

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments December 4, 2024

East High School Update: Congratulations to the East High School Speech and Debate Team for winning the Mountain Division. The team qualified for Districts and will compete on Friday, December 6th. The District Speech and Debate Championships will take place at Nazareth High School. The East Speech and Debate Team will enter Districts as the #2 seed. Good luck at Districts.

East Book Gift-Away: Students at East High School participated in a Book Gift-Away this week. The book gift away is an opportunity for high school students at East to get a 'gift'. The Reading Competition sponsors the event by raising money. The books are acquired through a non-profit book handler which keeps the cost of books low and economical. Mrs. Bresser is the advisor for the Reading Competition team. As the advisor for the Reading Competition team, she feels that having a service project to help the school community is important. What better way to support reading than to give students books.

East Junior High School Update: Congratulations to Pocono Mountain East Junior High School on being awarded \$2,500 in Samsung technology for the school's STEAM team. STEAM Teacher MaryKay Citera applied to the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition, and the application for the East Junior High was selected as a State Finalist. The next level is a \$12,000 prize package for the state winner. East Junior High is working on a water-saving toilet bowl flush that accommodates individuals with limited mobility. It will have an easier flush assembly and buttons for those with limitations.

ELA Collaborative Efforts: Students in Mrs. Gocek's and Ms. Mark's eighth grade ELA class worked in collaborative groups to

compare and contrast the cautionary tale, "The Monkey's Paw," with the dramatic version. Students chose one of six topics to compare and contrast, chose focus questions and determined which genre to analyze. The lesson culminated with students presenting to their peers.

East Junior High Field Hockey Team's Outstanding Season:

Coach Kalberer, a Pocono Mountain graduate, and her JV Field Hockey team had an awesome season and finished with a 12-0-1 record. There were many highlights throughout the season, so I thought I would share a few:

- Each girl was captain at least one time. They showed leadership in practices, games and in the classroom.
- Grace Smith, the goalie, only had a total of 4 goals scored on her all year.
- Throughout the season East's JV team scored a total of 62 goals.
- The team beat their rival Stroudsburg 2 times this season, and they were the team's one tie.
- The 8th graders did a great job leading the 7th graders and the team will miss the 8th graders and the impact they had on the program.

We are very proud of everything they accomplished this season.

West High School Update: The West High School Leo Club held a food drive during the month of November. The Leo Club filled 7 boxes full of items for the TOMEK food pantry, which were delivered to the pantry just in time for Thanksgiving. Thanks to Mr. Steinruck's homeroom for donating the most food items. The class will enjoy a free breakfast courtesy of the Leo Club on a date to be determined.

Esports Accomplishments: On Thursday, November 21st, the West High School Esports Division 1 Super Smash Brothers

Team composed of Joe Kulick, Logan Denmon, Te'Jon Stewart, Quinton Abbot, and Michael Oke defeated Stroudsburg 5-0. They have advanced to the semifinal round of league conference play. They are currently ranked 2nd in the league and 6th in the state.

On Thursday, November 21st, the West High School Division 2 Super Smash Brothers team composed of James Smith, Alex Borden, Joel Henriquez, Michi Boney, and Vincent Marciano defeated Friend's Central 3-0. They have advanced to the semifinal rebound of league conference play. They are currently ranked first in the league and second in the state.

On Friday, November 22nd, the West High School PlayVS/PSEL Super Smash Brothers Blue Team composed of Joe Kulick, Logan Denmon, and Te'Jon Stewart defeated Nazareth 3-0. The team has advanced to the quarterfinals in PlayVS/PSEL State Competition. They are currently ranked fifth in the PlayVS/PSEL State competition.

West HS Pancake Breakfast: Pocono Mountain West High School Student Council will be holding its 21st annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 14th, from 8 a.m. to noon in the West High School Cafeteria. Pancakes, bacon, sausage, hash browns, drinks, and more will be served. There will be craft activities and games for the kids in the Kids' Corner and also pictures with the Panther and Santa. The cost is \$8 when purchased from a Student Council member or at the door. The cost is \$8, plus applicable fees when purchased online. All proceeds benefit families in need from the West High School during the holiday season. The Student Council plans to support at least 4 families this year. For more information, please contact Ms. Jennifer Paul, Student Council Advisor, at jpaul@pmsd.org

PMSD Clothing Drive: The district is holding a fall clothing drive to collect used clothing and other items to raise funds to support the school standardized dress clothing closets. Bags of donated items can be dropped off at our schools during the week of December 3rd through December 6th, or during Community Drop Off at the PMSD Administrative Building on December 10th from 4 to 6 p.m.