

Portage Area Hilltop

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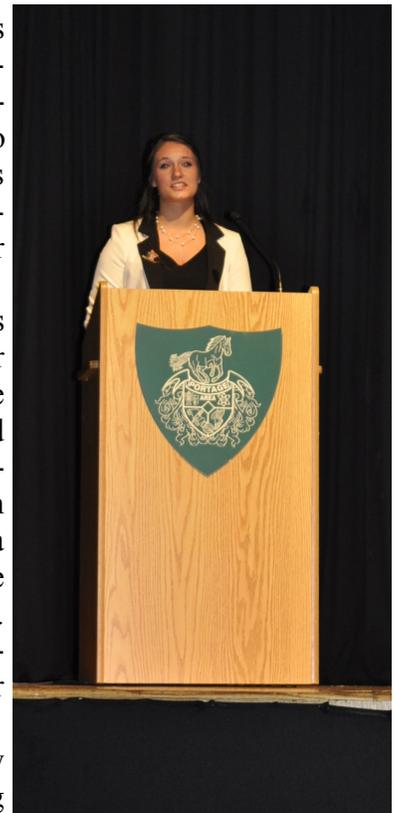
Veteran's Day Respect

By: Katie Nolan

Every year the Portage Area Jr. - Sr. High School hosts a Veteran's Day program the day before Veteran's Day. This year's Veteran's Day program was held on Tuesday, November 10th, 2015. Veteran's Day is an official United States holiday that is annually recognized on November 11th to honor those who have served in the United States Armed Forces, known as our veterans. Veteran's Day is often confused with Memorial Day, but Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who gave their lives for the protection of our country while in service.

The program our school hosts consists of multiple activities throughout the program. We are lucky enough to actually have some of our local veterans come and take part in our program. They follow the same routine each year. They enter the auditorium together carrying flags and then place them on stage, known as the Presentation of Colors. The program begins with the singing of the National Anthem. This year's program was the senior project of Alli Kissell who then opened the program with a few words. Following Alli, Mr. Cecere and Mr. Zelenko presented some short remarks. Following those speeches, three sophomores chosen by Mr. Burkett and Mr. Kassick, Abby Thomas, Alexis Rummel, and Kasey Chobay, gave a speech on Veteran's Day, their experiences as family member of a veteran, etc.

Following the students' speeches, a couple of veterans had a few things to say about their time serving and thanked our school for hosting the program. Our school's chorus then sang a medley of songs representing the branches of the Armed Forces. At the conclusion of the program, the veterans present took part in the *21 Gun Salute* followed by the playing of "*Taps*" and the Retiring of Colors. Our school then invited the Veteran's to join our students for a complimentary lunch as a thank you for their time in service.



Cambria County Choral Showcase

By: Taylor McCloskey

This past Thursday, November 12th, Forest Hills Middle School's Mr. Philip Parlock II, hosted the Cambria County Chorus Concert. The students selected practiced all day until the performance time began at 7:30 pm. Members were represented from the following schools: Cambria Heights School District, Cathedral Catholic, Conemaugh Valley Elementary, Conemaugh Valley School District, Ferndale School District, Forest Hills Elementary, Forest Hills Middle, Greater Johnstown School District, Our Mother of Sorrows, Penn Cambria Middle and High School, Portage School District, Richland School District, St. Benedict School District, St. Sophia School District, and Westmont Hilltop.

Mr. Parlock, the host of Cambria County Chorus this year, is in his 6th year at Forest Hills Middle and High Schools where he teaches 3 choruses in addition to the students' quartets and music classes. He is also the director of the Somerset Roof Garden Chorus, a men's barbershop choral group. Before teaching at Forest Hills, he taught in Galax, Virginia, for 3 years. Parlock also writes and arranges music.

14 of our districts students, 10 in the High School and 4 in the Elementary, were involved and performed that day in the group. Those students were Sierra Crum, Emma Kissell, Olivia Kissell, Hannah Papcun, Emily Canavan, Lakin Philips, Jenna Teno, Austin Vara, Hank Litzinger, Cody Trusik, Rachel Chobany, Kayley Sossong, and Lane Macy. At the concert there were twelve songs performed. The first half was performed by the 6th and 7th grade chorus. The second half was performed by the 8th and 9th grade chorus. The Forest Hills School District wants to thank you for supporting music in all of the schools. Music is a passion of these students, enriching lives and shaping their character.

Accounting Students Visit St. Francis

By: Elona Krcihsta

On Friday the 23rd of October, 2015 Mrs. Gribbin, the accounting teacher, and 10 students in the class took a career field trip to Saint Francis University for some accounting facts and information to learn. Students who went included: Kacie Baker, Elona Krcishta, Ben Herman, Evan Gruss, Alexa Lavery, Bennett Falvo, Sebastian Hochrein, Alyssa Seaman, Luke Dividock, and Courtney Harbaugh. For the field trip, the students dressed their best to visit the Saint Francis campus for this opportunity to have a few members of the faculty and even some students talk with the visitors that came and want to pursue a career in accounting.

The day started with students leaving the school at 8:30 in the morning and arriving around 9:00 to Saint Francis for registration. The day continued with a "Welcome Video" which lasted about 15 minutes telling the students from different schools about accounting and how it works. The first morning speaker was Dr. James Logue who spoke about his journey of how he got into accounting and even a little bit about his children and how they have been interested with and pursued careers for themselves into the field of accounting.

Next, students had a program of different speakers in rotation, which included: Alishia Martz, *Department of Revenue*; Steve Marsh, *Catanese Group*; Laura Fiore, *Ameriserv Financial*; and the end with 5 currently enrolled students who were attending Saint Francis University.

The day started to wind down after this as all of the students had lunch with each other in the student union.

Lastly there was a Financial Literacy Presentation to end the day. Mrs. Gribbin commented, "It was the first time for Portage students to visit the campus of Saint Francis for accounting and the majority of the students found it an enjoyable learning experience." It was an educational trip for all!

Bus, Berlin on Fire

By: Hannah Shaffer

The Westpac championship against Berlin was delayed an hour Friday November 6th due to a fire developing while the charter bus was carrying the football team. The bus first blew a tire and then caught fire; it was carrying around 50 people including coaches, players, and staff. Thankfully, everyone evacuated the bus without harm.

A second bus owned by Berlin picked up the team and took them safely to the Snyder of Berlin Complex from the stop on Route 219. The complex was located about 5 miles away from the accident. First responders to the scene were the Pennsylvania State Police followed by the Berlin fire department and other local assistance. The issue of actually playing the game was thoroughly discussed by coaches, administration and game officials. The main concern, however, was everyone's safety. There were no injuries reported of the players, coaches, or staff.

There was also the concern of their equipment including football helmets, shoulder pads and uniforms; once they determined that everything had survived and nothing was damaged, they decided to play the game.

The fire started off small, but it eventually kept getting bigger and covered much of the entire driver side of the bus. The accident caused a lot of traffic backup on Plank Road.



Once everything became situated and settled, the game was pushed back an hour from original start time.

Portage Area School District thanks the Berlin fire department, Pennsylvania State Police, Berlin Coaches and Boosters, and everyone else who responded to the scene of the accident and helped in any way. Also Berlin transportation for assisting the Portage players and coaches.

Rough Night for Portage

By: Elliott Vassas



Fans had to wait an extra hour for the game to start due to the Portage charter bus blowing a tire and catching on fire. Portage took on Berlin in the WestPAC championship game Friday night, November 6th. The boys did not even know if they would be playing, if their equipment was damaged, or even on fire. All players and coaches made it out of the bus safely and the game was able to be played with a kickoff at 8:00 p.m. instead of the original start time of 7:00. Portage moved the ball for six plays before fumbling the ball to Berlin, and it only took the Mountaineers 4 plays to capitalize. Brenston Harding completed a 61-yard touchdown pass to Cole Booth, making the

score 7-0. After a second Berlin touchdown, Brenston Harding picked off a pass by Mustangs quarterback Luke Dividock after a long drive and ran it back 92 yards for a touchdown. The extra point kick was good for a 23-0 lead at halftime. Braden Fochtman opened the second half from the first play from scrimmage with a 46-yard touchdown. The Mustangs scored a quick touchdown as Breadon St. Clair shook off a tackle and rushed for 85 yards to make the score 30-6. The Mustangs attempted the two point conversion but the extra point was no good leaving the score at 30-6. Unfortunately, the Mustangs couldn't muster any more scores and the Berlin offense was clicking. Braden Fochtman added another scoring run in the third quarter and scored one last time in the fourth quarter for the Mountaineers, making the final score 51-6.

Richardson's Reflections

By: Alexis Richardson

Ms. Dobrowolsky

Q: If you could have personally witnessed anything in life, what would you want to have seen?

A: "Bill Mazeroski's walk off homerun in game 7 of the 1960 World Series"

Q: What keys on a keyboard do you not use?

A: "F1- F12"

Q: Who is your favorite character in "The Count of Monte Cristo"? Why?

A: "It's a tie between Jacopo and Luigi Vampa. They're funny and loyal"

Q: What is your least favorite word?

A: "Pegasus"

Q: What have you always wanted? Did you ever get it?

A: "Yes. To live in Alaska for a summer"

Mr. Gorba

Q: What is the best compliment you have received?

A: "When students go out and do well in science"

Q: Would you ever go golfing with Tiger Woods? Why or why not?

A: "I would for sure. He's one of my favorite golfers. Probably the best of all time"

Q: What cheers you up?

A: "Fishing"

Q: If you could be any age for a week, what age would that be?

A: "25"

Q: Students call you the wizard. Why do they call you the wizard?

A: "I don't know. Maybe it's because I know a lot about science"

Portage Places 2nd

By: Braedon St.Clair

Recently three Portage Area High School students accompanied Mrs. Williams to the old Glosser Building in downtown Johnstown to participate in a window painting contest. The contest is sponsored by the Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership. The Portage window display placed 2nd overall in the contest. They received a \$100 prize while 1st place received \$150 and third received \$50.

Mrs. Williams, Mikayla Klein, Mikayla Klock, and Alexis Rummel made the trip to Johnstown to compete during the school day on October 15th. The opposing schools were Forest Hills, Westmont, Johnstown, and Richland.

This years' theme for the Portage window was the *Addam's Family*, focusing on one of the main characters, Wednesday, along with Gomez and Morticia Addams. When asked about some of the struggles of the contest and its preparation, Klein said "The paint became really flaky as it dried." "This caused it to fall off. To fix it we had to mix the paint with soap."

Apart from the challenges they faced, the competition was a success and was a fun time for the students.

"I had a lot of fun, and I think the students really enjoyed themselves." said Mrs. Williams. The results from the competition came in last week mid-week. The painting will be up on display until the end of this week, so stop by and check out the great painting that all of these students worked hard on and earned the second place prize for.

Thank You !!

From the Journalism Department

By: Emily Niper

As part of the Journalism Department, I would like to say thank you to anyone who participated in the New Choice fundraiser. This was the highest number of sellers and items sold in the 9 year history of the sale. There were 53 participants, and they sold a combined 508 items, averaging about 9 items a person. 23 students qualified for a completely free yearbook and 13 students received at least half off a yearbook.

Because you sold so many items, the journalism department earned \$1.25 profit on top of \$5.00 per item credit that each student received. The fundraiser started September 23rd and ended on October 7th. The items were dropped off at the high school cafeteria on November 5th. The students or guardians were able to come at the end of the school day to pick up their order. There was such an overwhelming response for Oreo Churros that there was a back order on them and they arrived this week.

We had 50 participants and sold 471 items last year, 2014. The year before 2013, we had 30 participants. Our goal is that each year we have more people who chose to sell items toward a yearbook to either get a free yearbook or a discounted yearbook. If you wait till the end of the year or after the fundraiser, the price of the book along with its add-ons (personalization, icons etc) increases, so you won't be able to get as much of a discount on the yearbook. If you bought a yearbook before November 6th you were able to get it at the lowest price of the year.

Anyone still wishing to purchase a book may stop in to see Mr. Kassick in room 121, see a journalism student, or go to www.jostensyearbooks.com.

Thanksgiving Family Time

By: Courtland Corrente

Last year, multiple stores opened their doors on Thanksgiving Day. This resulted in many people departing from their traditional family dinners in order to buy items which they probably don't need. The meaning of Thanksgiving simply became "buy stuff". Thanksgiving is a time for families to come together and enjoy a relaxing day while remembering everything they are thankful for. This was the complete opposite for some people last year, and stores are beginning to realize it.

The reaction started with a store called REI, who claimed that they will not only be closed on Thanksgiving, but also on Black Friday. This was a shocker to most people, but it was a good one. They are sending a message to a mass amount of people that buying items (most of which you probably don't need) should not be the main priority of the holidays. People hopped on board with their reasoning and huge retailers are changing their hours from last year. They got the message that Black Friday sales were ruining the meaning of the holiday, and they are willing to change that.

Instead of opening on Thanksgiving Day (last year, some opened as early as 6pm), they are waiting until the holiday is officially over and opening on the day that was named after their sales. Several of the stores that refuse to open on Thanksgiving Day are listed here.

Staples
 Gamestop
 Costco
 BJ's
 Nordstrom
 T.J. Maxx
 Marshalls
 Home Goods
 Sam's Club
 Von Maur
 Mattress Firm
 Home Depot
 Barnes and Noble
 DSW
 Pier 1 Imports



Portage Gossard's Grub

By: Max Gossard

Hash Brown Casserole

Hash Brown Ingredients:

- 1 package of shredded hash browns
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups of grated cheddar cheese
- ¾ cup of sour cream
- ¼ cup of chopped onion
- ¼ cup of melted butter

Topping ingredients:

- 1 ½ cup of crushed Ritz crackers
- 2 tablespoons of melted butter

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Combine all hash brown ingredients in a large bowl
3. Grease a 2 quart glass baking dish and spread hash browns in the dish
4. In a small frying pan add the butter and crackers and toast the crackers
5. Spread toasted crackers onto the hash browns
6. Place dish in the oven and bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour
7. Let cool and enjoy!



Palate

Guest Chef:

Mrs. Bednarski

PEANUT BUTTER

MELTAWAY FUDGE

Ingredients:

- 1 Bag of Milk Chocolate Discs
- 1 Bag of Vanilla Discs
- 18oz Peanut Butter

1. Combine Discs
2. Melt in microwave for about 2 -2 ½ minutes.
3. stir.
4. After melted, add 18oz (about 1 ½ cups or so) of peanut butter and stir well.

OR

1. Pour into pan.
2. Refrigerate about 20 – 25 minutes until set.
3. Cut into serving pieces. **Be sure not to let it stand too long or it will be hard to cut.

OR

1. Scoop chocolate mixture into muffin tins lined with paper liners. (about 36)
Refrigerate.

OR

1. Pour into candy molds.

Challenge Program

By: Sumer Slebodnick



On Friday, October 30th, students from grades 10-12 attended the annual Challenge Program assembly. At this assembly students watched a skit performed by six seniors to demonstrate each of the categories that the Challenge Program awards students for accomplishments. The seniors chosen to perform the skit were Katie Nolan, Evan Gruss, Anthony Akins, Allison Cervensky, Kacie Baker, and Luke Dividock. The categories that were demonstrated in the skit were community service, academic improvement, STEM, attendance, and academic excellence. In these skits, the seniors acted out a scenario where they

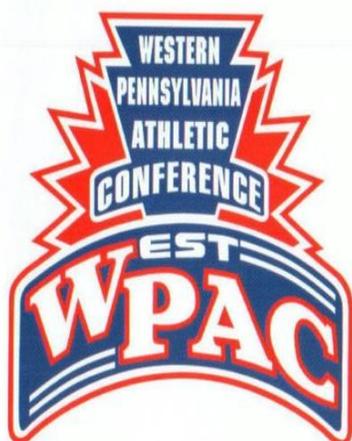
were planning a company picnic and had to overcome some challenges.

The Challenge Program’s goal is to help students to excel not only in the academic fields, but also throughout the community. They help students to excel in these areas by awarding \$200 to five students in grades eleven and twelve that meet the requirements for each category. The students are chosen by qualifying in the top 10% of each category then randomly selected from that 10%.

The community service award is given to a student who has shown exceptional community service. The STEM award is given to a student who shows excellence in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. The most improved award is given to a student who shows that they have improved greatly in academics in the past year. The attendance award is given to a student who has not missed any school or who has missed the least amount of school. Finally, the academic excellence award is given to a student who goes above and beyond in the classroom.

The students that won these awards this past year were Alli Kissell and Courtland Corrente for community service, Anthony Akins and Paige Burda for academic improvement, Brady Ratosky and Abby Chobany for STEM, Ben Herman and Jordan Beyer for attendance, and Jenna Yetsko and Nicole Coukart for academic excellence.

Final WestPAC Football Standings



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.  | 6.  |
| 2.  | 7.  |
| 3.  | 8.  |
| 4.  | 9.  |
| 5.  | 10.  |

PIAA District 6 Class A Football Playoffs

- | | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Guilfoyle  | vs. |  Portage |
| Mo Valley  | vs. |  P. Manor |

PIAA District 6 Class AA Football Playoffs

- | | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Central  | vs. |  Ligonier |
| Tyrone  | vs. |  Juniata |