

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
JUNE 2015

Staff

Jane Dodd, Fort Couch Teacher Aide, is commended for coming to the aid of a student, performing the Heimlich Maneuver, during lunch on June 9. Jane's quick thinking and action were most likely life savers for the child – a truly heroic deed by Jane.

Elementary

Fourth graders Katelyn Robbins and Lillian Spencer were the winners of the 1st Annual Streams Elementary National School Library Week Bookmark Contest. Their entry, voted on by third graders, will be made into a banner for permanent display in the Streams Library.

Boyce

Carmella McNally, a fifth grade student at Boyce Middle School won 1st Place in the regional American Chemical Society's Illustrated poem contest. Carmella wrote and illustrated a poem about snow as part of the *Chemist Celebrate Earth Day* theme contest. Carmella received a certificate and a check for \$50 for her first place winning entry.

The Fifth Grade Pennsylvania Mathematics competition was administered to 80 students at Boyce Middle School on April 28. Following are the results:

Aly Childs - 1st Place Overall and Team Eagle Champion
Allen Ho - Team Galaxy Champion
Saif Durrani - 3rd Place Overall and Team Comet Champion
David Wang - 2nd Place Overall and Team Challenger Champion

Honorable Mention:

Nivedha Suresh
Kaitlyn Clougherty
Shivani Jajoo
Jeet Sutreja
Milan Giroux
Trinity Murphy

In April, 18 Boyce Middle School students competed in the final round of the 2015 Mathematics Council of Western Pennsylvania First Year Algebra /Integrated Math II Contest. Congratulations are extended to the top 3 winners: Jonah Murray, currently enrolled in Algebra I as a sixth grader, won 1st place overall; Jason Choi, a seventh grader in Algebra I, earned 2nd place; Sixth-grader Christian Chiu finished with the 3rd place honor. All three boys received engraved plaques and monetary prizes for their outstanding merit.

Congratulations to Keya Loding, fifth grade student at Boyce Middle School, for being inducted as a Benjamin Carson Scholar at an Awards Banquet Ceremony at Heinz Hall on Sunday, May 24. Keya received a \$1,000 scholarship based on his outstanding academic and humanitarian achievements.

Boyce/Ft. Couch

In March, Fort Couch and Boyce Middle Schools each held a school-wide Challenge 24 competition to determine the top students for each grade level. The top students participated in the Regional 24 Competition held at the Jefferson Hills Municipal Center on May 1, 2015. Devan Ekbote and Brooke Christiansen placed in the top 4 for the 7/8th division, Brooke finished with a silver medal and Devan won the gold. Meghan Joon and Braden Yates competed in the platinum round where Megan earned the silver medal and Braden finished with the gold medal. Boyce students, Christian Chiu took first place in the sixth grade competition and Emily Gianni, second. For the fifth graders, Daniel Wang placed second.

High School

The Upper St. Clair Crew Team competed in this year's Scholastic Rowing Association of America national event held on the Cooper River in Cherry Hill, N.J. The team finished just seconds off of 3rd place at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships at Dillon Lake in Zanesville, Ohio, and successfully petitioned for a spot at the national championships. The team consists of Upper St. Clair High School students Ajinkya Rai, Connor Halloran, Steve Wagner, Brendan Boettger and Tyler Clark.

Brooks Wilding, high school senior and varsity wrestler, was named a WPIAL scholar athlete at the WPIAL awards banquet on May 19. Brooks was 1 of 10 male athletes who won this award out of 107 across all the WPIAL schools and received a plaque and a scholarship worth \$1,000.

Congratulations are extended to Public Forum Debaters Brian Kaplan & Hunter Lantzman for placing in the top 10 in the national competition held in Ft. Lauderdale. Brian & Hunter scored a combined 13-5 on ballots, and were only eliminated by the eventual national champions.

Congratulations are extended to high school junior, Ryan Harkleroad who was recently named a C. Harper positive High School Athlete at an awards ceremony on May 13. Ryan was nominated by a parent of a member of the basketball team and was presented a \$500 scholarship award.

High school freshmen Sahil Doshi and Kevin Chen recently received awards for their science research projects at the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by the Carnegie Science Center. Sahil won a 2nd place award in the category of Chemistry for his project *Optimizing CO2 Energy Storage*. Kevin won a 2nd place award in the category of Medicine/Health/Microbiology for his project *Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Management*.

The Spring Art Awards took place on Wednesday, May 27th in the High School's LGI. The Upper St. Clair League for the Arts judged the show, awarding students Honorable Mentions, High Honors, Highest Honors, Best in Show and a scholarship for a student continuing on to study art in college.

Following are the winners of High and Highest Honors:

Highest Honor, Digital Art - Alexander Lindstrom.

Highest Honor, Plaster and watercolor on canvas, graphite drawing, chicken wire and sheet metal roses - the collaboration of Cat Delo and Julia Herold.

High Honor, B&W photo - Anne-Sophie van Der Poel.

High Honor, Origami flower sculpture - Nan Tian Qiu.

High Honor, Graphite drawing of orchids - Leah Day

High Honor, Pen & Ink Design - Jahnavee Mittal

In addition to these awards, The Anna M. Smith scholarship was awarded to Manoli Despines, who won a Highest Honor for his short film, "Gizmo". Teddy Staats was awarded the William R. Shaffalo Scholarship for his pottery and ceramics work.

Anthony Abinanti, high school senior, has been awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship for 2015-16. Anthony is one of 620 competitively selected students from across the United States who will receive a scholarship to study overseas this year. Anthony will study Chinese in China for the summer. While in China, Anthony will receive formal instruction and informal language practice in an immersion environment.

Ashton Saunders, freshman at USCHS, recently submitted a manuscript of poems written in her MYP Academic English 9 class to *Cicada Magazine*. *Cicada* is a young adult literature magazine that publishes poetry, essays, and comics by adults and teens. Ashton's manuscript was critiqued by the editor who identified three poems that would be perfect for *Cicada Magazine*. In addition to publication, Ashton received a monetary award for her work.

On March 6, eleventh grader Allison Mesinere, was awarded the First Place Award in the 2015 High School Japanese Speech Contest. This contest was sponsored by The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania, The Asian Studies Center, and University Center for International Studies of The University of Pittsburgh. Scoring was based upon the students' ability to express themselves in an original speech, written in Japanese, using language and vocabulary that is appropriate for their level of learning.

Allison was prepared and sponsored by Japanese teacher Mrs. Junko Kapples.

High School Senior, John Benhart has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest advancement award of the Boy Scouts of America. John was recognized at a Court of Honor in May, at a ceremony held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the Laurel Highlands Council, Troop 366. John's Eagle Scout project took 227 volunteer service hours to complete and entailed installation of posts, rope-fencing and signage in environmentally sensitive areas of Boyce-Mayview Park. John is one of approximately 4 percent of all Boy Scouts who earn the rank of Eagle, an award first established in 1912.