

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments

October 18, 2023

East Junior HS Internet Safety: On Friday, October 6, 2023, students learned about respect and responsibility on the internet from PA State Troopers Jessica Quinn and Tristan Bennett. The troopers explained to students the implications of cyber-bullying from all perspectives, from being the victim to realizing that you may be participating. Most of the social issues at school occur as the direct result of student social media interactions in the evening or over weekends. Students forget that they shouldn't trust everyone online and that things they say or send over social media platforms never really disappear. Troopers discussed the need to always be kind and respectful to each other, as you never know what someone else is going through. They told students that if something happens that is negative or makes them uncomfortable, the first thing they should do is exit the discussion. Then save any evidence (screenshots), block the offender, and tell an adult immediately. Students learned that they can be prosecuted for threatening harm to or sending mean and offensive messages on the internet. It is important to remind students that if someone is mean or offensive to them first, they can also be prosecuted for retaliating. That may just result in TWO students being in trouble.

Many students are hesitant to talk to their parents about what happens online because they fear that their parents may take their phone or internet away. In reality, parents are proud of their adolescents for recognizing when adult intervention is needed. The Troopers ask that parents please talk with their adolescents about this, so they feel comfortable coming to them before things get out of hand.

East High School Update: East High School Unified Track Coach Paige and Coach Dey took the Unified Track team captains to the Special Olympics Youth Summit at Kutztown University on October 11th. It was a great day at the Special Olympics Youth Summit for Unified Champion Schools. Coaches and team captains learned different ways to spread inclusion at East High School and across the Pocono Mountain School District.

Student Council Leadership Conference: East High School Senior Class President Sam Nyakundi, Junior Class President Nicholas Ingrassia, Junior Class Vice-President Emily Olenick, Junior Class Representative Emma

DeLuca, and Sophomore Class President Daniel Cunningham attended the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils State Leadership Convention in Altoona on September 22nd and 23rd. Students attended sessions consisting of motivational speakers, student-led workshops, and leadership activities. Four-year cast member Nick “Sunshine” Tokman, as seen on Deadliest Catch, spoke to students about motivation, peer pressure, student retention, self-esteem, and adversity.

PM West HS Update: Students and faculty from Pocono Mountain West High School visited the Pocono Arts Council gallery at the start of the month to explore the Form & Function exhibition and further their study of contemporary craft and found object art. Thank you to art teachers Kristen Miele-Beatty and Garrett James and our AP art students for expanding our connections within the local art community.

Boys Soccer All Start Team: Congratulations to West High School senior Eli Ejiofer for making the Eastern Penn Conference All Star Team as a striker for Boys Soccer.

Math Honor Society Induction: Today, the Math Honor Society at West held its first induction ceremony for new members. Thirty students were recognized for membership and new officers were formally selected. Congratulations to the students and their families for this accomplishment.

West Multicultural Club: Hispanic Heritage Month is being celebrated at West High School led by the efforts of the school’s multicultural club. A collaborative painting display was available for students to view in the main hallway, a student video that highlighted music and dancing was played during announcements, and traditional food and a display that featured notable individuals was available during lunches.

Underclassman Night: The West Marching Band had 67 7th and 8th grade band students attend the Homecoming Football game as part of their annual Underclassmen Night on October 13th. The students stayed after school and practiced with the high school marching band and then performed in the halftime show. Congratulations to these students and our entire West band.

Cross Country Champion: Senior Kaya Meler came in 2nd place in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference cross country meet yesterday (Tuesday,

October 17, 2023). Her time of 19:34 was her best on the course for her career, as well as the best female time in the history for Pocono Mountain West.

Clear Run Intermediate School - One School, One Book: The Clear Run Intermediate School community has begun their One School, One Book initiative and are reading the story, *The First Rule of Punk*. Like many middle schoolers, the main character is figuring out who she is, who she wants to be, and how she wants to present herself to the world. Clear Run Intermediate School staff, as well as members from Central Administration, have been recording readings to share out with the school community as well. A community that reads together, achieves together!

Swiftwater Elementary Center Update: Swiftwater Elementary Center is proud to announce the success of its Math and Science School Day Assemblies and its Family Math and Science Night which was held on Thursday, October 12th. SEC's PTO sponsored "The Goofy Kooky Math Show" day time assemblies for our students, and the "The Wacky Science Show" at the evening event. Thank you to SEC's custodial staff for setting everything up for the events to take place. Thank you to SEC teachers and East High School students for volunteering their time to have fun science events that evening for students to participate in with their families. Approximately 150 families and 450 people were able to attend and enjoy this wonderful event. Thank you to the SEC Family Math and Science Night Committee for all of their hard work in planning this event.

School Wide Positive Behavior: Swiftwater Elementary Center is proud to announce that the SEC and SIS School Wide Positive Behavior Support Committees hosted a Bus Driver Social on Monday, October 16th. During this event, drivers were able to enjoy a light breakfast hosted by SEC PTO and watch a slideshow of students thanking them for being their bus drivers. The committee presented a new Bus Ticket that drivers will hand out to students at SEC and SIS when positive bus behavior is observed. Drivers are looking for students that are showing WAYS TO BE AT SEC/SIS: Be Respectful, Responsible, Trustworthy, and Good Citizens. The team is proud to work alongside First Student to help its students, drivers, and monitors have the most positive bus experience. Thank you to Mrs. Daidone, the School Wide Positive Behavior Support Committee, and SEC PTO for organizing this social for the bus drivers and monitors to attend.

Pocono Mountain Pride of the Mountain Football Game: We want to invite our entire school community to the Pocono Mountain Pride of the Mountain Football Game on Friday, October 27th 7 p.m. at the Panther Stadium on the Sullivan Trail Campus. The game pits the Panthers against the Cardinal to determine which team will bring home the Pride of the Mountain Trophy.

Outstanding Visual Arts Community Award: The Pennsylvania Art Education Association recognized Pocono Mountain School District for its commitment to visual arts education with the endorsement of *Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2023*, the district's 3rd consecutive award.

Districts receiving this endorsement demonstrate the importance of their visual arts programs with:

- *Rigorous and Inclusive Programs:* Arts programs demonstrate rigor using standards-based curricula taught at every level by highly qualified and certified art educators.
- *Highly Accessible Programs:* Art programs are offered to *all students* at every level of education with a sustainable budget for the visual arts.
- *Highly Visible Programs:* Schools and districts identify their programmatic accomplishments, curriculum for all levels, art staff, mission statements, and arts events using their school websites and social media.

Students in Pocono Mountain School District celebrate the importance of a well-rounded education with opportunities to engage in arts education courses at all grade levels, K-12.