

Superintendent's Student and Staff Accomplishments

January 22, 2020

Message of Sympathy:

On behalf of our entire Pocono Mountain School District and Board of Education, I extend my most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Stacy Perryman, a Special Education Teacher at Pocono Mountain West High School, and of Shayne Olszyk, a PMSD graduate and dedicated, 16-year NTA in our Transportation Department. Both Stacy and Shayne passed away after courageous battles with cancer.

Stacy and Shayne will be greatly missed by our entire school community.

Moment of Silence to Honor Stacy Perryman and Shayne Olszyk.

I have some student and staff accomplishments to share with the Board and our community tonight:

CRIS Chorus at Kutztown University: Clear Run Intermediate School student vocalists and chorus director Ms. Dianna Haldren toured Kutztown University and its music department. After the tour, the students rehearsed inside Schaeffer Auditorium, where they eventually performed in the lobby as audience members walked into the University's Holiday Concert. Many audience members stopped and watched the students sing highlights from "The Nutcracker" as well as "The 12 Days of Christmas." The students then watched the concert; where they experienced a professional choir, band, and orchestra. The students were praised by Kutztown University faculty and staff for their musicality and professionalism throughout the entire trip.

STEAM Guest Educator: STEAM guest educator, Dr. Ann Bebout from the DaVinci Center, taught students in Ms. Samantha Dorney's STEAM classes about Zoetropes on January 13. A Zoetrope is a 19th-century optical toy consisting of a cylinder with a series of pictures on the inner surface that, when viewed through slits with the cylinder rotating, give an impression of continuous motion. For this project-based learning activity each student created their own sequence of drawings to view through the Zoetrope, which gives the drawings the impression of animation.

MLK Community Member Award: I also wanted to take a moment and recognize Ken Gustafson, who is a substitute teacher for our District and an active volunteer with our West Football team. Ken received the MLK Community Award on Monday at the East Stroudsburg University Martin Luther King breakfast. Ken received the MLK Community Member Award for devoting his time, energy, and talents to collaborating with community organizations that serve the well-being of children and families in the Pocono Mountains. Ken partners with Pocono Mountain School District on many community service initiatives, and we are proud that he was recognized this week for his service to our school community and the county.

East HS Band Announcement: I have more great music news to share with you. Our Pocono Mountain East High School Marching Band has been selected to participate in the 101st 6 ABC/DUNKIN Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia on November 26.

MLK Art Contest Award Winner: Tonight, we have with us four students from Pocono Mountain School District who were also recognized at the Martin Luther King Breakfast at ESU. The student's artwork was selected as winners of the Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest and the top three contest winners are all artists from Pocono Mountain East High School. I would like to introduce Mrs. Dawn Hallenbeck, one of our Art Educators to tell us more about the art contest and our student artists.