

SOUTH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT EAGLE EYE

E-Newsletter

April 24, 2017

South Park Eighth Grader Takes First Place in National Contest



Ava Ng with her history teacher, Mr. Levdansky

South Park Middle School student Ava Ng won first place in the *Junior Scholastic* Eyewitness to History contest. Students from across the country participate in the contest in which they are asked to interview someone who witnessed a historic event, submit an 800- to 1,000-word interview in Q&A form and write a paragraph about what they learned from the interview.

Ava interviewed her mother who witnessed the peaceful, pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Ava's interview was published in the April 24 edition of *Junior Scholastic*.

Ava's success in the contest isn't the first for a South Park student. Mr. Levdansky says Ava is the ninth student to win the national contest in the last 17 years.

South Park Middle School Showcase

The South Park Middle School Showcase is next Wednesday, May 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The showcase will give families and community members the opportunity to tour the renovated school and see the work South Park students have been doing throughout the year. The South Park Middle School Celebration of Excellence will also be held on May 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event features student work, projects, activities and the science fair.

If you have any questions about the South Park Middle School Showcase, contact Patrick Harrigan at (412) 655-3111, extension 1002 or patrick.harrigan@sparksd.org.



SP South Park School District

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South Park Students See Classroom Curriculum Applied at UPMC Hospital

Students in Mr. Siniawski's Applied Engineering and Technology Education courses recently visited UPMC Montefiore Hospital to see the use of robotics and other advanced technologies within the healthcare environment. South Park School District Board of Directors President Mr. John Innocenti helped to coordinate the site visit.



Mr. Innocenti speaks with South Park students

The high school students' day began with a demonstration of UPMC's Tru-D Smart UVC cleaning technology. UVC light is an optimal disinfectant against drug-resistant "superbugs" such as C. Diff or MRSA. Although this type of technology has been used in fixed water treatment and HVAC applications for decades, UPMC is one of the first medical facilities to utilize a mobile unit with microprocessor technology as the final cleaning step within its patient rooms and surgery units. The microprocessor technology calculates the area of the room and the necessary cleaning cycle time. It then implements a number of features for its safe operation.

The second presentation and walk-through introduced South Park students to UPMC's TUG autonomous delivery vehicles. UPMC utilizes 23 robots to pick up trash and medical waste and deliver supplies, food and pharmaceuticals. The TUGs utilize sonar sensors, laser rangefinders, cameras and Wi-Fi mapping technologies to traverse the busy halls 24 hours a day. They make approximately 4,000 deliveries per week. The students were interested in the technology as it closely relates to the autonomous Vex robotics curriculum being taught in



Students see TUG autonomous delivery vehicle

class but on a much larger and more complex scale. The students were able to interact with the TUGs, look at the complex scheduling and even see them queue their own elevator.

The final part of the day, following a quick trip through the STAT-MedEvac Command Center, gave students the opportunity to watch a live, robot-assisted surgery. South Park students cycled through two da Vinci hands-on simulators as a liver biopsy was completed using the same robot through the glass in the surgery suite. The da Vinci robot allows the surgeon to operate through a few small incisions with a high degree of precision and control. The operator views a magnified 3-D, HD vision system and uses tiny wrist-controlled instruments that bend and rotate much more than what is possible with the human hand. Senior Josh Wagner, who plans to attend Penn State Behrend for Engineering, was excited to see the application of the different technologies and out-of-the-box thinking in the ever-expanding medical field.



Students watch a live, robot-assisted surgery

The field trip was a tremendous experience and extension of learning for the Engineering and Technology Education students. Sixty percent of the students who attended stated that the experience could potentially change their career choices given the advancements and availability of jobs within the medical realm and its related fields in western Pennsylvania. Mr. Siniawski and his students want to thank Mr. Innocenti, Mr. Daniel Battista and the rest of the UPMC staff for allowing them to experience firsthand why UPMC is at the forefront of the advanced robotics and automation in the medical field.

Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week at South Park Middle School

The week of April 10 was the annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week at South Park Middle School. A number of experts spoke to students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. A representative from the American Respiratory Alliance spoke to students about smoking and smokeless tobacco. District Magistrate Ron Arnoni and State Senator Guy Reschenthaler discussed drug and alcohol abuse. An Allegheny County Police officer spoke to seventh graders about the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption and impairment. A nurse from UPMC spoke to students about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Mike Manko, communications director for the Allegheny County District Attorney's office, spoke to eighth grade students about drug use and the law. KDKA-TV reporter Julie Grant is working on a story about Manko's presentation to South Park students. It will air in May.



Brain Drain Provides Fun Learning Activities for Elementary & Middle School Students



South Park High School gifted students recently hosted gifted students from South Park Elementary Center and South Park Middle School for the annual Brain Drain on Tuesday, April 11. The event is created and managed by high school students and features a variety of activities in which the elementary and middle school students compete.

Environmental Club Visits Pittsburgh Zoo



The South Park High School Environmental Club visited the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium on Thursday, April 13. Students learned about and got to see some animals including a rat snake, a great horned owl and the black bearded dragon. The experience also taught students how small steps, like unplugging chargers when not in use, can help the environment.

Kindergarten and First Grade Students Get Hopping for Good Cause



South Park Elementary Center was hopping on Thursday, April 20! And it was all for a good cause. It was the 25th annual Hop-A-Thon for kindergarten and first grade students. Every hop helps to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Second Graders Make Care Packages for Babies at Children's Hospital



South Park second graders in Mrs. Jackovic's and Mrs. Fittipaldo's classes were recently discussing how to make a difference in the world and what good citizens do. They came up with community service projects that they could do as a group. They decided to make care packages for babies at Children's Hospital and their caregivers. The babies will receive cozy blankets. The second graders even came up with the slogan, C4K (Caring for Kids).

South Park Teachers, Staff and Administrators Play in Basketball Game Against Past and Present Steelers



It was a fun night on Friday, April 21 when South Park teachers, staff and administrators played in a basketball game against current and former Steelers. The game was presented by the South Park High School football team. The Steelers included Charlie Batch, Bud Dupree and Louis Lipps.

Elementary Center Students Celebrate Earth Day



South Park Elementary Center second graders celebrated Earth Day a day early on Friday, April 21. That afternoon, they learned about insects during an Earth Day assembly. They learned how crickets chirp, how insects see and how caterpillars turn into butterflies.

After the assembly, the second graders made bird feeders out of bagels. They hung their bird feeders in the trees outside South Park Elementary Center.

Dinosaur Day



Thursday, April 13 was Dinosaur Day in first grade. Students participated in several dinosaur-themed educational activities including estimating how many of their steps equal one dinosaur step and writing adjectives about dinosaurs. First graders in Mrs. Dubyak's class used their science knowledge to find out which method would melt a chunk of ice with a dinosaur inside the fastest.

Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent



Two more South Park student-athletes recently signed letters of intent to continue their athletic and educational careers.

Hunter Rock will attend Hiram College and play volleyball. Dan Morgret will attend West Virginia Wesleyan and play golf.

Congratulations, Hunter and Dan!

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

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Nurses, Maintenance,
General Cleaning
& Food Service*

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