

## **Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments February 19, 2025**

**Special Recognition:** Tonight, I wanted to recognize Pocono Mountain West High School senior Haley Lopez, for her amazing talent and for her latest recognition. Haley is here with us tonight. Haley, would you please come forward? Haley was recently named the Region 10 winner of the Pennsylvania Art Education Association Youth Art Month exhibit.

In addition to earning this latest award, Haley has earned the following awards and recognition this school year:

- Scholastic Art Silver Key for Drawing
- Scholastic Art Silver Key for Portfolio
- Prevent Suicide PSA Poster Contest Finalist (the competition outcome is still pending)
- PMSD Pride of the Mountain Logo Design Contest Winner
- Pocono Mountain West High School Holiday Card Contest Winner

Haley was also elected as the Chapter President of the West National Art Honor Society, where she has spearheaded several impactful projects. These include the creation of the restorative action room mural at CRIS and the literacy windows project at Clymer Library.

Congratulations Haley. We are so proud of you. You have amazing talent.

**PMSD Donation to LLS Team Hope:** I have a special presentation to make on behalf of the entire district tonight. Pocono Mountain School District held a dress down day to support Team Hope representing Monroe County in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student Visionaries of the Year

Campaign. Charlie, who formed Team Hope to represent Monroe County, is here tonight to accept a check from our District to help her reach her goal of raising \$20,000 for LLS. Charlie, will you please come forward? I am very proud to announce that our district raised \$4,104.69 through our dress down day. Our audience may not know this, but LLS asked Charlie, who is the daughter of East High School Music Teacher Trish Gladstone, to represent Monroe County in this year's fundraising campaign. While Charlie attends a school in New Jersey, she was happy to take on this challenge for our county. The LLS cause is very personal and very special for Charlie. She is an 11-year Leukemia survivor. She was diagnosed with Leukemia at age 3.

Charlie, we hope our district's donation helps you win the Student Visionaries of the Year Campaign. Thank you for all you are doing to help LLS continue to develop more effective treatments for children with blood cancers, and to, hopefully, develop a cure very soon.

**68<sup>th</sup> Annual Big 33 All-Star Football Classic Announcement:**

Congratulations to Coach Jim McCarroll on being selected by his peers as an assistant coach for the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Big 33 All-Star Football Classic. During this Football Classic, the Pennsylvania team will compete against Maryland on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Some well-known Big 33 alumni and NFL greats include Joe Namath, Joe Montana, Dan Marino, Jim Kelly, Ricky Watters, Tony Dorsett and Ben Roethlisberger. This is a very prestigious appointment for any high school coach and reflects highly on Coach McCarroll, the Pocono Mountain West Football program, and Pocono Mountain School District. We are very proud of Coach McCarroll for achieving this wonderful recognition and opportunity.

### **East High School Updates:**

On Sunday, our Girls Wrestling Team competed in the District XI Championships at Easton Middle School. Our team placed 3rd overall! Individual results are as follows:

**2nd Place: Elaina Mercadante - Qualified for Regionals**

4th Place: Kamora Gilbreath, Olivia Brisbois, Gwen Zahara

5th Place: Alana Burnette, Neysa Lynch, Janalice Pellet-Feliciano

This Saturday, February 22, our Boys Basketball team will be playing in the District XI Quarterfinals.

**#5 PM East vs. #4 Whitehall**

**1:00 PM**

**Easton Area Middle School**

Tickets are available on the District XI Website

This Friday February 21 and Saturday February 22, our Boys Wrestling team will be competing in the District XI Championships at Liberty High School.

Congratulations to the Pocono Mountain East Marching Band for coming in third in their division in the nationwide Metallica Competition!! They came in third to Dublin Scioto in Ohio and Freehold Township in NJ.

The band will walk away with \$5,000 worth of prizes from Metallica sponsors.

### **West High School Updates:**

Congratulations to the WHS Varsity Chess Team for finishing 2nd place in the Mountain Division for their regular season. Senior, John Cruz finished the regular season undefeated on Board 1.

The West High School Music Department would like to invite everyone to their Music in Our Schools Month Band and Chorus concert which will be held on Friday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the West High School auditorium.

Congratulations to the Boys Basketball team who finished second in the EPC Championships. They played hard and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

### **East Junior High School Updates:**

On February 14th students from the EJHS Band performed the National Anthem at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes Barre for the Scranton Wilkes Barre Penguins Hockey game vs the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. Students did a wonderful job! We are PMSD proud!

### **Swiftwater Intermediate School Updates:**

A big thank you goes out to the SIS Phys Ed department for leading our school's participation in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge. In the last related arts cycle, students jumped rope and raised \$1,223.36 for the American Heart Association.

### **Clear Run Elementary Updates:**

Kindergarten students at CREC recently participated in Kettle Creek's engaging bird feeding program, where they explored the fascinating world of nature and wildlife. During class visits, they learned about birds, seasonal changes, and crafted their own bird feeders, transforming a simple educational exercise into an immersive learning experience.

On February 11th, students at CREC participated in the Discovery Kitchen program organized by Chartwells. This engaging event focused on Southwest cuisine, allowing students to explore new flavors, including a tasting of chili lime corn. The Discovery

Kitchen initiative aims to introduce students to diverse culinary experiences through hands-on cooking demonstrations and tastings, fostering a deeper appreciation for food and nutrition.

The 100th day of school is a time for celebration at the elementary level, and students at CREC embraced this milestone on February 12th with various exciting projects. A highlight of the day is the tradition where both staff and students dress up as they envision themselves at 100 years old. This year, CREC showcased some of the most stylish "senior citizens" around, making the event both fun and memorable.