

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS  
MARCH 2019

**BAKER**

A team of Odyssey of the Mind students took first place during The Western Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on March 2, 2019 at Keystone Oaks Middle/High School. The team now qualifies to compete at the Pennsylvania Odyssey State Tournament, which will be held at the Pocono Mountain School District on April 6, 2019.

The team of students who took first place include:

Grace McDonough

Catalina Ramirez

Emme Ciccolella

Molly Biedrzycki

Maximillian (Max) Urban

Milena Casciani

Franco Liberatore

**BOYCE**

Ishaan Sharma earned the Third Overall Project Award at the FCHacks Competition on March 2, 2019 at Fox Chapel Area High School. Along with another USC student Ishaan designed and built a Proficient Document Flipper (PDF) during the 12-hour, high school hackathon.

Twenty-two sixth grade students had their poems selected for publication in the Creative Communication Poetry Contest.

Students who had their poems selected include:

Ishaan Sharma

Maxwell (Max) Biedrzycki

Samuel (Sam) Berger

Rohan Mehta

Luke Fisher

Grace Myers

Kristen Albertini  
Ryan Larocco  
Armen Pettit  
Opal Miller  
Benjamin (Ben) Seewald  
Madison Kovacs  
Jacob Higgs  
Ryan Buonomo  
John (Owen) Bell  
Nathan Haberman  
Jamie Barrett  
Meredith Huzjak  
Eitan Schwartz  
Colin Rump  
Anna Engleman  
Yuhong Shi

Teams of sixth grade students advanced to the Finals, as well earning Honorable Mention, in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre. The Showcase of Finalists was held on February 18, 2019.

The finalists (who portrayed the roles of Quince, Bottom and Flute from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”) include:

Armen Pettit  
Ishaan Sharma  
Tyler McClintock-Comeaux

Honorable Mention students include:

Meredith Huzjak  
Benjamin (Ben) Seewald  
Elliott Bruno  
Sydney Montgomery  
Bryan Deep  
Kristen Albertini  
Sydney Waldron  
Anna Engleman

English Language Arts teacher, Kelly Pascarella, was recently honored with the Promising Practitioners Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education. Kelly was recognized on February 25, 2019 at the PAMLE 2019 Conference in State College.

A team of students, The Gear Grinders, were crowned champions at the 2019 Vex IQ Pennsylvania Championship on March 9, 2019 at Keystone Oaks Middle School. In addition, the team earned the Teamwork Champion Award and the Excellence Award, the competition's highest honor. The team now advances to the Vex IQ World Championship, which is set for April 28 – 30, 2019 in Louisville, KY.

Students on The Gear Grinders Team include:

John (Owen) Bell

Ian Dvorin

Ryan Hyatt

Rohan Mehta

Carlee Santel

Teams of Odyssey of the Mind students took first place during The Western Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on March 2, 2019 at Keystone Oaks Middle/High School. The teams now qualify to compete at the Pennsylvania Odyssey State Tournament, which will be held at the Pocono Mountain School District on April 6, 2019.

The teams of students who took first place include:

Eleanor (Ellie) Simons

Collin Rosenberg

Addie Young

Lillian (Lily) Simons

Kurt Baran

Lauren Ginsburg

Geneva Eisinger

Esha Lathia

Benjamin (Ben) Ross

Anastasia Gzikowski

John Tripodes

Benjamin (Ben) Seewald

Owen Mucho

Peter (Pete) Markovitz

Harrison Barker  
Anushka Sharma  
George Abdel-Messih  
Benjamin (Ben) Ross  
Michael Conte

## **FORT COUCH**

Mahir Parmar earned the Third Overall Project Award at the FCHacks Competition on March 2, 2019 at Fox Chapel Area High School. Along with another USC student, Mahir designed and built a Proficient Document Flipper (PDF) during the 12-hour, high school hackathon.

Teams of seventh and eighth grade students advanced to the Finals, as well earning Honorable Mention, in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre. The Showcase of Finalists was held on February 18, 2019.

The finalists (who performed a scene as Clown, Charmian and Cleopatra from “Anthony & Cleopatra) include:

Rebecca Lang  
Eleanor Alford  
Ella Elkoni  
Anushka Patil (Substituted for Ella Elkoni in final round)

Honorable Mention students include:

Katerina (Katie) Kucherawy  
Janelle Knierim  
Rebecca Lang

A team of students was selected as one of twenty-four regional winners and one of only six in the grades 7-9 category of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual ExploraVision program. The team proposed a breakthrough project – Coronary Artery Disease Prevention System (C.A.D.P.S.), which would treat and/or prevent coronary artery disease through the use of nanobots. The team now advances to the national phase of the competition.

The team includes:

Carter McClintock-Comeaux

Daniel Wang

Peer Khan

Odyssey of the Mind teams took second place during The Western Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on March 2, 2019 at Keystone Oaks Middle/High School. The teams now qualify to compete at the Pennsylvania Odyssey State Tournament, which will be held at the Pocono Mountain School District on April 6, 2019.

The teams of students who took second place include:

Lindsay Ross

Neha Sriram

Alex Sun

Cameron Coller

Cameron Weber

Rosemary Ramirez

Reese Copenhaver

Josilyn (Josi) Seftchick

Jack Lowden

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

Students competed in the annual High School Japanese Speech Contest on March 1, 2019 at the University of Pittsburgh. Three students placed first and two students finished top three in their respective categories.

Students include:

Michaela Kauffelt (First, Poster)

Caroline Knizner (First, Beginner Speech)

Margaret Bryant (First, Intermediate Speech)

Kathleen Knizner (Second, Intermediate Speech)

Stephanie Lu (Third, Poster)

The College Board is pleased to recognize Jennifer Kirk for the 2019 College Board Counselor Recognition Program. Jennifer was nominated for her exemplary work as a Professional School Counselor.

Daniel J. Beck, High School Assistant Principal, was recently named to the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils. Daniel's appointment is the result of a memorandum of understanding between PASC and the Pennsylvania Principals Association, where he has served as the Assistant Principal-at-large Board Member since July 2018.

Odyssey of the Mind teams took first place and second place during The Western Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on March 2, 2019 at Keystone Oaks Middle/High School. The team now qualifies to compete at the Pennsylvania Odyssey State Tournament, which will be held at the Pocono Mountain School District on April 6, 2019.

The team of students who took first place include:

Eric Wang

Constantine Tripodes

Victoria Cuba

Sammie Seewald

Brianna Lin

Max Murtough

Joseph Markovitz

The team of students who took second place include:

Anoushka Sinha

Gracie Lowden

Jacob Conte

Isabella Putorti

Christine Conte

Maggie Lowden

The Speech & Debate Team claimed its ninth consecutive Pennsylvania High School Speech and Language District 3 Championship on February 23, 2019 at Moon Area High School.

Results from the Championship are below:

#### Poetry

Annika Chaves, First Place

Anoushka Sinha, Third Place

#### Prose

Richa Mahajan, First Place

Charlize Goff, Third Place

#### Humorous Interpretation

Soudip (Riwk) Sen, First Place

Madeline (Maddie) Nolen, Second Place

#### Dramatic Interpretation

Mayka Chaves, First Place

Hashim Durrani, Second Place

#### Commentary

Antara Cleetus, Second Place

Hridhay Reddy, Second Alternate

#### Original Oratory Informative

Neha Patel, First Place

Brooke Christiansen, Second Place

#### Original Oratory Persuasive

Shanthi Krishnaswamy, First Place

Suemin Lee, First Alternate

#### Extemporaneous Speaking

Atharva Barve, First Place

Paarth Shankar, Second Place

### Public Forum Debate

Mallika Matharu & Arushi Khaitan, First Place  
Meghan Joon & Dina Leyzarovich, Second Place  
Ashley Eichberg & Scott Cheung, Second Alternate

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Eshita Chhajlani, First Place  
Claire Chen, Third Place  
Matthew (Matt) Hornak, First Alternate

### Parliamentary Debate

Sunny Chai, Vivek Babu & Jamison (Jami) Stout, First Place  
Yash Jajoo, Ayush Sharma & Basir Khan, Second Place  
Devan Ekbote, Mathena Jencka & Anika Sinha, Third Place

### Senate

John Joyce, First Alternate

### House

Caroline Wolfe

### Impromptu

Hridhay Reddy

### Policy Debate

Reshma Gudla & Sophia Shi, First Alternate

The Speech and Debate team scored a tournament-high 29 qualifiers to compete in the 2019 Catholic Forensics League Grant National Tournament.

Results are below:

### Policy Debate

William (Will) Bacdayan & Shreya Golakiya, Fourth Place  
Rhea Punjabi & Ashley Eichberg, Sixth Place  
Haley Beardsley & Gabi Spina, Second Alternate



### Public Forum Debate

Yash Jajoo & Devan Ekbote, Second Place

Mallika Matharu & Arushi Khaitan, Fourth Place

Anika Sinha & Mathena Jencka, First Alternate

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Matthew (Matt) Hornak, First Place

Anusha Neupane, Third Place

### Student Congress

Caroline Wolfe, First Alternate

### Declamation (9th and 10th Grade Only)

Patrick Joyce, Third Place

Atharva Barve, Fifth Place

Eileen Guo, Third Alternate

### Dramatic Performance (Drama & Humor)

Hashim Durrani, First Place (tie)

Soudip (Riwk) Sen, First Place (tie)

Mayka Chaves, Third Place

Madeline (Maddie) Nolen, First Alternate

### Duo Interpretation

Ellen Duff & Amelia White, Third Place

Felipe Mola Curi & Shivani Jajoo, Fifth Place

Samuel (Sammy) Levy & Marlena Bononi, Sixth Place

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Paarth Shankar, First Place

Meghan Joon, Fifth Place

Chand Vadalia, Second Alternate

### Oral Interpretation of Literature (Poetry & Prose)

Annika Chaves, First Place

Charlize Goff, Third Place

Richa Mahajan, Second Alternate

### Original Oratory (Informative & Persuasive)

Vivek Babu, First Place

Shanthi Krishnaswamy, Third Place

Aya Dakroub, Fifth Place

Neha Patel, Sixth Place

The Speech & Debate Team placed second overall with first and second place finishes in speech and debate, respectively, at the Pittsburgh District Tournament held on March 9, 2019 at North Allegheny School District.

Results from the Championship are below:

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Claire Chen, Second Place, Qualifier

Anusha Neupane, Third Alternate

### Public Forum Debate

Meghan Joon & Mallika Matharu, First Alternate

Yash Jajoo & Devan Ekbote, Second Alternate

Basir Khan & Dev Patel, Third Alternate

### Dramatic Interpretation

Hashim Durrani, Pittsburgh District Champion, Qualifier

Mayka Chaves, First Alternate

### Duo Interpretation

Felipe Mola Curi & Shivani Jajoo, Second Alternate

### Humorous Interpretation

Madeline (Maddie) Nolen, Pittsburgh District Champion, Qualifier

Samuel (Sammy) Levy, Sixth Place

### Informative Speaking

Brooke Christiansen, Sixth Place

### Original Oratory

Rhea Punjabi, Sixth Place

#### International Extemporaneous

Rushikesh Kulkarni, Pittsburgh District Champion, Qualifier

Antara Cleetus, Third Alternate

#### Domestic Extemporaneous

Chand Vadalia, Pittsburgh District Champion, Qualifier

Dev K. Patel, Sixth Place

#### Program Oral Interpretation

Charlize Goff, Pittsburgh District Champion, Qualifier

Loren White, First Alternate

#### World Schools Debate

Yash Jajoo, Auto-Qualification

The Speech & Debate team captured it's second Pennsylvania High School Speech League Championship in three years on March 16, 2019. The team placed first in the Speech Sweepstakes Championship, second in Debate Sweepstakes and took home its second Cumulative Sweepstakes Award, the first coming in 2013.

Results from the Championship are below:

#### Public Forum Debate

Meghan Joon & Dina Leyzarovich, Fifth place

#### Parliamentary Debate

Devan Ekbote, Mathena Jencka & Anika Sinha, State Champions (Undefeated 7-0)

Vivek Babu, Sunny Chai & Jamison (Jami) Stout, Third place (Semifinalist)

Yash Jajoo, Basir Khan & Ayush Sharma, Sixth place

#### Humorous Interpretation

Soudip (Riwk) Sen, Qualifier, State Champion

Madeline (Maddie) Nolen, Fourth place

#### Dramatic Interpretation

Hashim Durrani, State Champion

Mayka Chaves, Eighth place (Semifinalist)

### Poetry Interpretation

Annika Chaves, Fourth place

Anoushka Sinha, 11th place (Semifinalist)

### Prose Interpretation

Richa Mahajan, 11th place (Semifinalist)

### Informative Oratory

Neha Patel, 11th place (Semifinalist)

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Paarth Shankar, State Champion

Atharva Barve, 11th place (Semifinalist)

### Commentary

Antara Cleetus, Third place

### Student Congress - House

Caroline Wolfe, Second place (Superior Speaker)

### Impromptu Speaking

Hridhay Reddy, 18th place (Quarterfinalist)