



DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, January 17
End of Second Quarter

Friday, January 18
No School for Students
Act 80 Day
(Possible Snow Make-Up Day)

Monday, January 21
No School for Students
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
In-Service/Clerical Day

Wednesday, January 30
Community Connection Forum
Social Media 101
6:30 p.m.
in the South Park
High School Auditorium

SOCIAL MEDIA FORUM TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 30

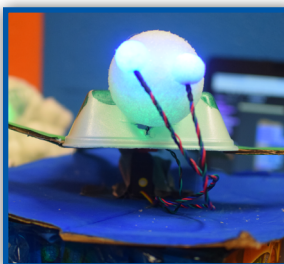
The next community connection forum, Social Media 101, will be held on Wednesday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the South Park High School auditorium. Phillip Little from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office and Jodie Sherman, who leads programs on teen accountability for the Domestic Outreach Corporation, will lead the discussion. Parents will learn how to ensure their children are safe when using social media sites and how they can model responsible social media usage. Students are welcome to attend.

SPHS COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADERS TAKE SECOND PLACE AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Congratulations to the South Park High School competitive cheerleaders who are the PIAA runners-up in the small district division. The cheerleaders competed in Hershey over the weekend. Congratulations, cheerleaders!

FOURTH GRADERS CREATE ROBOT ANIMAL ZOO



Mrs. Casale's fourth grade students created a robotic animal zoo in their technology class using the Hummingbird robotics kit. The students used the robotics kits to build kinetic sculptures of animals including a snake, a panda, a sheep, a turtle and a rabbit. Students used pre-wired LED lights, motors and their Chromebooks to create the sculptures.

The Hummingbird robotics kits were a free classroom resource from the Center for Creativity's STEAM Lending Library. The STEAM Lending Library from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit offers Allegheny County teachers access to more than 1,000 pieces of equipment that support STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation generously funds the Lending Library.

BOARD CONSIDERS IMPLEMENTING FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN; SURVEY LAUNCHED

At its meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019, the South Park School District Board of Directors discussed the possibility of adding full-day kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. The Board of Directors would like to know the opinions of parents and community members about this possible change.

Please click [here](#) to participate in a brief survey about full-day kindergarten. The survey will remain active through Thursday, February 7. The results will be presented to the Board of Directors at its February meeting. You do not need to have a child in kindergarten now or in the future to participate in the survey.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

STUDENTS ARE OFF THIS FRIDAY AND MONDAY

Students are off on Friday, January 18 and on Monday, January 21.

Friday, January 18 is a possible snow make-up day.

BOARD MEMBERS THANKED FOR THEIR SERVICE



(Seated from left) Mary Arrigo, Treasurer; John Innocenti, President; Frank Wentzel, Vice President; Lorraine Blackburn
(Standing from left) Patrick Sable, Norman Solomon, Nicholas Rudolph, Wayne Perry, David E. Palmer

January is School Board Director Recognition Month. The members of the South Park School District Board of Directors were recognized and thanked for their service at the January 10 meeting. Superintendent Wayne Gdovic applauded the board members for the countless hours they invest in the education and success of all South Park students.

SECOND SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER HIRED AT JANUARY BOARD MEETING



As part of the South Park School District's commitment to school safety, the South Park School District Board of Directors hired a second school police officer at its meeting on Thursday, January 10. Officer Joseph Cawley will join the South Park School District after more than three decades in law enforcement.

Officer Cawley most recently worked as a patrol officer with the Allegheny County Police Department. He also worked as a detective with the Allegheny County Police Department. Officer Cawley began his career with the Dormont Police Department. He earned his bachelor's

degree in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Earlier this fall, the South Park School District received a Safe Schools' Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The South Park School District was one of just seven districts in Allegheny County to receive the competitive grant for a school police officer.

Officer Cawley joins Officer Todd Naylor, director of school police for the South Park School District. Officer Cawley will work in all three South Park schools and will be based at South Park Middle School.

STUDENTS MEET READING CHALLENGE, PLAY THEIR TEACHERS IN HOCKEY GAME

As part of the annual Holiday Link to Reading initiative, students in third and fourth grades spent the two weeks before winter break reading some of their favorite books. For every ten minutes the students read at home, they earned one link. The students' goal was to earn enough links to connect them all the way around the third and fourth grade hallways.

The students reached that goal by reading for 13,841 minutes in two weeks. That's nearly ten days!

To celebrate, the top readers took on their teachers in a hockey game on Friday, December 21.

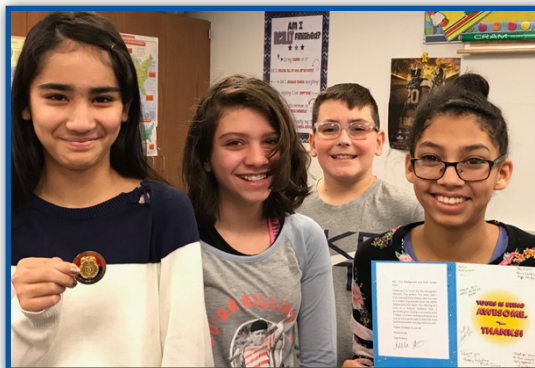


MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS' MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION TRAVEL ACROSS THE WORLD

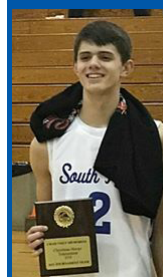
As part of a Veterans Day lesson, Mrs. Baldigowski's sixth grade students wrote to a number of military installations. In return, the students have received letters from the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh and a personal card with a medal of gratitude from the AFOSI Detachment 611 Team in South Korea.

The AFOSI Detachment 611 Team indicated that the offering of this special coin is "generally given during a ceremony from a higher ranking individual to a lower ranking individual as a way of showing great appreciation for a job well done and/or for service in the unit."

Mrs. Baldigowski's students were excited to learn that the card and coin had traveled so far to reach them in South Park.



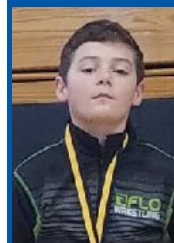
SOUTH PARK STUDENTS ENJOY TOURNAMENT SUCCESS



Congratulations to South Park senior Santino Tutich who was named to the all-tournament team in Erie over the holiday break.

Maura Huwalt was named to the all-tournament team at the Elizabeth Forward holiday tournament.

Four South Park Middle School wrestlers placed at a tournament on Saturday, January 5. Kaiden Fischer placed second in his weight class. Jack DePra took sixth place in his weight class. Tyler Love took sixth place in his weight class. Ean Strimlan took second place in his weight class.



**HAVE GOOD NEWS
YOU WANT TO SHARE?**

**EMAIL IT TO
COMMUNICATIONS@SPARKSD.ORG!**

GUIDANCE OFFICE HOSTS ENGINEERING PANEL



On December 19, the South Park High School Guidance Department hosted an engineering panel discussion for students interested in engineering fields. A group of volunteers provided great insight to our students and answered their questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ADVANCES TO NEXT ROUND OF HOOP SHOOT COMPETITION



A group of South Park Middle School students participated in the second round of the Hoop Shoot competition at the Bethel Park Community Center on Saturday, January 5.

Matt Kosslow made 21 of 25 free throws to win the 12-13 year old boys' bracket for the second year in a row. Matt now moves on to the district-level competition.

GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM RECOGNIZED AT BOARD MEETING

Members of the Lady Eagles soccer team were recognized at the January 10 meeting of the Board of Directors. The Lady Eagles were WPIAL Champions and advanced to the semi-finals of the PIAA playoffs. Some members of the Lady Eagles WPIAL Championship soccer team were unable to attend the board meeting because of a basketball game or the cheerleading competition in Hershey.



South Park School District
2005 Eagle Ridge Drive
South Park, PA 15129
(412) 655-3111

**Strengthening minds.
Powering futures.**

The South Park School District's mission is to provide an educational atmosphere where all students have opportunities to discover their talents, develop their abilities and achieve the expectations embedded in our educational program to become responsible and productive members of society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Innocenti
President

Frank Wentzel
Vice President

Mary Arrigo
Treasurer

Lorraine Blackburn

David E. Palmer

Wayne Perry

Nicholas Rudolph

Patrick Sable

Norman Solomon

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