

SOUTH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT EAGLE EYE

E-Newsletter

March 27, 2017



The curtain rises on South Park High School's Little Shop of Horrors this week! For the first time, the South Park Drama Club will be performing the show for two weekends, giving you multiple opportunities to come out and support South Park students.

For months, students have been building and designing the sets, props and puppets. There are a total of four Audrey II puppets. They have been crafted using heated PVC pipe, carved foam and sewn green covering. They also feature crafted veins, cracks and other plant-like decor. The center of the student-built set rotates 360 degrees. The work began shortly after the new year and won't be completed until the curtain goes up.

Tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students with ID and children.

The performance schedule is:

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9 at 2:00 p.m.

SP South Park School District

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sparksd.org SouthParkSchools @SPSDInfo SouthParkSchoolDistrict

Board of Directors

John Innocenti, President Frank Wentzel, Vice President Mary Arrigo, Treasurer
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Independent Testing Shows District's Water Meets EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act

The health and safety of our students and staff are always the top priorities of the South Park School District. In recent months, there have been local and national discussions about the presence of lead in drinking water. The South Park School District receives water from a public water system. There are no regulations requiring districts that receive water from public sources to test for lead in drinking water. Additionally, all three South Park schools are either recently built or newly renovated. There was no reason to believe that there were any lead issues with the district's water. However, the Board of Directors and administrators agreed in early February to act proactively and have the district's water tested.

Allegheny Global Environmental, Inc. based in Carnegie obtained a total of 112 samples in early March. The samples were taken from South Park High School on March 4, from South Park Middle School on March 6 and from South Park Elementary Center on March 7. Samples were taken from all taps that are accessible to students, all drinking fountains, all sinks that are accessible to students and all cafeteria water sources. All of the 112 samples were first draw samples, meaning the samples were of stagnant water before any flushing or use. The samples were delivered to the RJ Lee Group Laboratory in Monroeville for analysis.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency suggests that schools take action if lead is found in any sample at levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb). The report received from Allegheny Global Environmental, Inc. showed that *all 112 samples were below the 20 ppb level and met the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act.*

MARCH
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**South Park students are off on Friday, March 31, 2017
for a staff in-service/clerical day.**

Renovation of Eagle Stadium Begins



The renovation of Eagle Stadium was approved by the Board of Directors in late February. Already, there are some noticeable changes. The bleachers, press box, concession stands, lights and scoreboard have all been removed. A special section of the district's website will soon be launched to provide updates throughout the project. Updates will also be included in future Eagle Eye E-Newsletters and on the district's social media pages.

PSSA Testing Begins Next Week

PSSA

The South Park School District will be participating in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The testing schedule is as follows:

English Language Arts
April 3-7
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Mathematics
April 24-28
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Science
May 1-5
Grades 4 and 8

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires assessments to be administered in all public school districts and charter schools in Pennsylvania with the exception of a very few students who meet specific criteria for participation in an alternate assessment. All district students are expected to participate in the state assessments as shown above. All assessment items are written to align with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards for the specific subject being assessed. The results of each assessment provide valuable data to the school district, which is used for program planning and improvement purposes. Each assessment is made up of multiple-choice, selected response, and constructed response items. For more information about the different types of items on the ELA, Math, and Science PSSAs, please take a moment to become familiar with the Parent/Guardian FAQ document available on the PSSA section of the district's website.

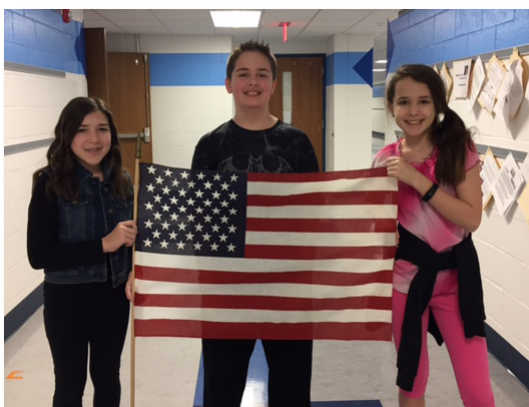
Please make every effort to ensure that your child is present and arrives to school on time during the testing dates. In the event that a student arrives after the assessment has begun, he/she will not be permitted into the classroom and will report to an alternative location, as not to disrupt the testing environment.

Parents are encouraged to give your child the best opportunity to demonstrate their abilities by making sure your child is in school and on time throughout the testing process, making sure they get a good night's sleep, ensuring they eat a healthy breakfast and encouraging them to take this assessment seriously. The results play an important role in providing information to adjust the academic offerings in our district.

Thank you for your valued support and cooperation with this assessment. Your child has been working extremely hard all year, and now is their opportunity to demonstrate their ability. We do understand that this is only one measure of academic ability and will continue to take all the data into account when making academic decisions at South Park.

[Click here to visit the PSSA section of the district's website.](#)

Sixth Graders Win Local Essay Contest



South Park sixth graders recently participated in the Pennsylvania American Legion essay contest. Students in sixth through eighth grade throughout the state wrote about what the American flag represents. Winners in each region were determined by the local post of the American Legion.

The sixth grade winners were Kayla Bennett, Mary Urso and Tyler Love. Each student will be awarded a prize and certificate at an awards ceremony on April 4 at the American Legion Post 760.

Congratulations to these three students and all South Park sixth graders for their great essays which showed true patriotism and appreciation for the American flag!

Join us on Wednesday, May 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as we highlight the recent renovation of South Park Middle School and the amazing work done throughout the year by South Park Middle School students. The South Park Middle School Showcase will allow families and community members the chance to tour the renovated middle school and see what South Park Middle School students have been working on throughout the school year. More details will be shared in upcoming Eagle Eye E-Newsletters. To see a before-and-after video of the renovation at South Park Middle School, click [here](#) to visit the South Park School District Facebook page. The video has been viewed more than 10,000 times!



South Park Senior Takes Part in SHASDA Student Forum



South Park High School senior Jacob Danner represented South Park at the South Hills Area School Districts Association (SHASDA) Student Forum on Thursday, March 16 at Upper St. Clair High School. This year's discussion and questions were on career and technical education. Jacob is pictured with South Park High School Assistant Principal Justin Dellarose.

South Park Students Win Steel Center Extra Effort Awards

Every quarter, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding attitude, work ethic, attendance and dependability. Instructors choose students to receive the Extra Effort Award.

Congratulations to the following South Park students who won the Extra Effort Award:

Joe Christman – Electrical Construction
Reis Englert – Computer Information Systems

Mason Partyka – Welding
Dustin Seyler – Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning



First Grade Students Send Springtime Treats to Troops Overseas



South Park first graders' kindness project for the month of March will provide some sweet treats to American troops overseas. The students created "Egg Hunts" to send to service members. The bags contained plastic eggs filled with delicious wrapped candy. Students also included hand-written cards in each bag. The bags were donated to Military Connections and shipped to troops. This act of kindness by first grade students, their families and teachers will surely brighten the day of those serving overseas!

Prom 2017

Prom 2017 is on Friday, May 12. This year's theme is Arabian Nights. Pictures at the high school begin at 4:00 p.m. The Grand March begins at 5:30 p.m. Donations are welcome at the Grand March to help defer prom costs. The Prom will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Southpointe from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

For more information and important forms, click [here](#) to go to the Prom page on South Park High School's website.

Spring Break

Spring Break for South Park students begins with a one-hour early dismissal on Thursday, April 13. The district will be closed on Friday, April 14 and Monday, April 17. Monday, April 17 is a possible snow make-up day.

Apparel Sale Benefiting 9th, 10th and 11th Grade Students Ends This Week

Stock up on South Park gear and help support 9th, 10th and 11th grade students! Click [here](#) to visit the store. The sale ends on March 31. Merchandise will be delivered to South Park High School within three weeks after the sale ends. Merchandise can be picked up at South Park High School when the orders arrive.

Honors Law and Legal Studies Students Attend Mock Sentencing and Discussion

South Park High School students in Mr. Correll's Honors Law and Legal Studies class recently attended a "You Be the Judge Mock Sentencing" at the United States



District Court downtown. The mock sentencing is presented by retired U.S. District Judge Terrence F. McVerry and allows student to observe a mock sentencing hearing in which the defendant made threats on social media. South Park students determined, based on recommendation from the participating parties, an appropriate sentence for the crime.

During the second session, South Park students observed a panel discussion by members of the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. The panel included an FBI Special Agent, a member of Homeland Security Investigations and a member of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The information presented included possible career opportunities, demands of the job and the missions of the agencies and their employees.

Do You Like Us On Facebook?

A growing number of people are liking the official South Park School District Facebook page. To stay connected, click [here](#) and like us!

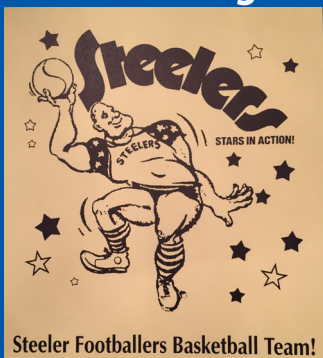
South Park High School Students Inducted into National Honor Society



On Thursday, March 16, a new group of 21 juniors and seniors were inducted into the South Park Chapter of the National Honor Society. The inductees were welcomed and commended for their achievements by South Park High School Principal David S. Palmer as well as NHS President Samaya Coury, who led the induction ceremony. The four pillars of the society - scholarship, service, leadership, and character - are the determining factors in the eligibility for membership, and Vice President Elisa DeRose, Historian Madelyn Sabatini, Secretary Polina Petrov and Treasurer Aaron

Walker gave speeches on each of these pillars, respectively. The board members lit the candles representing their respective pillars, and the inductees received the light before reciting the pledge to uphold the purpose of the society. Each inductee then officially became a member when given a certificate of honor and a National Honor Society pin.

Pittsburgh Steelers Footballers Basketball Team Coming to South Park



The South Park High School football team is hosting the Pittsburgh Steelers Footballers Basketball team. Past and present Steelers will play against teachers, coaches and administrators from all South Park schools. The game is scheduled for Friday, April 21 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the game are \$7 each.

Pittsburgh Steelers will sign autographs at halftime. There will be Chinese Auction baskets, a 50/50 and raffles.

If you know a player on the football team, contact the player to purchase tickets or contact Kathy Kmonk at kathy1018@comcast.net.

\$2,500 Worth of Books Purchased for SPEC Library



The weeklong South Park Elementary Center Book Fair presented by the PTO wrapped up with Family Night on Friday, March 17. Students competed in the All For Books Coin Challenge. They raised nearly \$2,000 during that challenge. Kindergarten won the grade level contest, collecting the most money. They win a popsicle party. The money raised, combined with Scholastic dollars earned by hosting a Book Fair, bought \$2,500 in books for South Park Elementary Center's library and classroom libraries.

Scholastic matches the All For Books totals and will buy books for at-risk children across the country.

SPHS Environmental Club



Students in the Environmental Club at South Park High School recently planted herbs for the library garden. Those herbs will be given out in celebration of Earth Week and will be available for use in our culinary arts classes.

South Park Varsity Dance Team Tryouts

The South Park Varsity Dance Team had a very exciting and successful first year. The team competed in four regional competitions and performed at several varsity boys' basketball games. The team is looking forward to its second year with a lot of new opportunities including the chance to qualify for Nationals in Walt Disney World.



Dance Team tryouts for the 2017-2018 season will be held starting on May 1. All students entering 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades are welcome to try out. The workshop days will be on May 1, May 2, May 3 and May 8. During those days, the routine for the tryouts will be taught. Tryouts will take place on Tuesday, May 9. All sessions will be held in the South Park High School auxiliary gym from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tryouts will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9 and will continue until the tryouts are complete. Tryouts will be judged by an outside panel of judges. Results will be announced on Tuesday, May 9.

There will be an informational meeting during homeroom on Friday, April 21. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Kristie Berzansky at jk0806@verizon.net.

Pi Day



Students in Mrs. Montuoro's Pre-Calculus class celebrated Pi Day on March 14. The pre-calculus class started its lesson on the Unit Circle, and students kicked off the unit with Pi.

7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams Invited to the Atlantic 10 Tournament



Thanks to the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, the 7th and 8th grade girls' and boys' basketball teams were able to attend the Atlantic 10 Basketball Tournament at the PPG Paints Arena.

Nancy Lieberman, current assistant coach with the NBA's Sacramento Kings and one of the most decorated women's basketball players in U.S. history, was the keynote speaker for the event. The players along with coaches Nicole Ruscitto, Brian Duggan and Matt Jones enjoyed this wonderful experience!

South Park High School Band, Color Guard and Majorettes Visit SPMS

March is Music in Our Schools Month. Students, faculty and staff at South Park Middle School welcomed the South Park High School Marching Band, Color Guard and Majorettes for a special performance on Friday, March 24. Representatives from each group talked with students and encouraged them to get involved in any of those activities.



Dates to Remember

Thursday, March 30
End of Third Quarter

Friday, March 31
No School for Students
(In-Service/Clerical Day)

Accounting Students Invited to Attend Financial Literacy Day

Thirty students from Mrs. Hecht's College Accounting, Accounting II and Accounting I classes have been invited to attend Robert Morris University's Beta Alpha Psi Financial Literacy Day on Friday, April 7. Topics include college affordability, the admissions process and business student roundtable discussions on financial literacy.



Flashlight Fridays

Fridays are extra special for first grade students in Mrs. Dubyak's class. On Fridays, first graders are joined by third grade students. They form small groups and read stories together using flashlights.

Want to make a difference in the lives of children? Start with SmartSTART



Build your resume, gain experience and make a difference in the lives of children by being a substitute teacher in your district. SmartSTART grants emergency teaching certifications to those who already have a bachelor's degree but are not certified teachers. SmartSTART offers flexible scheduling, professional training, valuable

experience and an opportunity to have a positive impact on kids.

Contact the South Park School District Administration Office, go to PAEducator.net or call 412.394.5700 to apply.

Training sessions are held at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Central Office, 475 East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120.

The next scheduled class is Friday, September 29, 2017. The deadline to register is Tuesday, September 5, 2017.