

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



## NHS ANGELS

On November 7th, the members of Conemaugh Township's National Honors Society received Christmas Angel Tree Tags to aid in purchasing gifts for those in need. These tags were given to the society by The Salvation Army, the founder of this event. The members were placed into groups of two and either given a tag for an elderly person in need or a younger person in need. Each tag that was received had the name of the person who will be receiving these donations and items that they need. The National Honors Society believes this is a nice way to give back by being able to see the impact and joy you are bringing to these recipients for the Christmas holiday.



## COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTMAS DANCE

Conemaugh Township will be holding its annual Christmas formal on Saturday, December 7th. This year it will be held at Green Gables and the theme for this year's dance is Countryside Christmas. Students in 10th -12th grades can buy tickets during lunches. Students in 9th may attend if invited by an older student. Most students will be grouping up and taking photos in the early evening before heading out for dinner. The dance starts at 7 PM and doesn't end until 10 PM. While at the dance, there will be appetizers and drinks available to students.

# What's Happening in the Tribe?

## VOTECH VENTURES TO SEVEN SPRINGS

During the month of November, chosen Votech students ventured to Seven Springs to compete in their trades. Regan Maldet attended as a representative for the health assistant field. She stated, "I really enjoyed meeting representatives from different fields. We also learned a great deal about money management and mental health in my future line of work." Malachi James attended as a representative for welding. He recounted, "I really appreciated the experience because it gave me a great perspective on leadership in the field: how to lead others, how to create healthy work relationships, and shop and work environment discipline. I really enjoyed going."



## STUDENT COUNCIL AT WORK

On December 21st, student council members will be hosting a teacher breakfast. The food will include donuts, muffins, scones, and coffee. Later that day, the members will be venturing down to the elementary school to help our younger Indians with their Christmas parties. The elementary teachers are appreciative of the older students giving up some of their days to come down and be with the little Indians. The student council members also enjoy being able to make these little ones' days filled with joy.

## LITTLE JOURNALISTS

Little Contownian is a middle school club that allows students to express themselves through writing in the hopes of having their articles appear in the school newspaper. Little Contownian editor Lilly Oakes shares, "The first meeting at the beginning of the year had a few amazing writers, but less than we wanted. At the next meeting, we had a much better turnout. The students are all very intelligent and take the assignment that I give them very seriously. This month, it was very hard to choose which articles were going to get placed in the newspaper. Each of the students wrote about a topic of their choice, and they all turned out very good. With over 40 students in the club, I was expecting to have to weed out some writers, but I was quickly proven wrong. As their editor I am beyond proud of what I have gotten from the students! I am so excited to see how the rest of the year goes, and to watch the younger students improve over the years!" Keep it up, writers!



# Music Department News

## SOMERSET COUNTY BAND AT CT

On December 4th and 5th a total of 210 students from across Somerset County will attend Somerset County Band here at Conemaugh Township. The students include Erin Fochtman, Loie Oliszewski, Anna Hunsberger, Conner Hawkins, Orly Konieczny, Julianna Sodano, Rebecca Purdy, Elle Mowery, Eve Dougherty, Tennyson Keafer, Jacob Turley, Evelyn Mock, Emmett Mock, Heath Moser, Adah Konieczny, Dan Turley, Wesley Mock, Emily Purdy, Charlotte Worst, Jeremiah Johnson, Amelia Mitchell, Alonna Bracken, Eli Sodano, Evan Grimes, Quinn Moser, and Chris Yoder. Our school has 28 representatives, which is the highest number from any school in the county! Conemaugh Township's music department is bringing in professors from Saint Francis and IUP along with the band director from Belle Vernon to work with these talented musicians. They will practice both days, and perform at 7pm on December 5th. This concert will be open to the public. Come out to witness the best at work!



## PERFORMANCE AT THE ELEMENTARY

Each year members of the senior high chorus on the last day before Christmas break ride a bus to the elementary school to sing for the students. The students who are members of the jazz band also venture down to the elementary school to play some Christmassy tunes. This has been a long-standing tradition for the choir to visit and sing with these students. It's just what they need to start break right!

## JR. HIGH WINTER CONCERT

The middle school winter concert will be held on December 9th at 7PM. The large group of chorus students from 6th-8th grades will start the night by showing off wonderful winter songs that they have worked so hard on. After that, members of the Sr. High band will change the stage over for the middle school band. The band will play a few songs together before the 6th graders leave the stage and sit in the front of the auditorium so that the 7th and 8th grade members of the concert band play some more winter music.

## SR. HIGH WINTER CONCERT

The Sr. High winter concert will be held on December 16th at 7 PM. The evening will start with the chorus singing some wonderful Christmas tunes. After that, there will be a short intermission for the concert band members to change the stage into a band setup. Then, the band will take the stage with lots of wonderful winter tunes.



# CT SPORTS

## RIFLE

So far in the rifle season, the team has been holding nightly practices since November 18th. Returning members are attending each night of practice, and new members will be attending every other night. The team's first match will be home on December 11th held at the Jerome Sportsmen's Club range. They will be leaving directly after school to clean the range, which the team does every home match. The team's five returning members: Maya Denault, Maddie Costigan, Brooke Szala, Micah Lehman, and Aaron Dick are predicted to be shooting varsity with five other new members with the highest scores. Other members of the team will be shooting JV until the next qualifying round.



## WRESTLING

Our school's wrestling team started with their practice for the season in mid-November. The team has already been working hard to get on top of things so they have a good season. Julian Thorne stated, "We have lots of enthusiastic, new talent. We only have one senior, but he's taught the underclassmen so much. I think he's going to help everyone else step up a lot." Landon Ray stated, "I think we have a chance of making districts this year. I'm most excited for the memories we're going to make as a team, though."



## BASKETBALL

This year our varsity basketball teams are putting in lots of hard work in practices and are expecting a great season. The seniors of the girls basketball team: Ashlyn Fetterman, Ava Byer, and Katie Wiley came together and discussed that they are excited about the upcoming season. They have been working hard at practice to improve this season. They have a great team bond and are very unselfish. They don't have the height this year, but they are quick. This year, they hope to make it to the playoffs. The girl's first game is on Black Friday, which is a tournament at Chestnut Ridge. Juniors Colin Dinyar and Ethan Matera stated of the boys team: "We are feeling pretty good. We have height and we have chemistry. We've been working hard in the off-season and are ready to play."



# Rotary



## DECKED OUT DECEMBER

Starting in December, rotary students who choose to participate in this year's Decked Out December will be going around and asking fellow students, teachers, and members of the community to make a donation for the participants to dress up for nine days. The participating rotary students will begin dressing up on December 10th. Female participants are expected to wear nice dresses and have their hair done. Male participants were expected to wear a button-down shirt and nice pants or, if they felt up to it, a suit. The students will end this year's Decked Out December on the 20th. Each year, the rotary sees a nice outcome from the donations of sponsors of the participants and club members are excited to see how this year's event will turn out.

## WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS

On December 10th, members of the rotary will be recording Christmas messages. They will be doing this during homeroom that day and, if needed, will continue to the following day's homeroom, on December 11th. They will be delivering the record Christmas messages on December 12th, and expect it to take up to three hours.

## CUDDLES FOR KIDS

Starting at the end of December, there will be posters, boxes, and reminders in the announcements to bring in donations for the Cuddles for Kids program. This will be happening in the high school and elementary school. The school has done this every year with a great number of donations.



# Outstanding Indians

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**"Abbey Shropshire is a good student who always has a huge smile on her face. She is respectful and thoughtful."**

**"Alayleiah Coleman is a great student who always tries her best. She is friendly and invites students into groups when they need a friend."**



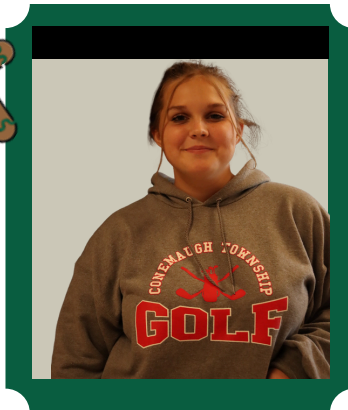
**"Skylar McVicker is respectful, courteous, always on-task, and a hard worker. He is a pleasure to be around."**

## SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**"Sarah Swank is an all-around great student with such a positive disposition. She approaches every challenge with a focused, positive attitude."**

**"Emily Purdy is involved in lots of school and community activities that all support others. She has an enormous heart and treats others so well."**



**"Hannah Gregorich is hardworking, dedicated, and a kind person to everyone. She loves being helpful and supportive to others."**

**"Jessica Tittle has worked so hard this year academically. She is friendly, polite, and respectful."**



## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Lesko

Mr. Lesko has been a staple member of the Conemaugh Township staff and community for the past three decades. He has spent this time in the world of education and coaching, making a lasting impact at Conemaugh Township and in the lives of students and athletes. Throughout the years, Mr. Lesko has had the opportunity to not only teach these students important math skills and sports skills, but has truly shaped them into bright young adults.

Mr. Lesko grew up in the small town of Jenners, located just south of Boswell, Pennsylvania. A graduate of North Star High School, he was always active in sports and academics. He went on to attend Thiel College in Greenville, where he played college basketball. However, an unfortunate knee injury led to a career-ending surgery, which changed his passion for sports into coaching. After Thiel, he continued his studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

Mr. Lesko holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics with a Minor in Physics. He is certified as an Instructional II Teacher in both Mathematics and General Sciences

Mr. Lesko's coaching career began in his late teens when he started coaching basketball camps. After graduating from college, he spent 18 months at a church camp, where he strengthened his leadership and communication skills. He then went on to teach Algebra and Geometry at Nelson County High School in Kentucky, where he also served as an Assistant Coach for the Girls Basketball Team.

In the fall of 1993, Mr. Lesko made the move to CT, where he has been teaching and coaching ever since. His role at CT has included coaching both basketball and golf. With over 32 years of service, his dedication and passion for education and sports continue to shine.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Lesko is happily married to his wife, Lisa, and the couple shares their home with four beloved dogs: Presley, Percy, Billy, and Jackson.

When asked about what he enjoys most about working at CT, he shares, "I guess my favorite part about working at CT, regardless of whether it's with students or colleagues, is the workability. It makes it easy to come to work on a daily basis."

For Mr. Lesko, the relationships built with students and colleagues, along with the environment at CT, have made his time here enjoyable and rewarding. He has truly become a staple in the Conemaugh Township community.



**"What makes Mr. Lesko a great teacher is the relationships he builds with his students. You can witness these positive relationships as he greets his current and former students in the hallway with special nicknames for almost all of them. Whether you're in his math class or a member of his golf or basketball team, you know that he cares for you as a person and strives to get everyone to reach their full potential." -Mr. Byer**



**"Mr. Lesko goes out of his way to greet everyone in the hallways and comes up with the best nicknames for his kids. He's a great guy who really cares about his students."  
-Laikyn Reynolds**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2nd | Deer Season Vacation
- December 9th | Middle School Christmas Concert
- December 16th | Sr. High Winter Concert
- December 13th | Act 80 Dismissal
- December 20th | One Hour Early Dismissal
- December 23rd - 31st | Christmas Vacation

