



THE SPRESS

SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Pink to power, the history of breast cancer

CALLIE HEYNES

It had been ingrained in us that we should always wear pink and participate in fundraisers to show our support during October. However, many people, young and old, are unaware of the history of breast cancer and how it affects us today.

Breast cancer is not a modern topic. According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, sources of illustrations and written records of papyrus have shown surgical procedures. Early versions of Christian faiths have been intertwined with healing beliefs, and more often than not, mislead the knowledge of breast cancer. However, during the birth of the 19th century, the medical field evolved beyond expectation. Advancing surgeries became safer and more accessible to the public, leading breast cancer to become more of a talked about topic. Doctors became more knowledgeable about the spread of breast cancer and the cause of it. In the 20th century, doctors found that the disease was normally more aggressive in younger women. Forms of chemotherapy, the killing of cells, was also revolutionized during this time.

When people think about forms of cancer today, they most likely think “that could never happen to me,” yet breast cancer is more common than most think. Beyond this, a diagnosis can feel isolating but a patient’s journey can have a shining hope in a dark time. Olivia Sperber, sophomore, has relatives and friends who have been affected. Olivia stated, “They do their best to focus on the positive things in life like family and friends.” Myths about breast cancer spread through the general public and can cause panic. If someone has any concerns or questions about breast cancer there are many sites and sources to help.

Pink the Park

RILEY BURNETT

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students of Interact sold pink bracelets during lunches to raise money for the St. Clair Hospital Breast Cancer Center. Additionally, students of South Park High School wore pink to school and supported the football team and had a pink out at the Friday home game against Hopewell on October 14th.

The pink bracelets were being sold for \$1.00 during all lunch periods for students to buy. All money raised from the bracelet sale was used to help fund mammograms for women and conduct research at the St. Clair Breast Cancer Center. South Park alone raised \$415.00 from bracelet sales and teacher donations. The pink bracelets were a hit. Many students purchased one or even more for themselves or friends. Some students plan to wear their bracelets as a daily accessory. Megan Beam, a sophomore at South Park, stated, “I plan to wear my bracelet every day.” When walking in the halls, you can still see students wearing their bracelets.

At the home football game against Hopewell, the student section was a sea of pink. Students popped pink party poppers when our South Park Eagles scored touchdowns and our cheerleaders had pink pom-poms. Our football team collectively wore pink accents on their uniforms like pink socks or sweatbands.

The students of South Park always show support for important causes, and it shows!



Students from all grades participate in Pink the Park during period 7 lunch

Coming up...

IMPORTANT DATES

October 28th - No school - In-Service Day

October 31st - Halloween

November 2nd and 3rd - Activities Fair - Auxiliary Gym during Extended Homeroom

November 8th - No school - Election Day

November 11th - No school - Veterans Day

FUNDRAISERS

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!

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

Senior rec

SAVANNAH BOOTH

Seniors in a variety of sports teams were recognized on Friday the 14th to celebrate their accomplishments during their years of high school. Senior players from football, band, cheer, and tennis walked down the field with their families to say goodbye to this chapter of their lives and hello to the next.

To begin senior rec, band and cheerleaders helped decorate lockers and made memory books to come back to after their senior dinners. For senior dinner, the students had dinner with their coaches and families to celebrate the end of an era. For many, senior rec can be a very emotional time and Kirstin Koch believes that since it's the last year playing their sports, it can be an emotional time to look back on their years of high school and all the friends they will be leaving behind. Koch, a senior, states "She is feeling very nostalgic about being a senior. It's upsetting and exciting." She also says she will miss talking to her teachers and friends between classes. Matthew Smith, a senior football player, was asked how he was personally feeling about being a senior, and he says, "It's pretty dope, just excited to graduate." He also explains that he will miss his favorite part of high school which is being a part of the football team with his teammates. He plans after high school to either go to the workforce or attend a trade school.

Many memories have been made throughout these years and will forever be long-lasting. All of you will be missed and we hope that your high school experience was a good stepping stone into the real world. Congratulations to the 2023 seniors!



Senior Band Members: (back row) Nick Morris, Alex Sherbak, Keela Falcione, Babin Mishra, Giana Ferrelli, Isabella Mikelonis; (middle row) Carmen Weil, Layla Gillis, Shannon Evans, Madison Scherer, Larisa Bastianini, Kirstin Koch, Jack Tumas; (front row) Emma Ciarabella, Gracie Kunzelman, Natalie Burnsworth, Dakota Thompson, Alexa Morgan, Addison Cope, Jenna Ciora, Gracie Shipley



Business teachers Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hecht, and Mr. Sinicrope



Foreign Language teachers Mrs. Sciallo, Frau Schemm, and Ms. McCaig

SPHS teacher spotlight

ADRIANNA CAROZZA

South Park High School is recognizing two departments for their amazing teachers. The departments recognized are business and language. The language teachers include Mrs. Schemm (German), Mrs. McCaig (Spanish), and Mrs. Sciallo (Spanish). The business teachers are Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hecht, and Mr. Sinicrope.

Mrs. Miller teaches business management, business law, money management, college and career prep, and personal and financial math. She was inspired to be a teacher by her husband's big Italian family. They would rent a hall for holidays, and he had lots of cousins who were all teenagers. The kids gravitated to her, and they often talked about goals, life dreams, and purpose. One of the mothers told her she should be a teacher. For a couple of years, she said no, but the seed was planted as she worked a few more years in her job. Eventually she knew she would rather teach and help teenagers, so that is what she did. Her motivation to come to work is "That some of my students enjoy my class and like hearing what I have to say. Not all of them do, but I know I impact some of them. If it is even just one, it is worth it." Her favorite thing to relay is guiding kids to focus on what they can control, their strengths, and to help them set goals. Her advice to anyone going into this field is "you don't do this job for the money (and not even for the pension anymore). You do this because you are passionate about getting kids to want to come to your class and be in school. If you don't 'like' kids and don't have a lot of patience and understanding, this job is probably not for you."

Frau Schemm is the German teacher at the high school, and she speaks German outside of the classroom. Her entire family speaks it at home in conversation, and it is very helpful when they travel abroad. Frau, as she's affectionately known as, was asked what she could see herself doing other than being a teacher. She said, "I have absolutely no idea. I've been a teacher longer than I have not. If I had to give you a career, it would probably be something with sewing." Before COVID, she took her students to Germany, touring cities, going to cultural shows and dinners, and making sure to talk to people there. Her 8th grade German teacher, Frau Wymard, was wonderful and an inspiration to her. She found German interesting and enjoyed it, which inspired her to teach it.

Administration and the School-Wide Team plan to highlight a different teaching department each month.

Students of the month

LIBERTY VIETMEIER

The South Park High School September Students of the Month were announced and recognized in different categories around the school.



Leadership

Jack Tumas, senior, was recognized for leadership. He sets high standards for himself and others. Tumas has multiple role models that helped him get to this point saying, "I learn different qualities of leadership from countless people in my life. " Tumas says if he could be any animal in the world, it would be easy to choose. "I would be a lion because it's the king of the jungle."



Politeness

Monroe Polis, junior, believes she was recognized as being polite because she tries her best to be kind and helpful towards people. Polis says, "my parents are a big role model on how I should treat people. " If she could choose to be any animal, she "would be a bird, so [she] could be able to fly.



Athletics

Nicole Kempton, senior, was recognized for athletics in the school. She believes she was nominated for this award because she was the first tennis player between the boys and girls to ever win a WPIAL Singles Championship at South Park High School. Her tennis coaches from Glen Creek have influenced her drive because "they emphasize the positive attitude of a tennis player," she says. If Kempton could be any animal, she would be an eagle because she says, "it would give me more confidence in myself and make me look more menacing. "



Academics

Anthony DeProspo, senior, was recognized for his academics in South Park. He believes he was nominated since he "got good grades and worked hard in [his] classes. " Both of his sisters pushed him in school since they were both very hard workers and got good grades as well. His top choice of animal he would ever want to be is an eagle because "they can fly and they look cool."



Creativity

Addison Cope, senior, has no idea why she was nominated for creativity but assumes it was because of her crazy outfits during spirit week. Cope says she looks to Maya Angelou as her role model. She also added that if she could be any animal, she would be "a shark because it would be amazing to live in the ocean and just swim around. "



School Spirit

Jenna Ciora, senior, was recognized as having the best school spirit because she is always excited to participate in school spirit and makes the best of it. Ciora doesn't have a specific role model but says "Sparky is great. " If she had her choice of what animal to be she "would be a giraffe so [she] could be tall. "

Highlighting Journalism

AVA TURLEY & MEGAN BEAM

Many students at South Park High School wonder how they can be more involved in the district but find themselves too busy or have no time afterschool. If this sounds like you, The SPress would fit perfectly in your schedule without taking any time away from other activities or clubs.

The SPress, revived in 2020, is a class where you can explore your creativity and write about present topics that are published in the school’s newspaper. “I chose journalism because I’ve always loved different forms of writing, creative and information, but I also loved the idea of having my work published!” said Callie Heynes, a sophomore who has been a member of The SPress for two years. If you want to go into the liberal arts field after high school, this class is a great option to introduce the subject to you.

The journalism students aren’t the only ones who can contribute to The SPress. You can too! The students hold writing contests every month where you can potentially win a five-dollar gift card of your choice. Any student can enter, and you have the option of your writing remaining anonymous. If you would like to enter or have an idea for an article, email your work to SPress@sparksd.org.



The SPress bulletin board in the main hallway



Jarrett Thompson, sophomore, was the winner of the two-sentence short horror story

Hundred Acres Manor is now open

BROOKE BICHLER

Are you looking for a fun activity to do with your friends or family with Halloween approaching? If so, spooky season is now here and Hundred Acres Manor is in full swing. Located at 1 Hundred Acres Dr, Bethel Park, PA 15102, the haunted attraction runs from 7:00p.m.-10:00p.m. on Thursdays and Sundays and 7:00p.m-11:30p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It offers an approximate 40-minute horror for young kids all the way to adults. You will experience multiple setups inside the house featuring clowns, flashing lights, and even outdoor parts. Be ready for a jump scare, as they are spread all throughout the house. The Interact Club visited and volunteered at the haunted house on October 16th and helped take part in the action.

Audrey Brewer, a sophomore and volunteer for this event, was asked why she chose to help out at this event, to which she said, “I did it last year and it was fun.” She added that she was excited to take part again this year and “be able to scare people because I liked doing that last year.” She proceeded to say that she also enjoys going to haunted houses in her own time because she enjoys Halloween and likes to be scared herself.

Daniel Battista, a sophomore and an interact volunteer who was stationed in the maze, was asked about his particular experience. When asked if he enjoyed being in this section, he said, “I enjoyed being in this part. I like it because we were able to move around and scare people. It was also easy for us to map out the area and know all the spots to scare people.” He continued to say, “I liked being the person scaring people. I liked it better because I liked seeing the people’s reactions. I also learned more about if you are the person walking through the maze, such as which ways to go.” Battista also added that he felt the maze was a worthy addition to the haunted house attraction. He said, “I feel like it gives people an additional chance to get scared multiple times in a little amount of time.”

Hundred Acres Manor is currently in operation and will stay open through November 5th. Admission starts at \$28 with additional fees for the V.I.P. line, the maze, and the “buried alive” experience.

Lyric poem writing contest

BROOKE BICHLER

The SPress is hosting a writing contest. South Park High School students will be given the opportunity to write a lyric poem and submit it, either as a hard copy at the Library Media Center or through email to SPress@sparksd.org . You can include your name with your poem or remain anonymous. All poems are due by November 9th, 2022. The SPress will announce the winner in the next issue. If you are the lucky winner, a \$5 gift card will be rewarded to you.

Requirement: Just write a lyric poem and submit. A lyric poem is a type of poetry which expresses powerful personal emotions or feelings, typically spoken in the first person. It may use rhyme, meter, or other literary devices. It is a short poem, consisting of a few lines, in one or two stanzas. For example, a common type of lyric is a sonnet, a 14 line poem. It can be of any mood you want. (Ex. lighthearted, heavy-hearted, spooky, gloomy, happy, overwhelming, etc.) We would love to read your poems!

Two sentence horror story winners

Grand Prize

Jarrett Thompson

Sometimes I like playing rock-paper-scissors with my reflection
I won today

2nd Place

John Price

Me and my friend were walking in the woods when we heard a loud crack, and I turned to my right grabbing his hand out of fear. My friend was standing to my left.

3rd Place

Sophia Nelson

In front of me I saw a bloody, shadowy figure, so I moved closer to see what it was. But when I stepped forward, I ran into a mirror.



Ethan Rakip and Josh Kosmach are dressed up and ready to act as part of the South Park Interact Club.

Recruiting for swimming

MEGAN BEAM

Do you want to try a different sport? If so, you should consider joining the high school swim team. The team is in need of interested swimmers.

The high school swim season starts on November 18, 2022 and the regular season lasts until late February or early March. If you qualify for WPIALs or states then your season lasts from mid to late March. Last year, five girls and six boys went to states and even more went to WPIALs. That being said, there is so much a swimmer can accomplish by being on the team. Katie Jackovic, a junior at South Park, stated, “I won WPIALs two times and have gone to states both years.” Others can meet new people and make friends. Dominic Sprouse, a sophomore at South Park, said, “I have grown stronger relationships with some that I haven’t hung out with in a while.”

If you don’t think you’ll be good at swimming then take a look at Preston Cecotti. Preston was a senior during the 2021-2022 school year, but he started swimming in his junior year of high school. When he started out swimming, he wasn’t very good but then by the end of his senior year he was at WPIALs and states. So, if you think you can’t accomplish something great or improve your ability you might be wrong. If you are interested, you can talk to Mrs. Montuoro or the Athletic Director.



Girls 400 freestyle relay at Bucknell University for the state finals.

South Park’s Eagle Blues

SAVANNAH BOOTH

For the 2022- 2023 band season, South Park’s Eagle Blues Marching Band is performing a show inspired by *Guardians of the Galaxy* for their upcoming Disney trip in January. So far, the band has performed in football games during halftime, band festivals, parades, and even at some colleges.

To make up an entire show, Mrs. Barbone explains it takes months. “The marching band staff and I usually start planning for the upcoming season in January. I start by brainstorming ideas for a show and listening to pieces of music that could fit a theme. We meet as a staff and discuss what we think would work best for the group the following year and narrow down the music. By March or April, the show theme is set and we announce it to the band at our first meeting. After that, it still takes time for the drill and works to be written and to plan out the details of the show so that we are ready to start learning it at band camp.” She also explains that putting on an entertaining and polished show for the audience is the ultimate goal. She states, “I want all of the students to benefit from the experience. I hope that the students who participate in marching band learn important lessons like hard work, commitment, time management, and interpersonal skills. I also want the musicians to gain the musical skills and knowledge that will allow them to perform at their best.” Many students in band believe that band is not just an activity but it is a family that loves and grows together no matter what.

Alena Hlavska, a majorette, states that a common misconception about the band is that it is effortless. Students in the band spend eight hours a day for two weeks in the hot sun learning their show for the audience to love and appreciate. She also explains that the hot days in the sun are the most challenging. Caxias Gaiter, a sophomore, was questioned why she joined the band and she states, “My cousin Nyah showed me stuff about color guard and I wanted to join just like her.” No matter who joins or leaves, the band will always leave an impression on everybody for others to follow. She explains that marching band means having fun and doing something that younger her never thought she would have.

The marching band is always looking for new people to join. Come watch a show if you haven’t already and look out for the band going to Disney this January!

Behind the curtains

MACKENZIE BOEHME

South Park High School Drama Club is performing the plays *Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play* and *Squirrel Girl Goes to College* from November 17th-20th. Performances November 17th-19th will occur in the high school auditorium at 7:30pm. The Sunday matinee on the 20th will begin at 2:00pm.

Mr. Baker, the director, wanted his new productions to be a fun experience for both students and the audience. According to Mr. Baker, he's running two plays in one night and he wanted to put on productions that “people would want to see and act in”. Baker chose Alex Marshall and Lane Price as the leads for *Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play*, and chose Alex Sherbak for *Squirrel Girl Goes to College*. Baker said these decisions weren’t difficult because “after the auditions it became very clear”.

All the cast members are super excited for this upcoming production. Alex Marshall, a sophomore playing Thor, says, “I like the people a lot and my character's actions are pretty cool.” Lane Price, a senior playing Loki, agrees to liking the productions as well saying, “This production is really silly. Lots and lots of heartfelt moments.” Both Marshall and Alex Sherbak, a senior playing Squirrel Girl, did not audition for the roles they received. Marshall states, “I mainly auditioned for anything, but I was surprised that I got Thor.” Sherbak comments that she did not audition for this specific role; however, she says, “This role was in the back of my mind. ” All the leads expressed how excited they are for the production to be performed. Sherbak says, “I'm excited for everybody to see how hard we've been working on it.” Price added he is “most excited for seeing how it all comes together.”

Come out to see these actors and others perform at South Park High School auditorium from November 17th-20th.



South Park’s 2022-2023 marching band