Veterans Recognized during Observance at Veterans Monument Park

The School District and Township of Upper St. Clair hosted a Veterans Day Observance at Veterans Monument Park on Tuesday, November 11. Mr. Ched Mertz served as the Master of Ceremony for the Observance. Reverend Ronald Weryha, Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, gave the opening Invocation and closing Benediction. Members of the Marine Corps League posted and retired the Colors. Congressman and Lt. Commander Tim Murphy (Naval Reserve Medical Service Corps) gave the Veterans Day Address.

Under the direction of Mr. Don Pickell, the High School Marching Band performed “The Armed Forces March” and “National Anthem.” The High School Chanteclairs, directed by Ms. Lorraine Milovac, sang “God Bless America.” High School freshman trumpet player James Boston played “Taps.”

Please join the School District and Township in honoring our Veterans by taking time to offer a special thank you to them for serving our Country.

Congressman and Lt. Commander Tim Murphy (1) proudly gives the Veterans Day Address.
Army veterans (2) are one of the many armed forces recognized by Master of Ceremony Mr. Ched Mertz.

High School Students Honor Veterans ... Past, Present and Future

The Annual Veterans Day Assembly, coordinated by High School Social Studies Teacher Dan Zelenski, was held in the Theatre at the High School on Monday, November 10. The ceremony began with performances by the Chanteclairs and the Marching Band prior to the formal presentation of the Colors.

The students’ attentions were captured when they heard the thought-provoking story of how a history teacher in Little Rock, Arkansas, had removed the desks from her classroom on the first day of school in 2005. She told the students that they could not have their desks until they could explain how they had earned the right to sit at the desks. At the end of the school day, after none of the students was able to answer correctly, the teacher opened the door and twenty-seven U.S. Veterans walked into the classroom carrying the desks. The teacher explained that the students didn’t earn the right to sit at the desks — the heroes did it for them.

Continued on page 3
When I think about the month of November, a word that comes to mind is “thanks.” In addition to Thanksgiving being celebrated with our family and friends, we take the time to give thanks to our Veterans from the armed forces. I was honored to thank the members of our local United Senior Citizens Program this month for their support of our School District. Again, a month full of important “thank yous.”

Over the past several months, I have participated in many speaking engagements throughout the community and the region. I have highlighted a few of them below and included website connections to my Superintendent’s Link, which provides additional information.

**Invitation from Senator Matt Smith to Testify at Basic Education Funding Commission Hearing** — Senator Matt Smith invited me to testify in front of the Basic Education Funding Commission at its hearing on Tuesday, October 21. My testimony focused on the need for additional state funding and, under cover, a formula to distribute funding that is fair, equitable, predictable, and sustainable.

My testimony included information regarding the impact of increased mandates on our local school budget.

Website Connection Link: [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7892](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7892)

**PTA Superintendent’s Open Mike** — A PTA Superintendent’s Open Mike was held on Monday, November 3, in the evening at the Boyce Theatre. Presentations were given regarding several District initiatives, including the expansion of the 1:1 iPad initiative, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), the High School FAB Lab, and challenges with federal and state funding.

I thank the residents who were able to attend for their support of the School District and also for the good feedback that they provided.

**School Board Recognition of High School Student, Sahil Doshi, for Winning the 2014 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge** —

On Monday, November 10, the Board of School Directors officially recognized Sahil Doshi, a ninth grade student at the High School, for being chosen as the winner of the 2014 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge for his innovative, eco-friendly battery design, the PolluCell, that converts carbon dioxide into electricity.

Sahil is a remarkable student. Upper St. Clair is proud of Sahil for being chosen as America’s Top Young Scientist by Discovery Education 3M out of a group of exceptionally talented students nationwide.

Website Connection Link: [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7984](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7984)

**Veterans Recognized during Observance at Veterans Monument Park** — The School District and Township of Upper St. Clair hosted a Veterans Day Observance at Veterans Monument Park on Tuesday, November 11. It is my honor to be a part of this program that honors such important citizens — our Veterans.

I want to thank our High School Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Don Pickell, for performing “The Armed Forces March” and “National Anthem,” the High School Chanteclairs, under the direction of Lorraine Milovac, for singing “God Bless America,” and High School freshman James Boston, for playing “Taps.”

I also wish to thank Ched Mertz and Matt Serakowski for their help in organizing this event.

Website Connection Link: [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7979](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7979)

**Workshop for School Board Members on the 1:1 Learning Initiative** — On Friday, November 14, a Board Breakfast Workshop was held at Fort Couch Middle School where School Board members had an opportunity to experience first hand the 1:1 Learning Initiative that is taking place in seventh grade.

Following an overview by the administration regarding the 1:1 Learning Initiative for the 21st century classroom, Board members separated into small groups and rotated through three workstations where members of the teaching staff presented how teaching/learning in their classrooms has been positively impacted by technology.

Website Connection Link: [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7961](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7961)

**Guest Speaker at United Senior Citizens Program Luncheon** — Dr. Sharon Suritsky, Deputy/Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Judith Bulazo, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, and I were invited to the United Senior Citizens Program luncheon on Wednesday, November 19. In addition to thanking this very important group of USC Township residents who attended this delicious holiday luncheon, we presented information regarding current initiatives of the School District and challenges that the School District faces with respect to federal and state funding.

I offer a special thanks to Mr. Chaz McCrommon from the Township for inviting us to the luncheon to be their guest speaker. Feedback from the group was very positive and supportive of the School District.

Website Connection Link: [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7982](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/7982)
Upcoming Changes to District Website and eBLAST — We have some exciting news regarding upcoming changes to our School District’s website and eBLAST. Rather than having a monthly or bi-monthly eBLAST, I have decided to incorporate our electronic eBLAST onto the front page of the District’s website. The plans for the look of our website will be to have three levels of news: featured stories, news, and important announcements (usually from the superintendent). Our objective in making this change is to post news in a timelier manner. Features that previously have been communicated in our eBLAST, such as our Teammate Spotlight, will now be posted directly onto the District's website. Therefore, the November/December issue will be our last official eBLAST publication. However, we look forward to bringing you school news directly from our School District’s website (www.uscsd.k12.pa.us).

Website Connection Link:  
http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/94

Teammate Spotlight—

Doreen Leech

Please join me in recognizing Doreen Leech, Technology Support Coordinator, from Central Office, for being chosen for our Teammate Spotlight feature, November/December 2014.

Doreen began her tenure with the District in September 1988 when she was hired as a Teacher Aide at Boyce Middle School and later became the Computer Center Secretary at Boyce in 1991. From 1994 through 2000, Doreen also held the extra curricular activity positions of Boyce Audio Visual Coordinator, District Technical Support, and Communications Coordinator. It didn’t take long for the District to discover Doreen’s excellent computer skills and in October 1996, Doreen transferred to Central Office as the Technology Support Coordinator.

Among her many duties, Doreen is our District “webmaster.” Keeping any website functional and up to date takes a lot of work, and Doreen does a masterful job! In addition, she serves as our “eagle eye” proofreader for the District’s eBLAST, is one of our coordinators and trainers for staff development, supports technology implementations throughout the District, and keeps the USC Technology Department “in line.” Raymond Berrott, Director of Technology, describes Doreen as an indispensable member of the Technology Team.

Doreen and her husband, Ed, live in Peters Township. They have two children, Melissa and Eddie. Melissa is a Special Education Teacher for the District, and Eddie lives in New Mexico. Jack, her only grandchild, is the “apple of her eye.” Doreen loves to travel and especially looks forward to her yearly “girls” trips.

Thank you, Doreen, for your dedicated service with the School District for the past 26 years!

High School Students Honor Veterans ...

Past, Present and Future (continued from page 1)

During the assembly, the names of USC Veterans past, present, and future were celebrated.

Current and former faculty and staff veterans honored were:

- Mr. Lee Altman – bus #161 driver; served in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1966 before being honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant.
- Mr. Bill Jordan – High School Custodian served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an aircraft recovery technician from 1980 to 1984.
- Mr. Roy Legacy – High School Maintenance Technician served in the U.S. Navy for 42½ years before retiring in 1987.
- Ms. Christine McCown – Fort Couch Middle School Teacher’s Aide served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1988 to 1996 as a Specialist in the Engineer Battalion of Kittanning.
- Major Gary McCullough – Boyce Middle School Science Teacher, presently serving as a pilot for the Air National Guard and has served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Chief Master Sergeant George Salamacha – High School Security Officer served on active duty for 29 years in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard from 1971 to 2000.
The High School Marching Band (1) and Chanteclairs (2) perform at the beginning of the assembly. Current and former staff Veterans (3) are honored during the assembly. Pictured sitting left to right are Bill Jordan, Roy Legacy, David Walk, Fred Peskorski, Tom Smedley, and Ed Callahan. USC graduate Austin Wilding (4) speaks to the students via video regarding his experiences at West Point.

High School Students Honor Veterans ... Past, Present and Future (continued from page 3)

- Mr. Tom Smedley – former High School Math and Physics Teacher and Curriculum Leader served on active duty and in the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1974 to 2004.
- Mr. Rob Sully – Boyce Middle School Teacher is serving in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and was recently deployed with the Air Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is now a 2nd Lieutenant and currently on military leave while in Texas completing promotion training until April 2015. At that time, he will return to teaching 6th grade Social Studies at Boyce Middle School.

Family members of Upper St. Clair School District staff also recognized were:

- Specialist Kevin Bartlett of the U.S. Army. He is the son of High School Student Activities Secretary Sheila Lloyd.
- Major Thomas More Garvey of the U.S. Army. He is the nephew of High School Art Teacher Robyn Smigel.
- Mr. John Gallo, Airman 1st Class of the U.S. Air Force. He is the husband of High School Library Secretary Sandy Gallo.
- Lt. Ronald Hadley, WWII Veteran who served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. At age 93, he is the father of High School Teacher Aide Cindy Osbourne.
- In addition, Ms. Osbourne has a niece and nephew who served in the U.S. Army, Special Forces: Samantha Rawlings Brillion, Army Specialist who served from 2001 to 2007, and her brother, Christopher F. Rawlings, Army Sergeant First Class, served from 2002 until three weeks ago.
- Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hietpas of the U.S. Air Force. He was deployed for six months to Amman Jordan. He is married to the twin sister of Learning Support Teacher Maureen Chermak.
- Senior Airman Kevin Krakosky of the U.S. Air Force. He is the brother of High School Foreign Language Teacher Kelly Krakosky.
- Lt. Andrew McGovern of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service, active duty. He is the son-in-law of High School Theatre Secretary Elizabeth Williard.
- Sgt. Edward Milovac of the U.S. Army during WWII (stationed in the Philippines). He is the father of Choral Director Lorraine Milovac.

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Mr. Mitch Morton, Senior Master Sergeant of the United States Air Force. He is the brother of High School Physical Education Teacher Shawn Morton.

First Lt. Nicholas Orsino of the U.S. Marine Corps CBL-2 Division on active duty in Africa. He is the stepson of High School Teacher Aide Susan Orsino.

Colonel Richard Mark Nixon of the U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.). He is the uncle of High School Guidance Curriculum Leader Jennifer Kirk.

Lt. Commander Jeffrey C. Storer of the U.S. Navy. He is the son of High School Athletic Office Secretary Cindy Storer.

Students honored and remembered Mr. William Anthony Finn of the U.S. Army, who recently passed away at the age of 86. Mr. Finn, who is the father-in-law of High School Science Teacher Tim Hartnett, had a decorated career of selflessly serving our nation. The students heard an inspiring story of how he earned the Purple Heart and Commendation Badge.

U.S. Army Veteran Chris Riemer, father of Freshman Abby Riemer and Junior Zach Riemer spoke to the students. Lt. Col. Riemer retired in September of this year after serving for over 20 years in the U.S. Army. In addition to serving in airborne and mechanized combat units, he was also assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for five years. The students listened intently as he provided valuable life lessons while recounting his experiences serving in the armed forces.

Representing those who are currently serving, the students watched a personalized video message from 2012 Upper St. Clair graduate and current West Point Cadet Austin Wilding. He is the brother of Senior Brooks Wilding, Junior Hannah Wilding, and Freshmen Lydia and Mary Wilding. The students were especially interested to hear Austin discuss his daily activities while at West Point.

Finally, in recognition of all those who will serve, Senior Jake Wilmot spoke about why he is currently pursuing his goal of serving in the armed forces. Along with the educational and financial benefits, Jake noted that he wants to enlist because of family tradition and his desire to serve our country.

The assembly concluded with a moving video tribute to our Veterans.
Boyce Middle School came in first place at the annual History Bowl held at the Heinz History Center on October 30. Competing against hundreds of students from districts in Western Pennsylvania, students completed four challenges such as a “Passenger Journal” at the new Pittsburgh's Lost Steamboat exhibit and the “Heinz by the Numbers” challenge held at the Heinz Exhibit.

The Boyce students were prepared and sponsored by Ms. Susan Fleckenstein.

(1) Pictured left to right is the winning team of fifth graders: Shane Williams, Kaitlyn Clougherty, Shivani Jajoo, and Aidan Besselman.

(2) An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the Heinz History Center on Smallman Street in Downtown Pittsburgh is the largest history museum in Pennsylvania.

Four Staff Members Receive State Awards

Having a staff member from any school district being chosen to receive a state award is quite an accomplishment. However, having four staff members chosen from one school district in one school year to receive state awards is quite remarkable!

Dr. Lou Angelo, High School Associate Principal, was recognized by the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (PASCD) with The Outstanding Research and Publication Award. This award is presented to a PASCD member who has researched and published within the past two years (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014). The nominee submits the published article, book, book chapter or research report, which is reviewed on the basis of design, conceptual framework, format, and publication. Dr. Angelo’s dissertation research focused on the effects of leadership development on adolescents.

Mr. Matt Henderson, Boyce Middle School Teacher, was selected as the Blended Schools Network Teacher of the Year. This award spotlights a passionate, enthusiastic teacher who teaches in an online or blended learning environment. Honorees are selected by students and teaching peers.

The Pennsylvania School Counselors Association named Mrs. Jennifer Kirk, High School Guidance Curriculum Leader, “School Counselor of the Year.” This award honors the “best of the best” – counselors who are running a top-notch, comprehensive school counseling program at either the elementary, middle or high school level.

Dr. Timothy Wagner, Middle School Language Arts Curriculum Leader, received the 2014 Outstanding Young Educator Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (PASCD). This award recognizes an educator who has made an impact on educating the whole child, who has provided leadership, and who has contributed to the profession.

(1) Dr. Lou Angelo (1), Mr. Matt Henderson (2), Mrs. Jennifer Kirk (3), and Dr. Timothy Wagner (4) address the Board of School Directors following their recognition at the December 1 Board meeting.
District Website Receives Award of Excellence

The Upper St. Clair School District is proud to announce that its website is one of two in the state to receive an Award of Excellence in the Website/Intranet category of the 2014 Educational Publications Contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Entries in the Educational Publications Contest are judged on appearance, writing and style, editing, layout and design, use of artwork and photography, printing, and value to the audience.

Congratulations to Mr. Raymond Berrott, Director of Technology, Mrs. Doreen Leech, webmaster and Technology Support Coordinator, and Mrs. Mary Ann Stabile, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, for their work and leadership of our District’s website.

Eisenhower Students Participate in Annual Jump Rope for Heart and Ike Crawl Day

On October 13, Eisenhower Elementary held their annual Jump Rope For Heart Day, raising a record $9,581. The teachers wore red to show their support and also participated in a “jump off” between the classes.

On October 24, the second annual Ike Crawl took place. The students, staff, parents, and siblings left the school together and walked one mile around the neighborhood. USC Township police lead the walk with a squad car and lights flashing and another car brought up the rear. This year, High School Police Officer Jason Remmy also walked with the students.

In twelve years, the Eisenhower families have donated over $50,000 to the American Heart Association to help fight heart disease.

Students Deborah Chu, Peter Markovitz, and Addison Nicklas, and Eisenhower Physical Education Teacher Carol Olack (1) proudly display a poster highlighting the amount the children raised during the Jump Rope for Heart Day.

Eisenhower students (2), led by USC Township police, walk together in the neighborhood during their annual Ike Crawl.
The Choral Sounds of “Sweet Harmony” Usher in the Thanksgiving Season

The Power of Men Singing Is Showcased in a Special Choral Event

Male singers from Boyce, Fort Couch, and High School choirs who collaborated in the one-day ACDA festival are (left to right, first row) Sam Cancilla (Grade 7), Harris Altherr (8), Sam Dvorin (7), Peter Bier (7), Benjamin Bacdayan (6), Andrew Higgs (6), Gavin Genter (7), Jonah Manalo (7), and Ryan Junko (7); (second row) Matthew Higgs (9), Jonah Glunt (9), Jonathan Barsotti (9), Tommy O’Brien (8), Benjamin Lang (6), Jadan Duffy (6), Maxwell Turnwald (7), Grant Warmbein (9), Wyatt Keating (9), and Danny O’Brien (7).

Western PA tenor, baritone, and bass singers in grades 6-9 came together in the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Men’s Festival on November 4 in the Trinity High School. Nineteen USC chorus students in grades 6-9 represented the District at this day-long festival. The students also had the opportunity to sing with the Westminster Men's Glee Club, under the direction of Dr. Samuel Barbara.

The festival and concert were conducted by Dr. Mark Boyle, Director of Choral Studies at Seton Hill University, a well-known choral teacher and clinician in the western Pennsylvania region, who served as a vocal model for the men throughout the day as they learn to sing through the voice change.

All USC students were members of the choirs at Boyce Middle School (6th grade) directed by Mrs. Jennifer Schetley, Fort Couch Middle School (7th and 8th grades) directed by Mr. Thomas Hunsberger or the Upper St. Clair High School (9th grade) directed by Ms. Lorraine Milovac.

Girl Vocalists Lift Up their Voices at a Successful Music Festival

Singers in the American Choral Directors Association Sweet Harmony Festival hosted by Upper St. Clair are (left to right, first row) Olivia Noto (Grade 6), Violetta Eagle (6), Naiya Livingston (6), Natalie Manalo (6), Sophia Pries (6), Malorie Glancy (6), Zoe Rankin (9), and Annabel McQuillan (8); (second row) Erin Lang (8), Tanvika Sriram (8), Jacqueline LeKachman (8), Lexi Feldman (8), Kate Rosello (9), Andrea Mays (9), Allison Epler (9), Riley Stevenson (9), Maggie Connors (9), Rebecca Quinn (9), and Anber Bhuian (8). [Not Pictured: Rebecca Speer (8)]

The Upper St. Clair Performing Arts Department was excited to bring the American Choral Directors Association Sweet Harmony Festival to Upper St. Clair High School Theatre on November 14. USC Choral Directors Ms. Lorraine Milovac (HS), Mr. Thomas Hunsberger (FC), and Ms. Jennifer Schetley (BO) hosted 175 students in grades 6-9 from twenty-one area school districts and Duquesne University for this worthwhile educational event.

The festival and concert was conducted by Dr. Gabrielle Dietrich, Artistic Director of the Young People’s Chorus of Erie and Director of Choral Ensembles at Penn State Behrend. Dr. Dietrich is also the director of the Erie Philharmonic Chorus.

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**The Choral Sounds of “Sweet Harmony” Usher in the Thanksgiving Season**

(continued from page 8)

**A Collaborative Performance of the Verdi Requiem Is Presented at USC**

The Upper St. Clair High School Pantheon Choir, under the direction of Ms. Lorraine Milovac, joined the Westminster Chancel Choir, professional soloists, and the Academy Chamber Orchestra for an unforgettable concert experience of *The Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi. Written in memory of the Italian writer and humanist Alessandro Manzoni (1785-1873), the masterwork is a dynamic combination of operatic drama and symphony, set to the Latin text of the Mass for the Dead.

Baker Elementary vocal music instructor Ms. Christine Hestwood, who conducts the Westminster Chancel Choir, was the director for *The Requiem*. It was presented to an appreciative crowd on November 16 at 4:00 p.m. in the USCHS Theatre.

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**Performing Arts Dept. Posts Music Events Online**

Members of the general public are cordially invited to attend one or more of the many festive concerts that will usher in the winter season and the New Year:

- **December 11**  Boyce Band/Chorus/Orchestra  7:00 p.m.  HS Theatre
- **December 15**  HS Choirs  7:00 p.m.  HS Theatre
- **December 18**  HS Instrumental  7:00 p.m.  HS Theatre
- **December 19**  Streams EL Band/Chorus/Strings  1:00 p.m.  Streams Gym
- **December 22**  Baker EL Chorus/Strings  1:45 p.m.  Baker Gym
- **December 23**  Voice of Boyce  8:00 a.m.  Boyce Lobby
- **December 23**  Eisenhower EL Chorus/Strings  10:00 a.m.  Eisenhower Gym
- **January 14**  Elementary Combined Choruses  7:30 p.m.  HS Theatre
- **January 16**  Fort Couch Choirs  7:30 p.m.  Boyce Theatre
- **January 21**  Fort Couch Band and Orchestra  7:30 p.m.  HS Theatre

A complete listing of all band, choral, orchestra, and musical performances may be downloaded from the school district website. Go to the following link: [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/cms/lib02/PA01000033/Centricity/Domain/718/2014-15%20Calendar.pdf](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/cms/lib02/PA01000033/Centricity/Domain/718/2014-15%20Calendar.pdf)
USC Golf Team Continues Their Success On and Off the Course

The USC Boys’ Golf Team earned their way to the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) finals. Their success off the course was even more impressive as they continued to raise money for local charities through “Birdies for a Cause,” an annual season-long drive to raise money for specific charities. This year’s charity was Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Varsity and Junior Varsity golfers collected pledges for each birdie during the season with 100% of the money raised going to the charity. A total of $4,434 was raised for Children’s Hospital.

High School Digital Art and IB Visual Art Students Experience CMU-Developed Software

On November 17, Dr. Don Marinelli, co-founder of Carnegie Mellon University’s Entertainment Technology Center, visited Upper St. Clair High School to discuss his newly developed animation software PHLIPITS. Students from the Digital Art and IB Visual Art courses were treated to a demonstration and then were given the chance to experience the PHLIPITS software first hand in an hour-long workshop environment. PHLIPITS allows students to take video and add animation on top of the video. Students can also use this program to animate from scratch, using their own artwork.
What Do Owl Pellets Have to Do with Science at Streams?

On November 20, third grade students at Streams explored the basic structural systems of the body in a "hands-on" lab in class.

One of the investigations involved dissecting owl pellets to allow the students to compare and contrast a human skeleton to that of a rodent. Students eagerly broke open their pellets to expose the bones hidden inside. They were excited to find skulls, vertebrae, and leg bones, and were even able to construct a ball and socket joint!

Led by classroom teachers Mrs. Jennifer Graceffo, Miss Kathy Mulhern, Mrs. Leslie Smirniw, Mrs. Betsy Allen, and Mrs. Emily LaSalle, parents assisted with the set-ups and dissections, and everyone had a great time while learning.

As the students (left to right) carefully extract skeletal remains from owl pellets, Ben Leggat and Noa Shimshi (1), Annie Loomis and Lydia Rhodes (2), AJ Colussi, Thor Sieckmann, Rowan Giroux, and Tanav Dandekar (3), and Chris Pirain and Cameron Paolicelli (4) intently study and classify their specimens.
More “Panther News”

- Representing Upper St. Clair, the winner of the Discovery Young Scientist award, Sahil Doshi (1), was featured on Fox News on November 2 (see show link http://video.latino.foxnews.com/v/3871223960001/young-scientists-showcased-in-national-competition/?playlist_id=930909787001).

- Senior Sriparna Sen (2) was accepted to the University of Pittsburgh Health Scholars Academy during her junior year (Summer 2013) and is now pursuing research at University of Pittsburgh under Dr. Kari Nejak Bowen.

- Musicians (left to right) Brian Tsui, Marielle Snyder, Alexa Drecnik, and Meghan Johnson (3) earned high rankings at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Honors Band auditions, and were invited to participate in the PMEA Honors Band Festival, culminating in a concert at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland on November 23.

- During a high school Partners in Physical Education class, regular education students were paired with Life Skills students (4). Kaitlyn Toupence, Yes You Can Dance instructor Chris Roth (center), and Physical Education teacher Mr. Tim Robbins (5) showed they were learning ballroom dancing and having “a blast” doing it.
Senior high-honor student Kasey Colcombe (6) earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest advancement award of the Boy Scouts of America, and was recognized at a Court of Honor ceremony in November for his Eagle Scout project of refinishing and reupholstering 49 chairs in the Peelor Chapel of Christ United Methodist Church, fundraising $1,300, managing the organization of many volunteers, and completing over 300 hours of labor.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma (7) was issued to the following students in July 2014: Nolan Ardolino, Kyle Austin, Marissa Behun, Brinda Doshi, Gaurav Gupte, Sonja Kretschmar, Jane Lippencott, Sarah Meiman, Lauren Montgomery, Eva Roy, Jordan Ryan, Mary Gen Sanner, Sydney Turnwald, Safiye Unlu, Robbie Weaver, and Devan Zalla.

The High School Orchestra (8) will perform prior to Pittsburgh Ballet performance of The Nutcracker in the lobby of the Benedum on December 21.

The following students (9) were commended for being listed on the Parkway West Career & Technology Center Director’s List of Honor Students for the first quarter of the 2014-2015 school year: (left to right) Ayisha Alexander – Health Assistant I, Mary Molitoris – Cosmetology II, Hunter Edelmann – Building Construction Technology, and Aidan Vopal – Building Construction Technology. (Not pictured and also commended was Alyssa Perry – Health Assistant I.)

Commendations to Students and Staff!

Monthly commendations are archived online on the USCSD home page under “Headlines.” For your convenience, click here to view these commendations.