

The Newsletter of the Sharon City School District

Fall 2019 Semester Edition

EXPRESSIONS



Robotics teams from the surrounding area compete at Sharon's FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament. Four Sharon teams participated including, C.M. Musser Elementary, West Hill Elementary, and two teams representing Case Avenue/Sharon Middle School.

Robotics Teams' Innovate to Solve Problems at Sharon Robotics Tournament

By: Dave Tomko

The Sharon City School District hosted the third annual robotics competition on Saturday, October 26, 2019 in the gymnasium of Case Avenue Elementary School. The tournament was part of the FIRST LEGO League program that stands "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology."

Sharon welcomed teams from across the Pittsburgh/Erie regions, including its very own Tiger Tech Robotics teams. In all, 12 teams participated in the competitive tournament that had awards for first through third place teams. The theme for the 2019-2020 season, "City Shaper," allows teams to design, build, and program their EV3 Mindstorm robots to run autonomously during three rounds of competition. Teams have a goal to complete up to 13 missions on a thematic playing field during a two-and-a-half-minute match. The mission models, all built out of LEGO's, relate to cities and buildings. Missions include raising a structure, releasing a supply load from a crane, to delivering payloads to specific areas on the competition field. The top teams are those that score the most points during three rounds of competition. This year, Tiger Techs (Team Black), received the top award for the highest

score at the tournament.

In addition to the competition, the gym was decorated to the theme of cities and included a stage backdrop of a city. Sharon High School's FIRST Tech Challenge team was there to demonstrate their robot for their current season and the Sharon High DJ Club provided music for the event.

Following the tournament, participating teams traveled to Joy Cone Company in Hermitage to tour their ice cream cone factory. While at Joy Cone, teams took a guided tour and learned how technology and robotics are incorporated into the production process. The partnership with Joy Cone was a vital component to attract Pittsburgh/Erie area teams to the area by demonstrating the importance of the Shenango Valley in the business industry.

The Sharon tournament was part of a series of robotics tournaments that led to a regional robotics tournament in Pittsburgh and Erie. Teams will use the tournament at Sharon to prepare for the Western Pennsylvania Championship at Sewickley Academy in Pittsburgh or the Northwestern Championship at Penn State Behrend in Erie. The top teams at the Pittsburgh and Erie championships will then be able to advance to the national/international level.



Sharon High Students who participated in the SRU World Languages Competition on October 8, 2019. Seated foreground, left to right: Caleb Childs, Nolan Songer; Second row seated/kneeling: Juan Florez, Dakota Tracy, Lane Voytik, Amirah Dao, Brooke Hammons, Ava McLaughlin, Rozi White; Standing back row: Gavin Whalen, Alex Sokol, and Chelsea Spatara

World Languages Competition

By: Nora Songer

On October 8, 2019, high school students from over 20 Western Pennsylvania high schools travelled to Slippery Rock University to participate in the Slippery Rock University World Languages Competition.

For the French Language portion of the competition, Sharon sent the following students: Caleb Childs, Rozi White, Gavin Whalen, Alex Sokol, Chelsea Spatara and Ava McLaughlin. For the Spanish Language portion, the following students competed: Nolan Songer, Lane Voytik, Amirah Dao, Juan Florez, Brooke Hammons and Dakota Tracy. While all of the Sharon students fared well overall, individually, Juan Florez took First Place in the Spanish Three portion of the competition.

The study of modern languages develops linguistic skills, prepares students to better understand the culture or cultures associated with them, and generally broaden students' horizons. The intellectual curiosity which is acquired and the ability to express oneself in another language prepares students for the challenges of the global community in which we live.

"A language, of course, is not merely a set



Juan Florez with his First Place Award and Certificate from the Slippery Rock World Languages Competition.

of grammatical rules or a vocabulary. It is a flash of the human spirit, the vehicle by which the soul of each particular culture comes into the material world. Every language is an old-growth forest of the mind, a watershed of thought, an ecosystem of spiritual possibilities." -Wade Davis, *The Wayfinders*

Lessons in Service

By: Kellie O'Brien

Sophomore students take advantage of the opportunity to help with Water Fire 2019. As an option for a class project, students can opt to volunteer within the community. This project will continue throughout the school year, taking lessons of citizenship beyond the classroom. Students who participate help with real world problems while making positive contributions to the community. Additionally, volunteering helps instill problem solving skills, cooperation, and leadership, all while fostering community pride and individual purpose.



Siann Lee lends a hand with the children's activities.



Codi Dillon, Micheal Unrue and Gavin Whalen take a break after loading firewood.



Bryce Carroll, Joe Messina, Malik Lampkins-Rudolph, Sy Piccirilli and Dontai Russell show off the empty truck after helping unload and set up the stage in the Food Court.

One Last Roll For Musser Stomp Club

By: DJ Hritz

With the 2019 fall edition of Expressions comes some bittersweet news... This is the last year that I will be directing the Musser Stomp Club, formally known as the Sharon Stomp Ensemble. I am retiring after 33 years as a teacher in the Sharon City School District, and at this time, no one has shown interest to continue directing the group. Despite the "bitter news" of a lack of a new adviser, I want to share with you the "sweet news" about the group.

This percussion group was formed around 2000 while now Superintendent Mike Calla was principal of C.M. Musser Elementary School. With his acceptance, I started with a group of 7 students, some 5-gallon buckets and drumsticks. We performed a few songs for the student body of Musser School, and it was instantly a great hit. The group started with songs I wrote with some ideas from the kids like "Intro/Exit" and "Da Moose Is Loose" (I am a stickler for funny titles).

The group progressed to 17 students and the use of 55-gallon barrels, cut-up garden hoses, homemade mallets, pots, pans, homemade plastic shakers, and even... basketballs! Let me tell you, it is quite a challenge hauling about 20 barrels and other

stuff to performances! Thanks to Sharon's great administration and maintenance staff for providing the group with transportation to all of those gigs!

The group has performed at The Winner Shoe Benefit, PSEA State Teachers' Convention, WFMJ Morning News, The Lunch Programs provided by Sharon First Baptist many times, Downtown Lunchtime Concert on the patio in front of the Columbia Theater, Penn State Shenango Basketball half-time, and many winter and spring concerts for students and parents.

Presently the group performs mostly with 5-gallon buckets and sticks. We will have numerous performances this year, mostly at Musser Elementary. It has been a blessing to share my love of drumming with the students and community. Also, it has been an outlet of creativity that I can share with the students in the group. Hopefully, some will be inspired to continue to play instruments in the various school sponsored music programs.

I hope you will have the opportunity to see the group perform one last time this year. From what people say, it is really enjoyable. Thank you again Sharon School Board, Administrators, and community for your support of the Musser Stomp Club.

Students Teach about Local Farm Foods

By: Sandy Waltenbaugh

On October 1, 2019, the Sharon High School Interact Club helped the Community Food Warehouse with Farm Food Day. The day was filled with presentations about local foods and how they get to their tables for first-grade students from Hermitage Elementary Schools.

Volunteers from the club included: Lauren Bobby and Danae Markell who instructed about vegetables and donned the mascot costume, Bonita Budetich and Kirsten Rice who taught about apples and grains and had students sample apple butter on whole grain bread, Aaliyah Lee, Annalise Zeude, and Miah Whiteside who helped the students make glove gardens, and Savannah Forrester who



helped with the mobile lab and flannel board lesson. Interact Club members also helped prepare food and clean up. The Sharon High School students loved the fresh food and even took turns churning butter.

The volunteers, along with their advisor, Mrs. Waltenbaugh, learned new facts about dairy farming, vegetables, apples, and grains. Thank you, Community Food Warehouse for providing this opportunity for elementary students.



Fall into Something Sweet!

By: Mary Fleming

The Tiger Treat Bakery, operated by Mrs. Fleming's Advanced Culinary Classes, is back in business! On October 4th the Tiger Treat Bakery set-up shop at the annual Homecoming game. What an amazingly sweet night full of treats, visits from former culinary students and a sweet victory over Grove City!

The Advanced Culinary Classes have learned new techniques in preparation for the Grand Re-Opening of the Tiger Treat Bakery held on Thursday, October 31st at the school. New classroom managers have been selected

by their peers and include: Olivia Zidak, Victoria Torres, Ella Brown and Lilly Pullman.

Pepperoni Puffs were served as our lunch special and for breakfast, our new egg bake dish. Also available were fall favorites including: pumpkin bread, pumpkin cookies and of course, pumpkin rolls!

Students are currently learning cake decorating skills and advanced techniques to add new pastries and lunch specials to the menu! Students are also learning about marketing and the importance of customer service skills to enhance the overall bakery experience.

Safety First

By: Mike Calla

The Sharon City School District has recently conducted a series of safety drills that are designed to practice our school safety measures with both faculty and students. The Sharon Community can be assured that we take the safety and security of our students and staff very seriously. We commit, through regular and ongoing training, to ensure that our schools are places where students can learn and grow, free from concerns about safety.

Sharon Schools is grateful for a close partnership with the City of Sharon, her police, fire and EMS providers, our Mercer County Sheriff's Office and the Mercer County Emergency Management Department who provide regular trainings for our staff. We also work closely with national school resources to ensure the training we provide is best practice and is consistent with national, state, and local recommendations. Daily measures are taken to ensure that each of our schools are safe places. In addition to locking the exterior doors, our staff train for a variety of crises that may be encountered from fires, accidents, intruders, and weather related crises. We ensure our facilities are well maintained and all equipment is in working order. We have communication protocols and procedures that, in the event of emergency, outline how we will communicate with community responders and parents.

While it is devastating to think of a violent act being attempted in one of our schools, it is important to remember that communication is our

first, and best, defense. We rely on our entire school community to inform a school official if they are aware of any threat so we can thoroughly investigate, as we take all reports very seriously.

Many parents ask, "What can I do to help?" The list below developed by the Department of Homeland Security is a good start. Please review it and assist us in keeping our students and staff as safe as possible:

What can you do as a parent?

- Talk with your student about reporting concerns to district staff or law enforcement.
- Be aware of all surroundings. If something does not seem right, report it.
- If you have firearms or weapons in your home, please secure them.
- Stay informed.
- Listen to your student and help them process any concerns they may have.
- Model appropriate behavior. Demonstrate healthy ways to express anger and relieve stress.
- Take an active role in your student's education. Visit and volunteer at school, monitor schoolwork, and get to know teachers.
- Get to know your student's friends and families. Establish a network to exchange information with other parents.
- Monitor and supervise your student's reading material, television, video games, and music for appropriate content.
- Monitor and supervise your student's use of the Internet.
- If you see something, say something.