

# MARCH NEWSLETTER



## DODGEBALL

**Noah Getson organized and led the 3rd Annual Heroes Benefit Dodgeball Tournament with the help of a small group of senior high students and Mr. Marteeny. The tournament was held at Conemaugh Township High School and was open to grades 6-12. The overall winners of this year's Dodgeball Tournament were Cohen Stahl, Brennan Lohr, Dawson Statler, Liam Richardson, Jeremy Spiker, and Stephen Stango. All of the proceeds collected from this event went to a number of first responder groups in the area. The groups included Jerome Volunteer Fire Department, Conemaugh Township Volunteer Fire Department, Conemaugh Township Police Department, and Conemaugh Township EMS. Noah Getson carried on the tradition of this tournament to help the community of first responders. He is especially close to these departments because he has been a volunteer firefighter for around a year. Noah says, "I'm happy it went as well as it did. I enjoyed it a lot. I wish the evening game had more turnout from the community, but the weather didn't allow that. I'm just glad the students who were involved and the first responders had a good time." All together, this event raised \$2,208 for the first responders. Congratulations to all involved!**



CAFE 118



**Mrs. Kopp and her students in Cafe 118 have been hard at work over the past few weeks making new, and delicious, treats and desserts for the students and staff here at Conemaugh Township. For Valentine's Day, some of her students sold homemade cake pops at each of the lunches throughout the day. They were a huge success with the students! This month, they will be making Shamrock Shakes for the teachers to buy, and rice crispy treats for the students. Along with these new and exciting desserts, they also have been doing Java, where teachers are able to buy coffee and a muffin from Cafe 118. Mrs. Kopp has also been collecting items for the local humane society. Everything that is collected will be donated on April 18th.**

# A Spoonful of CT Arts

## MARY POPPINS VISITS CT

On March 14-17, Conemaugh Township's Music department will be performing the musical *Mary Poppins*. Since December, students in 6th to 12th grade have been hard at work learning the songs and choreography. This musical is organized and led by Mari Grace Lingenfelter, Catherine Kasun, Jennifer Custer, and Sharon Wesinger. Ms. Lingenfelter, Conemaugh Township's Musical Director, has been directing CT's musicals for 29 years. *Mary Poppins* will be played by our very own, Sophia Stango. This is Sophia's sixth year in musical theater. She is joined by Hayden Lingenfelter, who plays the role of 'Bert'. Hayden has performed in nine shows. The seniors this musical season are Sophia Stango, Hayden Lingenfelter, Jonathan Fochtman, and Derek Pongrac.

Our musical cast will be treating some of their youngest fans to a preview of the show on March 11 as they hold a "Tea with Mary" event at the high school. Youngsters will get to meet the cast, enjoy snacks, and complete crafts all for \$5. The event will run from 1-3.

We are so excited to see all of this hard work pay off when that curtain finally opens!



## A TRIBUTE TO FAMILY

Katelyn Turley, a senior here at Conemaugh Township, created a beautiful work of art titled "My Brother." She created a picture of her four year old brother, Lincoln, with only graphite pencil. This piece took her almost an entire marking period to finish, but her hard work paid off. Her drawing went on to win first place at the Somerset County Laurel Arts Show and was presented in the Heritage Conference Art Show last year. Katelyn noted, "It was really nice to get that recognition for something that I worked so hard on. I plan on giving the piece to my brother whenever it is returned to me." She then goes on to talk about how art will play a role in her future career. She says, "Even though I am not pursuing a traditional art career after high school, I believe that these skills will carry over into my study of horticulture, specifically in floral design."

## REGION III CHORUS

On Friday, March 8th, a group of students from the senior high choir will be traveling to Somerset School District to participate in the PMEA Region III Chorus Festival. All of these students have worked very hard with Ms. Lingenfelter to advance to this festival. The students who will take part in this are Seniors Tanner Hunsberger, Hayden Lingenfelter, and Johnathan Fochtman, Junior Julia Thomas, and Sophomore Alexa Gardenhour. Hayden Lingenfelter says, "I am so excited for this festival. We have worked very hard for this!"

# District V Champs

## *“BURNING” THE PATH TO STATES*

Aidan Burnworth has been swimming competitively for the past eight years, and all of his time and hard work finally paid off when he placed first in the Men’s 50 Freestyle at the District V championship at Penn State’s Natatorium. Aidan set the bar unsurpassably high for his competitors with a time of 22.7 seconds in the Men’s 50 Freestyle competition. When asked about how he felt leading up to the big meet, Aidan stated, “It was really exciting and really relieving since I had been seeded first.” He also received a third place medal in the Men’s 100 Freestyle. Aidan stated that he always looked up to CT graduate Herman Zilch, and Herman has served as a mentor to him as he has progressed in the sport.

His first place finish secured him a spot at States. States will take place at Bucknell University on March 15th. Aidan stated that he is very excited to get to spend time with his friends from other schools who also qualified. The Conemaugh Township community is so proud of Aidan’s accomplishments so far and we can’t wait to see what the States competition brings next! Good luck, Aidan!



## *BOYS BASKETBALL 4PEAT*

The varsity boys basketball team has been very successful this season with a 21-5 record. On Friday, March 1st, they played against the Windber Ramblers in the District V Championship. With 40 seconds left, and tensions high, Ethan Matera scored the basket that helped the boys to victory. With the close score of 37 to 35, Conemaugh Township’s boy’s basketball team brought home the title of District V Champions for the fourth year in a row. Senior Jon Updyke says, “Four sophomores and one senior is not a common team to have here, but I’m glad I could do it with these guys. I’m excited for what’s coming next, and what they can do with the rest of their basketball careers.” The team will now go onto the Sweet 16 quarter finals on Saturday, March 6th. They will face Bishop Canevin at home. Good luck to our very own boys basketball team!



# Conemaugh Township, Home of Champions

## WRESTLING

For many years, Township's athletic slogan has been "Home of Champions." One program that has completely surpassed this title has been the wrestling program. This year, Township has been able to send 16 kids past the regular season. Five of these 16 students are in the high and middle school program. Representing the middle school program were Rolly Walylko and Landen Huffman. Rydell Walylko, Colten Huffman, and Tristen Hawkins will be representing the high school program.

**Rolly Walylko** is in his second year of wrestling. He wrestles for the 100 lb weight class where he is electric. When asked about his favorite part about wrestling, he says, "It's so fast-paced. You can never be bored because you're constantly moving and looking for that next point."

**Landon Huffman**, a wildcard in the 155lb weight class, has been wrestling for roughly nine years. Currently he has a record of 35 staggering wins to a mere 4 losses and is a five-time state qualifier. When asked, who would you thank for helping you get to the position that you are in today, he replied, "Well first my coaches. They help me see things on the mat that I can't. But I am mainly thankful for my brother. He has always taught me moves that he learns and is my biggest supporter all around".

**Rydell Walylko**, is also one of Township's newest wrestlers and is only in his second year ever wrestling. He is a dominant force in the 145 lb weight class. This year he respectively placed 3rd in a district qualifying tournament. Rydell says that his success has come to him so quickly because of his coaches, teammates, and his overall drive to better himself in the sport.

Senior captain **Colten Huffman** has been a leading force on the varsity wrestling team since his freshman year. He wrestles in the 172 lb weight class where holds an overwhelming competitive advantage. Colten has been wrestling for an impressive fourteen years. All four years of Colten's high school wrestling, he has had winning seasons and this year he is 30-7. Last year he made it to districts and then on to regionals. This year history repeats itself. After high school, Colten will be wrestling at Frostburg University at the Division II level.

Senior Captain **Tristan Hawkins** has also been an extreme competitor for the last 14 years. In the 139lb weight class, Tristen is a lightweight unit. In his 14 years of wrestling, he has been a district champion, district runner-up, four-time regional qualifier, four-time all county team, multi-place winner at the Panther Holiday Classic, and to add to his extensive resume, Tristen has become the seventh person in Conemaugh Township history to have 100 wins. After high school, Tristen will also be wrestling at Frostburg University at the Division II level.

The Conemaugh Township wrestling team will be sending five extraordinary young men to compete onto the next level past the regular season. Between new and young talent and well seasoned veterans, the Conemaugh Township wrestling program has lived up to the name "Home of Champions."

## KCAC HONORS

**Many of our scholars, athletes, and artists were recognized at the Heritage Conference Basketball Championship game at IUP's Kovalchick Center. These impressive and talented young people set the bar high in representing their school in each of their recognized areas.**

- **Heritage Conference Scholarship Winners: Max Malicki and Mercedes Mull**
- **KCAC Honors for First Place in Pennsylvanian or a National Competition**
  - **State Champion Pianist: Daniel Turley**
  - **4x100 Relay State Champions: Jon Updyke, Cameron Dunn, Ethan Black**
  - **100 Meter Dash Champion, 200 Meter Dash Champion, State Record Holder in the 200 Meter Dash: Ethan Black**
- **Heritage Conference Artwork Recognition: Mea Rouser, Katelyn Turley, David Stanley and Abigail Luscher**
- **All Conference Artist: Mea Rouser**

**CT is so proud of your accomplishments!**

# Outstanding Indians

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**"Abram Mayak is very polite and kind. He is always willing to participate in class."**

**"Ruca Burkett is a great student with a big heart. She works hard and is kind and helpful to everyone."**



**"Colbi Hunsberger is kind to everyone and goes above and beyond to help out."**

## SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**"Gentry Sotosky consistently displays kindness to those around him and is friendly to everyone he encounters."**

**"Josh Baker is a kind, trustworthy student. He works hard and always has a positive attitude."**



**"Julia Thomas has taken over the adapted music program this year. She is so selfless, involved, and reliable."**

**"Tanner Hunsberger is always positive and always helps others. She is a leader in FCA."**



# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Heather Ladika



"Heather Ladika is one of the most caring people I know. As a dedicated teacher, she goes above and beyond to help her students succeed. She gives them her time, supporting them academically and personally. She is so selfless as a teacher, mother, wife, and friend, always putting others before herself. We are so lucky to have her in our school community."

-Miss Gall



"Mrs. Ladika is always there for you when you need her, whether it's for help on work or for personal advice. She can always make you laugh. She is an all-around amazing teacher and person."

-Kylee Comer

**Mrs. Heather Ladika is a Somerset County native who has been supporting and encouraging students at CT for over two decades. Mrs. Ladika grew up in Somerset and graduated from Somerset High School before moving on to Millersville University. While at Millersville University, she received degrees in elementary education and special education and was a member of the women's basketball team. Mrs. Ladika's family consists of her two daughters and her husband of eighteen years along with her beloved dogs, Ziggy and Zeury. When she isn't in the classroom, you can typically find her on the sidelines of a sporting event, cheering on her two favorite competitors. Her daughters, an eighth grader and a sophomore at Richland, keep her busy year round as they are both very heavily involved in hockey, soccer, basketball, cross country, and softball, and Mrs. Ladika prides herself in going to support her girls as much as she possibly can. She is an avid dog lover and animal rights advocate.**

**Professionally, Mrs. Ladika has taught at Conemaugh Township as a learning support teacher for the last twenty-two years. She states that her favorite part about teaching at CT is having the opportunity to "help students who need advocates and people on their side on a daily basis." Within these halls, Mrs. Ladika has become known for her humor, student-first attitude, and, sometimes, being the one who is willing to give many of our students the tough love they need to push through when things get tough. She has created an environment in her classroom where the students know they not only have a listening ear, but also that adult who will challenge them and encourage them to reach their full potential. Our community is blessed to have someone like Mrs. Ladika on our team, as she is the best fan and supporter for all of "her kids."**

"Mrs. Ladika is always willing to stop what she's doing to help others, no matter what it is. She is also there to uplift students when they are having a bad day."

-Taylor Jarvis



## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

**March 6-8 | PMEA Region III Choir @ Somerset**

**March 11 | Act 80 Day - No School for Students  
1-3 PM | Tea with Mary Event @ CT**

**March 14-17 | CT Musical's Presentation of  
Mary Poppins**

**March 20 | End of Nine Weeks**

**March 27 | Report Cards Issued**

**March 28 | One Hour Early Dismissal**

**March 29 | Easter Vacation**

