



# Brentwood Borough School District



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

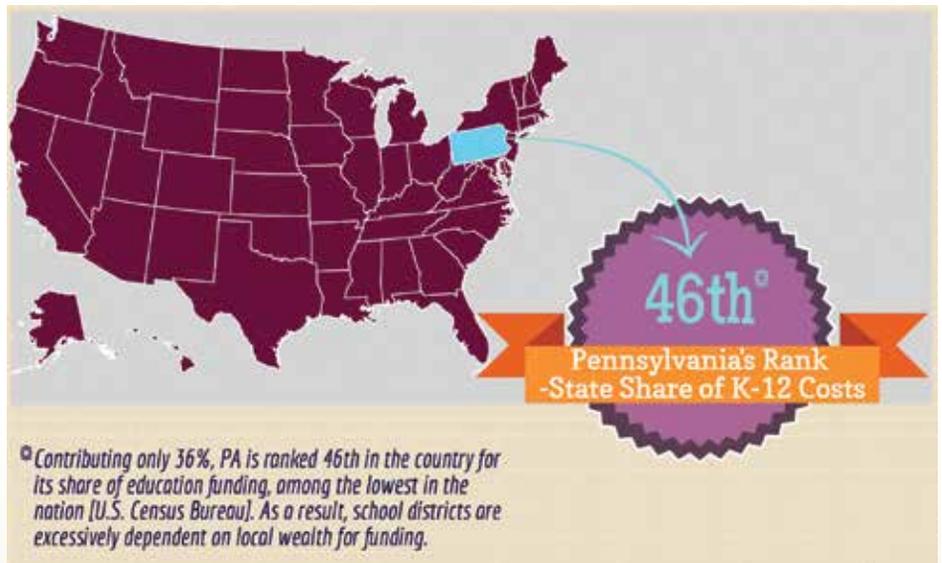
BY DR. AMY M. BURCH

### Two Questions

"Do you work year round? What do you do all summer?" These are two questions that are frequently posed to school personnel. The summer months are just as busy as any other time of year for a variety of reasons and it takes a great deal of effort to be ready for our students return in August.

### Budget Season

The District passed the 2015-2016 budget by June 30th last year, but the state budget was not passed until nine months later. School personnel will continue to refine the proposed budget and recommend to the Board of Directors a final budget to be voted on by June 30th this year. It remains unclear as to whether or not the state will pass a budget on time this year and questions about new revenue sources are unanswered. The main concerns for schools include the fact that Pennsylvania ranks 46th in the nation when it comes to funding education and the inequities associated with the distribution of funds to districts. The Campaign for Fair Education Funding, which is comprised of over 50 education advocacy organizations is calling for the state to increase its commitment to investing in public schools annually through the funding formula and to increase education funding by \$400 million in the 2016-2017 state budget.



Credit: <http://fairfundingpa.org/resources/campaign-one-pagers-infographics/>

### Summer Programs

Elroy elementary will host the Title I summer program and the YMCA Day Camp. The Title I program is a federally-funded program taught by certified teachers that is designed to offer additional help to students who struggle in reading, math or other academic areas. Title I students entering grades k-5 from both Moore and Elroy receive remedial reading and math services in order to improve their skills. The YMCA Day Camp provides an excellent setting for kids to build confidence and friendships. The program includes a focus on honesty, caring, respect and responsibility in all activities and for all ages. Students have fun while trained counselors guide them through daily schedules that nurture their spirits, challenge their minds and strengthen their bodies. Weekly themes keep return campers engaged and

provide a basis for kids to learn about themselves and the world around them. Brentwood Borough graciously assumed the Brentwood Day Camp experience, but the activities are scheduled to occur on school district grounds. The camp is scheduled to operate from June 27 through July 22, 2016.

## Comprehensive Plan begins July 1st

A revised district wide comprehensive plan will take effect July 1, 2016. The updated plan includes revised vision and mission statements along with three areas of focus for the next three years. The three areas of focus include a district wide system that fully ensures consistent implementation of standards aligned curricula across all schools for all students; a district system that fully ensures the consistent implementation of effective instructional practices across all classrooms in each school; and a district system that fully ensures staff members in every school use standards aligned assessments to monitor student achievement and adjust instructional practices.

## Much More to Accomplish

The examples listed above are not all encompassing. School personnel are also responsible for enrolling new students, creating class schedules, updating curriculum, welcoming new staff members, ordering and distributing school supplies, planning staff professional development, and preparing the buildings for the upcoming school year. The collaborative spirit of all school personnel enables our district to continue to serve our most precious resource, our students. We look forward to their return in the August!

### HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## Taryn Sherry Speaks at SHASDA Student Forum

Each year the South Hills Area School District Association (SHASDA) holds a student forum where selected students are asked a number of questions related to schools to share with South Hills area superintendents, board members and principals. The forum is designed to engage students from the area on a number of topics related to school improvement. SHASDA has long held the belief that the students, who are immersed in the schools and the state mandates, are the best source of firsthand knowledge on how to make improvements to schools and to gain valuable insight.

This year there were twenty-three school districts represented by students, superintendents, board members and principals. The forum took place at Upper St. Clair High School and the evening was moderated by Brentwood Borough School District Superintendent and SHASDA president, Dr. Amy Burch. The groups were split into teams of two students and a mixture of representatives from the participating school districts. The range of topics covered was technology use in the classroom, what changes the students would make if they were in charge, views on Pennsylvania mandated standardized testing, and how high school has impacted the students.

Taryn Sherry was the student representative for Brentwood High School. She is a member of the Senior Class Steering Committee and Student Council. Taryn is also a member of the volleyball team and softball team. She is a leader in the Pittsburgh Cares Grant and action team. She is the editor of the yearbook and writes for the newspaper. She is a member of Interact Club, Pep Club and Garden Club and other school activities and leadership roles. Taryn will be attending Clarion University in the fall. She will be majoring in Business and Communications she is also interested in Sports Management.

Dr. Burch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Werner, School Board Secretary, Mr. Topolosky, School Board Member and Mr. Olexa, High School Principal were also with Taryn representing the school district.



Taryn Sherry



## Brentwood Borough School District

# Julia Madden and Jayson Lower Honored at SHASDA Conference

Each year the South Hills Area School District Association (SHASDA) holds an annual conference where students are honored with the SHASDA Extra Effort Award. SHASDA has long recognized that there are students who come through our schools who face obstacles and challenges that not every student faces as they make their way through high school. Often these students are not recognized by the conventional honors, so SHASDA established this annual award to give credit to students who have worked hard to be successful in their respective schools. The philosophy for the award has remained the same. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated significant improvement in student performance and/or have overcome obstacles in attaining their present status. The criteria may include improvement in grades, achievement test scores, attendance and outstanding improvements in academics as well as the practical and fine arts.

This year Brentwood High School was pleased to honor Julia Madden and Jayson Lower. Julia will attend CCAC in the fall. Her plans are to transfer to a college or university and major in either education or nursing. Julia was a member of the Brentwood Spartan Marching Band, and was captain of the Visual Ensemble. Julia was also an active member of the high school musicals. Jayson will be joining the United States Air Force. Jayson has been actively involved with our Technology Student Association. Jayson also assisted in the summer and during the school year assisting with technology setup and programming. Jayson was a member of the German Club, Principal's Advisory and Superintendent's Council. We wish Julia and Jayson the best of luck as they move on from Brentwood High School.



Julia Madden SHASD



Jayson Lower SHASDA

# Mia Jandric Wins the Brentwood, Baldwin, Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Brentwood High School and the Brentwood Borough School District has had a long standing partnership with the Brentwood, Baldwin, Whitehall Chamber of Commerce. The school district is a proud member of the chamber and Dr. Burch serves on the Chamber Board of Directors and Officers. Each year the Brentwood, Baldwin, Whitehall Chamber of Commerce sponsors a \$1,000.00 one-time scholarship for a student at Brentwood High School and a student at Baldwin High School. Brentwood had fifteen students write essays for the scholarship competition and Mia Jandric was chosen from that group as the scholarship winner.

Mia will be attending the Pennsylvania State University Main Campus in the fall. She will be majoring in Biology. Mia was a very active student at Brentwood High School and involved in a number of activities. She held leadership roles as a member of the Junior and Senior Steering Committee, Student Council, Superintendent's Council and Principal's Advisory Committee. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She was also involved with Pep Club. Mia also participated and lettered in Cross Country and Track. We wish Mia the best on her future endeavors.



Mia Jandric

# Student Compete in the Teen Driving Challenge

On Monday, April 11, 3 BHS students, accompanied by Mr. Kozarian, School Resource Officer, attended the 7th annual Allegheny County Teen Safe Driving Competition, held at Pittsburgh Technical Institute. Renéé Burch, Adam Hoebler and Abby Shaffer competed against other local high school students in 3 categories – a written test, a driving skills test and a perceptual driving test. Although the students did not win any prizes in the competition, all said it was a fun day and they learned some valuable driving tips!



## Technology Student Association

This year, students in Brentwood High School's engineering and communications classes joined the Technology Student Association, (TSA). TSA is a nationally recognized, student driven organization that focuses on educating students in STEAM related events. Competitions range from Flight Endurance to Fashion Design, and members are invited to participate in up to six competitions.

The idea to create a chapter came from high school students Luke Benedik and Luke O'Shea, who were joined by Teddi Sedlar to form the chapter's team of officers. Benedik served as the chapter's president, assisted by O'Shea and Sedlar as the Vice President and Secretary, respectively. The students were advised by Brentwood's engineering teacher, Beau Sedlar. "We do a lot of challenging and interesting activities in class, but it is interesting to see what other schools are doing and compare," said Benedik.

This year, members of the Brentwood chapter competed in multiple competitions, including CAD 2D and 3D, Architectural Renovation, Technical Sketching and Application, Extemporaneous Speech, and Technology Problem Solving.

Students competed at the regional level in January, and despite attending as a rookie chapter, several students ended up placing. In Extemporaneous Speech, Teddi Sedlar won first place for the region, followed by Luke O'Shea in second. Luke Benedik won third place in Technical Sketching and Application, and Teddi Sedlar won second. Pat Carr and Dominic Woods won first place in Technology Problem Solving, followed by Nick George and Brandon Mayfield in second place. In Architectural Renovation, Leah Mattola and Sabrina Stockline placed first in the region.

"It was a good experience for the first year competing," Stockline said.

The Pennsylvania "region six" is made up of several schools in southwestern PA, including Elizabeth Forward and South Fayette schools. At the regional level, "region six" had combined with "region one". Some of the competitions at the regional conference had hundreds of students competing, and many of these students had been a part of TSA for years. The fact that competitions are designed to challenge students makes the competitions fun, but very confusing as well.

"Last year, they tried to have us reset a mousetrap using nothing but construction paper," said Dominic Woods.

"We started TSA this year so that future students would be able to utilize TSA as an avenue to build up their resumes and college applications," said engineering teacher Beau Sedlar. And with plenty of current 10th and 11th graders ready to carry the torch, according to one of the officers, the future of Brentwood's TSA is looking very bright.





## Brentwood Borough School District



## PSA Contest Winners

Congratulations to sophomore Casey Bourne, junior Maura Saladin and senior Eric Boehm on winning second place in the Southwest PA Says NO Dating Violence Prevention Video Contest. The Communications II students received \$300 to share and their video is now being promoted through SouthwestPASaysNoMore.org, Facebook and Twitter.



## Brentwood High School Students Compete at PA High School Computer Fair

*By Julianna Winkowski*

After preparing for months, Brentwood High School students Rachel Milcic, Julianna Winkowski and Ian Kunesky brought their projects to the Carnegie Science Center to compete against other high school students in the Allegheny County area for the PA Regional High School Computer Fair.

Milcic's project was a website for Brentwood's cross country team for the Web Page Design category. She included photos and videos of the team, a meet schedule and individual runners' times on the site. A Twitter page was linked to the site as well.

Milcic said, "Without my great, dysfunctional team, I would not have had the inspiration to create my website. Winning was an unexpected outcome, but it was great that my project could present itself and do this well."



Milcic's website ended up placing first, enabling her to move on to the state competition held in May at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.

Winkowski and Kunesky designed a website together for the Web Page Design category to showcase the S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art and math) based opportunities at

Brentwood High School. The information on their site included course and competition descriptions, enrichment opportunities and images. Winkowski and Kunesky's website placed second.

Winkowski also created a logo for the Computer Fair Logo category. Her logo was in the shape of a computer screen and featured an outline of Pennsylvania and the keystone symbol. She placed third in her category.

If you are interested in viewing either of the websites the addresses are <http://brentwood-xc.weebly.com/> and <http://brentwoodsteam.weebly.com/>. Be sure to check out the Brentwood XC and Brentwood S.T.E.A.M. social media pages as well. The links are on the respective websites.

# Brentwood High School Walks Away Winners at DMAC Student Festival

By Julianna Winkowski



Brentwood communications student came home from Robert Morris University holding seven Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC) awards. During the Spring Student Festival, students won awards in PSA, feature story, special effects, feature photography, interactive web design, news article and senior Taryn Sherry won a Founder's Award.

DMAC is the former Television Teachers Consortium (TVT), an organization that has been part of RMU for 22 years. The recent name change was the result of the group adding additional digital medias to their spring festival.

Sandhya Adhikari won Best in Category for Photography. Adhikari's photo was of sophomore Steve Barton in his science class.

"I took a picture, the background was blurry and the front was focused. Originally, I took the picture for a photo scavenger hunt in my Yearbook/ Newspaper class," said Adhikari.

Using for the first time the motion graphics program Adobe After Effects (purchased with grant money from the Hive Fund), Zack Horstmann won for a 30 second animated motion graphic for Flip it Friday.

"It took me about three days working three to four periods a day to make the

graphic. The hardest part was creating the ideas, getting everything ready before I created it and picking the music," said Horstmann.

Sierra Powers won an award for excellence for her Drop the Puck on Cancer news article. Powers would describe her project as, "An informational article about Drop the Puck this year and what Drop the Puck is about and its impact on the Brentwood Community. The hardest part of designing and creating my project was how emotional of a topic cancer is. It wasn't what I was writing that made me emotional but what I was writing about," said Powers.

Senior Taryn Sherry won a Founder's award, an award only eligible for seniors who've had an impact on their school's digital media arts program.

"Taryn is a huge asset to me and my classes. I've utilized her skills to create videos for other teachers and the district. I've even asked her to teach an English 10 class a Photoshop lesson. She will be greatly missed next year," said Jennifer Hughes communications teacher.

Sherry also won an award of excellence for a feature story package she made for Toys for Tots.

"It's so nice to be recognized, little Brentwood beating out so many other bigger schools," said Sherry.

In the PSA category, Eric Boehn, Emma Betz and Brooklyn Grill won for a public service announcement they created for teen suicide prevention.

"Our message was simple and straight forward, but very meaningful which is why I think we won. It had a great deal of impact on the viewer," said Betz.

The final award of excellence was for interactive web design awarded to Julianna Winkowski for her work on The Brentwood Minaret website, [thebrentwoodminaret.com](http://thebrentwoodminaret.com).

"We work hard to create a variety of digital media for the online newspaper. We post stories, images and even videos created by each of the communications classes. We are currently working on interactive media timelines to post to the website," said Winkowski.

The communications classes are already gearing up for next year's competition, a group of sophomores have already created a PSA they feel will be competitive at the festival in 2017.



# Digital Media Arts Consortium Recognizes Brentwood Teacher

By Britney Lukasiewicz

## Brentwood Borough School District

In 2016, the program Television Teachers (TVT) changed its name to Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC). The organization made this change because they wanted to include a wider range of digital medias to give more students a chance to participate in the competition. Along with this change, the DMAC program honored local Brentwood teacher, Jennifer Hughes, with the title of president.

TVT partnered with Robert Morris University 22 years ago to form the organization and has provided a fall teachers conference and spring student festival to western PA teachers ever since. But, with the ever changing world of communications, the group felt it necessary to change with the times and expand to include additional digital medias.



"The advisory board met this summer with the Dean of the Communications and Information Systems Department at Robert Morris and decided to expand the organization to include additional digital media. At the collegiate level, most students in communications are working in various digital medias at the same time, so the connection starting at the high school level made sense to us," said Hughes.

Along with expanding the categories offered for the spring student festival, DMAC also changed the format of the festival. Instead of a strictly awards ceremony, this year the event offered workshops in many different digital formats for students and teacher to expand their exposure.

"The expansion allows us to include more students and more teachers from member schools making membership stronger and the competition more competitive," said Hughes.

With Hughes as president of the program, more of her students are getting inspired to put their best work forward because of the competition and the potential of an award at hand.

"Being recognized publically for my work in communications classes pushes me to try harder and to keep working on projects until they are done right, not just merely completed," said senior Taryn Sherry.

Not only are the students getting inspired, but so is Hughes herself. She has been trying new projects with her classes to expand her knowledge and to give the students new options to also increase their knowledge. Additionally, she had one of her students teach the process of animation to her and the class.

"As a two year member of the advisory board and serving as president this year, I've learned a great deal about media programs, software, education websites, curriculum, etc., it's helped me make Brentwood more competitive with other larger schools with bigger budgets. It's reflected in us coming home with seven DMAC awards this year from the student festival," said Hughes. Hughes being president has helped Brentwood gain a sense of gratitude and self-empowerment that as little as Brentwood is as a whole, their accomplishments are as big as the competing schools around them.

## Brentwood Students Participate in PMEA Junior High Chorus Festival

Brentwood Middle School was proud to be represented at the PMEA District I Junior High Chorus Festival this year by two students - Juliana Kail & Madeline McBride. PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the musical development of Pennsylvania's students by providing enrichment performance opportunities. Students were selected by audition and participated in over 10 hours of rehearsal, followed by a concert of over 150 student voices. This year's concert was directed by guest conductor Barbara Spiri, who is also the founder and artistic director of the Eastern Area Youth Chorale. Congratulations Juliana & Madeline on a job well done!



Juliana Kail



Madeline McBride



## Foreign Language: Making a World of Difference

This year, Mrs. Cynthia Hebestreit and Mrs. Amy Kiryk, with the help of Mrs. Jennifer Hughes and the technology department, were able to create a language lab in the STEAM Room. The German and Spanish students now have the opportunity to hone their speaking and listening skills without inhibition and the fear of judgment from their peers while presenting in front of a large group. Despite using creative and interactive classroom activities, Mrs. Hebestreit and Mrs. Kiryk recognized that most foreign language students speak one minute a day in the target language according to statistics, according to statistics. In the lab using Sony Acid Music Studio, students have recorded responses to questions, created dialogues with partners, and described pictures. This software gives them the opportunity to hear their voice, self-correct, analyze syntax, and set fluency goals.

Recently, the German Club went on its third annual trip to the Hofbräu House in the South Side. More than 35 students were able to sample wienerschnitzel (a veal filet), bierwurst sausage, sauerkraut, kartoffel pureé, and apfel struedel.

Additionally, the Spanish 2-5 classes celebrated Cinco de Mayo with fiestas and activities to learn how the Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla. Notions that this is Mexican Independence Day were corrected. This is a holiday which celebrates Mexican patriotism, ancestry and heritage. (Mexican Independence Day is actually in September.) ¡Olé!



## Spring Service is in the Air at BMS

Two groups from Brentwood Middle School teamed up this spring for service projects. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade members of Teens That Care and National Junior Honor Society took part in these volunteer opportunities, along with Mrs. Diana Kleinhampl and Mrs. Lynne Golvash, their teacher advisers.

First, on March 21st, twenty-seven students traveled to Heritage Manor Nursing Home to visit with residents and make some spring crafts. This is always one of their favorite service projects! Students look forward to spending time with the residents and a good time is always shared by all!

Then, on Sunday, April 17th, more than twenty Brentwood Middle School students, family members and teachers participated in the MS Walk in Downtown Pittsburgh. These participants raised more than \$400 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This service project has been a long-standing tradition for TTC and NJHS members. For the past ten years, BMS students, teachers and family members have participated in this 5K walk which raises awareness and valuable funds for the MS Society. A huge thank you goes out to First Student, our bus company, for providing free transportation for our participants that day.





## McGlaughlin to Attend Lake Erie College to Play Football

Senior Sean McGlaughlin has accepted an athletic scholarship to play football next year at Lake Erie College. Lake Erie College is a Division 2 college located in Painesville, OH. Sean has a three year letter winner and starter for the Spartan Football Team. He was also a first-team all-conference selection this past season as a punter. He will compete as a kicker/punter next year. Included with Sean in this photo are his parents Julie and Rob McGlaughlin.



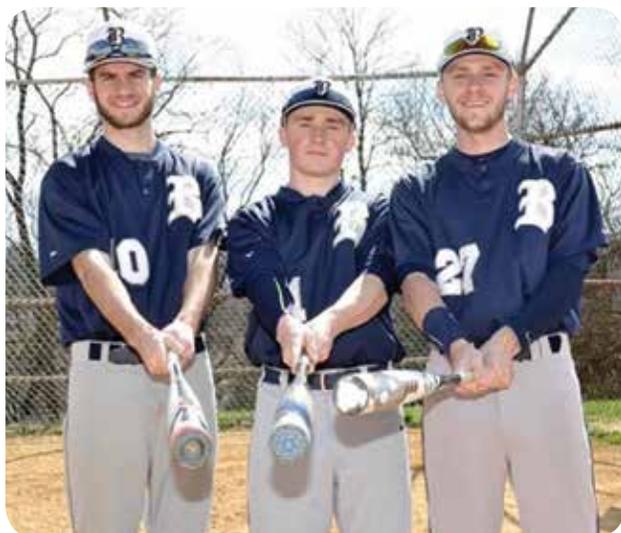
## Senior Spring Sports Recognition



Pictured from left to right are Merlin Reiland, Mia Jandric, Lesley Murrio, Nicole Zdrojewski, Dominique Young and Patrick Carr. Missing from the photo are Jon Epstein, Nick George, Shamikcha Gurung, Sabrina Stockline and Samita Thapa



Pictured from left to right are Taryn Sherry and Alecia Folino



Pictured from left to right are Luke O'Shea, Sean McGlaughlin and Brandon Mayfield

## Seventh Graders Go to Mars!

Seventh grade students had the opportunity to extend their learning of space exploration by attending the Challenger Learning Center at Wheeling Jesuit University. This center continues the legacy of Christa McAuliffe and the crew of the Challenger, tragically lost in 1986, by teaching and engaging students' interest in space travel. Students experienced a simulation of landing a spacecraft on Mars from both mission control posts and from their actual spacecraft. Student astronauts relied on team building skills and knowledge of Mars and its conditions to successfully land with the hope of colonizing. Potentially living on this barren planet takes the skill and knowledge that our students showed through completing STEM challenges, including ways to land and build on Mars. Since the simulator was student-led, it depended on students' wealth of knowledge and work ethic for our mission's success. Great job astronauts!



## The Constellations Come to Brentwood

*Submitted by: David Radcliffe and Kristin Papariello*

Earlier this school year, the 7th and 8th grade students at Brentwood Middle School were seeing stars. However, these stars were not the result of a bump on the head; rather, they were part of a presentation brought to the school by PittCon, a non-profit organization that as part of its community outreach initiative provides opportunities for students to experience the night sky inside of a 24'x14' inflatable planetarium. Brentwood Middle School 7th grade Science teacher, Kristin Papariello learned about PittCon through a seminar provided by the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh. Ms. Papariello then organized the visit to enhance a curricular unit on astronomy.

As the students entered the planetarium, which was set up in the gymnasium, they were greeted by the sights of Stonehenge in England. After a discussion of the historical significance of monuments such as Stonehenge and their relationship to astronomy, the students had the opportunity to view the major constellations of the northern hemisphere. After pointing out the stars that comprise constellations such as the Big Dipper and Orion's Belt among others, the PittCon presenters were able, with the touch of their laptop, to transform the planetarium sky into a collage of amazing figures. The presenters shared many of the mythological tales associated with the constellations and the images that the stars create in the sky. The students were excited to share their Zodiac signs and find them among the stars!

Brentwood Middle School would like to thank PittCon and Ms. Papariello for the wonderful learning opportunity that the planetarium provided for our students!





## Brentwood Elementary Schools “Roll out the Barrels” To Conserve Water

Students at Elroy and Moore Elementary schools in the Brentwood Borough School District are getting a first-hand look at how to conserve water by participating in the Barrels to the Bay Water Conservation Program.

The Barrels to the Bay program originated in the Annapolis, Maryland area with the goal of educating community members about the world’s water issues and the importance of water conservation. Art teacher Barb Gironi, librarian Megan Casey and 5th grade teacher Rebecca Hagerty signed up for the program when it expanded into Allegheny County, making Brentwood one of the first 40 school districts to participate in southwestern Pennsylvania.

“The world only has so much fresh water. Teaching students about water conservation while having them work on their own water barrel is a great way for them to think about this big issue and how they can do their part right here in Brentwood,” said Casey, who is co-teaching with Gironi to all the second graders in the district.

Students learned about the water cycle, ways to conserve water, and the effects of storm water runoff during their scheduled library classes. In art class, the students prepared the 50 gallon barrel (a re-purposed Coca-Cola syrup barrel) by sanding, priming, and painting it with a design chosen by the class.

“The students were amazed that they could recycle rain water to be used in other ways. The whole project has generated a lot of conversation about the water cycle throughout the grade levels. It was a lot of fun to co teach this with Megan and provide the students with a different perspective on water in the world,” said Gironi.

Moore’s fifth grade students are preparing their barrel as part of a science unit taught by Hagerty.

All three barrels will be placed in prominent locations in Brentwood once they are finished.



## Squonk Opera Visits Elroy Elementary

Elroy Elementary had a special visit from local Pittsburgh performing group Squonk Opera. The Squonk Opera performed their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) based show *Pneumatica*, which was all about the science of air. Through the Squonk Opera’s inventions and with music, the students learned about Pascal’s Law, Bernoulli’s Principle, the science of musical instruments and air, toroidal vortices, and air as energy. The students were amazed with the Squonk Opera’s energetic and entertaining performance, which was made possible by the Squonk’s educational outreach and grants from the Grable Foundation, the Buhl Foundation, and RAD.



# 8th Annual Science Olympiad

The 8th Moore Elementary Science Olympiad, was once again, a huge success. Fourth and fifth grade students participated in ten different events including the Egg Drop, Bubble Trouble, Relay Races, Tornado Towers, Circuit Wizardry, Jeopardy, Mini-Metric Olympics, Drop Zone, Pentominoes, and Motor Speedway. The students had a fabulous time competing and encouraging each other as they demonstrated their vast knowledge of science and mathematics.

Over 30 parent volunteers and high school students helped to make the day a great success. Thanks to all of the parents, teachers and students who made this a memorable day. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Lisa Kovacs and Mr. Jeff Wastchak for organizing the Science Olympiad and the Moore Elementary School PTA for all of their support in helping make this such a grand community event.



## Moore Elementary Participates in DiscoverED! Learning Day

*Submitted by Lindsay Klousnitzer, Moore Elementary Principal*

Eight elementary classes from eight different districts swapped schools for a day to experience how STEAM, STEM, Maker, and technology-enhanced education is happening in places different from their own schools. The DiscoverED! event invited teachers and students to meet new people, explore other schools, and engage in discovery learning. DiscoverED! was part of Remake Learning Days, which took place, May 9-15, 2016.

Students in Mrs. Schubert's first grade class at Moore Elementary traveled to Avonworth Primary Center where they participated in a STEAM activity based around music and creating musical instruments in Avonworth's makerspace. In addition, a first grade class from Avonworth came to Moore Elementary to participate in a Native American architectural themed lesson. Students crafted wigwams and used Hummingbird Robotic kits with Scratch coding to program LED lighting to symbolize fire, and patterned drum sounds. The Head Engineers, students in fourth grade at Moore, assisted the first graders as they built and coded their structures.

After the STEAM activities were completed, students traveled to the University of Pittsburgh where all of the students from the participating schools met and worked together to complete a design challenge. Students explained that they liked meeting new people, creating structures, and making new friends from different schools.

Faculty and students at Moore Elementary are already thinking about ideas for next year and how to create more innovative opportunities in the future!





## Brentwood Borough School District



## Read Across America!

Elroy Elementary in the Brentwood School District made every effort to make this year's "Read Across America Day" very special. Guest readers of many hats came to read to the students at Elroy Elementary school. Superintendent Dr. Burch, Dr. Dufalla, (former superintendent), school board members, librarians, retired teachers, and Pitt athletes all came to read their favorite Dr. Seuss book to Elroy's young learners. This year's "Read Across America Day" is one of many community connections that have been vital to the academic success at Elroy Elementary.



## New Playground for Elroy Elementary Campaign

Since the first fundraising event in October, the New Playground for Elroy Campaign has been moving in a positive direction. There have been two more in-school fundraising events, local businesses and organizations have donated, and the teachers and staff collected money to help the campaign.

In December and February, two in-school fundraising events took place. The first being a money week competition. Students were asked to bring in different denominations of money each day. The two classes that raised the most money were awarded a prize from the PTA. The second event was an obstacle course set up in the gym and students were asked to bring in donations. For every dollar a student brought in, they were given a ticket toward winning a basket of fun. Winners were picked from each class. Thank you to the Elroy families for allowing their children to dig into change jars and piggy banks!

Five Brentwood businesses have become sponsors for the campaign. Depending on the amount donated, businesses and local organizations were designated one of three sponsorship options. Gold sponsors donated \$1000 or more, Silver sponsors donated between \$500-\$999 and Bronze sponsors donated between \$300-\$499. A huge thank you to the following businesses and organizations for donating to the campaign. Gold sponsors, The Brentwood Park Initiative Committee and Cappetta Dentistry. Silver sponsors, Mac McIlrath Insurance and The Brentwood Business Owners Association. Bronze sponsors, General Beneficial Union (GBU) and Clearview FCU. Any business or organization that is interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Amy Smith at smitha@bb-sd.com or 412-881-4484 (Ext. 3202).

The combination of the funds from above and donations made on the GoFundMe page, have the total funds collected at \$16,647.88 as of April 27, 2016. The campaign is almost half-way to the needed amount of \$35,000.

Let's make this happen for the students of Elroy and the children in our community!

Please go to the campaign website listed below and make a donation. The website is also listed on both the Elroy PTA and District websites.

<https://www.gofundme.com/fx56njp8>

### Thanks for your support!

Amy Smith  
First Grade Teacher



### Playground Beautification Projects

1. Painted over old murals on the walls; students painted new mural; wooden bench was fixed; garbage cans painted  
\*Used funds donated by local business; Donnelly-Boland and Associates (2010)
2. Playground rules were painted on the wall. Dismissal boxes for Kindergarten and First grade and red safety lines were painted on the ground for student safety during dismissal and recess.  
\*Used funds left over from the previous year. (2011)
3. New mulch was purchased with funds from a Kaboom Grant. (\$750) There was enough mulch to cover both elementary schools' play areas. (2012)

### What will the new play set offer students and community?

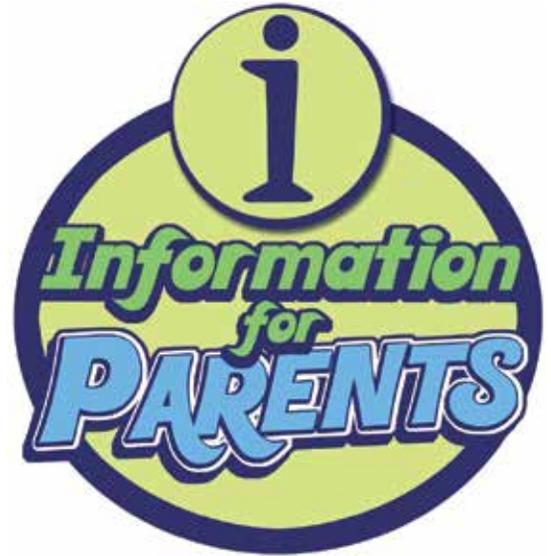
- Updated, new apparatuses to explore
- Undamaged and safer for students
- 6 slides, 5 climbing apparatuses, math and spelling panels, / fireman's pole, whistle and a whole lot more
- More appealing to students, YMCA program, and community
- Better accommodate Elroy's student population during recess
- Company: Play & Park Structures
- Representative: Kevin Ferris



## Brentwood Borough School District

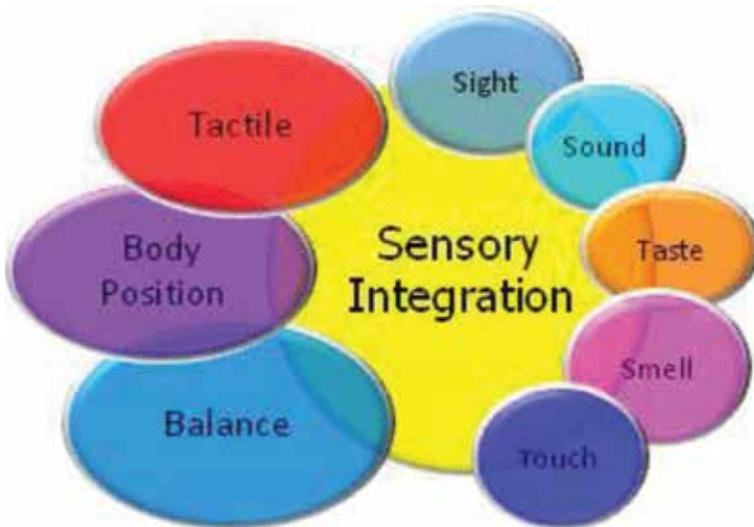
### Positive Behavior Supports

Positive Behavior Supports can assist parents as they work on addressing the learning needs of their child and the challenges presented when completing homework tasks. Lisa Plastino, Educational Consultant with the Watson Institute, presented to parents during October 2016. She discussed the A-B-C's of behavior and determining the function of behavior as parents explored strategies to enhance student learning. She discussed the principles of positive behavior support and how this support can redesign the environment and not the individual. If a parent is working towards a successful student response to homework, Mrs. Plastino offered suggestions on how to reduce distractors and set up the environment to be more conducive to learning. Parents need to look at the purpose of the behavior and then determine the consequence so that the desired behavior is the result. Mrs. Plastino offered suggestions on how to address different behaviors and how to encourage communication skills to assist students in being able to regulate their behavior. A web link for more information is available on the Brentwood Borough School District website under the special education tab with the subcategory of Highlighting Success- Parents and the Homework Process and Parent Training- Applied Behavior Analysis.



### Sensory Regulation

Brentwood Borough School District has worked during the 2015-2016 school year to present parent trainings that address current trends in education and the expressed desires for information shared by the parents with the staff. One of those areas was in sensory regulation and its relationship to homework completion. Lisa Plastino, Educational Consultant with the Watson Institute, presented to parents during March 2016. She discussed sensory processing, sensory modulation and how when you are working with a child you need to be a sensory detective to determine in what way all the senses would be affecting the child and their response to work. She provided additional insight on exactly how to best set up the student's environment to enhance learning opportunities. She indicated that for a parent to formulate a sensory diet for their child they need to listen to the child's preferences and be willing to mix sensory input so that all sensory groups are represented. This leads to the child being able to demonstrate a readiness to learn which is called modulation. This sensory diet should be expected to vary throughout the child's day and will impact them in being able to engage in homework activities. A web link for more sensory activities for children is available on the Brentwood Borough School District website under the special education tab with the subcategory of Parent Training- March 2016- Sensory Regulation and Homework.



# Brentwood Borough School District

## Paperless Report Cards – 2016-17 School Year

One of the countless benefits of Skyward is the immediacy of our reporting capabilities. Parents are able to receive on-going updates regarding progress of the students. Gone are the days of waiting for Report Cards, Progress Reports, or tests to be sent home. As teachers enter their assessment data into the Skyward system, parents and students are able to access the information immediately. Brentwood Borough School District's ability to communicate with our families continues to reflect 21st Century technological capabilities.

As we continue to strive for 21st Century efficiency, Brentwood Borough School District Administration is dedicated to responsible management of resources. All families that have access to electronic information will no longer receive a hard copy Progress Report or Report Card. However, we appreciate that certain members of the Brentwood family may choose to continue to receive paper reports. If you would like to continue to receive paper documents for Progress Reports (as necessary) and Report Cards please complete the form below. Return the form to the student's homeroom teacher. The request will be in effect for the remainder of the current school year.

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**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

***The form should be returned only if you are requesting paper copies.***