

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
AUGUST, 2018

Middle School

Fort Couch Middle School eighth graders Alex VanHoorelbeke, Jackson VanHoorelbeke and Akash Vajjala were recently named finalists in the Alice Challenge, a computer programming competition for students in grades 5-12.

More than 70 students participated in the inaugural Alice Challenge, which was open to all students in grades 5-12 in the Pittsburgh region.

The challenge was comprised of three competition categories including Animation, Game and Good Neighbor.

A finalist's showcase and award ceremony to honor winners with prizes were held on June 5, 2018.

Three Boyce Middle School fifth graders recently tied for first place in the school's Pennsylvania Mathematics League competition. Shresht Rawat, Roshan Mishra and Hannah Del were awarded trophies for their top performances.

Second place also ended in a three-way tie between Grace McLean, Alex Swanson and Abigail Zahalsky.

The following Team Champions were also awarded medals for their achievement:

Team Comet:

- 1st Place (3-way tie): Brooke Bodamer, Hailey Miller, Shreeva Sutreja
- 2nd Place: Yuxiang Jiang

Team Galaxy:

- 1st Place: Maxwell Biedrzycki
- 2nd Place: Andrew Michalewsky

Team Eagle:

- 1st Place (3-way tie): Michael Albert, Jacob Higgs, Mia Manalo
- 2nd Place: Owen Mucho

Team Challenger:

- 1st Place: Ryan Buonomo
- 2nd Place (2-way tie): Sydney Montgomery, Anna Engelman

High School

Upper St. Clair High School freshman Emily Rhodes and junior Jacqueline LeKachman's writings were among the top-rated submissions in the Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Emily's poem titled, "Carrion," and Jacqueline's short prose, "The Voicemail," will be published in the "2018 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Anthology," a book of creative work distributed to all Allegheny County public and school libraries.

All writers, including Emily and Jacqueline, were invited to the Teen Media Awards, a special event celebrating the work of local teens on Aug. 11, 2018.

Nadith A. Dharmasena, a member of the Upper St. Clair High School class of 2018, has earned a National Merit Pennsylvania State University Scholarship. Nadith intends to study computer science at Penn State University beginning this fall.

In addition, graduated senior Sahil B. Doshi was named a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship recipient – one of only 2,500 in the country. Sahil will be attending Northwestern University this fall where he plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Rising Upper St. Clair sophomore, Josh Matheny, captured the gold for the 100-meter breaststroke, achieving the third-fastest time in the race for ages 15-16, winning in 1:01.06. Josh also secured silver in the 200-meter breaststroke at the USA Swimming Junior Nationals. The Junior Nationals took place in Irvine, California and attracts some of the best 18-and-under swimmers in the country. Josh's first and second place finishes were the third-fastest all time in the USA's 15-16 age group.