

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments

November 1, 2023

Senator for a Day: Students from Pocono Mountain East and West High Schools participated in Senator Rosemary Brown's Senator for a Day Program on Friday, October 20th at Northampton Community College Monroe Campus. Students had the opportunity to participate in activities to get a glimpse of how government functions and how it reacts to public policy issues.

Pocono Mountain East High School Update: Mark your calendars. The Pocono Mountain East marching band and chorus will be performing with country music artist Jessica Lynn at the Sherman Theater on December 9th, at 8 p.m. Concert attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

PMEA District Chorus: Congratulations to East High School sophomore Kayleigh Schmidt. Kayleigh qualified for PMEA District Chorus.

Super Smash Brothers Ultimate Competition: In Esports competition news, the 2 East High School Super Smash Brothers Ultimate (SSBU) Competition teams are currently undefeated. If East defeats Nazareth today, they will have an undefeated season for Region (East) and move into the playoffs for the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League (PSEL). For the PSEL, PA is broken up into the following regions: Central, East, Southeast & West. Congratulations to the East High School Esports Team and good luck in the playoffs.

Fall Cardinal Sports Highlights:

- The East Golf Team qualified for the EPC Championships, earning 6th place. Three golfers qualify for the District XI 3A Tournament. Freshman Maddie VanBuskirk and senior Evan Murphy moved on to the Finals, where Evan won the District XI 3A Championship and went on to finish 25th in the PIAA State Golf Championships.
- In Girls Tennis, Cardinal freshman Elizabeth Trott, who attends the PMSD Cyber Program, advanced to the District XI 3A Semifinals for Singles, earning a 3rd Place Medal. Elizabeth and sophomore

Samantha Christman advanced to the District XI 3A Quarterfinals for Doubles.

- Girls Soccer earned a spot in the District XI 3A Quarterfinals, falling to Lehighton 4 -0.
- In Cross Country, 8 runners qualified for both the EPC Championships and the District XI 3A Championships. Senior Evan Seymour recorded the Cardinal's highest finish at Districts, coming in 28th out of 102 runners.
- 8 Cardinal Athletes earn a spot on either a Divisional or All-Conference All-star team.

Pride of the Mountain: Congratulations to the Pocono Mountain West Panther Boys Varsity Football team on winning the Pride of the Mountain football game with a score of 33 to 14. The Panthers and Cardinals fought hard for the Pride of the Mountain Trophy. The Panthers will watch over the trophy for another year.

Pocono Mountain West High School Update: The West High School PRIDE Action Committee (PAC), an organization comprised of students working to promote PRIDE throughout their school community, recently organized a no bullying pledge card challenge to all grades in conjunction with National Unity Day. All West High School students had the option to sign the no bullying pledge card during Panther Period on October 18th (National Unity Day), and the class with the highest percentage of students who completed the pledge cards, will receive a special treat during an upcoming Panther Period. Congratulations to the sophomore class that won this challenge.

Generation Next: West High School's Generation Next students received the royal treatment last Thursday as they participated in the presidential tour of East Stroudsburg University. Students toured the campus, met with the president of ESU, had lunch with deans of various colleges, and listened to great feedback from the ESU student panel (which consisted of 4 West High School alums).

Band Cavalcade: Congratulations to the West Marching Band on its participation in several events recently, including taking 2nd place at the

Nazareth Area Cavalcade Band Competition and participating in the Emerald Lakes Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28th. In addition, the West High School Prowling Panthers had the opportunity to perform patriotic music for disabled veterans at the VFW in Tobyhanna on October 26th.

Swiftwater Intermediate School Update: The Swiftwater Intermediate School PTO is hosting a Tricky Tray on Saturday, November 18th. SIS students, families, and staff donated items for theme baskets. Doors open at SIS at 12 p.m. and first call is at 3 p.m. There are over 200 baskets with chances to win Polar Express Tickets, Kane Brown Tickets, and much more. There will be a special preview for SIS families during Parent-Teacher conferences on November 9th and 10th.

Chirping Cardinals: The SIS Chirping Cardinals are an extracurricular chorus group run by Mr. Miles Orfanella and Mr. Brendan Michels. It is a club open to any current chorus members in 5th or 6th grade. They meet once a week before school at 7:30 a.m. and it runs until the end of May. The purpose of the club is to continue to build students' foundation of musical knowledge, while also providing more musical and performance opportunities for these students. As of November 1st, the students in Chirping Cardinals have learned, rehearsed, and recorded performances of Monster Mash to be shared on the morning announcements, as well as a collection of patriotic music for Veterans Day. In December, these students will have live performances within the community at the Pocono Township Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Mount Pocono Tree Lighting Ceremony, and onstage as SIS at the Winter Concert.

Smencil Sale: Each year the Pocono Mountain School District assists the United Way with their fundraising campaign. The United Way helps many organizations which help the families of Pocono Mountain. This year the Swiftwater Intermediate School SGA (Student Government Association) will be selling Smencils, with all profits going to the United Way. Smencils are graphite pencils made from 100% recycled paper. They come in very fun scents that students enjoy. Each Smencil is \$1.00. They will be available to purchase at lunch time starting this week.

Clothing Drive: Pocono Mountain School District is hosting a district-wide clothing drive. Families may drop off their donations at each of our schools

this week or at the Community Day drop off on Monday, November 6th, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Administration Building parking lot on the Swiftwater Campus.

Toys for Tots Toy Drive: Pocono Mountain School District is holding its annual district-wide Toys for Tots toy drive at all of our schools. Community members wishing to help Toys for Tots provide holiday toys for children in need in Monroe County may do so by dropping off new, unwrapped toys at our schools or the Administration Building from now through Friday, December 1st. Monroe County Toys for Tots provides toys for more than 2,000 children in Monroe County each holiday season.