



THE SPRESS

SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

South Park activities fair

LIBERTY VIETMEIER

The South Park High School hosted an activities fair on November 2 and 3. This was for the underclassmen in the Auxiliary Gym during an extended homeroom. It was organized by senior Babin Mishra.

Mishra's goal for the fair was to bring awareness to the various clubs and activities in the high school. He had come up with this idea because he "moved from North Carolina to Pennsylvania last year and was clueless as to what clubs were offered." He wanted to help the underclassmen and transfer students see what was offered at South Park and wished he had something like this fair when he had moved. A lot of students are surprised at how many clubs South Park has to offer. When going through the club list, even Mishra was "surprised to learn that we have a table tennis team."

Many of the underclassmen believe this was a great idea to start this fair. Mackenzie Boehme, freshman, thinks "a lot of people don't know what's available". Another freshman, Livia Monaco, also agrees that it is important for this fair to take place. Monaco says, "I think it is important for students to see their extracurricular options so that they can get involved" and is overall satisfied with what is offered at the school.

Since this activities fair was helpful for transfer students and underclassmen, hopefully South Park continues the activities fair to help get students involved.



Sophomore Maclin Cassidy gives info about table tennis to fellow sophomores Joey Anselm, Zach Britton, and Mitchell Bayne

How we remember

BROOKE BICHLER

With October being over and Thanksgiving coming up, high schoolers were asked what they remember from their Thanksgiving feast at the Elementary Center. Here, students were asked to bring a special guest to enjoy a meal with at the school. This year, the feast will be taking place on November 16th, 17th, and 18th. Being a memorable experience as we remember parts of it still, here is what some people had to say about it.

Kayla Susan, freshman, said she enjoyed her dad being there with her because she appreciated their close bond. She continued on to say, "He always took off work and he would always come for both me and my brother." Susan also said they would all sit together and find friends to sit with too, which was meaningful to her.

Nathan Klocek, sophomore, said he remembers spending the time with his mom. Klocek also says he remembers the food he was given. These two things helped to make his experience the memory that it is.



Spending that time with family, getting together with family you don't normally see and hanging out with them." She is content when surrounded by loved ones through the holiday season, which she is looking forward to.

We may not realize it, but it's experiences like this that we will look back on and be thankful for. A lot of what people cherished was the food and getting to enjoy it with their closest friends and



Elementary kids enjoying their time at the 2022 fall feast

Coming up...

IMPORTANT DATES

November 18- Winter sports start

November 24- No school- Thanksgiving

November 25- No school

November 28- No school

Sydney Dubyak, freshman, was asked to answer what was her favorite part about the Thanksgiving holiday in general, to which she said, "My all-time favorite part about Thanksgiving is

spending that time with family, getting together with family you don't normally see and hanging out with them." She is content when surrounded by loved ones through the holiday season, which she is looking forward to. We may not realize it, but it's experiences like this that we will look back on and be thankful for. A lot of what people cherished was the food and getting to enjoy it with their closest friends and family. Due to the holiday coming soon, we are able to look back on these experiences and give thanks for it all!

Social school work program

ADRIANNA CAROZZA

South Park hired a new social worker this year for a new program. Mrs.Cortazzo is a social worker who works as an in-school social worker/counselor at all three South Park schools. The program provides both direct and indirect social work services to students experiencing social, emotional and/or behavioral challenges that interfere with their performance in school.

Mrs.Cortazzo chose this occupation because she has always wanted to work with children and help them make good choices as they grow. She chose to go for her licensed social worker certification from the University of Pittsburgh, with a certification as Home and School Visitor, because she wanted to be with students where they were, which was school. She felt like being with the students, where they were every day, would allow her to make the most difference in their lives.

The school social work program works as an integral part of the educational system as a whole by building relationships with administration, staff, students and families. The goal of the social worker is to decrease barriers for students and families by advocating, facilitating, and creating a positive school climate to increase success throughout a student’s academic experience. They work to empower and build skills in individuals to become responsible and productive members of society. On an individual basis, the school social worker works to actively prepare students in developing a positive self-concept, attitude, and future goals. They teach skills in Emotional Intelligence (EI). EI refers to the types of intelligence and/or skills that will help students improve their interpersonal functioning, influence positive decision-making skills, increase their self-regulation skills, and teach students how to deal with adversaries. This individual work is geared toward helping students be able to excel in all areas of their lives.

If anyone is hesitant to come talk to Mrs.Cortazzo, her advice is to just give it a go, and you might be pleasantly surprised how good it feels to talk to someone who is unbiased and supportive of them. She offers feedback, critical thinking techniques, and alternative ways to make decisions that could really help change how a student goes through his or her day to day life. “There is no time like the present to take a leap of faith and see what it feels like to engage in therapeutic support,” she says.



Mrs. Cortazzo, South Park School District’s new social worker

Sending the holidays to the troops

MACKENZIE BOEHME

Every year the Interact Club participates in a donation called Operation Shoebox. Operation Shoebox sends shoeboxes filled with snacks, toiletries, and other items to soldiers overseas during the holidays.

Interact Club is sponsored by both Mr. and Mrs. Surovchak, and they both encourage club members to make shoeboxes with handwritten letters for the soldiers. South Park has been taking part in Operation Shoebox for many years. Mrs. Surovchak says that “it’s our way of giving back to soldiers who are giving up so much for us.” She adds, “since they are away from their families at the holidays, this allows them to enjoy a small part of the states.”

Every one of the students have different reasons for donating. Kayla Bennett, senior, has been taking part in Operation Shoebox her whole high school career. Bennett says she wants “to help troops overseas who do not get to spend the holidays with their families.” She continues that “these people are serving my country and donating is my way of thanking them.” Although Bennett has not received a letter back from the soldiers, she says “I know people who have and reading them warms my heart.”

Last year, Interact donated 125 shoeboxes and they are hoping for more this year.



A box donated by Nicole Kempton to Operation shoebox this year.

Toys for Tots

MEGAN BEAM

South Park Elementary Center is collecting gifts for Toys for Tots again this holiday season. Toys for Tots is a non-profit organization run by the United States Marine Corps and helps provide Christmas gifts for children that are less fortunate.

Mr. Quast, a 4th grade teacher at South Park Elementary Center, has been helping out with Toys for Tots since 2010. His desire to help started when Haiti was hit by an earthquake. After the earthquake, Mr. Quast and other elementary center teachers would send hygienic items and toiletries to help the people in Haiti. Later that year, he heard about Toys for Tots and Stuff-a-Bus on the radio. Mr. Quast stated, “Bitten by the philanthropic bug the previous spring, I decided to put together our own drive to help out and donate to the cause.” He’s been organizing the Toys for Tots drive at SPEC ever since.

Kids and parents can donate either items or money to the toy drive in the coming weeks. If money is given as a donation, Mr. Quast will take all the money to Five Below and buy as many items as possible to give to children in need.

Comic by Tom Holmes



National Honors Society

SAVANNAH BOOTH

National Honors Society (NHS) is an organization for high school students in the U.S to help other students really become the leaders they can be. The selection of students is based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. To join NHS students must have a GPA of 3.8, must be dedicated to community service, must be respectful and show leadership, and take at least one honors level course prior to admittance. During the fall, all junior and senior students that have a GPA of 3.8 or higher will be invited to apply if they meet the requirements.

On Wednesday, November 9th, 16 students were inducted into the National Honors Society. By joining, students will partake in a number of activities to help their community in several ways. Out of the many things they do, tutoring for every class is one thing that other students find to be very helpful. Emma Ciaramella, senior, was asked why so many people believe people join NHS and she stated “Many people join NHS to show off their achievements that they have been working towards their entire lives. NHS is for students that don’t take the easy way out and go above and beyond.” Ciaramella also explains that she isn’t going to college but joining the National Honors Society is still very useful.

Joining NHS helps build leadership skills that will help in the future. Not only does it look good on resumes but it will build up skills that more people need in their everyday lives. Another student, senior Jenna Ciora, explains that she personally wanted to join because of how great it looks for college. She states, “it’s good to join because it honors respect and makes every resume look good.”



Anyone that is interested in joining or wants to know more can talk to Mrs. Surovchak, Mrs. Weston, or your guidance counselors about what is needed for admittance.

Marina Malacki lights a candle as part of the induction process

Writing contest

BROOKE BICHLER

Finish the narrative below with your own creative story of what happens next; you must work from the line provided for you. Submissions should be 250 words or less and original work. All submissions should be given to Mrs. Finberg, Mrs. Surovchak, or emailed to SPress@sparksd.org no later than December 2nd, 2022 at 2:30pm.

Finish the tale...
On Christmas Eve night, I came downstairs and saw something coming down the chimney...



Tennis

CALLIE HEYNES

On the 25th of October, SPHS’s girls’ tennis team traveled to Erie for finals. The anticipation built up as the time came closer. The team has been striving to dominate their league, and the excitement continued on the two-hour drive to Erie.

One student mentioned how they felt on the day of the competition. Alex Stringe, sophomore, said “I felt that we had a chance.” The team definitely did, with their spirits high, they played against Cathedral Prep.

Unfortunately, the team lost 2 to 3 during the finals. However, many underclassmen are staying optimistic for years and matches to come, especially since the team made it so far to the finals this year. One student in particular, senior Nicole Kempton, made it to the state finals on November 4th. With all of the support of South Park behind her, Nicole placed 3rd overall in the state. Good job to the girls’ tennis team this year!



Nicole Kempton, senior, smiling proudly with her third-place medal at the state finals

Native American Heritage Month

RILEY BURNETT

Most people do not know that November is Native American Heritage Month. During November, we should honor the native peoples, their ancestors, and their rich culture and traditions.

In the South Park Elementary School, Ms. Bersamina, a member of the Aztec nation, is active in her community and frequently attends powwows. Ms. Bersamina stated, “I am a member of the Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC) here in Pittsburgh, PA. I travel to various Powwows in Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas to compete in the women's jingle dress dance category.” Jingle dress dancing is a healing dance mainly performed by women wearing hand-sewn dresses with beads and cone-shaped bells. The dance is an Ojibwe tradition. When the women dance in the dresses, the jingles clink and release prayers that were deliberately sown with prayer, thought, or good intentions to heal the sick. She loves teaching others about her traditions with the small drumming and dancing group she is a part of. “We perform for audiences and talk about the different dances, the meaning behind them, and different customs associated with the dancing and our regalia, or the clothing we wear.”

Unfortunately, Ms. Bersamina does not know the original language of the indigenous tribe her family originates from because her grandparents immigrated to America during a time when assimilation was expected. She said, “They were expected to speak English, eat American food, and dress with the current style.” Sadly, this has been required of many Native American tribes throughout history and can be seen in the Trail of Tears, quantum blood laws, reservations, and boarding schools. Some native peoples do not know their culture because their ancestors were forced to leave their traditional ways and made to fit in with the American people.

Native people and their culture should be honored all year, but especially in November. Their ancestors have gone through so much and still persisted and taught younger generations to keep the community strong.



Ms. Bersamina as she takes part in a jingle dress dance at a powwow

South Park (Taylor’s version)

AVA TURLEY

After many months of suspense and speculation of new music from Taylor Swift, she has finally released her tenth studio album *Midnights*, which has obtained massive first-week sales. Taylor first showed up at the MTV Video Music Awards on August 28, 2022 where she was nominated for five awards.

Midnights by Taylor Swift has been reaching new heights with taking up the first ten spots on Billboard's Hot 100. Although, the number one song has received some criticism, the lyrics are humorous at times, but have truly deep insecurities behind them. “It's me, hi. I’m the problem, it’s me. At tea time, everybody agrees.” The song anti-hero explores what Taylor Swift may dislike about herself and how that makes her feel *on her own*. She goes on to say how these things haunt her in the middle of the night and makes her feel like she lacks all of somebody typically in the spotlight or the main character, an Anti-Hero.

A song which has received lots of positive feedback on *Midnights* is “Bejeweled”, which was number six on *Billboard's Hot 100*. The song talks about how Taylor has been kind to her partner, yet the treatment has not been reciprocated. She goes on to talk about how she would rather shine than be overshadowed. “And I miss you, but I miss sparkling,” The song also has had a Tiktok dance made for it, which has sparked a lot of positive attention from the users across the world. So far, the song has a whopping 226.9 thousand videos made under the “Bejeweled” sound.

On November 1st, Taylor announced a national tour called, “The Eras Tour” including 52 shows across the United States. The tour will depict all of the eras of her music career and visit her past leading up to *Midnights*. The demand will be high, and is expected to be one of 2023’s biggest stadium tours. The tour is expected to stop in Pittsburgh on June 16, 2023 at Acrisure Stadium.

Touch down!

EMMA HOLMES

The South Park football team started off their season of 2022 this year. They started off with high hopes and experience, expecting a better record by pushing to their limits. Juniors AJ D’Agostino and Zach Ludwig were both interviewed by the Press the afternoon before playoffs.

Starting off with nostalgia, the boys were asked to recall his their most memorable game this season. D'Agostino claims, “My most memorable game was upsetting West Mifflin.” The feeling of defeating the other team fueled him. Ludwig agrees saying going to overtime with that anticipation was “straight up adrenaline for the team”. They are both pretty pleased with their current record, however they both believe they could still have pushed themselves past their expectations.

They appreciate their coach's effort to keep their stamina going, AJ stating, “our coaches discipline and motivate us well.” It is undeniable that they aren’t too bad of a team, with a good relationship to one another. They both are comfortable with their team’s current experience and hold faith in that aspect. Ludwig himself believes that there could always be more potential if they go further than the first round of playoffs.

Unfortunately, after a winning season that took them to the playoffs, South Park lost against Shady Side Academy in the first round of the playoffs on November 4, 2022.

THE SPRESS STAFF

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- Emma Holmes
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