

## **Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments April 16, 2025**

### **OOTM World Finalists**

Congratulations to our three Pocono Mountain School District Odyssey of the Mind teams, who qualified at the PA Odyssey of the Mind State Finals competition to advance to the World Finals.

Our teams advancing to the World Finals are as follows:

The Pocono Mountain East Junior High School team for Problem 1 Vehicle, Division 2 earned 1st place at the State Finals. The team is coached by teachers Jennifer Fiore and Galen Smith and includes East Junior High students Zola Marshall, Neylan Cox, Penelope Hecht, Amir Ward, Erika Cooper, Salvatore Cubeta and Benjamin Mancini.

The Pocono Mountain East Junior High School team for Problem 5 Performance, Division 2 also earned 1st place at the State Finals. The team is coached by teachers Jennifer Fiore and Galen Smith and includes East Junior High students Victoria Kipe, Maddison Laubach, Eli Lake, Benjamin Mancini, Chase Kouris, Emily Lundberg and Savannah VanAuken.

The Pocono Mountain East High School team for Problem 5 Performance, Division 3 earned 1st place at the State Finals. The team is coached by teachers Jamie Schweppenheiser and Chelsea Straub and includes East High School students

Will Crosby

Hayden Christman

Sophia Hernandez,

Samantha Christman

Liam Bock

Declan Angulo

Alorah Badman

A special thank you to Dr. Sweeney, who leads our district OOTM program, Mrs. Fladger, who helped keep the State Finals hosted by PMSD running smoothly, and all of our PMSD volunteers and staff who helped make the competition a success. Also, thank you to our very talented West HS Dance Club and Urban Gospel Choir, who performed at the awards ceremony. The competition brought more than 1,000 students and their families from across the state to our Swiftwater Campus. A big thank you to all of our PMSD volunteers and staff who helped make the competition a success.

### **West High School Update**

Congratulations to West High School Senior, Jonathan Mateo who won the men's basketball 3-point contest and was named the MVP of the North at the Lehigh Valley Senior All-Star Classic on March 30th.

On April 15th, the West Student Council held their annual Multicultural Fair. Our students and staff were able to get their "passport" stamped as they interacted with the "cultural ambassadors" from each country. The Multicultural Fair also displayed various activities such as live performances, various food samples, a raffle, and even face painting.

On Friday, April 11, the WHS Blue Smash team of Joseph Kulick, Logan Denmon, and Daylen Conde advanced to the state semifinal rounds for PSEL Super Smash Brothers on Apr 23rd.

On Sunday, April 13, the WHS esports team traveled to Neumann University to compete in the conference finals for PIEA. The WHS D1 Smash team of Joseph Kulick, Logan Denmon, Daylen Conde, Te'Jon Stewart, and Quinton Abbot placed second in the Elite conference finals, the WHS D2 Smash team of Michael Oke, Alex borden, Mason Denmon, James Smith, and placed second in the Penn League conference finals, and the WHS Valorant

team placed second in the Dutch conference finals. These three teams have advanced to the state playoffs for PIEA. In individual play, Michael Oke placed 5th, Alex Borden placed 6th, and Mason Denmon placed 7th in the D2 Individual Smash conference finals.

In Science and Math News: the Science National Honor Society and the National Math Honor Society held their third annual Night of STEM at the West High School on Monday, April 14th. Over 300+ people attended the event. They were able to explore over 40+ student-run STEM tables. Students were able to get their hands dirty by making slime, playdough, volcanos, elephant's toothpaste, harmonicas, and oobleck. Students explored swirling milk, skittle diffusion, airplane science, building construction, lava and the phases of the moon with oreos. Students were also able to investigate hands-on experiments from Wilkes Science in Motion, DaVinci Science Center, Kettle Creek, IU 20, ESU Math Department, UGI, Tobyhanna Watershed, and St. Luke's Simulation lab. Science, technology, engineering, and math came alive for all those who attended.

### **West Junior High School Update**

WJHS Aavidum members had the chance to attend a Talk Workshop to learn more about Aavidum's message of youth empowerment. They brought new ideas from this workshop back to the club! Thank you to Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Cerrone for the opportunity!

### **Swiftwater Elementary Center Update**

Swiftwater Elementary Center is proud to announce that a successful SEC FLY IN EARLY event took place at our school on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Over 50 families joined us for a fun-filled evening of "story time" sessions held in kindergarten classrooms followed by a tour of our beautiful school. The night

ended with a large group activity in our cafeteria that included family friendly fine and gross motor skills and sensory activities. Our 3-4 year old “Little Cardinals” were able to visit their hometown school for the first time. As families left, they were gifted with goodie bags to include: magnetic foam letters and numbers, dry erase boards and markers, playdough, watercolor paint sets and a snack. Families were extremely grateful to our SEC Pre School Partnership Committee for this opportunity. Thank you to our school community for the support as we plan for our students’ future.

Swiftwater Elementary Center is PROUD to announce that our school recently hosted a dress down day for the POCONO AUTISM SOCIETY and raised \$376.00. The SEC Abilities Awareness Committee planned for several activities during the week of: March 31 through April 4th. Some school wide activities included: Reading Disabilities Awareness books, “Can you be my friend” activities, special story time with the book “You are All Kinds Of Wonderful” followed by a writing activity, Kid Friendly Autism awareness information videos and visits with Bailey the Therapy Dog. We celebrate all abilities at SEC.

Swiftwater Elementary Center is fortunate to partner with our SEC PTO for an array of activities throughout the school year. One of our favorites includes: PTO ARTS DRESS DOWN DAYS to benefit EHS student scholarships. This year, staff and students dressed on Fridays through the month of March celebrating music throughout the years to include: Totally Rad 80s-90s theme, Yee Haw Country Western Theme, Peace, Love and Rock and Roll 70’s theme. Our staff and students had a ball “dressing the part” for a great cause!