SOUTH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

EAGLE EYE

E-Newsletter

May 22, 2017

Eighth Graders Travel to WASHINGTON, D.C.

It is a tradition for South Park eighth graders. The Class of 2021 recently returned from a weekend trip to Washington, D.C. While there, students got to see the White House, U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court and the Newseum.

MAY

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Schools & Offices Closed on Monday, May 29

The South Park School District will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 30.

South Park School District

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Board of Directors

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South Park Junior Wins Regional Stock Market Competition

South Park High School junior Dan Coursey came in first place in the regional Stock Market Game presented by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. In the game, students are given $100,000 in virtual dollars to invest in stocks, bonds and mutual funds in real time. In class, students learn about investments and how and what to research. They then apply their skills and research to see how well they can do in the real world.

There were 229 participants in the regional contest from schools including Fox Chapel, Keystone Oaks, Franklin Regional and Hopewell. Students could choose to work with partners. Others, including Dan, decided to work alone. Dan finished in first place among the 229 participants. He also finished in 8th place among 1,572 participants in the entire state. Dan's return was 13.76%, which is a very high return on investment given the short time period with which he had to invest. Mrs. Miller and the entire South Park School District congratulate Dan for his big accomplishment.

Graduation 2017

Commencement 2017 is scheduled for Friday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the South Park High School gymnasium. Only guests with tickets will be permitted entry into the gymnasium. Gymnasium seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests without tickets are invited to watch a live stream in the South Park High School auditorium.

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Last Day of School

The last day of school for South Park students is Friday, June 9. There will be early dismissals at all three schools.

South Park High School will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m.

South Park Middle School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

South Park Elementary Center will be dismissed at 12:00 noon.

Lunch will not be served on Friday, June 9.

Lights Installed at Eagle Stadium

The new stadium lights were recently installed. Presently, preparation work for the new artificial playing surface and new stadium building is taking place.

Third Grade Students' Inventions Earn Awards at Competition

South Park Elementary Center's third and fourth grade gifted students competed in the Invention Convention at Carlynton High School on Tuesday, May 16. The students came up with an invention, kept a log, created a prototype and designed a trifold poster.

Three third graders placed at the competition. Lilly Pritts won first place for her invention called S.A.M. (Shopping Assistant Maximizer). Sophia Hale earned second place for her invention called S.c.Pad. Livia Monaco was a runner-up for her invention called Zip Gloves.

EAGLES SOAR IN SPRING SPORTS

All six spring sports teams won their respective sections.

BASEBALL

The South Park baseball team will play its first game in the WPIAL playoffs today at 2:00 p.m. at Shaler. The Eagles will play New Castle. The winner of that game advances to the WPIAL semifinals.

SOFTBALL

The South Park girls' softball team advanced to the WPIAL playoffs after winning its section. The Lady Eagles beat Freeport on Wednesday, May 17. The Lady Eagles now play Deer Lakes on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. with a trip to the WPIAL Championship on the line. The game will be played at Baldwin.

BOYS' TENNIS

The South Park boys' tennis team finished the season as undefeated section champions. The Eagles advanced to the semifinals of the WPIAL playoffs.

TRACK AND FIELD

The South Park girls' and boys' track and field teams both finished as section champs. Both teams were undefeated in their respective sections. The girls' team took second place at the WPIAL team championships at Baldwin on May 8.

Juliana Briggs, Maddie Carlins, Teddy Cecotti, Jenna Fareri, Sam Hartman, Maura Huwalt, Hunter Lindsay, Mike Mehalic, Paul Partee, Gary Raymond, Molly Saylor, Zack Skrabski, Ashley Stibrik, Stephanie Villa, Mallory Weiss, and Karly Zaremba competed in the WPIAL Track and Field Individual Championships on Thursday, May 18.

At the WPIAL individual championships, Stephanie Villa, Karly Zaremba, Ashley Stibrik and Juliana Briggs took second place in the 4 x 400 meter relay. Karly Zaremba, Ashley Stibrik, Juliana Briggs and Mallory Weiss took fourth place in the 4 x 800 meter relay. Ashley Stibrik took third place in the 400 meter dash. Sam Hartman won fifth place in the 110 meter hurdles and the 300 meter hurdles. Maura Huwalt won second place in the discus, javelin and shot put.

Jenna Fareri, Karly Zaremba, Ashley Stibrik, Juliana Briggs, Stephanie Villa, Mallory Weiss, Maddie Carlins, Sam Hartman and Maura Huwalt advance to the PIAA Track and Field Championships later this spring.

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

The South Park boys' volleyball team's success led to an undefeated section championship this season. With a win at home on Tuesday, May 17, the Eagles advanced to the WPIAL quarterfinals.

South Park Senior Takes Second Place in Statewide Baking and Pastry Arts Competition

South Park High School senior Morgan Pahler recently earned a second place finish in the state-level SkillsUSA baking and pastry arts competition in Hershey, PA. Morgan advanced to the state-level competition after winning first place in the district-level SkillsUSA competition last fall. Morgan is a third year student in the baking and pastry chef program at Steel Center for Career and Technical Education. Her second place finish makes her eligible for numerous scholarships at top-rated culinary schools. Morgan was recognized by Superintendent Wayne Gdovic at the May Board of School Directors meeting.

Students at South Park Elementary Center Enjoy an Extra Helping of Fresh Fruit

Students at South Park Elementary Center got an extra helping of fresh fruit on Tuesday, May 16. Food Services Director Andrew Luchhino handed out apples to students at lunch. The fruit was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Students at South Park Middle School and South Park High School will also receive fruit and vegetables from this program in the coming days.

Board of School Directors Passes Preliminary Budget

The South Park School District Board of Directors has approved a proposed $33.5 million budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The budget includes a .78 mill increase. The increase means a homeowner would pay an additional $78 per year or $6.50 per month for every $100,000 in assessed value. The median assessed value of a home in South Park Township is $122,600. A homeowner with a $122,600 assessment would pay an additional $95.63 per year or an additional $7.97 per month.

The proposed 2017-2018 budget represents a 4% increase in expenditures from the 2016-2017 budget. Salaries, benefits (including retirement) and debt service account for a majority of the increased expenditures.

Nearly 64% of the district's revenue is projected to come from local sources including property taxes. Nearly 35% of the district's revenue comes from state sources, and a little more than 1% comes from federal sources.

The South Park School District administration will present the final budget at the June 8 Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the South Park High School cafeteria. The Board of Directors is expected to vote on the final budget at that meeting.

High School Students Receive Steel Center Top of the Shop Awards

South Park High School students Kaitlyn Weiss, Erica Fitzgerald and Nadia Graham recently received the Top of the Shop award from Steel Center for Career and Technical Education. The awards are given once each semester to students based on conduct, attendance, proficiency in coursework and professionalism. Congratulations!

Trout in the Classroom Project Concludes with Trout Release

For months, third grade students in Mrs. Cramer's class have been raising and learning about trout as part of the Trout in the Classroom project. The yearlong learning experience culminated with a trout release on Thursday, May 18.

The students were able to go on a wetland walk with Kathy Boyd from the Community College of Allegheny County. They observed and discussed creatures and plants in that particular habitat.

All third grade students rotated through six stations. The students discussed the similarities and differences between the natural habitat and the man-made habitat in the classroom. They also discussed the life cycle of the trout with many of the stages observed throughout the school year. Students had the chance to take one final look at the trout before they were released. Township supervisor Walt Sackinsky was on hand to discuss how Peters Creek is stocked and taken care of so students and their families may enjoy it.

To conclude the experience, about 100 Brook Trout (Pennsylvania's state fish) were released into Peters Creek.

Mrs. Cramer's classroom's participation in the Trout In the Classroom program was made possible through a unique partnership between the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited. This partnership, coupled 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.

Other stations included a discussion with waterways conservation officer Michael Johnson about ways to protect nature. Students also learned about fishing from professional angler Dave Spencer. They also got a hands-on fly fishing demonstration.

2017-2018 SPHS Dance Team

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 South Park High School Varsity Dance Team!

Donuts with Dad

South Park first graders welcomed some very special guests to school on Friday, May 19 for the annual Donuts with Dad.

Music in the Air

Students at South Park Elementary Center and South Park Middle School showed off their musical talents recently. The South Park Middle School chorus concert was held on Wednesday, May 10. The South Park Middle School band concert was held on Tuesday, May 16. The Fourth Grade Concert was held on Thursday, May 18. Everyone did a great job!

South Park Student-Athlete Signs Letter of Intent

South Park senior Sophia Girol recently signed a letter of intent to continue her athletic and education career. Sophia will play tennis at Penn State Altoona.

Congratulations, Sophia!

South Park Middle School Student Recognized for Winning State Wrestling Championship

South Park eighth grader Joey Fischer was recognized at the May Board of Directors meeting for winning the Pennsylvania Junior High Wrestling Championship earlier this spring in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Congratulations, Joey!

Student-Athletes Recognized at Board Meeting

South Park High School student-athletes Dallas Bulsak and Andrew Kohle were recognized at the May Board of Directors meeting. Dallas advanced to the state finals in wrestling earlier this year. Andrew advanced to the state finals in swimming.

Locked in the Library

Top readers from Mrs. Ruscitto's Accelerated Reader program and Read Across America contest winners participated in an all-day "Locked in the Library" event. Winners were invited to the middle school library for a fun-filled day of reading, movies, games and food. All of the students who attended enjoyed the day and promised to keep reading!

SPHS Golf Summer League

South Park High School head golf coach Rich Hogya will be conducting a "Summer Golf League" from May 25 through August 10. Participants will meet weekly on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at the South Park Golf Course from May 18 until June 8. From June 15 through August 10, they will play at 7:30 a.m. at the South Park Golf Course and Scenic Valley Golf Course in Peters Township located near Trax Farm. The league is open to all South Park High School golfers (boys and girls) who will be in grades 9 through 12 in the coming school year.

Participants will learn the rules of golf, practice techniques and receive on-course individual instruction during this summer golf league. The weekly session will be nine holes of golf, and the scores will be recorded to see how much each golfer improves over the summer months. In addition, the summer league will help prepare each golfer for the high school varsity and junior varsity tryouts to be held on August 14, 15 and 16 at 7:30 a.m. at South Park Golf Course and Scenic Valley Golf Course.

The summer league is not a requirement to participate on the team this fall; it is an attempt to give the participants a chance to get in some extra practice and hone their skills under the guidance of the golf head coach. All golfers will be responsible for their own green fees for the summer league and they must have their own golf clubs. The school district will cover the greens fees for the tryouts.

Last year, the SPHS team had a record 19 golfers in the program. More than 20 golfers are expected next year.

To sign up or if you have any questions, please call Tom Kayda at 412-655-3111 or e-mail him at thomas.kayda@sparksd.org.

Fourth Grade Picnic

Fourth grade students are gearing up for the move to South Park Middle School. But before the school year ends, they enjoyed a South Park Elementary Center tradition- the Fourth Grade Picnic. There were games, great food and a lot of fun! The day ended with a cool-down thanks to the Broughton and Library Fire Departments.

Students Attend Futures in Technology Day

A dozen eighth graders from South Park Middle School had the chance to experience some unique career opportunities at Steel Center for Career and Technical Education during FIT (Futures in Technology) Day on May 11. The students experienced non-traditional careers that they likely would not have tried prior to this event.

The students participated in hands-on activities in automotive mechanics, collision repair, building trades, cosmetology, protective services and health assisting.