

# SOUTH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT EAGLE EYE

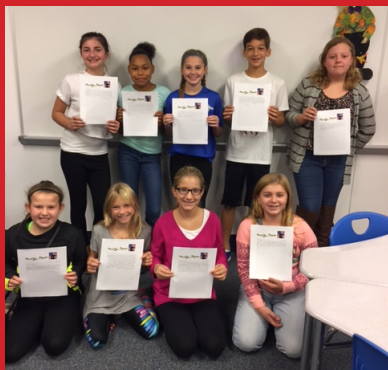
E-Newsletter

November 14, 2016

## Thank You, Veterans



South Park first grade students thanked more than a dozen of our nation's veterans on Thursday, November 10 during the annual Veterans Day program. The program began with a ceremony in the first grade hall, then students welcomed the veterans into their classrooms. Once inside the classrooms, students sang patriotic songs and distributed thank you cards. The special day also provided students with the opportunity to ask the veterans questions to learn more about their service to our country. To see a video from the Veterans Day program, [click here](#).



### Sixth Graders Write Letters to Local Veterans

Sixth grade social studies classes recently completed a mini-unit on the importance of Veterans Day. Students learned about the origin of Veterans Day and its significance. Students also learned about Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Sixth graders wrote letters thanking local veterans from the South Park VFW, the VA Hospital of Pittsburgh, the 911th Airlift Wing and the 171st Air Refueling Wing. Students were also asked to shake a veteran's hand and tell them, "Thank you for your service" when they met a veteran outside of school.



**South Park School District**

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Board of Directors

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## Engineering Design and Development Students Use 21st Century Tools to Make Product Prototypes



Chairs, a table and a smartphone speaker amplifier are only a few of the prototypes students in Mr. Siniawski's engineering design and development course were able to create during the first nine weeks of the school year. The honors-level students recently completed a material processing unit and presented their prototypes to a group of South Park administrators, teachers and staff members.

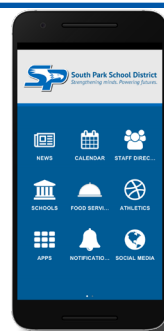
Engineering design and development is the capstone course in the engineering pathway. These students already received extensive software training in previous courses. During the first quarter of the engineering design and development course, they receive instruction on machine usage, new software, material properties and joinery in the production of a product of their choosing.

The students produced their prototypes using 21st century equipment, including a new Epilog Laser engraver and upgraded CNC spindle. During presentations on November 4 and 7, students presented their engineering design process, final prototype and reflection.



## THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thanksgiving break begins with a one-hour early dismissal for South Park students on Wednesday, November 23. The South Park School District will be closed on Thursday, November 24; Friday, November 25 and Monday, November 28. School resumes on Tuesday, November 29.



Android users who have downloaded the South Park School District app will need to visit the Google Play store and update the SPSD app. Our app developer recently resolved an issue that affected apps after an Android system update. Users were receiving a "not connected to the Internet" message. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

## Special Board Meeting Scheduled

The South Park School District Board of Directors has scheduled a Special Meeting for the discussion of the renovation project of Eagle Stadium and other general purposes on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the South Park High School Cafeteria.







## Second Grade Science Day



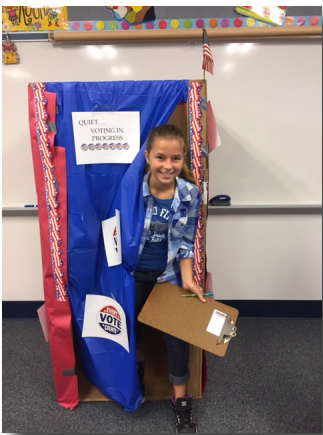
**Second graders launch marshmallows using paper cups and balloons.**



**Second graders use handheld microscopes during Science Day.**

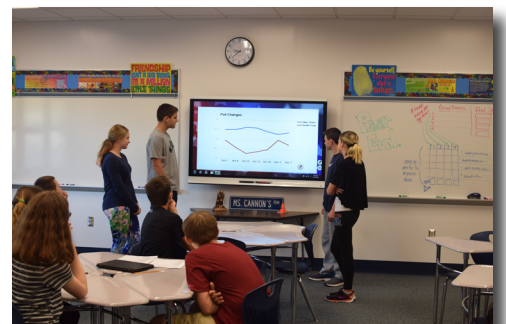
For the fourth year in a row, representatives with the Department of Energy visited South Park Elementary Center for second grade's Science Day. Students were able to participate in six STEM activities throughout the day. Second graders got to see common classroom items like never before by using handheld microscopes. They got to launch marshmallows across the classroom with just a paper cup and a balloon. They also learned about renewable and nonrenewable resources. Science Day is a great and fun learning experience for South Park students.

## Election Lessons at South Park Middle School



Sixth grade social studies students participated in a mini-unit on voting and the presidential election. The social studies classes learned about the process of running for President and the requirements one must meet to be a U.S. President. They researched the leading candidates' platforms and created profile posters. Students also participated in a presidential scavenger hunt, created campaign slogans and made campaign buttons. The unit culminated with a mock election in a simulated voting booth constructed by eighth grade student Josh Bennett. The sixth grade students elected Donald Trump with 62% of the popular vote. After the election on November 8, students colored the states on a map of the United States to reflect the winner of each state, and they discussed the results of the popular vote and the electoral vote.

Students in Mrs. Como's eighth grade math classes worked in groups to study election topics including Electoral College votes, health care costs, student loans for higher education and the similarities and differences between election polls and actual results. Students used their Chromebooks to research their topics and create Google Slides presentations. Students presented their projects on Thursday, November 10.





## Noises Off

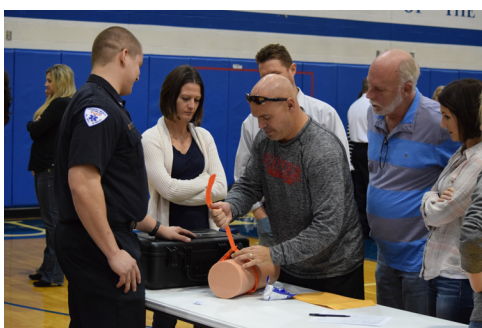
Bravo to the cast and crew of the South Park High School Drama Club's fall play, *Noises Off*, which was performed on November 9, 10, 12 and 13.



## South Park Teachers and Staff Members Participate in *Stop the Bleed* Initiative



South Park School District teachers and staff are among some of the first in the region to receive training as part of the national *Stop the Bleed* initiative. The South Park School District and UPMC teamed up to bring the training to South Park on Tuesday, November 8 during a teacher and staff in-service day. The campaign, launched by the White House in October 2015, teaches participants how to control life-threatening bleeding.



The morning's training began with a presentation by UPMC surgeon Dr. Raquel Forsythe. Dr. Forsythe stressed that bystanders could be the first to respond to an injured person and outlined the actions anyone can take to save a life before EMS professionals arrive.

South Park teachers and staff then worked in small groups with professionals from UPMC and Tri Community South EMS to practice applying a tourniquet and packing a wound with gauze.



UPMC is providing bleeding control kits to every school in Western Pennsylvania as part of the *Stop the Bleed* initiative. The kits include a tourniquet, gauze and other equipment, in addition to guidance on how to provide care to victims. The South Park School District will place those kits near automated external defibrillators at South Park schools.





## South Park Third Grade Teacher Wins Second Place in National Contest



South Park third grade teacher Mrs. Amy Cramer won second place in the national *Kids Discover Cross-Curricular Contest*. Educators from across the country submitted lesson plans that crossed several classroom subjects and used a Kids Discover resource. This was the first year for the contest.

Mrs. Cramer's lesson plan combined a science lesson on the design process with an English Language Arts lesson on character traits. Students used the knowledge gained from both lessons to create monuments honoring heroes. After completing the project, several students presented their monuments to the individuals for whom their monument was dedicated, including firefighters with the Library Volunteer Fire Company and a police officer.

For winning second place in the contest, Mrs. Cramer receives three Educator subscriptions to Kids Discover Online and Kids Discover Print Collection, a value of \$800.



**Third grade student with his monument honoring veterans**

**Third grade student received a card after giving her monument to a police officer**

**Members of the Library Volunteer Fire Company with a South Park student who presented her monument honoring firefighters**

## South Park Students Win Steel Center Extra Effort Awards

Every quarter, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding attitude, work ethic, attendance and dependability. Instructors choose students to receive the Extra Effort Award.

Congratulations to the following South Park students who won the Extra Effort Award during the first quarter:

Halle Mitchell- Cosmetology  
Arianna Sanker- Baking  
Lily Horst- Cosmetology  
Stephen Hale- Building Trades

## South Park High School Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students for being chosen by the School Wide Positive Behavior Team at South Park High School as Students of the Month.

Academics: Polina Petrov  
Athletics: Danielle Bywalski  
Creativity: Marcus Mosesso  
Politeness: Emily Linder  
School Spirit: Josh Remlinger  
Leadership: Ashley Stibrik

## Third Grade *Trout in the Classroom* Program Begins

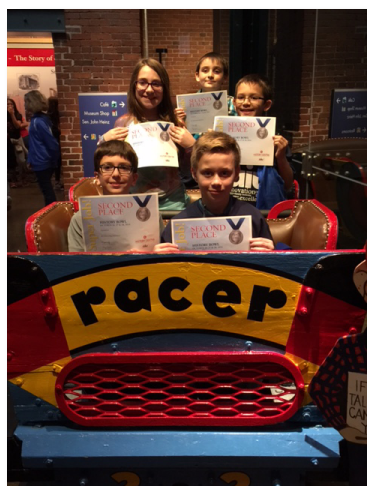


Students in Mrs. Cramer's third grade science classes have begun their *Trout in the Classroom* project for the school year. For the second year in a row, third grade students are learning about Pennsylvania's state fish, the Brook Trout, with a hands-on experience as they raise the creature from egg to fry. Prior to the arrival of the fish friends, students began comparing and contrasting the trout's natural habitat and its man-made habitat in the classroom.

Other areas of study throughout the project will include heredity, the funnel effect, the life cycle of the trout, trout anatomy and adaptations to environmental changes. In addition to the scientific content, the project allows students to apply mathematical skills including measurement of the trout and the use of charts and graphs to track trout growth as well as water quality, which the students measure daily. Students also journal changes they notice in the trout and reflect on those changes.

Mrs. Cramer's classroom's participation in the *Trout in the Classroom* program is made possible through a partnership between the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited. This partnership, combined with assistance from local conservation organizations, was created to introduce Pennsylvania students to cold water resources and their importance to all communities. The partnership also provides brook trout eggs, trout food, technical assistance, curriculum connections and teacher workshops each year.

## South Park Students Compete in History Bowl



South Park Middle School students and fourth grade gifted students competed against more than 80 teams from more than 25 local schools at the History Bowl held at the Heinz History Center on October 27. The students participated in mini-competitions comprised of scavenger hunts, writing and data collection.

A combined fourth and fifth grade team placed second in this year's History Bowl. Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Ruscitto, and the entire South Park School District would like to congratulate those students!

## Performance Teaches Elementary Students about Energy Efficiency



FirstEnergy and the National Theatre for Children visited South Park Elementary Center on October 24 to present *The Energized Guyz*. The program encouraged students to save

energy. Prior to the performance, educational materials were provided to teachers for use both inside and outside the classroom.

Through *The Energized Guyz* performance, families can receive their own energy efficiency kit. Depending on the number of kits ordered, South Park Elementary may earn rewards to fund classroom materials and activities. If you would like a classroom rewards form, please contact your child's teacher or email Mrs. Cramer at [amy.cramer@sparksd.org](mailto:amy.cramer@sparksd.org).



## Fifth Grade Weather Presentations



Fifth grade students gained a great deal of knowledge about weather phenomena thanks to their weather research projects in Mr. Anderson's class. Students were assigned a specific weather occurrence that happens in Pennsylvania. They researched the topic and prepared a presentation about it.



Patrolman Joseph Pantuso of the South Park Township Police Department visited students from the Eagle Ridge Child Development Center at South Park High School. Patrolman Pantuso along with South Park School District Police Officer Steven Thompson talked with the students and answered their questions.

## WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit



Several South Park High School student-athletes were among the hundreds of student-athletes who attended the annual WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit at the Heinz History Center on Thursday, November 10.

## Golfers Recognized by Board of Directors



South Park golfers Tyler Brinker and Dan Morgret were recognized at the November 10 Board of School Directors meeting for qualifying for the PIAA Golf Individual Championship. Superintendent Wayne Gdovic presented Tyler and Dan with certificates.

## Dates to Remember

**Monday, November 21**

Special Board Meeting  
at 6:30 p.m. in the South Park  
High School cafeteria

**Wednesday, November 23**

One-Hour Early Dismissal

**Thursday, November 24,**

**Friday, November 25 &**

**Monday, November 28**

District Closed

Thanksgiving Break

[Click here for the 2016-2017  
official academic calendar](#)

## South Park High School Students Participate in Honors Choir Festival



Samantha Hawk, soprano 1, and Carly Cygrymus, alto 1, were selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 Honors Choir Festival on October 28 and 29 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair.

Approximately 150 talented vocalists were selected from the entire district, representing schools from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

The South Park Middle School Book Fair runs from today until November 22.



## South Park Middle School Gymnasium Hosts First Games

The first games were played in the South Park Middle School gymnasium on Monday, November 7. It began with a tailgate before the seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball games. The South Park Middle School cheerleaders were there for both games, and the first ever South Park Middle School Pep Band performed.

**SP South Park School District**  
Strengthening minds. Powering futures.

The South Park School District's mission is to provide an educational atmosphere where all students have opportunities to discover their talents, develop their abilities, and achieve the expectations embedded in our educational program to become responsible and productive members of society.