

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
MARCH 2015

Administration

Congratulations are extended to Dr. John Rozzo, Assistant Superintendent, for earning his doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Education Administration and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

Additionally, Dr. Rozzo, has received The Outstanding Middle Level Administrator Award which honors an administrator who values, understands, and supports middle level education that promotes powerful learning for young adolescents. Dr. Rozzo was presented with the Award on Monday, February 23, at the PAMLE Conference held in State College, Pennsylvania.

Staff

High School World Languages teacher and curriculum leader, Deanna Baird, is a finalist in the *Nominator's Choice* category of the 2015 Champions of Learning Awards. Deanna will be recognized at the awards dinner on Saturday, March 28 which will showcase the outstanding and dedicated individuals and groups who champion learning in a very special ways.

High School

Congratulations are extended to High School Boys' Basketball Coach Danny Holzer who was voted by the coaches in the section as Coach of the Year for the 2014 – 2015 season.

Congratulations to junior, Akshay Prasad, for earning an honorable mention in the Penn State Writing Competition. Earlier in December, eleven juniors were invited by their English teachers to participate in the writing competition. Akshay's essay was chosen by a panel of his peers to move on to the state level, and he eventually went on to win honorable mention. Akshay is a junior in Ms. Elizabeth Cecelia's Honors English 11 class.

Ananya Cleetus, high school senior, has once again excelled in the field of technology. At 14, she designed and computer-tested a lightweight prosthetic leg for low-income people in India with below-knee amputations. At 17, she conceptualized and 3-D printed a battery-operated prosthetic hand for patients

suffering from leprosy. Now at the age of 18, Ananya is the CEO of a new social media network she hopes will enable teens around the world to find mentors both in universities and businesses. She has spent the past six months building the website and managing an 18-member team of teens scattered throughout the nation. Her work on Magikstra, the social network in beta testing at five universities outside Pittsburgh, earned her this year's Start-Up Entrepreneur honor as part of the 19th annual Carnegie Science Awards. She'll be among the youngest at a May 8 ceremony to accept one of the 17 science and technology honors.

Congratulations to the Boys' Swim Team and Coach Dave Schraven for placing second in the WPIAL championship for boys' swimming at the two-day event held at the University of Pittsburgh's Trees Pool. Team members that qualified for state competition are: Marty Bacik, Ryan Dudzinski, Jake Johnsen, Patrick Lersch, Kevin Liu, Fynn Minuth, Ole Minuth, Tomos Williams, and Braedon Wong. Following are the top 3 statistics regarding the team's success:

200 Medley Relay – Ryan Dudzinski, Kevin Liu, Jake Johnsen, and Braedon Wong, 1st Place, WPIAL Record, School Record

200 IM – Fynn Minuth, 2nd Place, School Record

50 Free – Tomos Williams, 3rd Place

100 Fly – Ryan Dudzinski, 1st Place, WPIAL Record; Jake Johnsen 3rd Place;

500 Free – Fynn Minuth, 2nd Place, School Record

200 Free Relays – Ryan Dudzinski, Patrick Lersch, Tomos Williams and Fynn Minuth, 1st Place, WPIAL Record, School Record

100 Back – Kevin Liu, 1st Place; Braedon Wong 2nd Place

400 Free Relay – Fynn Minuth, Patrick Lersch, Kevin Liu, and Braedon Wong, 1st Place

Congratulations are also extended to the Boys' Swim Team for their 2nd Place showing in the PIAA Swimming and Diving Competition. Following are the top 3 statistics for the event:

200 Medley Relay - Ryan Dudzinski, Kevin Liu, Fynn Minuth, and Braedon Wong , 1st Place

200 Free Relay – Ryan Dudzinski Tomas Williams, Patrick Lersch, and Kevin Liu, 2nd Place

400 Free Relay – Patrick Lersch, Fynn Minuth, Braedon Wong, Ryan Dudzinski, 2nd Place

200 IM - Fynn Minuth, 2nd Place

100 Butterfly – Ryan Dudzinski, 1st Place

500 Free – Fynn Minuth, 2nd Place

100 Back – Kevin Liu, 2nd Place

Congratulations to the Girls' Swim Team and Coach Schraven for placing second in the WPIAL this season. Following are statistics regarding the team's success:

State Qualifiers: Lindsey Choate, Maeve Lersch, Abby Matheny, Carly Olsakovsky, Victoria Shaffer, Maddie Yoos

Top 3 WPIAL Finishes:

200 Medley Relay – 2nd Place, School Record, Qualified for States

200 Free Relay – 2nd Place, School Record, Qualified for States

400 Free Relay – 2nd Place, School Record, Qualified for States

Additional School Records: Victoria Shaffer, 50 Freestyle and Maddie Yoos, 100 Breaststroke.

Forty-five teams from area high schools participated in the annual Academic WorldQuest competition at the University of Pittsburgh on February 24. Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of America, the contest requires students to work in teams to answer questions about current events, geography, history, international relations and business.

The Upper St. Clair team was victorious, finishing two points ahead of defending champion Shadyside Academy. Upper St. Clair will now represent the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh at the National Academic WorldQuest competition in Washington DC in April. Coached by Gifted Coordinator and World Affairs Club sponsor Pat Palazzolo, the team includes sophomore Paul Abrams, juniors Gaurav Bhushan and Thomas Mologne, and senior Daniel Pituch, Team Captain.

The PMEA Region 1 Choir Festival was held at Trinity High School February 25-27, 2015. Three students, Carly DeCock (Grade 10), Megan Jones (Grade 12) and Jonny Summers (Grade 12), successfully auditioned to represent Upper St. Clair High School at the PMEA All-State Conference to be held in Hershey, March 25-28, 2015. Students who placed in the top six chairs of each voice part were selected for the All-State Choir. Megan Jones and Jonny Summers each received first chair, and Carly DeCock received fourth. The students are taught by Upper St. Clair High School Choral Director, Lorraine Milovac.

High School freshman Nathalie Frenette placed 1st All Around, 1st in Floor, 1st in Bars, 3rd in Beam, and 4th in Vault in the WPIAL Gymnastics Championship, Bronze Division. In addition Nathalie placed 4th in All Around, 3rd in Floor and 3rd in Bar at the PIAA State Championship.

Congratulations to Eli Grape and Brooks Wilding for their success in the WPIAL Wrestling Championship. High School senior Brooks Wilding finished in fourth place in the 170 weight class and sophomore Eli Grape finished in third place. Eli made it to the PIAA Wrestling Championship finishing eighth in the 195 weight class.

Fort Couch

The *Steel Serpents*, a First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Team, competed in the FTC Pennsylvania State Championship Tournament on February 28th and have advanced to the FTC U.S. Super-Regional Competition. The team members include Graham Kretschmar, Brendan Neal and Reese Benonis, all from Fort Couch Middle School. The competition requires a large amount of teamwork, and commitment in order to design, engineer, program and build a robot to compete in an arena with and against other robots. They will compete at Super-Regionals with 71 other teams from 12 eastern states, from Virginia to Maine, on March 19-21, 2015.

Boyce

On Tuesday, February 24, Boyce Middle School conducted the annual *Pennsylvania Mathematics League* (PML) Grade 6 competition. Over 100 students participated in the competition and spent thirty minutes solving 35 non-routine math problems. Prizes were awarded in the following categories:

Fifth Graders Studying 6th Grade Math: 1st Place - Keya Loding; 2nd place (tie) - Bear Bottonari and Sophie Chen

Sixth Graders Studying Algebra I: 1st Place – Christian Chiu (highest overall score of 34 out of 35)

Sixth Graders Studying Pre-Algebra: 1st Place (tie) – Buddy Goodwin and Jenny Huo; 2nd Place (tie) Grace Suter and Henry Zou

Sixth Graders Studying 6th Grade Math: 1st Place (tie) – Sadhana Boddhula and Ben Bacdayan; 2nd Place (5-way tie) Zain Aizooky, Casey Barker, Donovan Kohler,

Lauren Korpics and Ishaan Shah; 3rd Place (6-way tie) – Topher Bishop, Vanessa Rainier, Kyle Ralyea, Michael Safko, Sammie Seewald and Jason Zhang

Team Champs (highest scorer on each of the sixth grade teams): Team Predator (tie) Lauren Korpics and Donovan Kohler; Team Energy: Casey Barker; Team Wind: Sadhana Boddhula; Team Fire: Ben Bacdayan; Team Solar Power: Michael Safko

Congratulations to four USC teams who placed in their division at the WPA Odyssey of the Mind Competition. These teams earned the right to travel to Berwick, PA, for the April 11th State competition.

1st Place - Performance Problem - Division II

Max Murtough, Joseph Markovitz, Constantine Tripodes, Brianna Lin, Ellie Rising, Sammie Seewald, and Eric Wang.

2nd Place - Vehicle Problem - Division I

Eddie Albert, Jack Berger, Daniel Paulick, George Atencio, Maddy John, Chloe Seery, Kaylee Paulick

2nd Place - Performance Problem - Division I

Daniel Seewald, Phillip Markovitz, Carter McClintock-Comeaux, Georgie Garces, Marina Gzikowski, Grace Kelly, Laney Casares

3rd Place - Classics Problem - Division II

Jacob Conte, Christina Conte, Maggie Lowden, Yash Jajoo, Vivek Babu, Gracie Lowden, Isabella Putorti.

Congratulations to Boyce student Daniel Wang, who on Saturday March 14th, placed 2nd out of 101 participants at the Western PA Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at Robert Morris University!