

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments June 5, 2024

Eagle Scout Project: Tonight, I have the pleasure of welcoming Jack Dunlap, who is now a senior at Pocono Mountain East High School. Jack is here to present his Eagle Scout Project to the Board and Pocono Mountain School District community.

Relay for Life Check Presentation: We have a check presentation to make tonight. Elaine Sekula, can you please come forward? Pocono Mountain School District held a district wide dress down day for the Monroe County Relay for Life in May. We are very proud to report that as a district we raised \$3,354.57 for the American Cancer Society through that dress down day.

Retiree Appreciation: At our Board meetings in June, we are honoring the educators, administrators and support staff who are retiring from Pocono Mountain School District. We have several of our retirees here with us tonight. Before I introduce each of you, I wanted to thank all of you for your service and dedication to our district and the wonderful care you extended to all of our students. Your efforts over your many years of service to this district as educators, administrators and support staff members have left a lasting and positive impact on our students, our schools and this district. You have been an inspiration to current and future generations. On behalf of the entire school district, thank you for your service and dedicated to the education and wellbeing of our students and the Pocono Mountain School District.

The retirees here tonight are as follows:

Dr. Kathleen Fanelli	Principal of the East Junior High School	30 Years of Service to the District
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Maryann Harrington	English, Language Arts Teacher at West High School	25 Years of Service to the District
Carol Montemuro	Math Teacher at the East High Schools	37 Years of Service to the District
James Ragonese	English, Language Arts Teacher at West High School	35 Years of Service to the District
Rosemary Schmidt	Administrative Assistant at the East Junior High School	19 Years of Service to the District
Dena Zimmerman	Special Education Teacher in Life Skills at Swiftwater Elementary Center	15 Years of Service to the District

Collectively, our retirees here tonight gave 161 years of service to Pocono Mountain School District.

Accomplishments:

Odyssey of the Mind World Finals: We had three teams from the district qualify to compete at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, that took place at Iowa State University over Memorial Day weekend. Two teams were from the East Junior High School and one team was from the West High School. All three teams did amazing.

The East Junior High School team that competed in Problem 3, Opening Night Antics, Divisions 2, placed 3rd out of 45 teams from across the United States and around the world. Their performance earned them a spot on the podium during the closing ceremonies, where they were awarded medals and a trophy to

proudly present to their school for their outstanding efforts. This is the second year in a row that we had an East Junior High School place 3rd at the World Finals.

The East Junior High School team that competed in Problem 5, Rocking World Detour Division 2, placed 6th out of 36 teams at the World Finals.

The West High School Team placed 14th out of 17 teams in Problem 2, AI Tech-NO Art Division 3.

We are very proud of all of our Odyssey of the Mind teams, and especially our three teams that excelled at regionals, states and then at the world finals.

District Spelling Bee Winners: We have a number of district spelling bee champions to recognize tonight.

For Third Grade: Michael Dwyer from SEC placed 1st, Madison Mejia from CRIS placed 2nd, and Sophia Epser from TEC placed 3rd.

For Fourth Grade: Jayden Kunjal from CRIS placed 1st, Mia Bell from TEC placed 2nd, and Shane Thomas placed 3rd.

For Fifth Grade: Jayden Bryan from TEC placed 1st, Caroline Cortes from CRIS placed 2nd, and Peyton Valderrama from SIS placed 3rd.

For Sixth Grade: Alexander Kaczka from SIS placed 1st, Abby Perez from CRIS placed 2nd, and Tarek Moore from CRIS placed 3rd.

Thank you to Mr. Phaneuf, Mr. Brogan, Ms. Pieros, Ms. Rybak, and all of the teachers and staff that make the annual spelling bee a success.

District XI Awards: Congratulations to the East Boys Volleyball Team on winning District XI 2A Silver, and the East Varsity Baseball team who won silver in the District XI 5A competition.

American Legion Scholarship Winners: The following seniors from West High School earned scholarships from the American Legion: Piper Crosby received a \$2,000 scholarship, Jacob Ruiz received a \$1,200 scholarship, and Luke Bramley received an \$800 scholarship.

Graduation: I wanted to congratulate all of our Pocono Mountain School District Class of 2024 graduates from the East and West High Schools. The graduation ceremonies last Friday evening and Saturday morning were beautiful and a fitting way to recognize and honor all of our students who worked so hard to meet all of the requirements to graduate with Pocono Mountain School District diplomas. Good luck to all of our graduates in their future endeavors. We expect to hear many great things about the future accomplishments of our Class of 2024.