

JUNE 2014

BSU Mural Project

It was the idea of sophomore Leeanna Strond, art director for the Black Student Union, back in March of this year to design a mural for the school as a gift from this year's BSU. The original concept was to have the painting adorn the outside of the building, in front of the courtyard on the Ellis Lane side of the building. After much deliberation, planning and consulting, it was decided that the mural would be done on the inside of the building in one of the two main corridors upon entering the building.

Together with the help of BSU officers Brooklynn Woods and Aiza McCollum, a proposal was drafted to present to Principal Kevin Fagan. The project endured many revisions but the final version was approved by Mr. Fagan in late April. The image depicts an urban city-scape with the letters BSU super imposed and literally bursting through the buildings in a 3D effect. By Mid-May the mural was taking shape with the team of BSU members Leeanna Strond, (sophomore), Brooklynn Woods (senior) and Azyana "Star" Hardeman (junior) unifying their artistic vision. The next time you're in our building, you are invited to enjoy the skills and artistry of our talented BSU members. This creative work of art will be a continuing legacy from the BSU to be enjoyed by all.

Bernard Harris, Jr. BSU Advisor



Project Helios Balloon Launch

Led by Physics teacher, Ron Pedelty, a dozen EHS students hit the road on Saturday, May 31st, headed for an open field in Gettysburg, the designated launch site for the Project Helios balloon launch. After arriving shortly after 6 A.M., Mr. Pedelty, the students, and parents, assembled the instruments, cameras, and tracking electronics. By 7 A.M., they started to inflate the balloon, which grew to over 6 feet in diameter before it was determined that it had enough lift for the equipment. Although the balloon is very fragile (designed to burst when it reaches maximum altitude), the package lifted off successfully shortly after 8:00.

The test balloons and computer simulations predicted that the balloon would be carried south, over Washington D.C., which, in fact, by about 11 A.M., it did. A map of the flight path is shown below. The group followed it into Maryland, where it finally settled in the top of a very tall tree in the woods on private property.

Although the GPS tracker continues to provide updates from the top of the tree, there's really no way to retrieve the box until it decides to fall on its own. That could be days from now, or years. In any case, it has already been an exciting and educational experience for all of the students and parents involved. Once the data is retrieved, Mr. Pedelty and students will put together a presentation of their adventures and the videos and data from space.

Mr. Pedelty would like to thank all for your interest and support of Project Helios, and would especially like to thank Paul Joyce, who first conceived of the project and secured the generous grant, Mike Masha, who supplied the much-needed helium (and a lot of it!), and the parents who helped out with the driving and tracking.



Academic Team Success at Nationals

The Varsity and JV Academic Teams had a successful weekend at the National Competition in Alexandria, VA this past weekend! Our teams competed in a field of about 50 teams from all over the US and Canada.

The Varsity team tied for 3rd place with a record of 8-1; their only loss came in the semi-final round to the eventual winner, Horace Greeley from New York.

The JV team came in second after losing a very close match in the finals to Briarcliff. Their overall record was 6-2.



Sophomore Student an Accomplished Equestrian

updated 6/2 - Emily rode in the Locals Division at Devon, a mixed division of teenagers and adults. She received a 1st place champion ribbon along with placing 3rd, 5th, and 8th out of 35 riders in her division group. She qualified for the Working Hunter-Fox Hunter Performance Division and out of 12 competitors, placed 3rd. Her horse also received The Best Mover Award out of both Local Division groups of 70 riders.

Emily Von Urff competes in horse riding competitions around the country. She won champion in Zone 2, as part of the USEF/ USHJA yearly 2013 finals. There are 12 Zones in the United States, each with approximately 10 riding divisions. In 2013, Emily won champion in the Children's Hunter 14 and Under Division. At Horse Shows in the Sun (HITS), a national show held this past winter, she placed in the top 4 out of 13 riders for her first week, top 7 out of 29 riders her second week, and top 5th out of 18 riders, with a first place in her Handy class, in her third week. Emily will be competing at the Devon Horse Show for her fourth year in the Locals Division, a mixed division of children and adults.



MAY 2014

Student to Perform Solo Cello Concert at Carnegie Hall

On February 23rd, Alex Chen auditioned for the Golden Key Music Festival. Golden Key is an international competition that is divided up into a United States competition and a Vienna, or European, Competition. The United States Festival was established in 2002 and features applicants from all around the nation as well as the neighboring countries. The judges range from music educators and performers from prestigious music colleges around the world, such as Rachmaninov State Conservatory in Russia, Academy of Music in Wroclaw, Shanghai Conservatory in China, Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard School in New York. Alex auditioned with Saint-Saens' *Allegro Appassionato*. The competition was divided into seven age groups and he won as the youngest in his age group, 16 -18. He won gold prize and will perform a solo cello concert at Carnegie Hall this evening as part of the winner's recital.

2010 Graduate Works as White House Intern

Kaelyn Lynch, a senior at American University (Washington, DC), grew up in West Chester and graduated from East High School in 2010. As a Marketing major, Kaelyn has worked on several political campaigns and interned at two non-profit organizations, including The Hickman in West Chester, PA. For the past two summer breaks, she has also worked for the West Goshen Recreation and Parks program as Head Counselor, and will be returning this summer.

As a White House Intern, Kaelyn is working in Correspondence in the Office of the First Lady.

The mission of the internship program is to make the White House accessible to future leaders around the nation and to prepare those devoted to public service for future leadership opportunities.

The White House Internship provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. Interns have an opportunity to work in one of several white House departments, including the Domestic Policy Council, the National Economic Council, the Office of Cabinet Affairs, the Office of Communications, the Office of Digital Strategy, the Office of the First Lady, the Office of Legislative Affairs, the Office of Management and Administration, the Office of Presidential Correspondence, the Office of Presidential Personnel, the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Office of Scheduling and Advance, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of the White House Counsel, and the Office of White House Fellows.

Governor's Award for Excellence in Academics

East was recognized for its School Performance Profile score, which was a 91.1, placing it in the top tier in terms of high school scores in the state of Pennsylvania.



3rd Annual Mothers' Day Poetry Contest

The 3rd annual W.C. East High School Mothers' Day Poetry Contest winners from left to right (front row) Honorable Mention for her poem entitled, "My Inspiration", Jessica Wollum '15. 1st Place Winner and recipient of \$100 cash prize for her poem entitled, "Your Mom", Aiza McCollum '14. 2nd Place Winner and recipient of \$50 cash prize for her poem entitled, "Independence Day", Maya Smith, '15. Back row, left to right, Assistant Principal Maureen Wallace. 3rd Place Winner and recipient of \$25 cash prize for his poem entitled, "Mothers' Day Poem", Zachary Casey, '15. Honorable Mention for his poem entitled, "Moon", Alexander Feinberg, '14. Contest coordinator Bernard Harris, Jr.



Students Recognized as "Vikings with Pride"

The **Viking with Pride Award**, sponsored by the East PTO, is intended to recognize students of East HS who exhibit dramatic personal, civic or scholastic growth and/or demonstrate the ideals of East High School by making an important contribution to the school and/or the community to the best of his/her ability. This award provides a forum for recognizing behavior that exemplifies the 'spirit' of East HS ideals.





Student Wins at World Irish Dancing Competitions

9th grade student, Maiti Clark, recently competed in Germany in two different Irish Dance Competitions. She finished 1st place in the WIDA (World Irish Dance Association) World Championships and 4th place in the WIDA European Championships.



East DECA makes it count in Atlanta

The East DECA students have returned from the international conference in Atlanta with 5 finalists, 1 high test score medal and 11 students reaching competency level (the top 30% in their category). Each student competed against 200 students in their category.

Finalists:

Jane Buckley and Taylor Judge – Business Law and Ethics Team Event

AnnMarie McAlinney and Katie Vandergast – Entrepreneurship Written Event (30 page paper and presentation)

Naomi Vora- Hotel and Lodging Event

High Test Score:

Akhil Chittajalu- Financial Team Event

Competency Level:

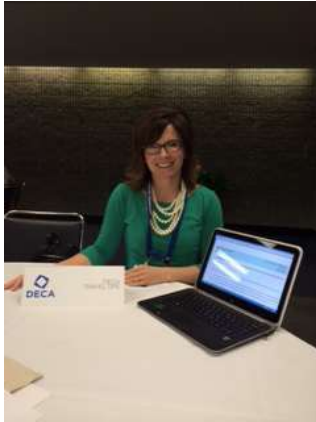
Zach Casey and Eddie Fordyce- Buying and Merchandising Team Event

Jack Keenan and Mike Sabrick – International Business Plan

Akhil Chittajalu and Nate Hochstetler – Financial Team Event

Brennen Tate and Andrew Murphy – Financial Team Event

Michel Bentley (9th)- Principles of Business Management
Lucy Sumner (9th) – Principles of Marketing
Kevin Hoffman (11th)- Accounting



Student Wins Culinary Competition and Scholarship

Senior Scott Pillagalli placed 1st in the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College's Culinary Competition held Saturday, May 3rd. His winning dish, pictured here, earned him a \$6,000 scholarship to the school. Congratulations, Scott!



APRIL 2014

DECA Students Volunteer at YMCA Day

On Saturday April 26th, East High School DECA students volunteered at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day held at EHS. The students assisted with yard games, removable tattoos and a healthy snack bar. The event was a dual winner; East DECA was happy to provide volunteers for the

day and the students demonstrated the community service mission of national DECA. Thank you student volunteers.



Cappies Award Nominations

The following students have received a nomination for a Cappies Award for their part in East's Theatre Company:

Noah Newton – nominated for Best Lead Actor in a musical (“Guys and Dolls”)

Karalyn Berman – nominated for Best Individual Critic

And, the nomination for Best Dance Ensemble goes to Colin Crabtree, Noah Hertzler, Tommy Iacono, Philip Mathew, Noah Newton, Carter Persson, JT Quartermus, JV Saddic, Tim Schallack, George Shafer, Brandon Thompson and Danny Vagnoni for *The Crapshooters* Dance in “Guys and Dolls”.

The Cappies Organization is a nationwide learning program for theatre and journalism students. The students are trained as theatre critics and organized into critic teams who then attend other schools' plays and musicals and write reviews on the performances. The Cappies Gala will take place on May 10th. Stay tuned to hear if any of these fine students actually take the win.

Kendra Werner

National Latin Exam Results

The following students at East received awards on the National Latin Exam given in March:

Latin I

Kathryn Berman - Gold Medal and Summa Cum Laude Certificate

Nicole Ruggiero - Magna Cum Laude Certificate

Ron Finch - Magna Cum Laude Certificate

Senior Strings Ensemble Accolades

Please help me to congratulate the 2014 West Chester Senior Strings Ensemble, for their success

at the 2014 Carowinds Music Festival, in Charlotte, NC. They received a Superior Rating and straight A+ scores in every adjudicated category, from all three judges.

Since we were the last group to perform, I had the opportunity to talk to the judges, and each of them couldn't have said enough nice things to say about how well behaved they were and how nearly flawless their performance was.

Charles dePasquale
West Chester East HS & Senior Strings Orchestra Director

Math Competition Results

Just in....the results from the Purple Comet international online math competition Gifted students participated in earlier this month. East received **2nd place** for high schools of 1200 + enrollment in the state of Pennsylvania, with 18 teams participating in that category. We also placed **3rd overall** in PA high schools out of 36 teams.

MARCH 2014

ACE Award

Taylor Kulp (12th) is this year's recipient of the ACE Award sponsored by the Exchange Club of West Chester, PA. A.C.E. stands for Accepting the Challenge of Excellence. This program recognizes high school students who have made a dramatic change in their attitude and performance during their high school years. These changes have enabled the students to overcome adversities and prepare for graduation.

Taylor was awarded with a plaque and a \$200 scholarship at last week's meeting. She has also been chosen by the Exchange Club to move ahead to the district competition where she may have the opportunity to compete for the National A.C.E. Award.



Pictured (L to R)

Bill Camlin, Exchange Club/Taylor Kulp/Heather Gallo, Guidance Counselor
Cindy Kulp/ Lindsay Kulp/Taylor Kulp/Joe Kulp

Leadership Award

Congratulations to Shea McDonald, a recipient of the [Widener University/NBC 10 High School Leadership Award](#), the ceremony for which was held at the Constitution Center on Thursday, March 20th. Pictured with Shea are Dr. James T. Harris of Widener University and Tim Furlong, News Anchor NBC 10.



Winter Clothing Drive - In February, the WC Harry Potter Alliance organized a winter clothing drive to benefit the homeless in Chester County. The project was inspired by the Disney movie *Frozen*, where a kingdom becomes buried under an eternal winter and the people do not have access to a lot of winter clothing. Since West Chester experienced the same frozen and snowy conditions during this year's winter, the members thought it would be appropriate to collect winter clothes for those in need. The group collected a full box of coats, hats, scarves, and gloves that are in the process of being delivered to local shelters.



All-State Musician

Sophomore Matthew Hontz advanced to the All-State wind ensemble, which will perform along with the other all-state ensembles at the PMEA All-State Convention taking place at Hershey at the end of this month, March 26-29. Matt successfully re-auditioned and participated at the Region 6 band festival this past weekend at Unionville and placed first chair on French horn. He is the third Hontz brother to advance to all-state as a sophomore!

PA State History Bowl and Bee Competition

On Saturday, March 15th, three EHS students travelled with teacher Tracy Heim to the PA State History Bowl and Bee Competition held at Manheim Township High School.

The History Bowl is a team competition. We entered the varsity competition with the three man team of:

Joe Mariani (grade 11)
Kevin Diestelow (grade 9)
Edan Mobed (grade 9)

In the entire day of competition, they only lost one match (by 10 points to Phoenixville) in the morning rounds. They went into the afternoon rounds seeded #3. They defeated Great Valley in the Quarterfinals, Phoenixville in the Semi-Finals, and Henderson in the Finals to WIN the State Championship History Bowl Title!

In between rounds, all three young men competed in the History Bee which is an individual competition. Both of the freshmen did great but did not make it into the final rounds. Joe competed in the 11-12 division, had great preliminary scores and so made it into the finals which he WON !! This is Joe' second Bee championship; he won the 9-10 Championship when he was in 9th grade!

Please congratulate Joe, Kevin, and Edan when you see them on a fantastic performance at a very competitive event.

Senior Nina Mazzarelli Receives "Empowered Young Woman Award"

The Chester County Commission "Enhancing Opportunities for Chester County Women" held their annual banquet Celebrating Chester County Women on March 10, 2014. The commissioners awarded Nina Mazzarelli, a WC East senior the "Empowered Young Woman Award". This award recognizes young women (ages 14 to 21) who are inspirational role models for girls in Chester County, are good students and leaders in their schools, provide active service in their communities, and are striving to achieve their potential.



Science Bowl

The WC East HS Science team competed on Feb 22nd in the Regional Science Bowl competition at the Dept of Energy Plasma Research facility in Princeton, NJ. The East team won 3 of it 5 meets, losing in the last meet by a fraction of a second. Team members participating in the event were, left to right, Jr. Charles Porter and Srs. Nitin Vaduthala, team captain, Michael Lin, Karolyn Berman and Katie Patton.



Physics Olympics Results

Congratulations to the East Physics Olympics team for a strong showing in the final meet of the season this weekend. Special congratulations go to Nitin Vudathala and Liam Clark for a first place finish in the Electric Car Bowling event and to the entire team for beating out 9 other schools, including Henderson, in the contemporary events competition. The Physics Olympics team looks forward to an even stronger season next year!

East DECA Hershey Results

East DECA must have liked the slogan this year; "Go for Gold!" We came back with 28 students placing for the international competition in Atlanta, Georgia, 9 finalist in their categories (top 6 places), 22 top role play medals, 8 top test score medals, 4 perfect role play scores, 7 first place winners, 11 second place winners and 14 third place winners! Mrs. Minshall and I are very impressed. In addition to the student winners our three state officers; Dave Drennan, president, Jane Buckley, Vice President, and Anna Brennan, District 9 Representative did a fabulous job running the conference. A special congratulations to Julia Sabrick who won the position on the PA DECA state executive council for the 2014-15 school year.

As you can imagine, traveling with 149 high school students is like a troop movement. Mrs. Minshall and I were thrilled with the behavior of the students from the luggage check, to Chocolate World, to the grocery store and the conference. It is wonderful to win awards, but to take this many students on a 3 day trip and have no behavior issues speaks volumes about our students and their families. Thank you all for making this trip a success.

-Carol Lill, DECA Advisor

Academic Team Wins Quiz Bowl

Congratulations to the Academic Team on their victory on Saturday, March 1st at the Conestoga Valley High School Quiz Bowl!

The team of Rohit Goyal, Kevin Diestelow, Logan Castrucci and Joe Mariani, (pictured with advisor Tracy Heim) was the #1 seed going into the final rounds following their five wins in the morning rounds. After defeating Lampeter-Strausburg in the Sweet 16 Round, Hempfield in the Elite 8 Round, and Cedar Crest B in the Final 4 Round, East defeated the host school, Conestoga Valley in the Final Round, 140-60.

You can read about the match in this article from Lancaster Online:

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/west-chester-east-trumps-conestoga-valley-in-quiz-bowl-tourney/article_1353de14-a08f-11e3-9a49-001a4bcf6878.html

The West Chester East B team also had a good showing, going 3 and 2 in the morning rounds to be seeded #13 in the afternoon final rounds. Unfortunately they lost in the Sweet 16 Round to Cedar Crest B.

The plaque will be engraved with our school name and will be sent to us to display for the following year. The last time we won this tournament was in 2006.

If you want to test yourself, go to this site where you will find five of the questions that were in the Final Round. East correctly answered #s 1, 2, 3 and 5 which helped them take the lead; Conestoga Valley answered #4 correctly.

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/teenagers-knew-the-answer-to-these-quiz-bowl-questions-do/article_4d330372-a18d-11e3-b01b-0017a43b2370.html



EHS Seniors Promote *Guys and Dolls* on February 26th WCHE Radio Broadcast

Roza Melkumyan and Noah Newton are pictured with station manager, Bill Mason and the host of the Morning Magazine, Doug Stirling. Noah and Roza were interviewed and also got to sing the finale at the conclusion of the interview.



Congratulations to our National Merit Finalists

Pictured with Mr. Fagan, from left to right are:

Allison Miller, Christopher Cummings, Akhil Chittajallu, and Katherine Patton

Click [here](#) to read the article on the district web site.

