

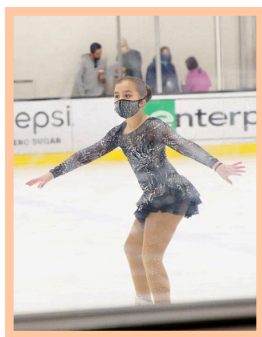
# April newsletter

## Student Spotlight: Becca Purdy

Rebecca Purdy is an 8th grade student at Conemaugh Township who has been competing in figure skating for the Skating Club of Johnstown for the past seven years. In April, she will compete in eight events in Boston, Massachusetts. These events are: Freestyle, solo compulsories, footwork, Dutch waltz, solo swings, artistic, character spotlight, and jump & spin.

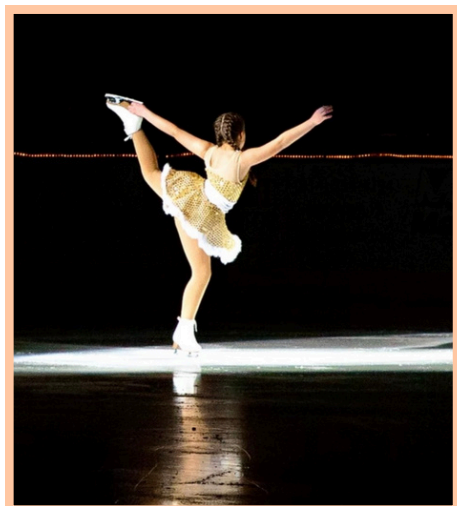
She competes at the Freestyle 2 level and hopes to advance to Freestyle 4 within the next few months.

Rebecca has performed to many songs over the years, including “Tightrope” from *The Greatest Showman* and “Reflection/Make a Man Out of You” from the Disney movie *Mulan*. She will also be competing to two new songs, including “Die With a Smile” and “Down in New Orleans” from the movie *The Princess and the Frog*. Becca is excited to show off her skills in the upcoming competition and is very proud of how much she has improved her skating skills.



“Skating allows me to present grace and beauty through movements. Each skill in a program tells a story that the audience gets to experience through me. It is really cool to be able to make people feel my emotions through my routines. Skating teaches me discipline and the result of hard work. I feel so lucky to be able to be part of the skating community.”

-Becca





# Heritage Conference Results



The math and science teams competed in the Heritage Conference competitions on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The science team, consisting of Brandon Petrilli, Danika Black, Rocco Hagan, Ella Brotz, and Eden Denault, traveled to Cambria Heights and placed 11<sup>th</sup> in their competition. Brandon Petrilli was named the MVP of the team. The competition consisted of individual testing, lab practicals, and trivia.

The math team, consisting of Grayson Kusher, Ethan Matera, Brennan Lohr, Carson Brotz, and Izzy Bihun, went to Homer-Center and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference. The math team earned the most points for the “functions” category, while student Brennan Lohr was named the MVP for this year's competition.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the current events team, consisting of Gracyn Bittner, Jacob Bartis, Emmy Allison, and Jaeden Holsopple, traveled to Homer-Center and placed 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Scholastic Quiz

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Jr. and Sr. High Scholastic Quiz team traveled to Somerset to compete against other schools. The Jr. High team included Elle Mowery, Zolina Bittner, Ben Chapel, Evelyn Mock, Bentley Ott, and Rebecca Purdy. The team had a good run and won four out of six matches, placing 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Sr. High team consisted of Greta Mock, Wesley Mock, Emily Purdy, Daniel Turley, Noah Nagey, and Loie Oliszewsky. The team won one out of five matches, placing 5<sup>th</sup>.

“It was a fun experience where we got to show off our knowledge. Even though we were not super successful, we still had a pretty good run with a few close matches.” - Emily Purdy

## Semi-Formal

The middle school Semi-Formal dance will be held on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place in the high school gym from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This year, the theme for the dance is “Back to the 1950s” with a “Sunday best” dress code.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the beginning of April in lunches B and C for \$10. Students attending are required to submit their parent/guardian permission forms to Mrs. Sanderson before the dance, and must be academically eligible.

“Setting the decorations up with our student council kids is a lot of fun. I really liked the music and energy everyone gave off last year and I plan to go again.” -Gemma Studer, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

# A Parent's Promise Spring Safety Event

According to the National Library of Medicine, in nearly 68 percent of car accidents, bystanders fail to take any action. Kayla Day realized this when she witnessed a car accident and nearby residents recorded instead of dialing 911. Mrs. Day knew that she couldn't let this lack of public education hurt any more lives and started A Parent's Promise, LLC, to address the issue.

Mrs. Day created A Parent's Promise, LLC. to help parents of all walks of life do what's best for their family and children. She stated, "I started A Parent's Promise because I know what it feels like to sit in the unknown—trying to figure out how to help your child, your family, or yourself, and not knowing where to turn." Her message rings especially true because, as a healthcare professional with a child who has a rare disease, Day has witnessed firsthand the stress of navigating life without outside help. A Parent's Promise is addressing this lack of information and help by hosting the Spring Safety event at the Conemaugh Township High School, a place where parents and kids alike can feel safe.

With over twenty-five resource booths that will provide valuable information for topics such as family crisis assistance and early childhood education and hands-on activities such as CPR, the Spring Safety event has an activity that appeals to nearly every kind of person. The event is being held on a Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, allowing working families to attend without taking valuable time off. Activities such as these and various others not only inform families but also give them a feeling of security in a chaotic world.

As community resources become harder to navigate, A Parent's Promise and more specifically the Spring Safety resource event have taken a bold step to educate and inform local citizens. Through programs such as this, people across Conemaugh Township and surrounding counties can become knowledgeable on things from everyday parenting to essential life skills. The volunteers and workers with A Parent's Promise know that helping unguided families is what matters most with Day saying, "If this event helps even one family feel more prepared in a moment that matters, then it has already done what it was created to do."



**A PARENT'S PROMISE, LLC**  
*Presents:*  
**Spring Safety**

**A FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENT**

Strengthen our community by participating in hands-on education for emergency readiness, personal safety, health, and community wellness.



**Something For Everyone!!!**

- Medical Networks
- Family Stability Support
- Disability Services
- Behavioral Health
- Kid/Family Zone
- Early Childhood Education
- Family Crisis & Assistance
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Community Preparedness
- Safety & Emergency Response

**Touch-a-Truck ..... AND MORE!**

Conemaugh Township Middle/High School Football Field  
**SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 2026**  
12:00PM-4:00PM

**FIRST 300**  
**ATTENDEES RECEIVE**  
**A FREE SWAG BAG!**

- Receive valuable information and practical resources
- Learn safety skills to empower your family with protection strategies
- Essential skills for everyone!



# Creativity in CT



## PMEA Region Band

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, seniors Alonna Bracken and Daniel Turley, along with junior Greta Mock, auditioned at the PMEA regional festival for the chance at states. Alonna Bracken placed 6<sup>th</sup>, Daniel Turley placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Greta Mock placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Greta Mock will be re-auditioning for her spot in the states. Overall, it was a great run for the three musicians with a strong concert performance and great audition results.

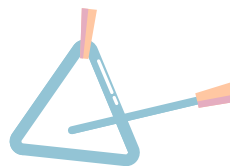
“Being a part of a regional festival is quite a different experience from any other ensemble. The region band director we had this year was fantastic, she brought a new perspective that really tied the group together.” -Greta Mock

## Adapted Music

The Conemaugh Township Adapted Music class will hold its spring concert in late April/early May. They will be performing some of the following songs: “Dancing Queen,” “Eye of the Tiger,” “Bye Bye Bye,” and “Smooth Criminal.”

‘I’m so happy with how far the class has come musically since we started in the fall. With only two months of the class left, we’re hoping to grow even more and play more challenging songs before we leave for the summer.’

-Adapted Music Teacher, Emily Purdy



## Artwork in the Bottle Works

The Bottle Works Ethnic Art Center in Johnstown, PA, is a community art hub hosting rotating exhibitions, including the annual Student Works Juried Art Exhibition (grades 9-12). This year the following CT high school students are showcasing their work: Ellie Luscher, Emma King, Olivia Ryan, and Rydell Walylko. Their work has been on display between March 7<sup>th</sup> - April 11<sup>th</sup>.

“This show allows us students to be inspired to participate and to expand our abilities and to see artwork from our peers at other schools” -Ellie Luscher, Junior



# CT Sports

## Baseball

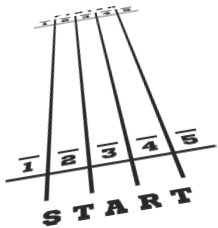
The Conemaugh Township baseball team started its season on March 24th with an away game at River Valley. The score was 12-3, starting the team's season with a strong win. Their current record is 2-0.

"We have a lot of returning starters along with some new freshmen. We're looking to have another shot at the district championships and finish with a winning season." - DJ Bambino, Senior



## Track

The Conemaugh Township track and field team started its season on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, with a meet at home against Homer-Center and Penns Manor. The girls team beat Homer-Center with a score of 126-21 and Penns Manor 126-20, and the boys' team beat Homer-Center 76.5-72.5 and Penns Manor with a score of 120-25. The teams have records of 2-0 (girls) and 2-0 (boys).



## Softball

The softball team started its season with a home game against West Shamokin on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The game ended with a score of 16-0, marking a tough start to the season. The team's current record is 0-1.

"The team is very young this year, and we're hoping to improve the team's skills by the end of the season. It has been a rough start, with a few cancellations and a hard loss, but we're staying hopeful for our games toward the middle of our season."

- Andie Hunsberger, Senior





# Our Good Little Eggs



## Middle School Students of the Month



"Iris Mock is immensely sweet and helpful. She works so hard! She is always polite and kind to her teachers and peers."

"Gabriel Hudson is a hardworking student who really excelled in math. He is friendly to everyone, both teachers and classmates."



"James Polonia always greets his teachers and is respectful. He is reliable and a very hard worker."

## Senior High Students of the Month



"Carter Maluchnik is respectful, focused, and extremely thoughtful. He is consistently a contributor to class and his kindness and ability to think deeply will lead him to much success in life."

"Gina Hagan's positive energy and contagious smile make her such a joy to have in class. She is kind to everyone and is a natural leader."



"Rydell Walyko always puts his best effort into assignments and demonstrates quiet leadership. He is respectful, hardworking, and kind."

"Jaeden Holsopple exemplifies showing love by serving others. His community outreach involvement is impressive. He is always so friendly and talks to everyone he meets."



# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Geneve Buckham

Mrs. Geneve Buckham has been a part of the Conemaugh Township community for 10 years, being hired in the summer of 2016 to fill the roles of health, personal fitness, weightlifting, and physical education teacher. Mrs. Buckham was born in Johnstown, PA, and attended Richland, graduating in 2009. She then continued her learning at IUP, graduating in 2013 with her undergrad in Physical Education and Health, and earning her master's degree in 2015. Growing up in Johnstown, Mrs. Buckham had a great support system with trips to the beach and large Sunday dinners with her family. She was also very involved in her school, participating in many travel and school sports teams. Before her time at CT, Mrs. Buckham worked as a substitute teacher, Americorps worker, and basketball coach, and also worked at TJ Maxx.

At home, Mrs. Buckham is a mother to 2 children, Truman (3 years old) and Dorothy (2 months old), and is married to Travis Buckham, a 2011 North Star graduate. Beyond her professional role, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, going to the beach, watching her kids grow up, crocheting, and staying active.

Mrs. Buckham shares, "For the last 10 years, I have been a co-advisor for the SADD Club with Mrs. Feathers and coached junior high girls basketball for eight of those years. During my time here, we have raised a little over \$60,000 during the SADD Club Volleyball Marathon for families within our district who are in need. This speaks volumes. One thing I love about this district is the traditions and heart that the students, teachers, and community have. When there is a student or family in our community in need, you always see the school rallying behind them. The students here are fantastic. Every time someone asks me why I like working here, I say, 'I work with the best people, and we are so lucky to have such great students to teach.' I truly have made some lifelong friends working here and am so grateful to be part of such a great district."

"Mrs. Buckham always makes us feel included and heard, whether it is during her class or even just a smile in the hall to brighten your day. We really appreciate her dedication and commitment to making us better students and making Phys Ed fun!" – Danika Black, Junior



"Mrs. Buckham isn't new to CT by any means, but she's proven herself to be a tremendous asset to our staff and to our overall community time and again. She's got a heart of gold that truly cares about others, as evidenced by her leadership and participation in events like the Volleyball Marathon... raising more than \$60,000 over the last ten years. She's a fantastic role model for young women who shows that hard work and kindness can take you anywhere and help so many. On top of all that, she's simply a great person whom I count as one of my very best friends. I've said many times that we're a product of who we surround ourselves with... I'll choose Mrs. Buckham any day of the week." – Mr. Berzonski



"Mrs. Buckham is one of the kindest and most loving people in my life. As a resident and parent to CT students, she exemplifies what I look for in a teacher: someone who is a positive example for my students who will make them feel loved, supported when they make mistakes, and guided to do what's right. Mrs. Buckham is immensely driven and shows our students that no goal is too far when you put the time and effort in. Her positivity and determination to make this a better world have supported so many of her students and her coworkers through challenging times. I'm a better person professionally and personally because I call her a coworker and a friend." – Mrs. Feathers



## UPCOMING EVENTS

4/2 | ONE HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

4/3-6 | EASTER BREAK

4/17 | ACT 80 DAY





# Who's in Charge?



## Jr. Editor Emily Purdy

Emily Louise Purdy is from Davidsville, PA. She participates in soccer, golf, hockey, bocce ball, basketball, track, softball, and is a cheer captain. She also has been a part of five musicals. Emily has participated in District Choir for two years and is a part of numerous clubs including Girl Scouts, Rotary, NHS, Student Council, and SADD. Her interests include singing, reading, writing, traveling, ice skating, and volunteering. Emily is also an active member at Camp Parc and is an Adapted Music teacher.

## Sr. Editor Maya Denault

Maya Lynn Denault is from Hollsopple, PA. She is the captain of the rifle team, a dedicated dancer both recreationally and competitively, and has also participated in many musical productions. Maya has lettered twice in rifle, competed at Nationals twice for dance, and is actively involved in leadership and service as the runner/editor of two newsletters, a member of the National Honor Society, and Vice President of Rotary. Her interests include photography, volunteering, crafting, reading, gardening, and, of course, dancing.

## Jr. Editor Hannah James

Hannah Grace James is from Jerome, PA, where she actively contributes to her community through involvement in organizations such as Rotary Interact, Spanish Club, and Tribe Time. Beyond her community contributions, Hannah has a passion for playing piano and singing. She also likes to spend time with her friends during her free time. Additionally, Hannah is eager to explore new experiences, always striving to learn and grow both personally and academically.