

I recently reached out to members of the high school staff and students about the status of current clubs, activities, honor societies.... And they were very happy to add **Academic, Music, Honor, Tech and Art, (as well as other extra-curricular) Achievements** to the school board agenda. They all said they would keep me updated on these departments so it looks like we have a new section for the student representatives to speak about.

For the Art Department:

- Katie Bertussi's artwork was selected for the cover of the 2018-2019 Program of Studies.
- Several of our students are participating in the Valley Cottage Library's competition to design a mascot for their ValCon: Episode IV event taking place this summer. (*DeMarco*)
- Ms. Della Cava is running the Empty Bowls fundraiser and that is coming up soon in February.
- She is also facilitating a painting fundraiser for the Girls Learn International Club.
- As a department, they will be raising money for the Heart of Art student scholarship at some upcoming events.

English Honor Society recently donated fifty dollars earned from their November Bake Sale to Rockland 21C, a group whose mission is to ensure the optimal development of every child by building a comprehensive support system that links family, school, and community. The money was used to purchase books for children in need in our Rockland community.

- Also, Two EHS members had an opportunity to join the AP English Literature class's field trip to see a production of *Pride and Prejudice* in NYC. (*Shepard*).

The National Honor Society would like to thank all those who contributed to their holiday food drive. They are happy to announce that they collected over 1400 items which are valued at over \$2550.

- They also received \$245 in cash donations which was used to purchase Shoprite gift cards to help families in need. People to People and the St. Aedan's food pantry wish to thank all of you who were so generous! The top homeroom who brought in the most food for the NHS food drive was Ms. King's AP Bio class which donated over 200 items. (*Maher*).

The Beautification Club is finishing up their work on the disposal bins. Once they are done, they will be placed around the school grounds as well. Since all of the subject area murals have been completed, and the hallways are now labeled, they are taking a break. (*Palacio*)

Science Olympiad is prepping for their competition on February 3rd in Ulster. There are 2 teams, each one with 15 students, competing. (*king*)

The Academic Team has had tremendous success. They are ranked fourth in the league and have a record of three wins, and only one loss. They are currently preparing for the Invitational at Suffern, which is a major competition at the end of the year.

International Club recently selected a week in December to be dedicated towards GLOBAL AWARENESS. Each day the club focused on various global issues such as starvation, lack of clean water, genocide, child labor and mental health. Posters created by students with facts about each topic were posted throughout the building, and for two days club members spent their lunch periods educating their peers about these issues while distributing life savers for mental health awareness and black ribbons in commemoration of those who suffered from the effects of genocide.

- The club hosted a movie night last Thursday. They watched a film that's based on a true story which will be the springboard to their fundraiser for International Night in February. The film is

LION and the organization they will be raising money for is Akshaya Patra, which means "inexhaustible vessel", an organization that helped disadvantaged children in India. (*kurzawa*)

Pearl River High School students make up more than 50% of the Youth group for the United Hospice of Rockland: which consists of a total of 8 school districts. Our students are actively participating in, as well as spearheading new fundraisers, coin drops, bake sales, and other community service projects that raise thousands of dollars for hospice patients. Along with participating in these events, monthly Youth For Hospice Rockland meetings and weekly chapter meetings combine to average a total of fifty community service hours per student each year.

The Music Department has the Senior show, \_Seussical\_ coming up on February 8th, 9th, and 10th. Then they are performing the musical \_Curtains\_ on April 19th, 20th, 21st. Each of these shows involves nearly 100 students (between cast, crew, and musicians), who rehearse for two months after school and at night, and sometimes on the weekends. Mr. Hoetzi wanted to add that there aren't too many other activities that involve nearly 10% of the student population, and where 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, boys and girls, get to work together as equals.

The amount of students interested in STEM was exciting to see at the Ultra Code Club's holiday party, Shubhang Pandya, Pat Sammon, Malakai Loudermilk, Kevin Dickey, Alexa Warren, Jobin Joseph, Eugene Gladoun, Ryan Slattery and Matt Gordon are just some of the excellent passionate leaders of this club.

- They designed tshirts to support the 4 C's of our district vision!
- Ms. Whaley bought an Arduino and a TI-innovator Rover to assist in her math and coding classes for the spring.
- She also went to a TI Boces conference that allows us to code a TI 84 to do amazing math formulas using computer programming and allows us to connect a TI 84 to a (robotic car) to program the rover to create geometry right in front of us along with other amazing things!
- Ms. Whaley is also planning a field trip with her spring coding class and Mr. Parisi's Computer Science class to an engineering company called Glebar which gives the students the opportunity to watch computer science and programming in action.
- This company offers internships and is willing to offer these types of opportunities to our students at PRHS Mr. Whaley and Mr. Lonergan have already taken a class to this field trip to see the manufacturing world of this company and it was a HUGE success. Ms. Whaley is excited to bring her students there to see the software side of things and would like to give another BIG thank you to Mr. Murphy and the school board for ALWAYS supporting the growth of STEM.

18 Juniors and Seniors traveled to Yale this past weekend for the Annual Yale Model UN conference which had over 2,000 students from every continent in the world. Pearl River High School represented the delegation of Norway in debates that represented real, international issues confronted by the United Nations today. From tackling issues of cyber security, cultural preservation and economic dependence on fossil fuels to combating terrorism and civil rights violations, our upperclassmen represented 18 different committees: all with unique, controversial topics. Senior, Skyler McGee, was even quoted in the Official Yale Model UN Article of 2018. Along with several remaining mock debates, Model UN delegates are preparing for their upcoming conference in Boston.