

## COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

FEBRUARY, 2016

### High School

Yein (Christina) Park, high school senior, has been selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Established in 1964, the Presidential Scholars Program recognizes our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors through their broad academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community. Scholars are invited to Washington, DC in June to participate in the recognitions program that culminates with the presentations of the Presidential Scholars Medallion during a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

Congratulations are extended to the following Parkway West Career & Technical Center students that have been named to the Director's List of Honor Students for the second quarter of the 2015 – 2016 school year:

Mary Molitoris	Cosmetology III
Alyssa Perry	Health Asst. II
Anna Perry	DMM
Domenic Petito	EST
Julie Swiech	Vet. Tech.
Aidan Vopal	BCT

Four USC high school students were recognized at the 2016 Scholastic Writing Awards Competition.

Mahima Reddy (*Montage's* Editor in Chief) won the Gold Key for her personal essay "Dear Thotappa". She has been invited to compete in the National Scholastic Writing Awards Competition in New York. She also won Honorable Mention for her poem "Intoxication of Beauty."

Silver Key winners were Ben Nadler for his poem "True Art" and Amanda Mittelman for her poem "Resuscitation for the Soul."

Claire Zalla received an Honorable Mention for her flash fiction "Bean Sidhe".

Mr. Tom Yochum, high school teacher has been recognized by the Saint Vincent College Great Teacher Recognition Program "for excellence in teaching that provides a positive and enduring influence on students."

In letters of congratulations to the selected teachers, College President Br. Norman

Hipps, O.S.B., thanked the teachers for “making a difference” in the personal and intellectual development of their students. “Teaching is a wonderful profession and Saint Vincent College recognizes the important role teachers play in the development of youth.”

Mr. Yochum was nominated by former high school student, Meghan Zwickle, who is now a freshman at Saint Vincent College.

Twelve players from the WPIAL have been selected to play for Team Pennsylvania in the 39th annual Big 33 Football Classic, set for June 18 at Hersheypark Stadium. The group of seniors includes Upper St. Clair lineman Brandon Ford on offense. Team Pennsylvania will play a team of senior all-stars from Maryland.

Upper St. Clair Varsity Football Coach, Jim Render, recently received the Mickey Minnick Legendary Coach Award from the WPIAL. Coach Render was recognized on February 13, 2016 at the Mr. PA Football Awards Ceremony in Harrisburg.

Congratulations are extended to the 2016 National Merit Finalist Students:

Christopher Adamo

Zian Chen

Jacob Heilman

Emily Hobart

Hunter Lantzman

Sarina Mak

Christina Park

Joseph Paul

Akshay Prasad

Mohammad Rahman

Hannah Tyger

Steven Wagner

Ryan Whyte

### **Ft. Couch**

Fort Couch Middle School students participated in the National Geographic Bee on Thursday, December 17. The top scoring students in the competition were Jason Choi, Richa Mahajan, and Ben Pribanic.

Our congratulations go to all students who participated, with special commendation to Ben Pribanic for winning the school level competition. Ben will go on to take a written qualifying exam in February, which will determine if he continues on to the state level competition on April 1.

The Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition was held on Saturday, January 23, at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. Vivek Babu, Ben Nelson, and Emme Wetzel represented Ft. Couch Middle School at the competition. The challenge was for middle school students to design a “city of the future” with a focus on developing an innovative city-wide waste management system. Students presented their solutions via a virtual city design (using SimCity); a 1,500-word city description; a scale model; a project plan, and a presentation to judges at Regional Competitions. Congratulations to the Fort Couch Middle School team for winning the special award for “Best Use of Nuclear Technology.”

### **Boyce**

Congratulations to the fifth grade Boyce Middle School team for coming in 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the regional Science Bowl held at the Carnegie Science Center. The team competed in four different challenges such as *All About H2O*, *Balcony Build-It*, *Calculation Station*, and *Roller Coasters*. The Boyce Team was the only team to earn a perfect score on their Roller Coaster construction. Team members are Quinton Miller, John Scherer, Deborah Chu, and Nico Roth.

The following 6th grade Boyce students were chosen to have their poems published in the Creative Communication poetry contest:

Delaynie McMillan  
Alex Teresi  
Daniel Wang  
Anthony DeNoon  
Maggie Lowden  
Zoe Dvorin  
Shana Reddy  
Phoebe Chen  
Sophie Chen  
Sofia Putorti  
Nitish Sharma  
Shane Williams  
Sam Scalzo  
Lucas Pash  
Matthew Naumann  
Sujay Shah  
Aidan Besselman  
Bear Bottonari  
Evan Tefft  
Ritvik Shah

Eddie Albert  
Aly Childs  
Anoushka Sinha  
Jillian Shaw  
Emma Pribanic  
Anna Cancilla  
Kaitlyn Clougherty  
Erin Payne