

The Contownian

News Magazine

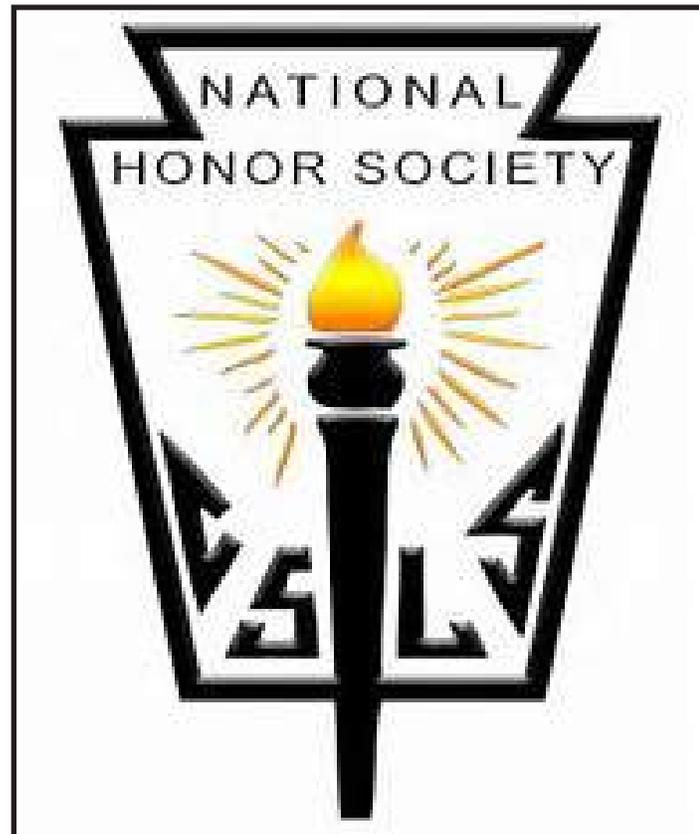
Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School April 2017 Volume 79 Number 8

Induction Ceremony to be Held

The National Honor Society will hold its annual Induction Ceremony on May 2, 2017 at 7:00PM in the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School auditorium.

The senior inductees are Juliana Gindlesperger and Emily Waterhouse. The junior inductees are Marcus Christofes, Keyran Hostetler, Natalie Kauffman, Paige King, Kate Layton, Caitlin Osborne, Emily Phillippi, Eli Reese, Hope Safko, Tyler Seth, Anna Tomb, and Seth Teeter. The sophomore inductees are Shaun Berzonski, Aubrey Cook, Carlie Dillon, Brady Doyle, Audrey Hoffman, John Hostetler, Taya Kimmel, Dalton Meyers, Meagan Ott, Jordan Poznanski, Olivia Roman, Brianne Shaffer, and Tessa Showalter.

The current society members are seniors Laura Bivens, Alexis Buncich, Alexa Fetterman, Regan Grove, Alexandra Lonas, Kayla Paterini, Trent Simko, David Strayer, Autumn Toth, Trenton Troxell, Jamie Waters, Kara Wozniak, and Maggie Zambanini and juniors Erin Berzonski, Mackenzie Shirley, Lauren Sprock, Maggie Telenko, and Cassidy Wilson.



Autumn Toth, a senior and President of the NHS, stated, "The National Honor Society is a really great organization that identifies hard work in students and opens doors for them in their future."

The Society's officers are President, Autumn Toth; Vice President, Maggie Zambanini; Secretary, Laura Bivens; and Treasurer, Trent Simko.

This group is advised by Miss Mari Grace Lingenfelter.

Miss Lingenfelter stated the four pillars of the society are Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Four candles representing these characteristics will be lit at the ceremony.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Enjoying the Outdoors

As the termination of winter has occurred, and the commencement of spring is underway, a sense of serenity accompanied by milder weather conditions returns to the area. The arrival of such marked circumstances should encourage individuals to expand the length of time they spend outdoors in the company of fresh air and nature's beauty. In doing so, not only can we reap the innumerable health benefits associated with such activities, we may also reestablish a rehabilitated composure full of tranquility. Such a renewed spirit may be the key in undertaking the remaining time left in the school year by offering a beneficial outlet for stress and restoring our levelheadedness.

The presence of nature has long-since been known to promote the health of an individual. Various studies note being outdoors can improve short-term memory, boost one's immune system, and expand the longevity of a person's life. Likewise, as the school-year expires, we may begin to develop feelings of tiredness and neglect our duties as students. By increasing time spent outside, an individual will be exposed to a restorative environment, thereby helping to alleviate his sense of mental fatigue in exchange for an energizing boost. In the same vein, the stress-relieving qualities of nature should not be underestimated. A student may discover obtaining a personal relationship with nature can lead to improved concentration to combat his waning attention and improve cognitive functioning, along with improving the creativity and sharper thinking abilities of an individual.

While the advantages of immersing one's self in nature are undeniable, one might experience some difficulty in incorporating such time into an already limited schedule. To remedy such tribulations, one must develop a sense of creativity. Someone dedicated to increasing the amount of time he spends outdoors is sure to embark on a successful quest. A student could complete his homework outdoors. Additionally, the integration of a regular walk or outdoor activity could allow an individual to exercise in the presence of nature, thereby effectively "killing two birds with one stone."

Just think of all of the experiences one will have by routinely being exposed to nature. The sights and sounds associated with the outdoors should be enjoyed by all. Remaining indoors is equivalent to allowing aspects of your life to pass you by. Immersion in nature is the key to attaining a renewal of vitality, and nature

therapy could be the key to enduring the remnants of the school year. Use this free source of beauty to increase your vigor and appreciation of the environment around you. Take advantage of every experience with nature you have, as there is no other source of such purity and beauty.

Keeping the Driving Age

Driving is a very important aspect of life, especially in the United States. For many people, driving is an everyday necessity. Currently, the driving age in Pennsylvania is sixteen. Many people feel this is too young to handle a two-ton machine; however, others feel it is the perfect age to begin learning the most-used form of transportation.

According to a "Gallup Poll" conducted in December of 2015, sixty-one percent of Americans felt sixteen was too young to be behind a wheel. Currently, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in people ranging from ages fifteen through twenty. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, "The majority of teen crashes happen due to inexperience as only a fourth of these accidents are substance related."

In my opinion, despite these statistic, I feel sixteen is the right age to begin driving. Most teens have a hold on reality and are on the later stages of maturity at this age. I believe starting with a mandatory six months of driving with a licensed driver over the age of twenty-one is the best way to develop better driving skills. It allows young drivers to become comfortable behind the wheel while having an experienced instructor with them. In my opinion, the current driving laws in Pennsylvania are the most beneficial. A younger age limit could cause individuals without this level of maturity to make reckless decisions behind the wheel. If the driving age was increased to only allow individuals eighteen or older to attain their license, this could be potentially problematic. At this age, one is legally considered an adult and requires the ability to independently travel, especially in regions like our own.

In conclusion, this is an issue that is becoming more and more popular because of the number of crashes occurring. Many of times accidents occur because of carelessness or people just not paying attention. The reason it is the leading cause of death is because teens are relatively healthy. They usually do not die from disease and heart attacks like some other age groups. In my opinion, the laws should stay how the currently are.

HIGH SCHOOL

April Action



Makallie Giffin searches for a book in the library.

Morgan Sleek and Brittney Snyder break it down at the Junior High Semi- Formal.



Jacob Grosik dashes to steal a base.

Nate Formica finishes the 4x1 Relay at a track meet.



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HIGH SCHOOL

Easter Egg Dye

This year Easter fell on April 16. One of the most well-known traditions for Easter is coloring Easter eggs. In order to make the best looking eggs around, follow these simple directions.

Gather these items: eggs, paper towels and newspapers, bowls or cups deep enough to submerge your eggs, tongs or an egg dipper, half cups of boiling water, teaspoons of white vinegar, and liquid food coloring, about twenty drops of each color.

First, boil all eggs and allow time for them to cool. Next, protect all surfaces by covering them with paper towels or newspapers. Next, fill the cups with the mixture of water, vinegar, and food coloring. Place the first egg on an egg dipper, lower it into the dye, and turn it occasionally so all of the sides get colored. Keep the egg in the mixture for up to five minutes. In order to get a darker shade, keep the egg in for even longer. Finally, carefully remove the egg and allow it to dry. Repeat these steps for all of the eggs.

Once all of the eggs are dry, decide if decorating them farther is necessary. If wanted, add stickers on the eggs.

Laura Bivens, a senior at Conemaugh Township Middle School/High School, states, "I love adding stickers to my eggs; it makes them more decorative."

The eggs can then be set out for decoration or eaten.

Spring Fever

Spring fever is defined as a feeling of restlessness and excitement felt at the beginning of spring.

With the start of spring comes the end of winter. There will be no more winter blues. The sun comes out more, which allows people to be in better moods. Vitamin D is a very important factor in making one's body feel more energized. Sunlight is the number one way to get Vitamin D into the body. Exposing the body to sunlight as much as possible helps one's mood.

The first day of spring is March 20. With spring sports starting up again and students getting anxious about the end of school, spring fever is a common diagnosis. The flowers are about to start blooming again, people can go outside, and the birds are chirping. The start of spring is always a very exciting time.

Cheyenne Weaver, a senior at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School, has spring fever. She exclaimed, "I cannot wait until the flowers bloom and the sun shines

each day!"

Sports also play a huge part in spring fever. Softball, baseball, and track make students anxious about getting outside.

The start of spring is a magical time, and getting excited about it is normal. This is certainly clear as cases of spring fever are breaking out all over Conemaugh Township.

An Unconventional Easter

Easter is a popular holiday due to its entertaining creative values, like painting eggs and putting up festive decorations. However, the creativity may lose some of its excitement after repeating the same process year after year - color eggs, decorate with bunnies and flowers, throw a candy or egg hunt, repeat! Where is the unique element to this holiday? Luckily, there are plenty of ways to shake things up on Easter.

Everybody knows how to dye eggs for Easter. Mix together water and vinegar, drop in the little 'egg dye' tablet, wait for it to dissolve, and then let the hardboiled egg sit in the concoction until the shell is stained. Besides two-tones eggs, there are really few other ways to personalize them. However, there are other ways to color stunning eggs. One popular method is to go to a thrift store and purchase ties made of 100% silk with intriguing designs. Once the ties are purchased, take them home and wash them, then cut them into smaller pieces and secure them around fresh eggs. Hard boil these eggs at the regular temperature and time, then fish them out and unwrap them once cool. The designs on the tie will transfer to the egg for a stunning display of colors of shapes!

Another fun tradition in many families is to toss candy around the yard and allow the children in the family to collect the scattered sweets. Yet, as much fun as this is for the children, what is there to do for the teenagers and young adults who are kids at heart? To make for a fun hunt for any age, do not only scatter candy for the kids, also hide eggs and other prizes where they cannot be seen, and give each older player a note card. On these note cards, leave hints as to where the prizes are hidden... and voila! A candy scavenger hunt for the whole family will have begun.

With these tips, you can start new and exciting traditions within your own family. Jazz up Easter with some fun activities you have never tried before. Put that unique, creative quality, back into this popular spring holiday!

Alumni of the Month

Amy S. Fisher, graduated from Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School in 1986.

While she attended Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School, Fisher was involved in a few extracurricular activities. These included being in the guard and choir.

When asked her favorite memory of her time at CT she said, "My lifelong friendships I made there and meeting my husband."

Fisher says her favorite teacher in high school was Mr. Art Williams, an Anatomy and Physiology teacher.

When speaking of Williams she stated, "He sparked my interest in the health profession."

After high school Fisher attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for one year, after which she married her high school sweetheart, David Fisher. They then moved to Dayton, Ohio where Fisher attended and graduated from Sinclair College. After she graduated she moved back to Pennsylvania to work as a dental hygienist, a position she has held for the past twenty-six years. Since then, Fisher and her husband have raised their two children, and have become active



Amy Fisher

in the Maple Spring Church congregation and Camp Harmony.

Currently, Mrs. Fisher resides in Jerome with her husband and two children, Jeff and Emma who are both also graduates of Conemaugh Township.



Amy Fisher with her family at the beach.

Preparing for the Prom

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School will hold its prom on May 12. It will take place from 6:00 to 10:00PM at Laurel View Village in Davidsville. The event will take place in the banquet hall near the Oakwood Restaurant.

This year's theme is "City of Stars." The theme colors for this year's prom are black, silver, and gold. The decorations will include star garlands, cardboard paintings, and a large hanging star created by students of the Art class at CT.

"I can't wait for the prom this year! I am looking forward to making great memories with my friends." said junior Hope Safko.

The prom is being organized by the junior class officers and their advisor, Mrs. Beblar.

Grosik Plans Future

Jacob Grosik is a senior at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. He is the son of Laurie and Thomas Grosik of Jerome, Pennsylvania. Jake is on the football, basketball, and baseball teams at Conemaugh Township.

Jake not only plays baseball for CT, but he also plays for a summer league baseball team, the Johnstown Clippers. Clipper's games are usually held at Roxbury Park in Roxbury, but some are also held in various locations across the state.

He has played for the Clippers since he was a freshman, but he does not plan to continue his baseball career with this team this summer.

"I made some of my closest friends playing for the Clippers, but I do not wish to play for the team this summer. There is a lot going on at this time and I just will not have the time to make that commitment," says Grosik.

After graduating, Jake's future plan is to attend either St. Francis University or Washington and Jefferson College to obtain a bachelor's in education.



Jacob Grosik

Athletes...

Kara Wozniak is the daughter of Michelle and William Wozniak. She lives with her mother in Johnstown.

Kara has participated in volleyball for six years earning three letters. She has also participated in softball for nine years, earning 4 letters.



Kara Wozniak

Kara is involved in the NHS, Student Council, SADD/TATU organizations, RAK, SON, Bible, and Conservation Clubs. Kara also is involved in County Band. She has been on the Honor Roll every year.

After she graduates, Kara plans to attend college and major in Pre-Law. After graduating from Pre-Law, she plans to return to college to become a federal prosecutor.

Varsity Softball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Softball Team's first game was against its rival, Windber, on March 29. The girls started strong with 2 runs in the first inning, but the Ramblers crawled back to the lead. The girls lost by a score of 6-4.



Cheyenne Weaver prepares to get a hit at the North Star game.

6.

The Lady Indians played against Blacklick Valley the next day on March 30. They beat out the Vikings in an 8-5 victory.

The girls first home game was with Meyersdale at home on April 3. It was a close game, but Meyersdale beat out the girls 3-1.

The Lady Indians had another home game against the Rockwood Rockets on April 4. They blew out the visiting Rockets in a 12-7 win.

The girls next game was on April 10. It was a home game against Portage. The girls shut out the visiting Mustangs in a 9-0 victory.

The Lady Indians traveled the next day to Ferndale to face off against the Yellow Jackets. The girls won 18-2.

The girls then played the North Star Cougars on April 12. The game resulted in a 14-0 shutout with the Indians coming out on top.

Varsity Baseball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Baseball Team opened its season against Windber on March 27. It started the season with a 10-0 win after 5 innings. Devin Foster pitched in the contest, had 9 strikeouts, and gave up 1 hit over 5 innings. Cameron Banjak-Corle added a double to the hit total. Jordan Poznanski had 2 hits in the win.

On April 3, the Indians fell 5-4 to the Meyersdale Red Raiders. Jake Grosik and Cody Platt combined for 6 strikeouts and gave up 6 hits with 1 earned run in the contest. Jordan Poznanski and Cameron Banjak-Corle both added 2 hits, along with a double from Devin Foster in the loss.

On April 5, the Tribe won its home opener 11-1 in a six inning contest against the Shanksville Vikings. Devin Foster and Jordan Poznanski threw a combined no hitter in this abbreviated contest. Jordan Poznanski also tallied 3 hits, to go along with a Jake Grosik double in the contest.

On April 10, Conemaugh Township then played at Blacklick Valley winning 9-1. Jake Grosik threw 6 innings giving up 1 run and striking out 5. Cody Platt, Jake Grosik, and Cameron Banjak-Corle all had 2 hits in this contest.

On April 11, the Tribe next traveled to Ferndale to take on the Yellow Jackets. The Indians lost this contest 3-1. Jordan Poznanski threw 6 innings, striking out 5 and giving up 3 runs. Jake Grosik tallied 1 hit and Devin Foster hit the team's first home run of the season.

On April 12, the Indians hosted North Star and took the game 7-0.

SPORTS

Devin Foster threw a complete game striking out 11 and giving up no runs. Cody Platt tallied 3 hits in the contest.

On April 13, the Tribe beat the Mustangs of Portage 6-5. Cody Platt threw 5 innings, striking out 9 in the game. Cody Platt tallied 3 of the team's 6 hits.

On April 18, Conemaugh Township traveled to Conemaugh Valley to take on the Blue Jays. The Tribe won the game 14-4 in 5 innings. Jake Grosik threw 3 innings giving up 3 runs and striking out 2. Jordan Poznanski grabbed 3 of the team's 10 hits.



Jordan Poznanski checks the bases for a steal before the pitch.

Varsity Track and Field

On March 29, the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Track Team took on Meyersdale at home. Township swept its opponents on both teams. The boys won with a score of 84-66 and the girls won 79-71. In this meet, Nate Formica qualified for both the Long and Triple Jump for the boys. The girls had Olivia Roman qualify for the 1600 and 3200, Erin Berzonski in the 400 and Triple Jump, Alexa Fetterman in the Javelin, Jenna Pavlosky in the Long Jump, and Regan Grove in the Pole Vault.

On April 5, the boys and girls took on Shade at home. The meet ended in a split, as the boys won with a score of 77-73 and the girls lost 61-88. The boys' record was 2-0 and the girls' was 1-1.

The Tribe next traveled to Portage on April 12. Township swept both sides as the boys won 75-66 and the girls won 78-58.

Township then went to Northern Bedford to take on Northern Bedford and Juniata Valley. There, the boys lost both and the girls split. Nate Formica broke the school record for the Long Jump with a measurement of 21 feet and 3 inches.



Jennifer Durica gets ready to jump in her event at the Shade meet.

...of the Month

Jacob Grosik is the son of Thomas and Laurie Grosik of Jerome.

Jacob is a four-year letterman in both football and baseball. He participated in wrestling for two years, where he received two letters, and basketball for two years, earning two varsity letters. Jacob was a member of the All-Conference Football, Baseball, and Wrestling Teams for two years. He also participates in summer and fall league baseball.

Jacob is a member of the Weightlifting and Spanish Clubs.

In his spare time, Jacob enjoys hunting and fishing.

Jacob's future plan is to attend Saint Francis University to major in Education.



Jacob Grosik

One Last Look...

Township Stampede a Success

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/ High School Track and Field Team held its third annual Township Stampede 5K on Saturday, April 22, at 9:00AM. The run/walk was held at the Conemaugh Township Memorial Stadium and in the Davidsville area. The weather was not on the event's side; however, a crowd of over 200 still showed up for the track and field team's biggest fund raiser.

The Stampede is put together by the booster parents, along with the help of the track and field team members and businesses that sponsored this event.

All funds, from the cost of participation to the bake sale, benefitted the track and field boosters.

This event is always a great way to get the community together and create a fun family activity, all while contributing to the Track and Field Boosters. Whether participants ran, walked, or volunteered, a fantastic time was had by all.

Kiara DiFalco, a junior on the track and field team and volunteer at the 5K, stated, "The Stampede was such a success with over 200 registered participants. I can't wait for next year's event!"



Mrs. Wilson reads the names of the winners in each age group at the Stampede.

Middle School and Senior High Yearbook Order Deadline Approaches

Final yearbook order forms were mailed to all students' homes from both the Herff-Jones Yearbook Company and Journalism Department at the end of February. If you did not receive a yearbook order form, you may contact the Publications Office at 479-4014. However, you will receive a more rapid reply by addressing any questions you have directly to the Herff-Jones Yearbook Ordering Department at 1-(866)-287-3096. The SENIOR HIGH yearbook order number is 13159 and the MIDDLE SCHOOL order number is 19683 Yearbooks may also be ordered on line at yearbookordercenter.com. No yearbook orders will be able to be placed after May 30.

Yearbook Ads and Patrons Now on Sale

Yearbook senior ads, business ads, and patrons are now available. Forms have been sent to all senior students' homes via senior students and are also available from all Journalism I and II students or by contacting the Publications Office at 479-4014, Extension 3518. The Deadline for submitting ad and patron forms is May 15. No extensions will be possible.

Telephone Numbers

Administrative Office

Superintendent.....	Thomas Kakabar.....	479-7575
Business Manager.....	Regina Rembold.....	479-7431
Food Service Director....	Adam Thomas.....	479-2328
Director of Curriculum....	Stacy Dabbs.....	479-7575

Middle School/High School 6-12

Principal.....	James Foster.....	479-4014
Guidance Counselors.....	Kelly Birkhimer and Kara Borsa.....	479-7886
School Nurse.....	Cassey DeBiase.....	479-2324
Athletic Director.....	Jarod Feathers.....	479-4014

School Calendar

The following dates are subject to change

May 2.....	National Honor Society Inductions - 7:00PM
May 6.....	SAT Test Date
May 12.....	Jr./Sr. Prom - Laurel View Village - 6:00PM
May 16.....	School Board Meeting - 7:00PM
May 22.....	Senior Awards Night - 7:00PM
May 26.....	Early Dismissal - 1 Hour
May 29.....	Memorial Day - No School
May 31.....	Baccalaureate - 7:00PM
June 1.....	Commencement - 7:00PM