



THE SPRESS

SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

The South Park royals

LIBERTY VIETMEIER

On Friday September 30th, the South Park Student Council crowned the Homecoming King and Queen. Brooke Ellis was crowned as Homecoming Queen and Babin Mishra as Homecoming King.

Even though she didn't think she had a chance at winning, Ellis states that it made her happy to be crowned homecoming queen. She adds, "It means that throughout my four years in high school, I must have been doing something right." Mishra added that while it is "just a title, it is validating." He continues by stating, "you do not have to be the most well known person or a 'popular' person to receive honors that are regarded as a popularity contest."

While the number of votes are kept confidential, Ellis says she was "probably nominated because I talk to lots of people." Mishra believes his "connections through Marching Band as well as other extracurriculars" helped him to be nominated after only moving here last year. Both admitted to being surprised they won but it made their senior year extra special.



Babin Mishra and Brooke Ellis after they were announced King and Queen

The pep is back

SAVANNAH BOOTH

To help encourage homecoming week, Student Council welcomed back their annual pep rally, the first since 2019. Students from all grade levels watched at the assembly while all fall athletes performed different activities.

At the beginning of the pep rally, the band welcomed everyone with a variation of stand tunes to get everyone excited. Afterward, 2 drummers, Joseph Anslem and Anthony Medved played Jig 2. Joseph performed the song upside down while Anthony performed for the crowd blindfolded. After that, the crowd was blown away by a dance contest with contestants from each grade level followed by relay races from different sports. Special guest star, Sparky the Eagle, also came to join by dancing and getting the crowd eager to see what was coming up each time.

To finalize the end of the assembly the band played stand tunes again to dismiss the students back to their regular classes. In all, the pep assembly went well and all of the students enjoyed the end of homecoming week.



Carter Piel (junior), Myheaven Taylor (sophomore), Sparky the Eagle, Tyler Harris (freshman), and Sebastian Scanlon (freshman) competing in the dance contest



Joseph Anslem (sophomore), Callie Heynes (sophomore), Kasey Wagner (sophomore), and Kirstin Koch (senior) are helping Joey perform upside down.

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Up and running

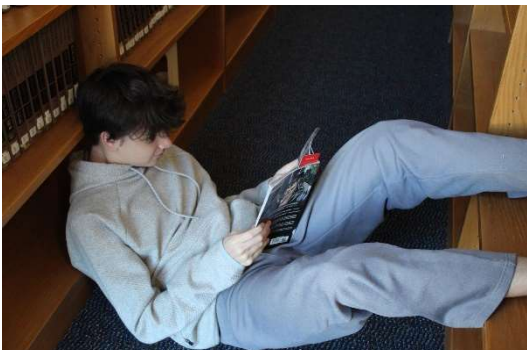
MEGAN BEAM

The South Park High School Library Media Center is back open after a two year hiatus. It offers so many resources to help students and it's fun!

If you want to explore your creativity, you can do that too. Down at the LMC, there is a maker space that includes a sewing machine, a Cricut machine, 3-D pens, a button maker, finch robot, sublimation printer and presses, and handcrafting supplies. With those items, you can make bracelets, buttons, stickers, jewelry, customized items, and so much more.

If you are interested in reading but you don't have the time or you are a little reluctant, Mrs. Finberg, the school librarian, is always there to help. Mrs. Finberg said "The best part of my job is helping students find books they end up falling in love with." Also there is the SOAR reading program. SOAR reading can help you find a book, author, or series that you are interested in and can make reading fun. Students get the time to go down to the LMC during their English class every other week. From there, you can choose whatever you want to read, and there are no tests or assignments on whatever you decide to read.

If you have a study hall or a free period, check the sign on the LMC doors. If it's open, stop in to check it out!



Ashton Jones (sophomore) is reading a book

Behind the tee

MACKENZIE BOEHME

On September 9th, JP Tusai, Ryan Tumas, and Adam Vas all qualified at Westwood Golf Club to advance to the WPIAL semifinals. Tusai placed first scoring 73, Tumas in second with 74, and Vas in third shooting 76. South Park dominated, taking the top spots out of 30 golfers.

The WPIAL semi-finals took place on September 26th at Hannastown Country Club. Both Tumas and Vas said they enjoyed Hannastown's course the most. When asked why they loved the course so much, Vas, a sophomore, said "The reason I like this course the most is it challenged me to be smart with every shot."

Every one of the guys had a different reason for liking golf the way they do. When Tumas, a junior, was asked he responded "there's always something to practice, and you get to be outside." Tusai, a junior, said his first golfing experience was a memory that seems to have stuck with him. He said, "I first golfed with my grandpa when I was six years old. I instantly fell in love." Considering everyone's responses, golf means something a little different to each of the players. At the WPIAL semifinals, Tusai placed third out of ninety golfers, advancing him to the WPIAL Championship at Oakmont Country Club on October 4th.



Coach Hogya, Matt Jena, Ryan Tumas, Colin Riberich, Logan Augustine, Doug Hoffman, Adam Vas, JP Tusai

More Than Just a Game

BROOKE BICHLER

The South Park soccer teams find success because of the relationships they create with each other as teammates. The impact the upperclassmen have on their younger teammates is one that is remembered.

Colin Kievy, a junior, discusses the impact he made on his fellow teammates. He says, "I've made an impact by communicating with my teammates and getting everyone's mindset ready before and after the game. I also get everyone's energy up before the game." Ryan Wesolowski, a sophomore, agrees the upperclassmen benefit him. He replied, "The upperclassmen played a huge role in how I practiced and made me a better player. They lead the team well."

Now a senior, Lauren Aultz appreciated having the upperclassmen when she was a freshman. When asked if she would pass on what she learned, she says " Yes, throughout my highschool career, some of my best friends were upperclassmen. I looked up to them and it helped me grow as a player. I try to be the influence they were for me to the younger players." Then Gianna Cardillo, a freshman, was asked if it feels hard to prove herself on a team full of older teammates. She replied, "I feel like in the beginning of the season it was but as I understood and got more comfortable around everyone, it got easier, so yes and no."

Kinevy was then asked to name a memory that he will always remember, and he said "Probably beating Yough 4-0 in the playoffs last season." Wesoloski was then asked who he looks up to most on the team, to which he answered, "If I were to look up to anyone on the team it would be Cam Loveland because he never lets emotions affect his game and he's pretty good."

There is an obvious correlation between these grade levels as they progress throughout their high school careers. They each demonstrate how a team can impact each individual player.



The boys soccer team comes together during the game to show a team effort.

Homecoming Court: Jenna Ciora

RILEY BURNETT

On Friday, September 23rd, students waited eagerly to hear who would be on the homecoming court this year. Jenna Ciora, a Senior Color Guard Captain, was hoping to hear her name over the PA system. When her name was called, Jenna stated, “I was excited because my teacher, Mr. LaBarbra, started cheering for me.” To Jenna, being nominated for homecoming court shows her that people support her. Along with Jenna being called, so was Brooke Ellis, Brooke Kubiak, Elliot Oliphant, Geana Paranzino, Lanie Shultz, Dren Bajgora, Kirk Brdar, Evan Burr, Austin Lafferty, Babin Mishra, and Tyler Susan.



At the Homecoming football game against Seton LaSalle, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced at half-time. All members of the court walked through a tunnel made by our South Park Eagle Blues Marching Band after Seton LaSalle’s Marching Band performed their half-time show. Even though Jenna did not win Queen title, she still feels happy that she got nominated in the first place. She is elated that she could possibly make more friends from being nominated. “I would love to get to know new people and make more friends.” Jenna was very excited to hear that Babin Mishra, a good friend of hers, won Homecoming King along with Brooke Ellis, who won Homecoming Queen.

Homecoming football game

SAVANNAH BOOTH

The pressure was on September 30, 2022, when South Park’s Varsity football team won against Seton LaSalle 39-14. The football team felt the excitement of the game and were eager to see the turnout. The team had been diligently practicing and figuring out what the other team was scheming and how to work better together to make the win.

During the homecoming game, the student section participated in a white out, as they have every year, and were ready to support their team no matter win or loss. Antonio Loukas, a sophomore player, was interviewed on how he was feeling about the game and explained that he felt no pressure and that the student section brings him more motivation. He stated that the cheering brings more excitement to him and the players, and could help them play better.”

Another player, Eric Doerue, was interviewed and explained that he believed that the team needs to work on different things, but concluded they do well on defense. Before games, both football players explained that they play music in the locker rooms and go over plays to let go of any stress that they may be feeling. During half time the homecoming court was announced and was crowned for this year's 2022 homecoming king and queen. At the end of the game the Eagle Blue’s Marching band performed their show while all the football players watched to see their hard work.

Stands were filled with fans and safe to say nobody was disappointed except Seton LaSalle’s team.



Showing school spirit for homecoming

STAFF



Maddie Thurston, sophomore, (left), Kylie Mettrick, sophomore, (middle), and Alyssa Rider, sophomore, (right), kicked off spirit week with PJ day for day 1 of the 5 days leading up to Homecoming.



Kylie Mettrick, sophomore, took on the 90’s for day 2 in honor of it being decades day.



Mrs. Scullo is decked out for Bikers vs Surfers day.



Sienna Wertlet, freshman, dressed up for Country vs Country Club.



Emily Smith, junior, (middle right) and Ella Morgan, freshman, (right) are dressed for class color day. Seniors wore black, juniors wore red, sophomores wore green, and freshmen wore purple.

South Park girls volleyball 2022

EMMA HOLMES

The South Park girls volleyball team went into its 2022 season in early September. Throughout the season, coach Chad Farrington says that the ladies are making the most of the season.

Starting off the season with a record of 10-1, Coach Chad is pretty confident with the methods he has in place. He explains it's all about who's doing well emotionally and physically, who is healthy, and trial and error experimenting to have a line up he's confident in putting forth to perform. The team's playing is actually rather impressive this year. This group of girls seem to thrive off of competition, with the only down sides possibly “getting in their heads”, but from there on, they do seemingly great making a comeback.

Coach Chad explains the team did encounter a loss, the very first. He claims these girls seemed to start off with a rocky mindset after their first defeat. However, they did not let it define the whole interpretation of the season. He explains he's mostly proud of the way they have blossomed from that point on. It takes not only skill, but a good mental spot too.

He believes in himself to take these girls where he knows they have the potential to go, but explains that “you can take the horse to water, but you can't get them to drink, they must do that on their own”. Most players would agree this to be true, with a coach that does his best on his end, it is up to the girls to put their best foot forward. This 2022 team seems to know exactly just how to do that. The most appreciated qualities of the players on this team are simply the drive and determination they have to push forward, but the chemistry and bond they share on the court is just as impressive.



Spike out breast cancer

LIBERTY VIETMEIER

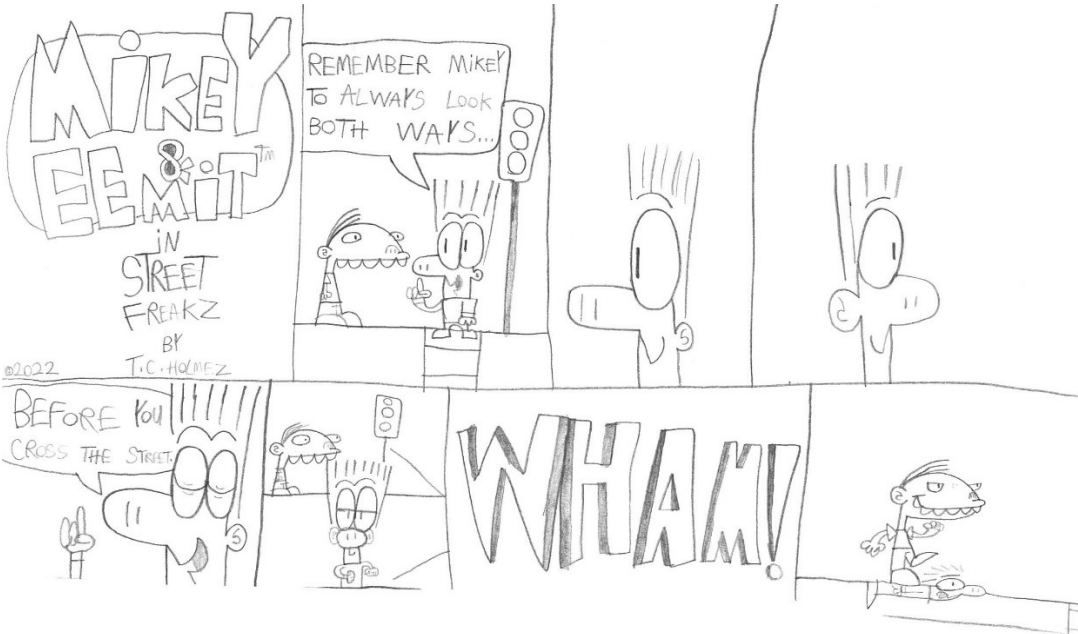
The South Park Girls Volleyball team hosted a pinkout game to bring breast cancer awareness on October 6th. The volleyball boosters and the team raised money for individuals fighting breast cancer.

The volleyball team chooses to host a pinkout game because some of the girls on the team have been affected by breast cancer and it has been a tradition for years. Sophia Cox, sophomore, enjoys supporting the pinkout game mainly because it's close to her heart. She says, “Pinkout has a very important meaning to me. I’m wearing pink for my mom.” Lanie Shultz, senior, isn’t playing for anyone in particular but for all the people who have been affected by breast cancer. The spirit of the team was high because they knew they were playing with a purpose.

The whole team is trying to transcend their spirit into awareness. Shultz adds, “Pinkout games bring more awareness as it can be a good example to fundraise and spread positivity.” Cox added she “thinks pink out games bring more awareness because they bring more fun into fundraising.” All in all, the whole team enjoys helping towards a good cause. South Park won the game winning 3 of the 5 sets.

Comic

TOM HOLMES



THE SPRESS STAFF

- Megan Beam
- Mackenzie Boeheme
- Savannah Booth
- Riley Burnett
- Adrianna Carozza
- Callie Heynes
- Emma Holmes
- Tom Holmes
- Ava Turley
- Liberty Vietmeier
- Mrs. Finberg – Co-Advisor
- Mrs. Surovchak – Co-Advisor

*Interested in joining
The SPress staff?
Contact Mrs. Finberg or Mrs. Surovchak*

Bell change struggles

AVA TURLEY

Many students have noticed this year that the lunches are longer, there are no letter periods, the time in between periods is shorter, and homeroom is shorter. I think that this is unnecessary, and an inconvenience for the students.

A lot of students have been recently discussing how they have been rushing to class and bored in the extra 10 minutes they have been given to eat. Although most students find homeroom boring, for the students who don't have any study halls, it is very useful. Homeroom can be an extra study hall for whenever students have extra assignments they need to finish. However, whenever homeroom was shortened down to ten minutes, it narrows down how long students can work on different assignments.

Personally, I think that thirty minutes is a perfect amount of time to eat lunch. Some may reason that this extra time in lunch gives them time to finish extra work. Although, for me, homeroom is a quiet time to finish assignments before the day starts, lunch is loud and it makes it hard to focus. Forty two minutes for lunch is far too long.

When students ask to use the restroom, many teachers decline with the reasoning that they could've gone at other times. With four minutes in between classes, it gives students more flexibility to go to their locker, use the restroom, and make it to their next class on time. When four minutes is cut down to three, students then have no choice but to do these things during class.

I believe students should be given more time to go about what they need to do before working hard in class.

Behind the scenes of cross country

ADRIANNA COROZZA

The South Park cross country team is very optimistic about this season. Athletes are hopeful to make it to WPIALS.

The season is going very well, according to Noah Pawlowski, a sophomore on the team. He expressed his enjoyment with the team and his teammates. He says, "The season is going very good because everyone's PRing [personal records]", when talking about how the 2022 season is going. Noah expressed he thinks they will go to WPIALS because they have Joshua Kosmach on the team, a junior, who Noah says "is a great runner". Noah is having a great season this year too. He says he is happy he joined cross country because "it's something to do to get out of the house and it is good exercise." The team is improving, based on last season. Noah says, "This year the team is bigger and we now have enough boys to compete with other teams that can also compete and the people on the team from last year have improved a lot so I would say the season is better."

Murphy Sofranko, a junior, who has done cross country since freshman year, also has an optimistic attitude about the season. Murphy says, "this season has been really comfortable to run in because the weather changed early this year and became colder which makes it easier and more enjoyable to run in." Their team is continuing to improve. He expressed how good the team is doing. " Our team started off strong, but we continue to keep reaching new personal records every meet." He is enjoying this season and says he plans to do it next year as a senior to complete all four years of high school. It seems like a fun and successful season so far. Some advice to anyone considering joining the team next year is "to not only prepare an extensive amount physically to be able to keep up with workouts and meets, but it's also important to come into the next season with a healthy mindset about what you're really getting yourself into."

The boys cross country team is winning with a record of 3-2. The girls team is 0-1-5, with 5 ties, 1 loss, and 0 wins.



Bouncing the way to WPIALS

CALLIE HEYNES

SPHS's athletes have much to offer, with a wide span of sports and scholars. This year, the girl's tennis team has been dominating in all categories. Nicole Kempton, grade 12, has been striving for a title in WPIALS, highlighting her hard work for her single spot. The doubles teams have also been working hard. Their work shows how diligently they have been focusing at practice and their motivation is seen through their ambition. There is no doubt that those on the team will achieve great things while in high school.

When Nicole was asked about this "big, fun part" of her life, she said that she's been playing since she was five years old. Her goals are to place well in states, and play in a high level league in college. When Nicole feels pressure, she admits there are better things to focus on, such as comical things her coaches have said, or using breathing techniques.

Moving on to Doubles...Pairs of partners include Grace Kempton/Haley Spitznagel and Ava Rongaus/Larrisa Mannheimer. They get through games by staying relaxed instead of focusing on past mistakes. Grace stays patient by taking "one point at a time". Haley says that the partners always manage to keep each other "pumped up" and support each other no matter what.

The school's team portrays a show of sportsmanship, patience, and hard work. Nothing will be able to stop our girls as they continue to thrive and reach their full potential.

Coming up...

IMPORTANT DATES

October 25 - Pops Concert
7:00 pm in Auditorium

October 28 - No school

FUNDRAISERS

Interact is selling pink bracelets for \$1.00 in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month from October 10th-14th. On October 14th, wear pink and let's pink the park!

Marching Band is selling hoagies and popcorn to help fund their Disney trip. See Mrs. Barbone or a Marching Band member by November 3rd to order yours!