

THE SPRESS

March 12, 2024

* POLAR PLUNGE

* SENORA SCIULLO

* WOMEN'S HISTORY

Community through crafting

Callie Heynes



Ethan Rakip, senior, showing off his blanket proudly



Matthew Chekan, senior, contributing to the event with his craft skills

The National Honor Society blanket making project is an initiative to make blankets and donate them to Project Linus, an event that took place after school on February 28th. Project Linus collects and distributes the blankets to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need. This is an event that all society members must take part in. NHS members focus on giving back to the community and providing young children with something to cherish for many years.

This is one of the many events that NHS does to work within the community. Other events such as donating and raising money for unfortunate causes and tutoring students are just some of the events that NHS members are involved in. At this event, students were taught how to make blankets for babies in hospitals who are in need. Some of the money raised during the pickleball game at Festivus went to buying supplies and materials. After school students gathered in Mrs. Weston's room to work together.

Even students who aren't generally crafty enjoyed this project as they had time to spend with friends while giving a purpose to help others. Elliott Guisti, a junior, stated that he was not crafty but once he started getting involved, he began to enjoy it more. Volunteering in a community not only boosts the overall growth of that com

munity but the work as a whole. It is true that student life can be busy, especially if a student has to work to make ends meet or if they have other commitments such as sports or family obligations. However, if a student is already striving to become part of NHS, a high level of commitment, the community work that becomes a part of it, should be an initiative to join and work in society. Athen Chen, a junior, has stated that NHS is a possible way to achieve this. She claims, "Overall, NHS provides a consistent opportunity for me to give back to the community and my school. I got to participate in a lot of activities that I felt brought me closer to this community and made me feel helpful." By having a welcoming community where students can prosper, students can further understand a sense of individuality and give back to those around them with community pride.

NHS itself is one way to be able to prosper within the community, but you don't have to be a part of NHS to make a blanket. Hospitals across the nation are always open to donations and any help that is available to them. These blankets not only provide warmth and comfort but also serve as a reminder of the overall warmth that can grow in a community.

If a student is interested in making donations to Project Linus, they can find more information by contacting Mrs. Weston.

Teacher SPotlight: Señora Sciullo

Noah Fiscus



Many students at South Park High School may be aware of the fun and vibrant Spanish teacher: Señora Sciullo. Like many people, there are multiple sides to her.

Most people know Señora Sciullo as a Spanish teacher, and she has been for quite a while. She has been teaching since 2012, right after graduating college, and has taught at South Park since 2015. When not in school, Señora Sciullo loves spending time with her daughter, husband, and dog. She also loves watching tv shows and movies and listening to podcasts and audiobooks.

Señora Sciullo has an interesting background through teaching. She says that, “my mom is the one who motivated me to become a teacher.” She exclaims that she had a wonderful Spanish teacher in high school and she is the one who, “really fostered my love of Spanish and inspired me to become a Spanish teacher.” She claims that in Spanish, lots of funny things happened and that she can’t choose one thing.

Another interesting fact about Señora Sciullo is her open involvement in South Park High School’s Mini-THON. She says that she found interest in Mini-THON when she was part of THON while attending Penn State and it has stuck with her ever since. She says that, “raising money for pediatric cancer has been so rewarding and I love being part of something that is so impactful. She states that once hearing about former teacher Mrs. Hecht starting Mini-THON in 2019, she knew she had to be a part of it. Señora says that she definitely recommends students to be a part of Mini-THON because it’s a wonderful opportunity to get involved with a school event and to enjoy a day of fun through dancing, games, food trucks, and more, which will be held on May 10th. If a student wishes to join Mini-THON, they may ask Señora Sciullo in room 221.

Overall Señora Sciullo has definitely made a positive impact on South Park High School. It is easy to see how she impacts students and teachers in many ways.

Polar Plunge 2024

Addi Yochum



On February 23, the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania held the polar plunge at Heinz Field, which is an event to raise money for those with developmental disabilities, and intellectual disabilities. This year, South Park raised over \$1,600 for the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Lerner, who organized for South Park to go to the event, said that, “It was beneficial to have South Park be representatives for the Special Olympics – it shows that our students are accepting, inclusive, and welcoming to those of all abilities.” She added, “The students that are involved with the Circle of Friends and that serve as either an athlete or a partner on the bocce teams learn a little bit about seeing things from a different perspective, and including others in fun activities to showcase all sorts of ability levels.”

Students who participated in the polar plunge, like Sophia Cox, a junior, said “my favorite part was hanging out with the

bocce team and jumping in the pool together.”

Some people might wonder why someone would willingly just jump into a pool of cold water. Elliot Giusti, a junior, explained that, “Starting two years ago, I did it for the first time and with my brother having autism, it inspired me to be involved with this event for the Special Olympics.” Others, like Jacie Hilligsberg, also a junior, went because she is part of the bocce team.

Overall, all the students that went enjoyed it, and had a good time, while doing it for a good cause. Ms. Lerner also said, “Truly, the best part is getting to see the kids interact with each other and just have a day dedicated to having fun.”

If you are considering doing it next time, do it! It’s for a good cause. Aside from jumping in the freezing cold water, you’re also helping raise money for the Special Olympics, and you can also have a great time with your friends..

IMPORTANT DATES

March 10: Daylight savings begins
 March 17: St. Patrick’s Day
 March 19: First day of spring
 March 21-24: SP Drama Club presents “Matilda”
 March 22: End of 3rd nine weeks
 March 25: No school
 March 29-April 1: Spring break
 March 31: Easter

Women take the upperhand

Savannah Booth



Photo of Maya Angelou courtesy of Biography.

Have you ever thought about who has created some of your favorite products? Well, as you might not know, some women in history might have just created that product. The month of March symbolizes the amazing women in the world who are recognized, or sometimes unrecognized, for their contributions to history. Women serve as not only providers, moms, cooks, etc. but CEOs, innovators, and so much more.

years of African American hopes and struggles. The celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's achievements to culture and history by the school district of Sonoma, California in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools and hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest to help show the many contributions women make in history.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed the next year, making it a national celebration that continues to be recognized and then six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

The National Women's History Alliance chooses a yearly Women's History Month theme. The 2024 theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." This theme recognizes women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions.

American poet and Civil Rights activist Maya Angelou states, "It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength." Maya Angelou is notorious for speaking on inclusion and equality and believes that it starts with parents to teach future generations that there is more than just beauty in the world. Being an equal and strong community will put us further in life than any amount of beauty could possibly. Mrs. Moore, a paraprofessional at South Park High School, was asked who a person in history that truly inspires/inspired her was and she stated, "Believe it or not Hellen Keller. She is out in the world not being able to see anything and that seems so hard. Shows us we have no reason to complain since we can see and walk." By Mrs. Moore expressing her opinions on Hellen Keller shows you the willpower that so many women have every single day and how grateful we should be for the basic needs that we have, that others might not have.

Women create inventions all of the time but go unnoticed due to gender stereotypes. Margaret A. Wilcox developed a way of heating vehicles so everyone could stay warm in their cars. Florence Parpart created the electric fridge to consistently keep all of your food and drinks cold at a good temperature. Adeline D.T. Whitney created alphabet blocks to help teach kids to learn and write more easily. Shirey Ann Jackson created caller ID and call waiting so people can clearly see who is calling or waiting to call when people are on their phones. Many people probably have no idea who created these products that are now necessities in life but they are now some of the best inventions in the world.

This month serves as a reminder of the countless contributions women have made to society and the ongoing struggle for gender equality. It's a time to celebrate the achievements of women throughout history and to acknowledge the work that still needs to be done. Let's honor the women who came before us, the women who are fighting for change today, and the women who will continue to inspire us in the future.

Birthday corner

March

Marissa Betarie - 2
 Griffin Burnett - 3
 Talan Glowa - 4
 Nico Ranallo - 4
 Praves Wagley - 4
 Andrew Mittleider - 5
 Andrew Walker - 6
 Julianne Powell - 7
 Tyler Hoff - 8
 Angelo Reynoso - 8
 Russell Szewczyk - 8
 Caden Toy - 9

Monroe Polis - 10
 Autumn Kohnen - 11
 Maxwell Craig - 12
 Grant Goodman - 12
 Aiden Yochum - 13
 Nataley Allen - 14
 Bupe Mwila - 14
 Faith Newell - 15
 Murphy Sofranko - 15
 Robert Brooks - 16
 Makenzie Farrier - 16
 Colby O'Toole - 17

Green, green, green

Jessa Harmer & Erika Filous

St. Patrick's Day is a day celebrated by everyone all over the world. This day is widely known for wearing green, leprechauns, and of course, the four-leaf clover. It is annually celebrated on March 17, the day St. Patrick died.

Since around the ninth or tenth century, people in Ireland have been celebrating March 17th as a Roman Catholic feast day for Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick, who was alive during the fifth century, was born in Roman Britain. He was kidnapped and was held as a slave at the age of 16. He later returned and ended up being credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland's people. People say he explained the Holy Trinity by using the three leaves of an Irish clover, the shamrock.

Part of St. Patrick's day are the leprechauns. They first emerged in the eighth century for being known as tiny water-dwellers that began circulating among the Celts. The leprechauns then were mischievous and brought bad luck. Now,

leprechauns are known for having good luck.

The leprechaun's name came from the word "luchorpan" meaning small and they are said to only be 2-3 feet tall. The legends of pots of gold began when they eventually departed the shores of Ireland, leaving some of their gold behind. The leprechauns originally found a pot of abandoned gold and buried it again so no human can ever find it. Now, the pot of gold is known to come at the end of a rainbow. The leprechauns are known for giving luck because of the luck of the Irish, which is one of the reasons they are so popular today.

To this day, St. Patrick's Day is still celebrated by wearing green and being given luck. As the years have grown, things have changed. The St. Patrick's Day parade is very well known in Pittsburgh. It's a good get-together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It is located near the Greyhound bus station at Liberty Avenue and 11th Street. It is on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 10 a.m..

Read Across America

Megan Beam

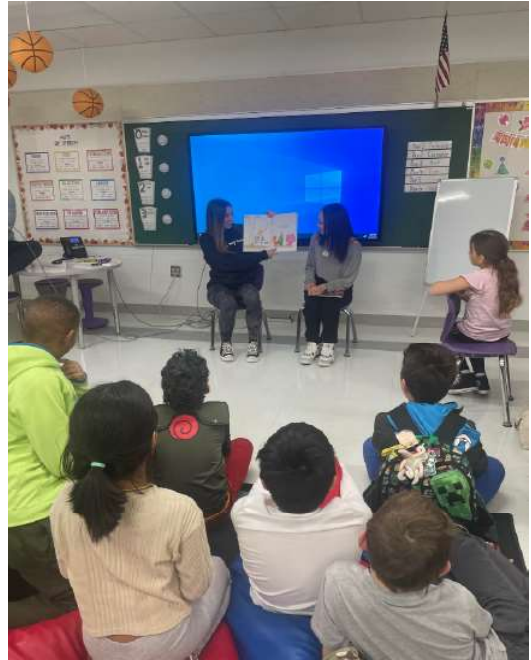


Alexandra Stringe and Ella Clifford with elementary school students

Read Across America is a day sponsored by the National Education Association to encourage reading and is celebrated on March 2nd. It was originally known as Dr. Seuss Day where children would eat green eggs and ham and wear large Cat in the Hat hats in honor of his books “Cat in the Hat” and “Green Eggs and Ham”. People liked the idea of having a designated reading day so in 1998 they decided to change the name from Dr. Seuss day to Read Across America. The day is held on March 2nd to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s Birthday.

South Park celebrated Read Across America from February 26th through March 1st due to construction on the Elementary Center. Interact students took a trip up to the elementary school to read their favorite childhood books to the young students. Each day the students focused on reading to one particular grade level, starting with kindergarteners. Junior Alexandra Stringe read “I Found a Kitty” by Troy Cummings. Alexandra also stated “I enjoy interacting with children and wish to be a pediatric nurse, so I believe it could help with my future career.” Freshman Lila Jesensky stated she wanted to participate in Read Across America because “Little kids are so interesting and they say such unexpected things.” She also went on to say that the kids were laughing, asking her questions, and she even got a hug!

Overall, the South Park Elementary students had a blast reading while the older kids got the chance to strengthen their public speaking and social skills.



Addison Kerr and Nia Hockett reading to elementary school students.



Brooke Bichler and Sydney Dubyak reading to elementary school students.

Caelyn's mixtape

Caelyn Robbins

Welcome to Caelyn's Mixtape, your monthly music recommendation to help expand your taste. If you're on TikTok, you've probably heard a trending snippet from the song "Not Allowed" by TV Girl. TV Girl is an indie band from San Diego best known for the interesting samples used in their songs. For example, their song "Taking What's Not Yours" uses 3 different samples. The first one is the 1974 song "Strut Your Stuff" by Tom Scott, used as the backtrack for the song. The second one is "Don't Copy That Floppy" a 90's anti piracy psa music video, and the third and most interesting one is a single clip from a Richard Nixon speech from the 70's. The song "Taking What's Not Yours" is from the TV Girl album "Who Really Cares", which is the band's most popular album. TV Girl is very similar to other niche obscure indie artists like: Alex G, Jean Dawson, The Garden, and Men I Trust. If you enjoy any of those artists, I recommend you check out TV Girl. My personal Favorite TV Girl song from the album "Who Really Cares" would have to be "Cigarettes out the Window", it's a very chill song that tells a very short story about a girl named Liddy.

If you have any music suggestions, DM me on instagram @caelyn.robbins.

Release radar

Caelyn Robbins

February 22nd (missed)

Glaive - "a bit of a mad one" (hyperpop/indie pop)

March 1st

Faye Webster - "Undressed at the Symphony"
(indie pop)

March 8th

Ariana Grande - "eternal sunshine" (pop)
HOMESHAKE - "CD Wallet" (synth-indie)

Release radar (con't)

March 15th

Kacey Musgraves - "Deeper Well" (pop country)

March 22nd

Adrienne Lenker - "Bright Future" (folk-indie)

Glaive- "a bit of a mad one": Glaive started creating music in early 2020 and gained popularity through the new rising community of hyperpop music. He's best known for his song "Astrid" released on his first album Cypress Grove. He is closely associated with artists such as: Ericdoa, Aldn, The Kid Laroi, Midwxst, and Brakence. He also is featured in an MGK (Machine Gun Kelly) song. His new album is extension of his new sound he started on his last album "i care so much that i don't care at all". He has switched out of the more hyperpop sound and has created a sound unique to him that isn't seen anywhere else in the current music industry.

Faye Webster- "Undressed at the Symphony": Faye Webster best known for her hits "Kingston" or "Right side of my neck" is releasing her 5th studio album. Faye is an alt-country indie-pop artist from Atlanta. She's a star in the indie music scene and currently only has one collab song on all of her albums and that is "lego ring ft. lil yachty". Her new album is the start of her tour and tickets are already selling out.



Release radar (con't)

Caelyn Robbins

Ariana Grande- “eternal sunshine”: eternal sunshine is Ariana’s seventh studio album. Her last album was released four years ago in 2020 so fans have really hyped up this album. Her hiatus has fans curious as to what Ariana has been up and she talks all about it in this album.

HOMESHAKE- “CD Wallet”: HOMESHAKE is a synth-indie band from montreal. Consisting of lead singer/ songwriter Peter Sagar, Mark Goetz, Greg Napier, and Brad Loughead. In 2014 Peter left Mac Demarco’s live band and started HOMESHAKE. The band released their first official album in 2015. They gained mass popularity in 2020 for their single “Sesame”, and have been creating their erie nostalgic style music since then.

Kacey Musgraves- “Deeper Well”: Kacey has been a singer/ songwriter since the early 2000’s but really started gaining popularity in the pop-country scene in 2018. She has won seven Grammys and has a tour coming up this year for this album.

Adrienne Lenker- “Bright Future”: Adrienne is an American singer and a member of the band Big Thief. She recently gained popularity on tiktok for her song “anything”. Fans have stated that by the looks of Adrienne when you hear her voice it catches you off guard. She has a more grungy look to her but her voice is very soft and her music is gentle and has a folk-indie sound to it.