



# East Allegheny School District

# Community Connection

SPRING 2015

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### East Allegheny Schools

#### Green Valley Primary School

3290 Crestview Drive  
North Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412-673-9737

#### Logan Middle School

1154 Jacks Run Road  
North Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412-824-6053

#### East Allegheny High School

1150 Jacks Run Road  
North Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412-824-9700

## Superintendents Message

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

On behalf of the entire administration, congratulations to the Class of 2015! We are all very proud of you and wish you nothing but the best in the future.

As you are aware, I am finishing up my career and will be retiring in June. I have enjoyed my 20 years at East Allegheny School District and am proud of our accomplishments over the years. Going forward, I congratulate Mr. Don Mac Fann as he takes over the reins of running the District and am confident that you will give him the same cooperation and support you have given to me throughout my stay at East Allegheny. He is the right person for the job and his forward-thinking will help the District move onward.

We continue to work to provide the utmost in safety for both our stu-

dents and staff. We just implemented the Raptor Visitor Management System where each visitor must show a photo ID to our security guard. From there, the visitor badge will be printed. We believe this will be beneficial for increasing the security in our buildings.

Additionally, the Board has voted to consolidate the District's buildings. This will not only save the district a substantial amount of money, but it will allow for a better educational program for our students. Logan Middle School is a new building that has more technology than the Green Valley School. Our students will benefit from the increase in collaboration opportunities that our teachers will enjoy by being in the same building. The transition from third grade to fourth will be easier with those grades already in the same school. It will make for a busy summer, but we believe this is in the best interests of both our students and the

District as a whole.

We encourage you to keep abreast of district news and events by visiting our website, [www.eawildcats.net](http://www.eawildcats.net).

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to teach your children and help them to grow each and every day.

I would also like to thank you for your support and the support of the East Allegheny Board of School Directors, administration and entire staff over the course of my career here at East Allegheny School District. I will miss EA and the many people that I have worked with. Best of luck to each and every one of you and to the East Allegheny School District.

**Roger A. D'Emidio**

**Superintendent**

## “School Board President’s Corner”

On behalf of the East Allegheny Board of School Directors, I congratulate the **Class of 2015!**

The school board, administration, faculty and staff are very proud of you and wish you nothing but the best in your future.

Thank you to the parents and students for your patience during the challenges of this school year. With just a few weeks left in the 2015-2016 school year, with commitment and resolve, we can complete the fine work we began in September and continued throughout the year, even with the challenges we faced.

Please know that the District is doing everything we can to resolve the contract issue without raising taxes.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer.

**Mrs. Gerri McCullough**

**President; East Allegheny Board of School Directors**

# EAHS Student Recognition

By: Sarah Pais

## EAHS Art Show Winners

**Best Portrait:**  
Kasey Neiderlander  
**Best Sculpture:**  
Cheyanne Skinner  
**Best Watercolor Painting:**  
Shannon Nelis  
**Best Acrylic Painting:**  
Maria Sanchez  
**Best Treasure Box:**  
Khang Nguyen

**Best Pastel:**  
Wesley Watson  
**Best Needlework:**  
Mylee Pugliano & Abi Petrocelli  
**Best Crafting:**  
Abi Petrocelli  
**Best Carpentry:**  
Jonathon Richmond



**Best in Show and Best Cartoon:**  
Jacob Schwer for his cartoon drawing of the Joker

**"You are Above Me"**  
Victoria Parker  
Chosen by Jury to be shown in the Manchester Invitational Art Show

**"Good Evening Clarice"**  
Shannon Nelis  
Honorable Mention at the 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Pennsylvania High School Art Competition

### Art Scholarships

Kasey Neiderlander : \$25,000 Art Institute of Pittsburgh Scholarship  
Sarah Cornell: \$10,000 Art Institute of Pittsburgh Scholarship  
Shannon Nelis: \$5,000 Art Institute of Pittsburgh Scholarship  
Brooke Taylor: \$500.00 college of her choice from Eleanor Friedberg Art Scholarship  
Maria Sanchez: \$250.00 cash prize from Eleanor Friedberg Family Media Awards.  
Mylisa Fisher and Erin Kendall: runners up West Virginia University Full Scholarship Award.  
EAHS students won cash awards totaling over \$40,000.

### Students of the Month:

#### October:

9: Andrea Amoh  
10: Bryanna McEwen  
11: Jordan Odoski  
12: Gino DePaoli

#### January:

9: Andrea Amoh  
10: Nicholas Zuro  
11: Lynde Norman  
12: Jessica Edwards

#### November:

9: Lilliana Duff  
10: Darnell Young  
11: Lee Gibbons  
12: Marissa Ashbaugh

#### February:

9: Stephen Bodnar  
10: Marc Edwards  
11: Jansen Simone  
12: Ryan Coles

#### December:

9: Maura Ramsey  
10: Nyemah Palmer  
11: Miranda Smith  
12: Jacob Gonos

#### March:

9: Jessica Stevenson  
10: Sunni Coyne  
11: Beth Clark  
12: Tung Nguyen

### East Allegheny Business Associate Student of the Month:

November: Stormy Green  
December: Charlotte Kapral  
January: Jessica Edwards  
February: Kalynn Kirkland  
March: Gino DePaoli  
April: Tyler Terza

*Scholarship winner:*  
**Tyler Terza**

### Sports Awards:

Fabulous 15  
(Basketball)- Amani Johnson  
Spotlight Athlete of the Week  
(Basketball)- Amani Johnson  
Spotlight Athlete of the Week  
(Basketball)- Marissa Smith  
Track WPIAL Qualifiers: 800 meter relay team-  
Evan Antis, Eric Leonard, Nathaniel Martin, and Jared Schmeltz



# GREEN VALLEY



## PREPARING LITTLE WILDCATS - TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN



Entering Kindergarten is an exciting and important time, but sometimes it is an anxious time as well for both students and parents. To help children and their families make a smooth transition into Kindergarten, the East Allegheny Kindergarten Transition Team planned PAWS Nights. (Parents Are Welcome in School)

PAWS Nights were created to make the experience of entering the first year of school fun and easy. There were three special events where future Kindergarten students and their parents were invited to Green Valley Primary where they visited classrooms together and met the Kindergarten teachers. Held on the last Wednesday of February, March and April, PAWS Nights were themed and future Kindergarten students participated in fun learning activities that focused on reading, math and writing skills. Kids who attended all three events were awarded with a special *Hi5! Kindergarten Here I Come* backpack. Educational material was available at PAWS Nights for parents to take home to help prepare their child for Kindergarten. Also, to increase early registration for Kindergarten, a registration station was at PAWS Nights for parents to register their child for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

A special thank you goes to the East Allegheny High School National Honor Society students who volunteered their time and helped with each of these events.

**East Allegheny School District strives to encourage your children from day one and on to be excited and driven to learn. We are wishing future Kindergarten students the best and look forward to seeing you all next school year!**

## “Green Valley is on FIRE with New Kindles”

The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation is proud to announce year 2 of the innovative educational program, Tablets in Education™. The program that uses the latest in tablet technology to motivate students to learn in an atmosphere that is both fun and educational. The special education teachers & special area teachers along with the help of Mrs. McEwen have been awarded a grant to receive 20 Kindle Fire HDXs to use in the classroom.

Our program **EA FIRE (Friendship –Interactions- Relationships- Excellence)** will utilize the tablets to promote social development in our K-3 Special Education classrooms and increase academic skills focused around our current curriculum. We will concentrate on using applications that focus on and contain the following component(s): education, building and fostering friendships, violence prevention, anger, anxiety, shyness, conflict resolution, self esteem, bullying, conversation skills, personal space, and using technology to communicate.

## STAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During the past 20 years, Green Valley students have had the opportunity to participate in an exceptional Character Education Program. This program encourages the students to be responsible for their own behavior through teaching a decision making process titled **STAR** which stands for: **S**top, **T**hink, **A**ct, and **R**eview.

The STAR program is based on nine themes to help the students be successful at Green Valley and at home. The nine themes are: **Be Here, Be a Listener, Be Friendly, Be Polite, Be Prepared, Be a Doer, Be a Goalsetter, Be Responsible, and Be Confident.** Serving as an umbrella to the nine themes and a different vehicle to present these same nine themes each year, we have chosen four school-wide, year-long themes. Students attending Green Valley Elementary from KDG - 3rd grade experience all 4 themes through learning about model citizens, famous artists and career opportunities while building self pride. An integral part of the program is building self-esteem and taking ownership for one's behavior. During the school year, each grade level has taken ownership of the program by helping to present one of the themes in various ways such as singing songs or doing skits at the STAR Assemblies.

## **STAR HIGHLIGHTS Continued -**

### **Some of the many service projects STAR has sponsored in the past:**

Adopted animals - Pittsburgh Zoo, Change for Katrina, Collected cleaning products for the Hurricane Victims, Souper Bowl of Caring – when Steelers made the play-offs, Collect a Mile of Pennies Project – North Versailles Library, Operation Iraqi, Pennies for People Project, St. Jude’s Math-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude’s Hospital, Smile Train for children with cleft palate in Third World Countries. With the support of our Physical Education Department, we have raised a significant amount of money through the various service projects.

STAR has been a vital part of what has made Green Valley the special place that it has been for many, many years.

I would like to say “thank you” to our Green Valley faculty and staff, Green Valley students, Parents, and past STAR Committee members.

**Donna Grzyb**

Title I Math Lab Teacher at Logan Middle School

STAR Chairperson at Green Valley Primary School

## **Four East Allegheny Students Win Awards at Annual Regional Science Fair**

On March 27, 2015, eighteen seventh and eighth graders from Logan Middle School spent the day at Heinz Field competing at the annual Pennsylvania Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The following students spent the day there showing off their projects and talking with many judges and sponsors:

Anthony Balana, Jaxsyn Conway, Anthony Crystol, Starr Dejesus, Abigail Delisi, Maya Dorfman, Brooke Eganlauf, Nikolas Fedora, Taylar Getsy, Bradley Hallick, Brandon Hallick, Julianna Kustra, Blake Neiderlander, Ashley Pawlak, Jenah Slabe, Kaytelyn Snodgrass, Vanessa Vinsick, and Paige Yusko.

We are very pleased and proud of four of our Logan participants who were able to place and/or earn sponsor awards. This is an amazing achievement considering there were over 1,000 participants.

Brandon Hallick and Bradley Hallick achieved fourth place in the Engineering/Robotics , Intermediate Division. The boys worked together to invent an indoor/outdoor soccer shoe. They earned an outstanding in all categories of the “engineering approach” on the judges’ rubric. Who knows! Maybe someday we’ll see that shoe on the market!

Blake Neiderlander placed first in Chemistry, Intermediate Division, competing against over 90 participants in that category. He also won two sponsor awards. The first one was from the University of Pittsburgh. The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh was very impressed with Blake’s project: “Fun in the Sun: The Effects of Sunscreen and Comparison of SPF” and therefore, Blake’s second sponsor award was from that society. Blake was honored at a banquet by the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh on May 13, 2015.

Congratulations to all participants for a job extremely well done!

# LOGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## PROJECT LINUS

Some of the students in Mrs. Humeston's homeroom have been working on blankets for "Project Linus". Project Linus, a non-profit organization that provides homemade blankets to children in need. The blankets they are making will be donated to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Several students are participating in the on-going service project in class during dismissal time and indoor recess. One student, Brianna Loving, made a blanket at home to bring in and donate on behalf of our class! The students are definitely showing their ability to give to others in need.



**Front row:** John Nemes, Taylor Carnevale, Nyla Flowers

**Back row:** Sarah Dickson, Abigail Miller, Kaitlyn Miller, Mayani Cowling

## TITLE I INVOLMENT

On Wednesday, April 8, 2015, the annual Title I Spring Family Involvement Night was held in the theme of a carnival. Title I students and their families joined the Title I faculty and administration for an evening of games, prizes and food. There was even a raffle for a gift certificate to the Carnegie Science Center and Highmark SportsWorks! The attendance of parents and students was tripled compared to the last few years.



## A New Battle Begins

The Logan Middle School will hold its first annual Battle of the Books competition near the end of this school year for grades 4-6. This is a fun event where students are challenged to carefully read a selection of books as a group and then compete against other teams to answer the



most questions correctly. Students will also earn points for correctly identifying the author of the books. Each team is sponsored by a seventh or eighth grade team "captain" who will meet with the team members throughout the program to ensure all members are reading their books. Therefore, this is a great leadership role for the captains as well. During the competition, the teams with the most points will earn a trophy and all students will receive a certificate of participation. The captains and the winning teams will receive an ice cream party.

## WESTINGHOUSE GIRLS ENGINEERING DAY

By: Mrs. Sippey

On March 4, 2015, Bryanna McEwen, Sunni Coyne, Sarah Daw, and Shannon Connell attended the Westinghouse-Pittsburgh Chapter of US Women in Nuclear and Westinghouse Electric Company LLC "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" event. The program's intent was to encourage students to consider higher education and provided an overview of possible careers in engineering and other STEM related fields. It included hands on activities, direct interaction with female engineers and scientists, and promoted engineering as an attractive and exciting option to consider.

The girls participated in three hands-on activities. In the first activity, the girls had to create a structure out of five small marshmallows, one large marshmallow, strands of uncooked spaghetti, and masking tape. Their objective was to make the structure as high as possible. The team took second place by less than an inch, but their structure was deemed to have the most structural integrity because it stayed up the longest. The second included making a mystery mechanism out of the materials provided. And the third one included a tour of the control room used for the new AP1000 Nuclear Power Plant. While in the control room, the girls experienced what it would be like to experience a shutdown at one of the plants. The simulated control room is used to teach operators what to do in case of a planned outage or a major malfunction.

The last part of the program consisted of a panel of various types of engineers. They included nuclear, civil, industrial, mechanical, and electrical engineers, all of whom were employed by Westinghouse. The girls inquired about their education, their decision to become engineers, and their typical day at work for Westinghouse. East Allegheny's representatives were willing participants in all of the activities and were thankful to be part of such an inspiring program.

## GIRL SCOUT LIFT PROGRAM

Thank you to the girls in the Girl Scout LIFT program who hosted guest speaker Dr. Gary Cuccia at a school-wide assembly on April 23. Since the beginning of the school year, the LIFT girls have been focusing on learning more about teen dating violence – how to recognize it, how to avoid it and how to help others who are experiencing it. Dr. Cuccia sadly lost his 16 year-old daughter to the hands of a violent ex-dating partner. In the almost 8 years since, Dr. Cuccia has been devoted to educating, mentoring and informing teens through the Demi Brae Awareness Organization about the facts and warning signs of violence among teenagers. The LIFT girls should be recognized and congratulated for their efforts to get Dr. Cuccia to East Allegheny to share his story and shine a light on this important issue. They also helped him load all of his equipment into the school, get set up, take pictures of the event and pass out T shirts, wrist bands and literature to the entire student body.

## EA ROBO-CATS: ROBOTICS GRANT

The Technology Education and Science departments at the high school are involved with the **TEACHER EMPOWERMENT GRANT**, through the efforts of Mr. Mark Pogue and Mrs. Cindy McCoy who collaborated to write the grant. They received \$35,000 from the Heinz Endowment to purchase robotics and accessories and give advanced learning opportunities to students that would not otherwise have the opportunity to work with this kind of equipment. With the new robotics equipment, Mr. Pogue is now operating a new robotics class. Students are learning the parts, how to construct and the importance of robotics in society today. Some of the new equipment includes VEX robotics, Drones, GoPro Cameras, and iPads. Mr. Carl Baumgart and the Graphics department will be designing t-shirts for a robotics club in the future and Mr. Rick Campbell is developing ways to use some of the equipment in his science classes. These teachers, who are part of the core team, are working toward one of the goals of the program to evolve into Marcellus Shale Education for students, allowing a new career path. With Marcellus Shale Natural Gas taking over the area, there is a need for a qualified workforce. There was a showcase of the program and the other grant programs funded by the Heinz Endowment at the new **ENERGY INNOVATIONS CENTER** in downtown Pittsburgh on **May 28, 2015**, 5 - 7 p.m. Everyone was welcome to see how East Allegheny is involved, was able to talk with the teachers and see a demonstration of the students' robotics projects.





# East Allegheny High School holds its first College Signing Day

On April 30, 2015, the High School held its first College Signing Day for all of the Senior students who have committed to going to college next year. This event was held in conjunction with First Lady Michelle Obama's "Reach Higher Initiative" that has a goal of having all students complete some type of post-secondary education following high school. School Counselor, Mrs. Peiffer, organized the event. All Seniors who are going to college next year signed a certificate indicating the school they are committed to, then they were permitted to keep their certificates. In addition, each Senior received a t-shirt with the "Reach Higher" logo on it to take with them as well. In all, over 85% of the Senior class will be attending college next year. Congratulations to the Class of 2015! We wish you well as you go on to higher education! To find out more about the First Lady's Reach Higher Initiative, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher](http://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher).



## 2015 PROM

By Sarah Pais

2015 Senior Prom, *Hollywood Red Carpet*, was held at the Sheraton in Station Square on May 8, 2015. Mrs. Ekis and Junior Class Cabinet are responsible for the planning of this event and fundraising. The Junior Class Cabinet raised money by holding a Fish Fry on March 27 and the Prom Fashion Show (pictured below) on February 27, which lowered the cost of Prom tickets.



## GODSPELL MUSICAL

Congratulations to the high school music department on another outstanding production! The high school presented *Godspell* on April 16, 17 & 18. The show featured the work of fifty of EA's finest students on the cast, crew, and pit. Under the direction of Amanda Rosco, the modernized version incorporated elements like Twitter, cell phones, trampolines, and beat boxing. There were even gifts for the audience at intermission! It was an uplifting experience for all involved, truly showcasing the power of community. Bravo!



## STEM Events

By Sarah Pais

Mrs. Lori Tresnan chaperoned 15 students in Honors Anatomy and Physiology on a field trip to observe open heart surgery at Allegheny General Hospital on March 25<sup>th</sup>. These students, who are interested in pursuing a medical career, watched as health care workers removed a vein from the patient's leg and performed a triple bypass.

95 students at EA that take Honors math and science classes attended the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair on May 14th at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.

## PMEA PARTICIPANTS

Twenty students representing East Allegheny High School and Logan Middle School participated in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) festivals this year. Chamari Willis – District and Region Chorus; Miracle Brocco – District Band; Dylan Jackson, James Daw – District and Region Band; Sarah Daw, Jessica Edwards – District Orchestra; Ashley Pawlak, Kayley Monroe, Mary Protheroe, Faith Powell, Samantha Balogh, Billy Linsenbigler, Connor Kiefer, Brooke Bannister – Jr. District Chorus; Emily Blotzer, Maya Dorfman – Jr. District Band; Alyssa DePaoli, Chris Jewel, Nick Keleschenyi, Lillianna Duff – Jr. District Orchestra. Congratulations on a job well done!

## MUSIC PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED

East Allegheny High School and Logan Middle School have each been recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants as a School of Merit for 2015. 8 schools state-wide and 110 schools nation-wide received this distinction. The program recognizes individual schools for support of and achievement in music education through the Best Communities for Music Education Survey. Thank you to the East Allegheny School District and community!

# **East Allegheny School District Administration**

**Superintendent of Schools:** Mr. Roger D'Emidio  
**Coordinator of Special Education/School Psychologist:** Dr. Joseph Howell  
**Director of Fiscal Affairs:** Ms. Toni Valicenti  
**Automated Systems Coordinator:** Mr. Jeff Mathews  
**Maintenance Supervisor:** Mr. Daryl Dukic  
**Food Service Supervisor:** Mrs. Trish Zvirman

**School Board -**

Mrs. Gerri McCullough, <b>President</b>	Mrs. Dolores Brown	Dr. Frederick Miller
Mrs. Jacqueline Gates, <b>Vice President</b>	Ms. Karen Hensler	Mr. Frank Pearsol
Mrs. Roxanne Eichler, <b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs. Beverly Koch	Mr. Stephen Volpe

## **East Allegheny High School**

**Principal/Assistant to the Superintendent:** Mr. Donald MacFann

**Assistant Principal:** Ms. Betsy D'Emidio

**9th Grade Principal:** Mr. Raymond Morton

## **Logan Middle School**

**Principal (Grades 7-8)/ Director of Pupil Personnel:** Mr. Mark Draskovich

**Principal (Grades 4-6):** Mr. Sean Gildea

## **Green Valley Primary School**

**Principal:** Mr. Sean Gildea,

**Assistant Principal:** Mrs. Angela McEwen

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## **Community Connection Executive Editing/Printing-**

Mr. Carl Baumgart / High School Graphics Classes

Mrs. Kathy Chenot / Journalism Classes