

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

March 2023

HIGH SCHOOL

Two Upper St. Clair students were honorees at the 2023 Women of Achievement Awards, sponsored by the nonprofit Cribs for Kids. Priyasha Itani, an Upper St. Clair High School junior, and Audrey Wetterau, a Fort Couch Middle School seventh grader, were among four Junior Women of Achievement recognized at the 16th annual event on Thursday, March 2, 2023, in the Grand Ballroom of the Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

Priyasha is completing a research internship at the Vascular Bioengineering Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering. Last fall, she presented her research, titled "The Cellular and Tissue Level Analysis of Endometriosis Angiogenesis," at the Biomedical Engineering Society National Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Audrey founded Socks With A Mission (SWAM) four years ago, as a fourth grader. After learning that socks are among the items most needed by unsheltered people who are homeless and the number one item requested at homeless shelters, Audrey immediately began working on her first sock collection drive and SWAM was established. To date, the organization has delivered more than 60,000 socks to men, women and children.

Upper St. Clair High School students swept the Poster and Beginner Speech categories and placed first and second in the Advanced Plus and Intermediate speech categories respectively at the 2023 High School Japanese Speech Contest. The annual event was held on Friday, March 3, 2023, at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following students earned top finishes in their respective categories:

- **Poster category:** first place, Lindsay Ross; second place, Maxen Thomas; third place, Mazell McTeer
- **Beginner Speech category:** first place, Connor Hyatt; second place, Evie Ellenberger; third place, Dhruv Dileep
- **Intermediate Speech category:** second place, Arden McPherson
- **Advanced Plus Speech category:** first place, Shrida Devak

Three Upper St. Clair High School students have been selected to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Festival music ensembles. Participating in the chorus ensemble are sophomore Elliott Bruno, Bass 1, Chair 6; junior Reese Copenhaver, Soprano 2, Chair 2; and senior Colin Eccher, Tenor 1, Chair 1.

BOYCE AND FORT COUCH MIDDLE SCHOOLS

A Boyce Middle School student has been selected to play in the Hockey Hall of Fame Future Legends event set for April 27-30, 2023, in Toronto, Canada. Sixth grader Zach Breneman will be among the 160 players his age from North America and Europe.

According to the organization's website, the Future Legends is a showcase that features "the top 11-year-old boys and 12-year-old girls from around the world. Participants are 'drafted' onto rosters to ensure that the event features both great competition and geographic diversity on each team."

An Upper St. Clair seventh grader was crowned champion of the 2023 Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at Robert Morris University. Raana Parchuri, a seventh grader at Fort Couch Middle School, now advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Raana is no stranger to the Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee. He won the regional competition in 2020 as a fourth grader. In 2021, he finished second.

Fort Couch Middle School earned two awards – Best City Essay and the Special Award for Best Management of Water Resources – at the International DiscoverE 2023 Future City Competition on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

The Upper St. Clair team qualified for the international competition after placing first at the 2023 Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition. While over 30 Fort Couch students worked on the project, the team was represented by eighth graders Josh Beitler, Ryan Katukota and Skanda Sathya Vagheeswar.

Boyce Middle School sixth grader Kaaveri Patil tied for winner in the Lower Division Monologues category at the 29th Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at Pittsburgh Public Theater. Kaaveri performed as Helena from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" during the Showcase of Finalists on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, at the O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. More than 600 students in grades 4-12 from more than 60 area schools competed in the preliminary rounds in early February.