sara Maurer (Alto I), Adam Matonic (Tenor I), Rocky Paterra (Tenor I), Sidney Kushner (Tenor II), Gage Colangelo (Bass I), Joey Kennedy (Bass I). The students are all members of the High School Pantheon Choir directed by Lorraine Milovac.

The following students were commended for outstanding audition rankings at the PMEA District I Orchestra Festival

BRAVOS AND KUDOS
continuing on page 4

at North Allegheny High School on February 5, which resulted in their selection to participate in the PMEA Western Region State Orchestra Festival on March 18-20 at Erie McDowell High School: Matt Boyas (first chair, Clarinet I), Jun Iida (first chair, Trumpet I), Joe Merchant (Bassoon II), Laura Rollick (Oboe II), and Michelle Szucs (Flute II). All students are members of the Chamber Orchestra directed by Paul Fox and the Wind Ensemble directed by Mr. Frank Eisenreich.

Upper St. Clair's team placed third among the 57 high schools competing in this year's Academic WorldQuest. The competition, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, tests students' knowledge of current events, modern history, economics, geography, and other cultures and languages. Team members are: Team Captain, Matthew Vernacchia (grade 10), Michael Toth (grade 11), Pranav Krishnan (grade 10), and Vinay Viswanathan (grade 9). Team Coach was teacher Pat Palazzolo.

The following finalists to the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition were commended: Matthew Boyas, Jennifer Cipullo, Andrew Gallagher, Matthew Myron, Mathi Rengasamy, Joseph Rubino, and John Subosits.



The Upper St. Clair High School Engineering Team was Runner-Up for the National Engineering Design Challenge for 2009. Team members are John Subosits, Matt Myron, Mike McCurrie, Peter Subosits, Matt

Argento, and Arvind Prasad. Their project was called the "Currency Companion," a device to enable "Jordan," a live person with a broken neck at the 5th cervical vertebrae, to become a cashier in the electronics department in Walmart. The team was coached by Marjie Heins.

Michael C. Kaufman, a senior at the high school, was awarded a \$100,000 four-year full tuition scholarship to St. John's University for his scores on the test for the 28th annual Wimmer Scholarship Competition from St. Vincent College. Michael has been a member of the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra, Appalachian Outreach, Youth Ministry Basketball League and St. Thomas More Youth Ministry.

The Middle States Association's Commission on Secondary Schools announced that Upper St. Clair High School has been re-accredited for the period ending December 1, 2015. To be accredited by the commission, standards must be met

in each major area of a school's work and activity including philosophy/mission, governance and leadership, organizational design and staff, educational programs, technology, student services, student activities, facilities, health and safety, finances, assessment of student learning, and planning. Congratulations were extended to all involved in successfully completing the accreditation process.

The following students were commended for taking second place at the regional competition of JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) on March 4. The team members include John Subosits, Phil Dormish, Arvind Prasad, Matt Karashin, Briana Larkin, Zach Huss, Zach Joyce, and Colin Reid. The team was coached by Marjie Heins and Tom Smedley.

Zoe Weiner, high school junior, was named Parkway West CTC Student of the Month. Zoe's Culinary Arts teacher, Mr. Timcheck, nominated her for this award because of her positive attitude, excellent attendance, and work ethic.

The Parkway West Career & Technology Center released the 2008-2009 National Technical Honor Society Inductees. The list includes three Upper St. Clair high school students: Matthew Sullivan, senior, who is in the Culinary Arts Program; Kurma Thompson, junior, who is in the Drafting and Design Program; Clayton Trieble, junior, who is in the Auto Technology Program.

The high school ice hockey team qualified to play in the semifinals of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL).

The following Upper St. Clair High School Orchestra students achieved very high rankings at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Western Region State Orchestra Festival held at Erie McDowell Intermediate High School on March 18th through the 20th. Their "blind audition" performance scores were outstanding and all of the USC students were invited to participate in the PMEA All-State Orchestra. Currently, these students participate in the Upper St. Clair High School Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Paul Fox: Matthew Boyas, Principal/First Chair Clarinet I (ranking first out of six clarinet players), Jun Iida, Principal/First Chair Trumpet I (ranking first out of nine trumpet players), Joseph Merchant, Principal/First Chair Bassoon I (ranking first out of five bassoon players), Laura Rollick, Principal/First Chair Oboe II (ranking first of six oboe players). Michelle Szucs, Principal/First Chair Flute II, ranking fourth out of six flute players.

Ben Benack was selected to play in the PMEA All State Jazz Ensemble at this year's Pennsylvania State Festival held on April 22 through April 25. Ben is a senior at Upper St. Clair High School and a member of the Wind Ensemble and the Jazz I band under the direction of Frank Eisenreich.



regional PA competitions and the state final in Camp Hill on April 1st. Winning teams from this competition move to the National Competition in New York City in May. The Team Members are Matt Myron, Drew Gallagher, Steve Wellard, and John Subosits. Their teacher/sponsor is Ms. Tonya Chothani.

The Upper St. Clair High School Music Department hosted the 2009 PMEA Music Performance Assessment on April 2. USC ensembles did extremely well in the performance assessments, with the High School Wind Ensemble and Orchestra receiving Superior ratings and the High School Symphonic Band and Ft. Couch Middle School Band earning Excellent ratings.

Parents, school administrators and teachers nominated students from 17 high schools in Allegheny County's suburbs for *The Tribune Review Total Media's* "2009 Outstanding Young Citizens," which is based on academic achievements and extracurricular activities. One hundred were selected and the top 10 were recognized at a banquet. The Gold Medalists include: Xiao Fu, a senior at the high school who hopes to study economics and publish Chinese language novels, and J.P. Gooderham, also a senior, who founded a golf website and plans to study political science and international relations.

Member of the HS baseball team, Christian Wheeler pitched a no-hitter against Bethel Park on April 16.

The administrators, teachers, and students from Thailand participated in the 2009 Thai-USC Student Cultural Exchange Program. Thanks went to all staff and students for making our guests feel welcome. Special appreciation went to Dr. Gerry Groves and Mrs. Luck Groves for organizing the exchange program and to all of the host families.

Jessica Cohen, Vijay Venkatesan and Kate Groschner were commended for placing third in Division I and Jennifer Cipullo, Steve Garbin and Michelle Szucs for placing third in Division II in the Pittsburgh Chemistry Olympics held at the University of Pittsburgh on April 29th. The students were coached by Dr. Dominick Frollini.

The Video Media Department at the High School recently attended the annual Teachers of Video and Television Awards at Robert Morris University. The students entered videos in 7 of the 10 categories and received awards of excellence in 4 of their 7 entries. USC won awards for entries in Public Service Announcements, Live Sporting Event, Imaginative, and Magazine News Story. The following students worked on the productions: Dave DeBor, Dominic Rodriguez,



The high school forensics team had an outstanding year with successes at the local and state level, and will soon compete at the National Level in Albany, New York on Memorial Day weekend

and in Birmingham, Alabama in June.

State Tournament

Mishan Blecher & Brendan McNally — Duo interpretation - State Champions (for the second year running)

Meera Babu - Informative Speaking — 3rd Place in State

Jalpa Patel - Oral Interpretation of Prose — 5th Place in State

J.P. Gooderham - Impromptu Speaking — 6th Place in State
Semi-finalists at states: Avisha Shah and Sidney Kushner

Qualifying to CFL Nationals

Mishan Blecher & Brendan McNally — (Duo Interpretation of Literature)

Nikhil Venkatesh — (Dramatic Performance)

Brent Heard — (Extemporaneous Speaking)

J.P. Gooderham — (Extemporaneous Speaking)

Vijay Viswanathan — (Declamation)

Meera Babu — (Original Oratory)

Jalpa Patel — (Oral Interp of Literature)

Pankaj Aggarwal — (Oral Interp of Literature)

Evan Pye & Mahen Seneviratne — (Public Forum Debate)

Kathryn Lin — (Lincoln Douglas Debate)

Qualifying to NFL Nationals

Mishan Blecher & Brendan McNally — (Duo Interpretation of Literature)

J.P. Gooderham — (Lincoln Douglas Debate) - Pittsburgh District Champion

Brent Heard — (Extemporaneous Speaking)

Upper St Clair High School represented Pennsylvania at the Northeast National Regional Economics Challenge in Baltimore MD on April 27, 2009. The team earned the top honor by surpassing 88 other teams who competed in three

Upper St. Clair School District

Summary of Proposed 2009-10 General Fund Budget

As Approved on May 18, 2009

	Actual 2007-08	Budget 2008-09	Proposed 2009-2010	% Increase (Decrease) 2009-10 vs. 2008-09
Beginning Undesignated Fund Balance	\$4,015,155	\$4,589,497	\$3,336,587	-37.55%
Revenues:				
Real Estate Tax	36,086,506	34,770,447	36,451,272	4.61%
Earned Income Tax	4,310,064	4,224,679	4,224,679	0.00%
Other Taxes	1,532,957	1,467,466	1,789,835	18.01%
State Revenues	9,640,742	10,790,956	10,683,161	-1.01%
Federal Revenues	1,316,168	1,368,691	1,839,152	25.58%
Investment Earnings	872,308	500,000	285,000	-75.44%
Other Local Revenues	830,199	867,383	1,017,684	14.77%
All Other Revenues	121,576	-	-	
Total Revenues	\$54,710,519	\$53,989,621	\$56,290,783	4.09%
Expenditures by Account:				
100 Salaries	29,305,886	30,394,418	30,961,773	1.83%
200 Fringe Benefits	10,362,243	10,887,142	10,579,723	-2.91%
300 Contracted Services	3,002,463	3,193,084	3,668,326	12.96%
400 Purchased Services	1,272,128	1,332,719	1,437,550	7.29%
500 Other Purchased Services	1,626,752	1,533,298	1,850,573	17.14%
600 Books and Supplies	1,859,615	1,942,638	1,930,392	-0.63%
700 Equipment	1,341,084	608,040	673,963	9.78%
800 Miscellaneous Fees	3,157,905	3,510,104	3,446,392	-1.85%
900 Other Uses	1,810,603	1,841,088	1,737,555	-5.96%
Total Expenditures by Account	\$53,738,678	\$55,242,531	\$56,286,247	1.85%
Ending Undesignated Fund Balance*	\$4,589,497	\$3,336,587	\$4,061,471	

Other Financial Information

Assessed Valuation	\$1,658,561,920	\$1,660,446,720	\$1,669,202,220
Revenue per Mill at 97% Collection Rate	1,608,805	1,610,633	1,619,126
Millage Rate	22.45	22.45	23.37
Number of Students as of October 31st	4,103	4,130	4,128
Total Cost per Student	13,464	13,629	13,635

Expenditures by Function:				
1100 Total Regular Education	24,932,548	24,993,324	24,969,129	-0.10%
1200 Total Special Education	6,364,981	6,668,835	6,971,176	4.34%
1300 Vocation Education	124,326	154,987	215,993	28.24%
1400 Total Other Instructional Programs	145,829	169,753	173,682	2.26%
2100 Total Instructional Support Serv	1,478,513	1,539,122	1,583,402	2.80%
2200 Total Support Services - Instruct	2,649,146	2,710,784	2,852,932	4.98%
2300 Total Administration	2,902,719	3,004,508	3,134,974	4.16%
2400 Total Pupil Health	486,828	509,655	524,226	2.78%
2500 Total Business Services	453,165	503,590	517,270	2.64%
2560 Duplicating Services			217,756	
2600 Total Operations and Maintenance	5,412,713	5,805,015	6,045,488	3.98%
2700 Transportation	2,799,636	2,734,584	2,822,297	3.11%
2800 Central Support Services	349,596	371,603	394,270	5.75%
2900 Other Support Services	71,003	71,341	73,481	2.91%
2990 Pass Through	260,537	200,000	200,000	0.00%
3200 Student Activities	1,112,641	1,173,511	1,131,381	-3.72%
5110 Debt Services	4,019,076	4,396,919	4,223,791	-4.10%
5230 Fund Transfers	175,423	35,000	35,000	0.00%
5900 Budgetary Reserve		200,000	200,000	0.00%
Total Expenditures by Function	53,738,678	55,242,531	56,286,247	1.85%

*Net of Reserve and Designation for the Purchase of Buses, Capital Expenditures, PSERS buyback, PSERS credit and Inventories

Michael Binkley, Kathleen Buehler, Steve Overby, George Zanic, Dan Frac, Chance Waters, Montgomery Scott, Mike Swiatek, Danny Poljak, Dan Colussy, Clay Mucha, Mike Shogry, and Sean Robinson.

The cast and crew of the annual High School spring musical *42nd Street* were recognized for their performances and community service. The 200+ Student Company and Adult Staff collected \$2,476.00 in charitable donations for the local Foundation for the Lupus Center of Excellence in memory of Mr. Jerry Summers, a local actor and father of one of our leads who recently passed away afflicted with this disease.

The following high school students recently participated in the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair at the Carnegie Science Center: Maya Chandrasekaran, Avisha Shah, Vijay Venkatesan, Matthew Vernacchia, Vijay Viswanathan, and Vinay Viswanathan. Matthew Vernacchia and Vijay Viswanathan were congratulated for winning awards for their projects.

The Boyce Middle School Calcu-Solve team of Tony Wang, Brooks Wilding, Ananya Cleetus and Hunter Lantzman took First Place in the overall competition. Tony Wang tied for 3rd in the individual competition and Hunter Lantzman and Brian Kaplan tied for 5th.

The Sully/Hoedeman IB Team sponsored a school wide food drive at Boyce Middle School that began on February 2 and continued through February 13. A truck from SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministry) picked up all the collected non-perishable food items. Students manned a table in the front lobby every morning and again during each lunch period in the nutrition center to accept donations. The event was titled "Have a Heart — Lend a Hand" because students exchanged their food donations for pre-printed Valentines which they signed and then hung in the front lobby.

Joe Demar, principal of Fort Couch Middle School was commended for being selected to receive the Pennsylvania Middle School Association (PMSA) Outstanding Administrator Award. The presentation took place at the state conference on March 2 in Harrisburg.



Fort Couch Assistant Principal John Rozzo (left) and Principal Joseph Demar review the Pittsburgh Business Times' designation of Fort Couch's 8th grade earning "number 1" ranking in Western Pennsylvania.

Megan Adamo, an 8th grader at Fort Couch Middle School, received the Pennsylvania First Place award in *InvestWrite*, a national essay contest for students who participate in the Stock Market Game. Megan's entry is the top winner from approximately 4,000 submitted from across the state. Using the investment knowledge she acquired by participating in the Economics PA Stock Market Game, Megan wrote an explanation of the principle "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." She chose investments from different asset classes (stocks, mutual funds, or bonds) and provided an explanation of each of the assets that were chosen. Megan received a plaque and a monetary prize for her efforts.

The following Boyce students were chosen to be published in the 2008 Creative Communication fall anthology of poems: Eyram Akabua, Andrew Bartusiak, John Benhart, Eliza Brufsky, Grace Burton, Morgan Collins, Caitlin Conwell, Danny Ferriss, Krishna Gopal, Riley Kohler, Meghan Matheny, Liam McClelland, Michael Nastac, Ben Spock, Anne-Sophie van der Poel and Maura Wells. The sponsors were Diane Ecker, Gary Navoney and Beth Harris.

Matt Wertz, a sixth grade student, recently won the National Geographic Bee competition held at Boyce Middle School. Bees were held in schools with fourth through eighth grade students throughout the state to determine each school's Geography Bee winner. Matt will now compete at the state level. His sponsors were Boyce gifted coordinators, Gary Navoney and Diane Ecker.

Chris Besser, an eighth grader at Ft. Couch, was the Grand Prize national winner in the "What If" competition. For his efforts, Chris has won a \$1,000 scholarship and an all expenses paid trip, with his adult sponsor (Pat Palazzolo), to NASA Ames (Moffett Field, near San Francisco) to present his essay and be recognized at the Conrad Innovation Summit.

The following students from Boyce Middle School were recognized at the annual Western Pennsylvania Dog Poster Contest: Sean Parker: First Prize — \$100.00 Savings Bond and tickets to the Dog Show; Lauren DeSantis: Second Prize — \$50.00 Savings Bond and tickets to the Dog Show. Their teacher/sponsor is Dawn Yoder.



The following Fort Couch Middle School students placed in the 2009 Middle School Computer Fair held at the Carnegie Science Center on April 1, 2009: 1st Place Web Page Design — Sharon Gao, 8th grader; 1st Place Digital Movie — Brenna Carse and Josh Kane, 7th graders; 3rd Place Digital Movie — Nolan Ardolino and Alex Bowman, 7th graders. The first place winners were invited to the State competition held at Dickinson College on May 20, 2009.

Creative Communication announced that Maura Wells, a fifth grade student at Boyce Middle School, whose poem was chosen for publication in the fall anthology, received a further honor. She has been named as a Top Ten Winner. Maura's poem, "Hope," will be featured on its own page in the anthology, and she has also received a \$50 savings bond. Maura's sponsors were Diane Ecker, Beth Harris and Gary Navoney.

The following fifth and sixth grade Boyce Challenge students participated in the national Academic Bowl competition. Sixth grade team members were John Benhart, Ananya Cleetus, Will Erlanger, Jacob Heller, Jeff Huo, Brian Kaplan, Carson Mafrice, Robbie Mertz, Allan Stott, Tony Wang, Brooks Wilding, Ryan Wells, Kevin Monpara, James Finkel and Doug Hapeman. The sixth-grade team recorded a total of 752 points, ranking third in Pennsylvania, and 23rd (out of 322) nationally and internationally. Their score is the highest achieved at Boyce.



Civil War Day at Boyce

The fifth-grade Academic Bowl team won honors for the highest score in the state, 697 points, and ranked 11th (out of the 250) nationally and internationally. Members of the fifth-grade team members were Hunter Lantzman, Liam McClelland, Chase Miller, Jacob Ross, Steven Wagner, Amanda Williams and Hannah Tyger. Sponsors were Gary Navoney and Diane Ecker.

The following 5th and 6th grade Boyce Challenge students recently participated in a Future Problem Solving competition at Duquesne University. The team members included Doug Hapeman, Hunter Lantzman, Daniel Pituch, Amanda Mittelman, Ananya Cleetus, Riley Urbano, Rachel Diffendal, Sriparna Sen and Ricky Mellick. A skit performed within this competition captured first place. Sponsors were Gary Navoney and Diane Ecker.

The Fort Couch 8th grade math team was commended for ranking 6th place in the Pennsylvania Math League Competition. Chenhao Yang scored 39 out of 40 giving him a 5th place personal rank for the entire state. The PML competition was administered by Joye Karidis, Math Resource Teacher.

The participants of the Fort Couch IB Science Fair were commended for providing such innovative scientific experiments.

Ryan Zalla, an eighth grader from Ft. Couch, was honored for his winning essay titled "The Importance of Teamwork to a Winning Future." The contest was sponsored by the Pittsburgh Penguins in celebration of their playoff run. Ryan received a gift certificate for Dick's Sporting Goods, and as the overall essay winner, earned two tickets to a Penguin game.

Four Ft. Couch 8th grade students participated in the PMEA District 1 chorus festival on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 at the Marshall Middle School in the North Allegheny School District. They were David Duan, tenor, Beth Mittelman, alto, Nick Sembrat, bass, and Grace Trocano, soprano.



PMEA JHS Chorus Festival

The cast and crew of the Boyce musical production of *Willy Wonka Jr.* were commended. More than a tremendous performance, the project was also a charitable effort. Since the show was about "luxury foods," the price of admission was advertised as one non-perishable food item to be donated to South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM) food pantry. More than 800 pounds of food was collected prior to the performance. In addition, in lieu of collecting parent donations for Directors' gifts, a contribution was made to the Foundation for the Lupus Center of Excellence. The Tuesday evening performance was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Jerry Summers, USC resident and parent of 6th grade cast member, Jonny. Volunteers from the Ft. Couch Chorus were on hand after the performance to collect donations. A total of more than \$800 was collected in Mr. Summers' memory.

Maura Boston and Brinda Doshi, students at Fort Couch Middle School, recently participated in the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair at the Carnegie

Science Center. Brinda's project titled "The Natural, The Better" received an Honorable Mention.

The following teams of students and coaches were commended for their award winning performances in the Odyssey of the Mind Spontaneous Fun Day which took place on February 21 and the Regional Tournament on March 7:

Streams Earth Trek Team — 1st Place Division I at Fun Day, 1st Place Division I at Regionals — Advancing to State Finals; Sharon Byrnes, Coach; Brendan Allen, Connor Byrnes, Liam Carse, Neal Sharma, Vicki Wang and Tia Watts;

Streams Superstition Team — 3rd Place Division I at Regionals — Advancing to State Finals; Coaches Susan Rosati and Charles Fry; Oceanne Fry, Jagadeesh Gummadi, Laura Lapham, Spencer Miller, Neale Misquitta, and Sheb Rosati;

Fort Couch Shock Waves Team — 1st place Division II at Regionals — Advancing to State Finals; Coaches Corinne Zatawski and Michelle Turnwald; Kyle Austin, Maura Boston, Robert Burke, Joshua Simmons, Yash Tripathi, Sydney Turnwald, and Helena Zatawski;

High School Superstition Team — 1st Place Division III at Regionals, 3rd Place Division III Fun Day — Advancing to State Finals; Coaches Reid Simmons and Gwen Patterson; Paul Austin, Riyana Bilimoria, Bridget Hubbard, Abby Massaro, Molly Patterson, Peter Rosati and Rachel Simmons;

Baker Superstition Team — 2nd Place Division I at Fun Day; Coaches Cem Demirci and Perry Shoemaker; Alican Demirci, Daniel Geoffrey, Arushi Kewalramani, Piol-Ha Masse, Priya Rajawat, Abigail Shoemaker and Darrick Yee;

Fort Couch Lost Labor Team — 1st Place Division II at Fun Day; Diane Belack, Coach; Andrew Belack, Ananya Cleetus, Lizzy Faeth, Dan Finkel, Rebecca Knapp, and special guest Garrett Himler.

Four teams represented Upper St. Clair at the PA State Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Our Fort Couch team earned a 2nd place medal and the honor of representing USC at the World Finals Competition held at Iowa State University in May. Our High School team received a 3rd place medal and just missed a chance to move on to the World Finals. One of our Streams teams consisting of 2nd and 3rd graders, placed an impressive 4th place, and the other Streams team placed 7th.

Tim Wagner, teacher at Streams Elementary, was selected to participate in the 15th annual CGSE (Council of Graduate Students in Education) Student Research Conference at The University of Pittsburgh on February 25 and 26. His submission, "Helping Educators and Family Members Understand Oppositional Defiant Disorder: Psycho-education through Podcasts," was accepted and Tim was given the opportunity to present his work as part of a group poster session with colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh School of Education.

Charity Schmiidl, a teacher at Streams, was selected from a field of over 600 nominees as one of 100 Pennsylvania 2009 Keystone Technology Integrators. Charity worked intensively to craft an application packet, including an I-movie that captured her work with technology to engage learners and improve student performance.

Mikki Shalata, teacher at Streams, had a paper that she wrote for her teaching project published in the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association's *Spring 2009 Forum*.



The students, staff, and families of Streams Elementary were commended for the results of the 5th Annual Children for Children Silent Auction. This year \$7,289.06 was raised to benefit Heifer International.

Upper St. Clair School District Adopted School Calendar 2009

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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AUGUST						
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30	31					

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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29	30					

DECEMBER						
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27	✕ 28	✕ 29	✕ 30	✕ 31		

2010

JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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30	✕ 31					

JUNE						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

○ - Teacher Inservice

✕ - No School

◆ - Half Day Early Dismissal for Students

Upper St. Clair League for the Arts Spring Exhibit Top Prizes

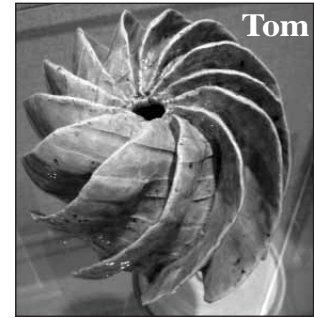
Best of Show	Lindsay Burdette
Highest Honor	Shari Ondrejko – 2-D
Highest Honor	Heather Crossley – 3-D
Highest Honor	Rio Roye – 2-D
Freshman Highest Honor	Abbey DeJuliis
High Honor	Rachel Molstre
High Honor	Allison Hall
High Honor	Tom Miller
High Honor	Sarah Fletcher
High Honor	Alana Epstein



Allison Hall



Rachel Molstre



Tom Miller



Lindsay Burdette



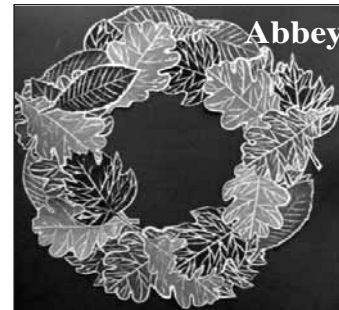
Sarah Fletcher



Alana Epstein



Sarah Fletcher



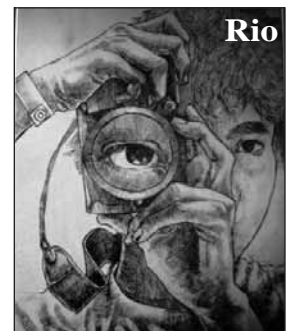
Abbey DeJuliis



Heather Crossley



Shari Ondrejko



Rio Roye

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Lacrosse Spring Action

The USC Boys Lacrosse Club made a significant impact this year with an overall mid-season record of 49-26-2. In total there are 200 participants making up 11 teams (4 elementary, 4 Boyce and 3 Fort Couch).



Pictured is the Fort Couch Red (an all 8th grade squad), after a grueling practice.

These teams are supported by 5 Head Coaches and 20 Assistant Coaches, all volunteer parents. By introducing lacrosse at an early age, players will hopefully develop a life-long passion for

this fast paced game while developing their lacrosse and teamwork skills. Moreover, participation at this level feeds our WPIAL accredited High School Lacrosse program.

Active not only on the grass, our lacrosse players have been involved in our community with KidsVoice, an Allegheny County advocates organization for abused children, and with USC Community Day. For more club info and season highlights, visit www.usclax.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION.....



Website: www.uscsd.k12.pa.us
• Announcements • Calendar • Directory
• Faculty • Information • Schools



School-Access Cable: Comcast Channel 19



School District Telephone: 412-833-1600
Press "1," the extension number, followed by the # sign
Press "2" for alphabetic directory



Music & Theatre Events: 412-851-2060



Athletic Hotline 412-833-1600 x2989



School Delays and Closings

For information on any delays/closings, you can now visit our website at www.uscsd.k12.pa.us or tune into Cable Channel 19 in addition to your favorite radio and television stations.