



SEWICKLEY ACADEMY

2017-2018

highlights

INSPIRING AND EDUCATING HEARTS, MINDS, AND HANDS





Look What We've Been Up To!



On Tuesday, December 19, 2017, Grade 5 partnered with 412 Food Rescue to prepare meals to donate to The Center for Hope in Ambridge. Grade 5 teacher Christina Blazin, along with the support of the organization's



Senior Program Manager Ms. Hana Uman and a few amazing parent volunteers, helped students prepare 15 meals that were delivered to those in need over the holiday season.



Lower School students delved into a new charitable project this year called "Read to Feed," a read-a-thon sponsored by Heifer International and chaired by teacher Alison Trexel to support needy families in Mexico. Students raised over \$3,000 which purchased 14 goats, 7 pigs, and 25 flocks of chickens for a village.



Sally Hobart Alexander, a published children's author, college professor, and mother, spoke to Lower School students in December, explaining what it is like to be blind and how to best interact with someone who is blind. She returned to campus in January to speak to Middle and Senior School students about how her life changed when she became blind at the age of 26. Her guide dog Dave accompanied her to the Academy during both visits, and demonstrated his "dog push-ups" that he does for exercise daily.



Sewickley Academy Middle School students participated in the Battle of the Books presented by Sewickley Public and Moon Township Public Libraries. Students established five teams and read 10 books in order to compete in rounds of trivia style questions to earn points. Grade 6 team The Bookworms took third place, and the Grades 7 and 8 team #ReadingMagiciansStrikeBack placed second.



5 BOOKS | 10 TEAMS



Students in Pre-K through Grade 8 enjoyed high-energy performances and interactive workshops by Poetry Alive! this spring. The group provides students with a more in-depth exploration of literary analysis and writing and speaking skills. Performers Nadia and Tippin brought famous poems to life on stage, often with the help of students and teachers.



"Global Issues: World Health" students traveled to Belize over spring break to provide basic health assessments to patients in several Belizean communities. Students participated in authentic, curriculum-based service learning in a culturally diverse community. The collaboration between Sewickley Academy and Global Public Service Academies, now in its second year, has helped nearly 500 patients by providing critical health-related services.


 The Senior School's Girl

Up and Feminist clubs hosted Ravin' for the Haven: A Fundraiser Benefiting Bethlehem Haven on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Over 75 people moved and grooved to dance and workout routines led by local Zumba and hip-hop instructors in Means Alumni Gym. The event was a huge success and raised over \$1,000 for Bethlehem Haven. That's what we call girl power!




Sewickley Academy's Board of Trustees transitioned leadership roles during the summer of 2017. As **Amy (Simmons '80) Sebastian's** term ended, **Kate (Poppenberg '82) Pigman** was elected Chair of the Board, and **Brad Busatto '88** was elected Vice Chair. Both Kate and Brad have strong ties to the Sewickley Academy community as alumni and parents.




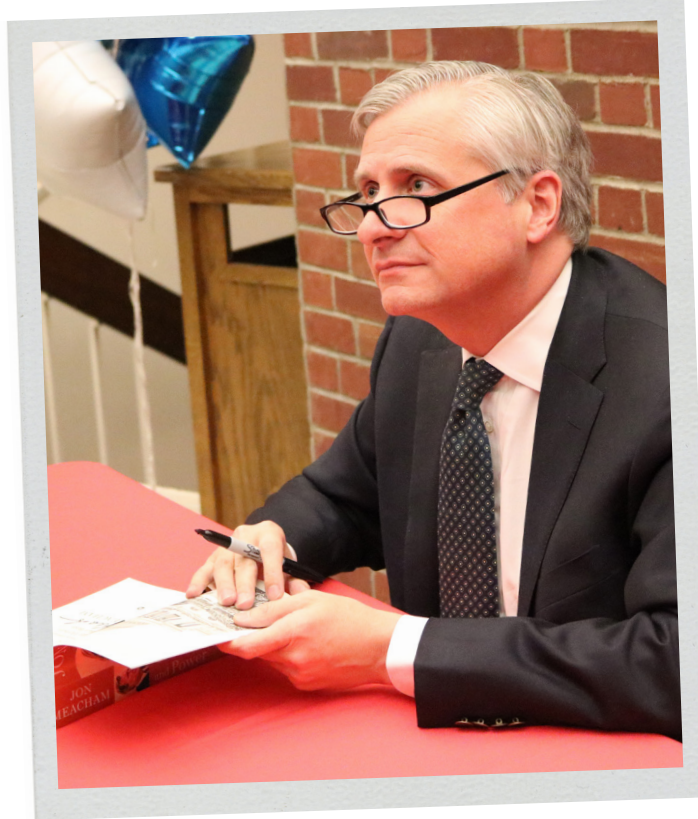
 Freshman Ella Zhou and sophomore Luke Tyson were selected to receive the prestigious annual merit-based scholarship awards for the study of critical languages by American youth from the National Security Language Initiative for Youth program. Both

will study Hindi as part of an immersion program in the west central part of India this summer, with Luke traveling to Indore and Ella studying in Pune.

 Senior Leila Wynnyckyj worked with Senior School history teacher Jessica Peluso and the Global Studies Department to put together a service trip to Haiti. In January, eight students traveled for five days to Haiti under the auspices of Work (formerly Team Tassy) to learn about Work's philosophy of helping Haitians achieve economic security one family at a time. The group completed a few projects and interacted with local children, getting to know the families.



 On Wednesday, March 7, 2018, renowned presidential historian and author Jon Meacham addressed a large crowd in Rea Auditorium to talk about the "Art of Leadership: Lessons from the American Presidency." Jon is a contributing writer to *The New York Times* Book Review, contributing editor at *TIME*, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. He highlighted some common threads our nation's exemplary leaders exhibited throughout history: humility, courage, compassion, and candor. The evening concluded with a Q&A session and book signing.





ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Class of 2018 graduated on Thursday, June 7, 2018 in the Events Center and Means Alumni Gym.

Natalia Arbelaez-Solano received the Faculty Award, Claire Meakem received the Head of School's Award, Leila Wynnyckyj was presented with the Academy Award, and Cole Luther was given the Cavalier Cup.

Grade 8 students Charlie Betters and Madison Martin were the 2018 John W. Heagy Award recipients.

The Community of Respect Award was presented to Grade 5 students Jaydon Kurian and Skylar Nocito.



Five students were recognized by the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Michael Bartholic and Will Sands were named commended students; Emmy Francek, Cole Luther, and Pranav Mulgund were named semifinalists and advanced as finalists. Pranav was selected as a winner of corporate-sponsored National Merit Eaton Scholarship, sponsored by Eaton Charitable Fund, and Emmy was offered the National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.



Twelve members of Sewickley Academy's senior class, who demonstrated outstanding scholarship during their junior and senior years, were honored with membership to the Cum Laude Society on May 21, 2018, including Michael Bartholic, Peter Curran, Emmy Francek, Annabel Gillespie, Lucinda Gillespie, Cole Luther, Heba Malik, Claire Meakem, Pranav Mulgund, Will Nocito, Nishant Purewal, and Kaiyuan "Vincent" Wu.



Four sophomores won top awards at speech and debate tournaments this year. Hannah Peacock placed first in Congressional Debate at a tournament at Upper St. Clair in October, and Zoe Luther and Mishon Levine placed second in Public Forum Debate at a tournament at West Allegheny High School in the spring. Luke Tyson placed second in Congressional Debate in a local tournament at Pittsburgh Central Catholic in December and brought home the state

championship trophy from the PA High School Speech League in March. Additionally, he earned a number of national awards, placing third in Congressional Debate at a tournament at the University of Pennsylvania in February and eighth in Congressional Debate in the National Catholic Forensic League in Washington, D.C. over Memorial Day weekend. Luke is ranked in the top 20 in the country and qualified for the nationally acclaimed Tournament of Champions.



Senior Michael Hertzberg was selected as the Pennsylvania recipient of the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award. The National WWII Museum American Spirit Award is given to one Grade 8 - 12 student from each state and the District of Columbia who demonstrates the American Spirit in his or her community. The award recognizes students who demonstrate that "the values of leadership, teamwork, tolerance, creativity, and perseverance can and should be learned and lived by all Americans regardless of age."



Grade 8 student Roshni Thakkar won first place in the Junior Individual Website Category at the National History Day state competition for her project "Nelson Mandela: A Conflicting Journey to Justice."



Grade 8 student Srimayi Mulukutla and freshman Prateek Adurty both won first place prizes with perfect scores in their respective categories at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition on February 3, 2018, at Duquesne University. Srimayi presented her project "Increasing Efficiency of Non-Electric Refrigeration" in the ecology category. She also won the Director's Award and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach Sponsor Award. Prateek presented his project "Biofuel Energy Optimization Using Calorimetry" in the chemistry category. He received the Dr. James Manner Award for Excellence in Chemistry and Biochemistry from the American Chemical Society and the Dr. Kurt C. Schreiber Award for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry and Biochemistry from Duquesne University.





Four Sewickley Academy students

- James Walton, Aydin Turkay, Jayvir Monga, and Christina Walton - competed as part of Team

#8393 the Giant Diencephalic BrainSTEM

Robotics Team. The team won first place overall at the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Ohio State Championship, claiming the Ohio State Champion title, in February. The team also won first place in the FTC Robotics World Championship in Detroit in May.



The Senior School Robotics Team, the

Whoa!Bots, won first place with a perfect 9-0 record in the FIRST Relic Recovery Western Maryland Qualifying Tournament on Saturday, January 27, outscoring

all opponents 3192-1689. The team took gold in February at the FTC Maryland Championship, advancing to the FTC East Super-Regional Championship in March. The Whoa!Bots earned a team-high 746 points in the first match of the divisional semifinals, but narrowly missed an invitation to the FTC World Championship.



Honors chemistry students Tim Han and Erin Mahoney took the annual two-hour competitive exam sponsored by the Pittsburgh section of the American Chemical Society on April 7, 2018, earning first and second prize, respectively, in the small school division.

CLASS OF 2018 FACTS & STATS



Admitted to **120** colleges or universities



Will attend **44** different colleges and universities in **20** different states



91% of the class was admitted to one of their top choice colleges



6,470 hours spent engaged in community service



46% of the class was admitted to a college or university with an acceptance rate lower than **30%**

ADVANCEMENT



On September 3, 2017, the

Rutherford family delivered a special gift to Sewickley Academy - the Stanley Cup! Members of the SA community were able to take a photo with the Cup in the Events Center and Means Alumni Gym when

they made a "back-to-back" pledge to the Annual Fund for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years to celebrate the Pittsburgh Penguins Back-to-Back Stanley Cup wins! A lucky few were even able to meet General Manager Jim Rutherford and Head Coach Mike Sullivan.



On Giving Tuesday, Sewickley Academy raised over \$13,000 for the Annual Fund. The Academy raised approximately \$70,000 during its Annual Fund Day of Giving Challenge in the spring. Thank you to all of this year's donors and challenge sponsors!.



The 12th Annual Hansen Cup Memorial Golf Outing took place on September 11, 2017, at Allegheny Country Club. The outing raised more than \$47,500 which directly benefits a current Sewickley Academy student who is supported by the W. Gregg Hansen Memorial Scholarship.



Art III students installed temporary Pittsburgh-themed tape art in various spots around campus. Works inspired by the Pittsburgh skyline, Phipps Conservatory, an incline, and other notable local landmarks were displayed in hallways, stairwells, and the library.



Pittsburgh CLO presented their Gallery of Heroes show, “¡Arriba! ¡Arriba! The Roberto Clemente Story,” an original musical depicting the inspiring life of the Pittsburgh Pirates legend, hero, Hall of Famer, and humanitarian Roberto Clemente to students in Grades 1-8 on Monday, February 12.



Senior Priya Melonio was named a back-to-back winner in 2017 and 2018 of Slippery Rock University’s (SRU) Instagram drawing contest for high school students. The chairperson for SRU Department of Art and jurors voted and named Priya’s entries as the winner out of 160-plus drawings submitted by students from 19 different high schools.



Junior Autumn Menzock received third place in the National Congressional Art Competition for Congressional District 12 on Saturday, April 28. Her piece, “Untitled Abstract #1,” placed third out of 40 entries from local area high school students.



Three Sewickley Academy English students were recognized by the Pittsburgh Regional Scholastic Writing Awards for their writing skills. Junior Linsey Szabo was awarded a Gold Key for her critical essay “Light and Dark,” sophomore Mishon Levine earned a Silver Key for her poetry collection, and freshman Aditya Menon was awarded a Silver Key for his narrative essay, “An Afternoon in Thrissur.” Linsey’s essay also won a Gold Key at the national competition.



NORTHERN AREA HONORS BAND

Alisha Mattson, Rebecca Glass, Naomi Wigley, Jayne Miner, Isabella Murano, Sofia Smith, Aizah Kamal, Elim Chen, Lakshmi Mulgund, Lianna Joseph, and Ibrahim Khan

PMEA PARTICIPANTS

Jeremy Gu

District 1 Orchestra, Region 1 Orchestra, All-State Orchestra

Amber Huang

District 1 Band

Mariah Pringle

District 1 Band

Navin Rana

District 1 Band

William Sands

Honors Band, District 1 Band, Region 1 Band, All-State Concert Band

Natalia Arbelaez-Solano

Honors Orchestra, District 1 Orchestra



The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) awarded Junior Linsey Szabo with a Certificate of Superior Writing – the highest distinction given in the NCTE Competition – for her essay “Light and Dark.”




Sewickley Academy’s Senior School production of “The Sound of Music” was nominated for three Gene Kelly Awards – best musical (budget level 1), best scenic design (budget level 1), and best all-student orchestra, which included 30 musicians – the largest in school history!




Junior Bobo Liang won first place in the young musician category of the 2018 International Maestro Piano and Strings Competition. She was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City in July.

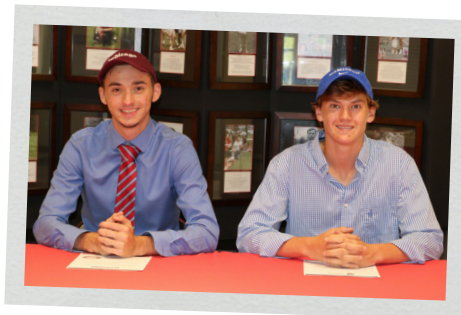



 Four students were named to the 2017 Keith Waldman - Optimal Performance Associates / National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) High School National Academic Squad. Juniors Katie Jones and Madeline Mooney and seniors Claire Meakem and Leila Wynnyckyj join over 2,770 student-athletes from 344 high schools to receive this honor.




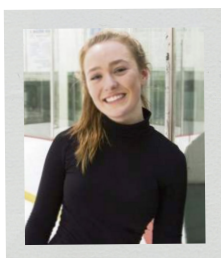
 For the 15th consecutive year, the Sewickley Academy varsity boys tennis team claimed the WPIAL 2A Championship by defeating Indiana 4-1 on April 27, 2018.

 The Academy hosted its Athletic College Signing Ceremony on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, for two seniors who committed to play sports in college. Will Nocito will play golf at Hamilton College, and Sam Casale will compete on the track and field team at the University of Chicago.




 For the first time ever in the sport of golf, both the girls and boys teams from the same school captured PIAA Team Championships in the same year, and, in this case, on the same day! This was also the first time in Academy history that girls and boys teams from the same sport captured gold in the same school year!


 Junior Tatum McKelvey captured the WPIAL 2A Girls Individual Golf Championship at Diamond Run Golf Club on October 4, 2017.




 Senior Emmy Francek was awarded the Gold Level Graduating Seniors Award by U.S. Figure Skating. The Graduating Seniors Program recognizes those student-athletes who have worked hard to pursue figure skating while maintaining their academics.



 Sophomore Arjan Bedi won the WPIAL Class 2A Singles Tennis Championship, and senior Nishant Purewal took third place. Seniors Will Nocito and Dylan Parda won the WPIAL 2A Doubles Championship, defeating teammates Cole Luther and Saarang Mulukutla 6-2, 6-0 on May 11, 2018.

 Sisters Ashley (Grade 6) and Kirsten (Grade 5) Close took first and second place, respectively, in the regional United States Tennis Association tournament (Level 5) for all girls 12 and younger in January.



 The varsity boys basketball team defeated OLSH 63-59 on Friday, March 2, at the Petersen Events Center to capture their second consecutive WPIAL Championship. Junior Nate Ridgeway was named Player of the Game by the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*.



 Middle School students Sofia Tsudis, Georgia Cox, Lia Nicodemo, and Cleo Ray earned a bronze medal in the Midwest Rowing Championship in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 19-20.



FACULTY & ALUMNI ACCOLADES



a public-private partnership designed to increase people-to-people exchanges between youth in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa as a lasting tribute to the legacy of Ambassador Chris Stevens.

★ On October 6, 2017, the Sewickley Academy community gathered together in the Events Center and Means Alumni Gym to celebrate the induction of **Tamara “Tammy” Hoch ‘03, Corey Diethorn ‘04, Tommy Kehoe ‘04,** and the **1997 State Champion boys basketball** team into the Sports Hall of Fame.

★ **Maggie McClain ‘14** won her second consecutive DIII Women’s Lacrosse National Championship title with the Gettysburg College Bullets.

★ **Summer Thorpe ‘16** recorded the fifth fastest time (13.41) in Notre Dame history in the 100-meter hurdles.

★ **Jason Li ‘17,** a member of the golf team at Carnegie Mellon, was named the University Athletic Association (UAA) Rookie of the Year and made first-team all-conference.

★ **Keenan Hickton ‘14** helped the Emory Eagles men’s golf team claim their third consecutive four-squad UAA Championship in March. He was named first-team all-conference and selected as the UAA Athletic of the Week twice.

★ During the Academy’s annual opening assembly on Friday, September 1, 2017, Grade 3 teacher Mrs. Jayne Parker was named the 15th Clark Faculty Chair by the Board of Trustees and Head of School Kolia O’Connor.

★ Dance teacher Joe Jackson received his master’s degree in Theatre Directing this spring from Roosevelt University in Chicago. His work on the Middle School musical, *Working*, was his thesis production.

★ Middle School history teacher Christy Mulhollem was approved to be a part of iEARN’s Spring Bridge Program. The Bridge Program is part of the Stevens Initiative,