

MAY NEWSLETTER

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Conemaugh Township Area School District will be holding its annual prom on Friday, May 10th. Mrs. O'Donnell, along with the help of student council members and class officers, has been hard at work planning this amazing event for the high school students. The theme they have chosen for this year is "24 Carat Gold." At the dance, students will be voting for their Prom King and Queen along with their Prom Prince and Princess. The senior students on prom court are Lydia Boring, Kendra Huber, Mea Rouser, Sophia Stango, Hailey Thomas, Katelyn Turley, Jake Greig, Colten Huffman, Max Malicki, Zack Petree, Sam Sharbaugh, and Larry Weaver. On our junior prom court are Briar Berkey, Ava Byer, Jema Calasara, Ashlyn Fetterman, Carson Harbart, Dillon Defibaugh, Grant Dombrosky, Dylan Hovenac, Sam Shaffer, and Jackson Sotosky. To help keep students safe after prom hours, a post prom will be held from 11:00 pm and will end at 2:30 am. Food and drinks will be provided along with fun activities to fill the night. Prom and post prom are perfect times to make memories and give seniors a last chance to be together as a class.



SKILLS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Lydia Boring, a senior at Conemaugh Township, competed in this year's Skills USA competition for building construction. This consisted of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and masonry. Lydia has attended Vo-tech for the past two years for building construction, so she is very familiar with this trade. Going to states for her skills, Lydia says it was very stressful, but the experience opened many doors for her regarding her future career. She states, "It gets my name out there. We have to turn in our resumes, and they give them out to larger companies. The competition was broadcast online, so that also allowed us to showcase our skills to a larger audience." Lydia has also been enlisted in the National Guard as an interior electrician for a year now. Her work during Skills USA will transfer over as she moves on from her schooling to her career. Lydia says, "My favorite part of the experience was the night before the competition because they had a giant game room for all of the competitors. We were able to play UNO and just spend time with lots of different people from lots of different schools."

What's Happening Now

KICKING IT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Conemaugh Township High School is holding their 5th annual SHOFKO tournament. SHOFKO stands for Shining Hope For Communities and was started by Kennedy Odede in 2004. This organization focuses on aiding urban slums, women, and vulnerable girls in Africa. Their four main approaches are education, health, Economic and community empowerment, and water and sanitation. At the end of each school year, students get the chance to create teams and participate in an all day soccer tournament. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, May 28th. The winners of the senior high and junior high teams then go onto play an evening game against a team of teachers. This is an amazing event that not only helps an important cause, but allows students to spend the day outdoors with their friends one last time before summer. Jordyn Snyder, a junior at CT, says, "It's a great way to end the school year with friends!"



ALL-STATE SINGING

Conemaugh Township senior Tanner Hunsberger has had amazing musical opportunities this school year. In April, Tanner participated in the PMEA AllState Acapella Ensemble. They sang "Magic", "Nothing Breaks Like a Heart", "Man in the Mirror", "Moon River", "Valerie", "Let It Be", "I Want You Back." Tanner's favorite parts about her experience were getting to meet new people, performing in the Warner theater (which seats around 2,000 people), and getting to perform some of the most difficult songs she has ever sang. "I am very excited to get to participate in this group because the opportunities to sing acapella around here are limited. I am also excited to work with a director of this caliber. I really appreciate the support that Ms. L has given me throughout my high school career," Tanner says.

SOARING INTO A SUMMER OF OPPORTUNITY

The Federal Aviation Administration has given school districts in the area the opportunity to take a free training course in becoming a drone pilot. 20 students, that are 16 or older, from Somerset County will be able to register. For one week, students will be given training from 8:30-3:30. Lunch will be provided each day along with a \$175 voucher to take the Remote Pilot FAA Certification Test in Johnstown. They are also given the chance to receive a FAA Compliant Drone that is worth \$600. The dates of this training are June 24th-28th at the Educational Development Center, July 8th-12th at Central Cambria Sr. High, July 22nd-26th at Somerset CTC, and July 29th-August 2nd at Bedford County CTC.



 Federal Aviation Administration

BECOME A DRONE PILOT

REGISTER NOW

For students 16 and older*

- ✓ Free Training Course
- ✓ 8:30-3:30 daily for one week
- ✓ Lunches provided
- ✓ Voucher (\$175 value) to take the Remote Pilot FAA Certification Test in Johnstown
- ✓ FAA Compliant Drone upon Receipt of Certification (\$600 value)

*Younger students may be accepted if spots are available.

Locations and Dates

- Educational Development Center, 580 Foot of Ten Road, Duncansville June 24-28
- Central Cambria Sr. High, Ebensburg July 8-12
- Somerset County CTC July 22-26
- Bedford County CTC July 29-Aug 2



Outside of the Tribe

GYMNASTICS

Some of our junior high students here at Conemaugh Township have been showcasing their skills at Uzelac Gymnastics. Located in Johnstown, this facility has been offering these girls amazing opportunities to compete in multiple competitions throughout the year. Emma Stanko, an 8th grader, has been going gymnastics for nine years and is in Xcel Gold. This year, Emma has made it to states and regionals. She competes in floor, vault, bar, and beam with her highest scores being in floor and bar. Emma says, "My favorite part about doing gymnastics is being with my friends." Ella Brotz, who is also in 8th grade, has been doing this sport for 10 years. At level 8, Ella competed at states this year. Her highest scoring, and favorite, thing to do is bar. "I have loved being able to work with the younger gymnasts. It feels great to become a role model for someone newer to the sport," Ella says when asked what her favorite part is. Jayla Feathers, who is in 7th grade, has had 10 years of experience now. Jayla is a level 7 gymnast. Her highest scoring event is vault. While competing in states, Jayla placed in 8th for vault. "I enjoy gymnastics for the gains. I literally have abs," Jayla proclaims. Conemaugh Township's youngest gymnast at the high school is Claudia Shaffer in 6th grade. Claudia has been a gymnast for four years now. She is a level 6 and competed at states and regionals this season. She scores the highest in her floor routines, but prefers to do bars. Claudia says, "My favorite part is making new friends."



HOCKEY

Lexie Feathers, an 8th grader here at CTHS, has been knocking down barriers and knocking in goals while playing for South Pittsburgh's Rebellions Hockey Team. This is an all-girls hockey team located in Cannonsburg, PA. Lexie practices twice a week with her U14 team where she learns more and more about playing as a center. Her team made it all the way to Nationals in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. There, they played five games and lost in the semi-finals. However, Lexie and her teammates fought back in consolations and earned a third place national title! During these intense games, Lexie scored four goals total and even got a hat trick. When asked about her experience, Lexie says "Having the opportunity to play nationals was a dream come true. It was an honor and great experience to be on the team and make it as far as we did." We're so proud of your accomplishments, Lexie!

Spring Sports Stories

Our varsity spring sports are battling on with some very successful seasons, impressive shows of teamwork, and lots of memories made to last a lifetime.

BASEBALL

RECORD - 15-2

SENIOR TEAM MEMBERS - Luke Haight, Zack Petree, Sam Thomas, and Larry Weaver

SENIOR TESTIMONY - "Our big accomplishments this season include clinching first place in Heritage and that we are currently first in our district. We play next Monday at Homer Center for the Heritage Championship, and we hope to win. We are looking very strong and want to continue to keep winning and playing good baseball. We plan to win districts as well. I loved getting revenge on Northern Cambria and beating them at their field in dominant fashion and hitting back to back to back homeruns at Conemaugh Valley. Baseball taught me how to overcome failure and to be patient, determined, trust in God's plan, and know that my work will pay off." - Larry Weaver

SOFTBALL

RECORD - 1-10

SENIOR TEAM MEMBER - Haylee Thomas

SENIOR TESTIMONY - "Our record doesn't show that this been a season full of laughter, smiles, and memories and one I will cherish. These young women came out to play this season knowing that this year was going to be a building year for our team. These girls allowed me to have a final season playing the sport I loved for the past five years and I will forever be grateful for all of them. This wasn't just a team, but a family. As we grew as players in our skills and field knowledge as well as growing together as friends and growing into what a teammate that everyone wishes that they had. Our main goal for this season was to become better than from where we started and I can say as a captain we have accomplished this goal. I hope younger girls that are looking up to any of the players or have a future interest in playing softball can look past the record and see the true team behind the record: the girls who are constantly picking each other up, the girls laughing and enjoying the moment, the girls that are improving every day, and the girls that support each other's success." - Haylee Thomas

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

RECORD - 10-1

SENIOR CT TEAM MEMBERS - Hayden Lingenfelter, Derek Pongrac, and Jon Updyke

SENIOR TESTIMONY - The boys track team finished with a great record of 10-1 this season. Many of our athletes qualified for districts, which is a huge accomplishment! The track team will have a lot to look forward to next season with a strong class of sophomores and juniors. They will look to keep the winning seasons going. This season was extremely fun and I am glad I came out this year. We worked hard all year and I can't wait to see what this program is doing in a few years from now. I am sure the winning seasons will keep coming." - Jon Updyke

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

RECORD - 12-0

SENIOR CT TEAM MEMBERS - Lydia Boring, Jenna Brenneman, and Mercedes Mull

SENIOR TESTIMONY - "I think our team's big accomplishments include being undefeated, winning the Heritage Championship, and having a lot of girls going to districts to compete. And, I think the girls team is going to finish off the year strong, being that we're undefeated. My favorite part of being on this team for these years is definitely getting to spend time with my teammates." - Lydia Boring

Notes From Seniors

"My best CT experience was being a part of Homecoming Court and getting to see the entire CT community come together during the parade. I loved seeing everyone celebrate our school and ALL of our students!" **Gia Bambino**

"My best memory from this year was winning District V in soccer because it's a goal we've been working towards since we started playing varsity soccer." **Jon Allison**

"My favorite part of being a CT student would definitely be my years in musical. I loved creating new friendships and performing with people I loved." **Sophia Stango**

"My best CT experience was being a part of our Homecoming Court." **Jake Greig**

"I'm going to miss seeing my teachers!" **Ryleigh Letosky**

"One of my favorite memories was making video production monthlys with LP Productions. I loved the Bad Batch!" **Kendra Huber**

"I loved making memories with our volleyball team!" **Alison Matera**

"My favorite Conemaugh Township memories came from being a part of the baseball team. I loved the experiences and friendships I gained there." **Luke Haight**

"My favorite memories were definitely all from being in Mr. Mainhart's classes and filming Lily Lexicon with Isaac." **Michael Fulton**

"I'm going to miss the friendships that I have been able to develop in my CT career." **Tristen Hawkins**

"My favorite memory was getting to be crowned as Homecoming Queen and my time on Homecoming Court." **Jenna Brenneman**

"I loved going to Saint Francis Sharing and Caring to volunteer with the baseball team." **Zack Petree**

"My favorite memory was doing parkour on the elementary playground." **Dylan Giffin**

"I loved being on Homecoming Court!" **Emily Corella**

"I'm going to miss the last minute pep rallies and the energy that they brought the most." **Aubrey Johns**

"I'm going to miss seeing my friends every day." **Bennie Lambing**

"My favorite memories were definitely competing in the SHOFCO tournament each year." **Noah Lehman**

"I'm going to miss my friends the most because my best memories came from spending time with them at musical." **Jonathan Fochtman**

"My favorite CT memories all came from the football seasons because the teams felt like family." **Tanner Hunsberger**

"My favorite memory was having Mrs. Hostetler read us The Littles during snack time." **Kelsie Shaffer**

"One of my most memorable times at Conemaugh Township was going on the Holocaust trip." **Addison Gindlesperger**

"My favorite memory was winning second place at states in the 4x100m race during my sophomore year. I'm going to miss spending time chatting with Mrs. Feathers the most." **Asia Zwick**

"My favorite memories at CT were the concerts and getting to join the rifle team." **Lily Newfield-Fingerhoot**

"I'm going to miss soccer and the memories I've made with my teammates the most." **Drake Rouser**

"My favorite CT memories were bus rides for field trips." **Kyler Mauzy**

"My favorite memory was filming Lily Lexicon and I'm really going to miss having my audience." **Isaac Holliday**

Outstanding Indians

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



"Elle Mowery is a respectful and focused student. She treats everyone, teachers and students, with kindness."

"Molly Hunsberger has a fantastic work ethic and a shining personality to match. She is always positive."



"Bryce Conn is an energetic student with a big heart. He tries his best in the classroom and on the baseball field."

SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



"Rocco Hagan always goes above and beyond with his work. He volunteers to do many classroom jobs and participates on a daily basis. He has a great attitude."

"Olivia Ryan brightens every room with her positivity. She is a go-getter and has established herself as a trustworthy student."



"Gia Bambino is persistent and insanely helpful. She is empathetic, considerate, and has an enormous heart."

"Jema Calasara goes above and beyond to learn new things in class, and she has a kind attitude towards her teachers and peers."



Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Tracy Durica



Of course, we all know that Tracy is a phenomenal teacher. Her extensive content knowledge, methods, tutoring and constant encouragement all provide a definitive path to future success for our students. But she is so much more than a teacher here at CT. In her role as a coach of two varsity sports, she spends most of her afternoons and evenings helping our athletes learn life lessons on and off the court/field. Our kids spend a lot of time in her room, seeking out her guidance and her words of wisdom. She is a safe place for them to land! To her colleagues, she provides instructional coaching and is always willing to help. She gives 100% to her commitments, often putting her own time (and life!) on the back burner in order to serve others. She has been a dear friend & support to me all these years. CTHS is not the same school without Tracy Durica...she is a big part of what makes us great!
-Mrs. Tara Kimmel



If you ask our students, administration, and any staff at Conemaugh Township about a teacher who has supported them, offered them advice, and provides a sense of calm and reassurance in this field, you're most certainly going to hear Tracy Durica's name.

Mrs. Durica grew up locally, attending Richland High School before moving on to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to receive a Bachelor's Degree in secondary education mathematics. While at UPJ, she also played volleyball and participated in track. She began her teaching career in Mansfield close to the New York border and taught there for three years before she moved back home to teach at St. Benedict Catholic School in Richland. She taught at St. Benedict for six years before Conemaugh Township was able to nab her to be a member of the Tribe. She has been teaching here for 22 years, and has taught math classes ranging from 7th grade math to advanced placement calculus along with being an instructional coach for her coworkers. She has also coached volleyball and track in her time here.

Mrs. Durica has been married to her husband John for 22 years and together they have two children: JT who is a marine scientist at Coastal Carolina University and Jenny who is a Penn State graduate and a strength and conditioning coach. A fun fact about Mrs. Durica is that she can actually write upside down!

When asked what she loves about working at Conemaugh Township, Mrs. Durica emphasized the love she feels here: love for the atmosphere, love for the kids, and love for her colleagues and administrators. She went on to say that she has come to care for many of her students and athletes as if they were her own kids.

Mrs. Tracy Durica has established herself as a staple in this Conemaugh Township community, being a guiding light of positivity and love for her coworkers, a trusted expert and confidant for her students, and a reason to push through the tough times for her athletes. We are blessed to have her here at CT!

"As a coach, Mrs. Durica always puts her players first and is so supportive. Her guidance has been instrumental to many, many athletes' successes." - Kendra Huber

"Mrs. Durica is a teacher who cares. She never gives up on her students and she is adaptive in meeting their needs with her teaching. She creates a welcoming environment in her classroom. #FeedMeFriday."
-Addison Gindlesperger



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 | Middle School Spring Concert

May 2 | Senior High Spring Concert

May 8 | NHS ceremony

May 10 | Songfest at North Star High School

May 24 | One-Hour Early Dismissal

May 27 | Memorial Day Vacation

May 28 | SHOFCO Tournament

May 29 | Baccalaureate

May 30 | Commencement/ Last Day for Students

