

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments October 16, 2024

Swiftwater Intermediate School Update: The Swiftwater Intermediate School PTO held a Back to School Block Party on September 28th in the Cardinal Stadium parking lot. Students and their families got to come out and meet other SIS families and kick off the school year right. Families participated in carnival games, field games, arts and crafts, face painting, and balloon art. SIS teacher Mr. Phaneuf spun tunes as the DJ for the event. Local police, firefighters, and EMS workers brought vehicles so students could participate in "Touch a Truck." The rain did not deter our SIS families from coming out and celebrating the beginning of a new school year.

SIS Outstanding Educator: In August, the CIU20 honored outstanding educators and professionals within the organization and the community by announcing its annual awards for the 2023-2024 school year at Orientation Day. Swiftwater Intermediate School Grade 6 teacher, Megan Benevides, was the recipient of the Maureen Crawford Award. This award is presented to a regular education teacher who has worked collaboratively with special education teachers to promote inclusion in his/her classroom. Meghan was nominated by the CIU20 staff who work at SIS. Congratulations to Megan.

Pocono Mountain East High School Update: Thank you to the Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company for their help with the East High School bonfire last Thursday night. We appreciate all that they did to help with this community event.

Old Oaken Bucket Game: Congratulations to the East High School football team for beating Pleasant Valley Friday night and bringing home the Old Oaken Bucket.

Pocono Mountain West High School Update: Unity Day at West: West High School recognized National Unity Day today as part of National Bullying Prevention Month. Students and staff wore orange in alignment with the national color established to recognize Unity Day, and the PRIDE committee sold special orange West spirit shirts for those interested. The PRIDE student committee hung orange posters throughout the building with anti-bullying messages and messages of unity that were in both English and Spanish. Students and staff were invited to sign an anti-bullying pledge, and some students and staff stayed after school today to create a Kindness Rock Garden in the courtyard for all to enjoy and as a reminder of building unity for the coming months.

All-Star: Congratulations to West High School junior Colby Lawrence and senior Fah-Moro Diamonde who were named to the third team Eastern Pennsylvania All-Star list for boys soccer. They were also named to the first-team Mountain Division.

Supporting Students: During the week of September 16th through September 22nd, the students and staff at West High School and MCTI showed their support for senior Ryan Vierra who has Mitochondrial Disease by recognizing World Mitochondrial Disease Week. Green ribbons, t-shirts, and treats were on sale throughout the week and teachers in both schools held a green shirt dress down day to raise money for Mitochondrial Disease research and awareness.

Mural Project: On September 30th, the West High School National Art Honor Society began a mural project at Clear Run Intermediate School. They are transforming the sensory room into a starry night and look forward to returning soon to finish the mural.

West Hall of Fame: Nominations are now being accepted for the Pocono Mountain West Hall of Fame. If anyone knows a

deserving former West student athlete, coach, team, alumnus, or other individual who made an impact or contribution to Panther Athletics, please consider nominating them for the first Hall of Fame Class by visiting the website at: www.pmsd.org/pmwhof.

Clear Run Elementary Center Update: Clear Run Elementary Center hosted a Community Event on October 5th. In addition to resources from over a dozen different community organizations and healthy snacks to try from Chartwells, families enjoyed taking part in Bowling and Zumba, admiring the work of four local authors, meeting their new PTO officers, and posing for pictures with Lou the Lion and Benny the Monkey from Kalahari.

Future Teachers Club: The Future Teachers Club at Clear Run Elementary Center has started this year with 40 ambitious second graders. In addition to helping out at school-sponsored events like the Community Event, the students are gaining valuable experiences to see all of the work that goes on behind the scenes of a classroom.

Author-in-Residence: Author Alan St. Jean spent four days at CREC last week with second grade classes as an author-in-residence for the 'Writing Olympics.' During this program, he played the role of editor while students assumed the role of author - suggesting ideas for conflict, plot, character development, etc. On the final day of his visit, a story created by each 2nd grade homeroom was presented before peers, teachers, and special judges.

Panther Pounce: The West High School Cross Country and Track and Field Teams are hosting the 15th Annual Panther Pounce 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run this Saturday, October 19th at 9 a.m. at the West High School Track. There is still time to register for this family walk-jog-run event to help raise funds for the West High School Jeaneane Pavlicka Scholarship, which is awarded to

a graduating senior from West High School each spring, and the ThinkBig Foundation for Pediatric Cancer. To register, go to the Panther Pounce website at <https://sites.google.com/pmsd.org/panther-pounce/>

Special Evening Presentation: The Pocono Mountain School District Special Education Department is hosting a Family Engagement Night on “This(Dis)Ability,” on November 7th, in the East High School Auditorium, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The presenter is Ben Hartranft, who will share his story and perspective on his life with Autism. This is a presentation you won’t want to miss. It is meaningful for everyone, but especially parents of students of all ages, who are on the Autism Spectrum. The event will include a Community Resources Table.

Hurricane Helene Dress Down Day Results: I am very proud of the generosity of our entire PMSD team during our pop-up dress down day for the Asheville North Carolina Salvation Army and victims of Hurricane Helene. Our district raised an amazing \$7,527.19 to help the Asheville Salvation Army continue to provide support and assistance to the victims of Hurricane Helene, as they work to recover and rebuild their devastated community.