Multicultural Student Union Receives Spirit of Unity Award

Students and staff from North Allegheny’s Multicultural Student Union (MSU) received special recognition at the 20th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast at LaRoche University on Monday, January 20, 2020.

The Martin Luther King Breakfast Committee selected North Allegheny’s Multicultural Student Union as their Spirit of Unity Award recipient for 2020. The application requested information about a program that exemplified some of the characteristics of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marissa Rodriguez, a senior at NASH, completed the application for North Allegheny’s MSU, writing about education, awareness, respecting other cultures, the need for real conversations even when uncomfortable, and the “No Place for Hate” program held at NASH on December 12.

In addition to receiving this distinguished honor, $500 was granted to the MSU to help assist with furthering their efforts as a group. Marissa and fellow student representatives Sakeena Badrane and Meryem Marasli accepted the award, along with MSU advisors Ms. Chinique Keyes and Mr. Will Bishop. Many MSU members were in attendance at the event as well.
Ingomar Elementary School was recognized with a Presidential Award from Scholastic for its outstanding Arctic Adventure book fair in 2019. Scholastic holds this national contest each season and up to 12 participants are bestowed the Presidential Award, earning $500 Scholastic Dollars for their school. Ingomar Elementary School was acknowledged specifically for their Family Night. During this evening event, students and their families visited the fair and participated in a variety of activities including ice fishing, indoor sled riding, an igloo open house, and a canoe river race, to name a few.

Throughout the week of the fair, Ingomar Elementary School held a Polar Plunge Penny War where students brought in loose change, amounting to $606, to support 30 amazing teachers who signed up for the Polar Plunge. Whichever team of teachers had the highest amount of change had to plunge into an inflated pool of icy water while the students cheered them on. Great job to the students, staff, and volunteers that came together to make this book fair a success.

NASH SADD Hosts Safety SIMulator to Teach Safe Driving

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, the NA chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) partnered with the Pennsylvania DUI Association and the Allegheny County Alcohol Highway Safety Program/DUI Pretrial Services Department to bring the Safety SIMulator to NASH.

The Safety SIMulator provided a virtual driving experience for students to learn about safe and responsible driving. This unique experience allowed students to drive under many diverse and adverse conditions, including snow, fog, and heavy traffic. It also allowed students to see how alcohol impairs the ability to steer and brake, and highlights the dangers presented to everyone when other drivers are impaired. SADD hopes that the lessons in safe driving and experience with the Safety SIMulator will have a positive impact upon the participant's future decisions, and help prevent risky behaviors.

Franklin Elementary School Supports Soldiers Overseas During the 2019 Holiday Season

Over the past few years, Franklin Elementary School (FES) students and families have donated to Boucek's Battalion, a non-profit organization that assembles a large shipment of gift boxes to send overseas to our troops. This year, Franklin students and families joined together once again to collect items such as hand sanitizer, hot chocolate, chewing gum, baby powder, jerkey, and drink mixes; all of which, including community donations, was delivered to troops overseas just in time to make their holidays a little brighter.

In 2018, FES also contributed to packages sent to Japan, Bahrain, Iraq, and other countries around the world. Due to the generous donations last year, Boucek's Battalion was able to send 7,300 pounds of goodies. Franklin Elementary School students and staff are very proud to be a part of this special operation each year.
The Uproar Receives National Recognition as a Top Online Student Newspaper

Congratulations to The Uproar, North Allegheny Senior High School's student-run multimedia news site! The site recently received a Distinguished Site Award for 2019-2020 by Student Newspapers Online (SNO). The Distinguished Site Award demonstrates The Uproar's excellence in all six aspects of online publishing: continuous coverage, site excellence, audience engagement, story page design, writing, and multimedia.

Before earning the SNO Distinguished Site title, The Uproar earned individual digital badges in the six aspects of online publishing over the last three years.

The Uproar is comprised of 36 students who are enrolled in the Journalism and NATV classes at North Allegheny Senior High. The multimedia site was founded at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year by teacher Dave Morris, who sought a modernized solution to meet the needs of student journalism in the growing digital news era.

"The Uproar emulates a professional newspaper - the students challenge the status quo of the school and community with meaningful and personal news stories, opinion pieces, and features," shared senior Jonathan Ross, a co-editor-in-chief of The Uproar.

McKnight Elementary Fifth-Grade GOAL Class Takes First Place at Citizenship Challenge

On Tuesday, December 17, 2019, Mr. Frank's fifth-grade GOAL class at McKnight Elementary won first place in the Citizenship Challenge held at the Heinz History Center. The Citizenship Challenge is an annual essay contest where students take on tough civics issues facing our democracy. Classroom teams were asked to write an essay that addressed their point of view on “Which part of the Bill of Rights do you think is most important and continues to exert the greatest impact on Americans today?” Teams presented and defended their arguments to the Challenge judges, Former Gov. Ed Rendell, Judge Marjorie Rendell of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals, and Chairman and CEO of Gateway Financial David Malone.

Out of the 200 schools that participated, Mr. Frank's class was awarded the grand prize of $1,000 which will be used for a civics education program, a civics library, and a literature-based mock trial curriculum for the school. Additionally, Mr. Voland's fourth-grade class at Marshall Elementary took second place in the Challenge. Congratulations to both teams on an impressive job well done!
2020-2021 Calendar Approved

At the Wednesday, January 15, 2020 Special Voting Meeting and Work Session, the North Allegheny Board of School Directors approved the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Click here to view the calendar at a glance.

Due to renovation and construction projects at Franklin and McKnight, the first day of school for students next year will be after Labor Day as determined by the School Board when the 2019-2020 school calendar was approved.

As the District began developing possible calendars for the 2020-2021 school year, it became apparent that if the District followed a “traditional” North Allegheny school calendar, the last day of school for students would be Friday, June 18, 2021. There was concern that this date could impact post-secondary plans for seniors as well as summer programs for other students. Ultimately, the goal was to create a school calendar that would end on Friday, June 11, 2021. To accomplish this, the District scheduled fewer student days, implemented two half-days for students, and adjusted some of the school days around holidays. The 2020-2021 calendar meets state-mandated requirements of 180 school days while still ending on June 11, 2021. There are still two snow days built into the 2020-2021 schedule. In future school years, the first day of school for students will likely be before Labor Day as in years past and the District will schedule 184 student days.

FCCLA FIDM Fashion Club Announces Contest Winners

The North Allegheny FCCLA FIDM Fashion Club held its first ever #BecomeAFashionDesigner contest in the Fall. This contest was open to all 4th and 5th grade students in the District. Students were asked to create a design based on the fashion show theme “nature”. Over 20 submissions were received from talented designers! All elementary school designers will be featured in the Spring fashion show on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at NASH. The winning designs will be brought to life by high school fashion club members and will be modeled in the show! Congratulations to the following students: Greta P. (McKnight), Antara M. (Marshall Elementary), Sidney R. (Ingomar Elementary), Molly R. (Marshall Elementary), Catherine F. (Peebles Elementary), Caroline E. (Bradford Woods), Sarah M. (Bradford Woods), Kaleb B. (McKnight), Cali G. (Franklin), Eva D. (Ingomar Elementary), Paige M. (Hosack), Daniella A. (Franklin), and Mary Rose L. (Hosack).

Dalai Lama’s Personal Physician Visits NAI

Several students and staff at NAI had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Barry Kerzin on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. Dr. Kerzin is a world-renowned expert with nearly 30 years of experience on improving individual health and building resilience. He serves as the personal physician to the Dalai Lama and also delivers free medical support to Asia’s poorest communities.

This was a great opportunity for students and staff, especially the students who are working toward their Global Leadership Certificate!
Middle Schools Named Apple Distinguished Schools

Carson, Ingomar, and Marshall Middle Schools have each been recognized as Apple Distinguished Schools for 2019-2022. Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence that use Apple products to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment and have documented results of academic accomplishment. Congratulations to the students and staff on this great honor!

NA Thanks Representative Turzai for Grant

Members of North Allegheny’s Administration thanked PA State Representative Mike Turzai on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, for securing a $250,000 Gaming Economic Development Fund grant last year for the District.

The grant assisted with funding a new artificial turf field at North Allegheny Intermediate High School, which was installed during the summer and has already been heavily utilized by students this fall.

New stadium lights around the turf field were also installed, which provide greater visibility for sports teams using the field during the evening hours. These enhancements create a safer, more usable space year-round for students, athletes, and the North Allegheny community.

(Pictured L-R) Athletic Director Mr. Bob Bozzuto, Representative Mike Turzai, Superintendent Dr. Robert Scherrer, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Mrs. Melissa Friez, and Director of Project Management Mr. Rob Gaertner stand on the new turf field at NAI.

John Neff Named PA Girls’ High School Coach of the Year

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA), a non-profit professional organization representing cross country and track & field coaches of all levels, selected Coach John Neff as the Girls’ High School Coach of the Year for the state of Pennsylvania for the 2019 cross country season.

The USTFCCCA represents 10,000+ coaching members serving as an advocate for cross country and track & field coaches. This honor reflects the dedication of the student athletes, coaches, and the administration.

North Allegheny is proud of Coach Neff’s hard work, success, and recognition of his abilities to lead students in the District.
North Allegheny Senior High and Intermediate High Schools Fight Hate by Signing “No Place for Hate” Pledge

On Thursday, December 12, 2019, the North Allegheny Senior High School Multicultural Student Union hosted a No Place for Hate school-wide assembly. The event featured powerful testimonies from a guest panel representing the African-American, Hispanic-American, Jewish-American, Native-American, and Somali-Bantu communities of Pittsburgh.

Guest panelists had the opportunity to share their life experiences, how hate has impacted their lives, and strategies for reducing hate. The assembly also featured several students who shared their experiences and encouraged their peers to make everyone feel welcome at North Allegheny.

NASH is one of the latest schools in the country to begin its own No Place for Hate program, which strives to increase awareness and explore solutions to reduce/eliminate hate in society. During the December 12 assembly, students and staff members had the opportunity to sign a pledge to promote inclusivity, foster a safe community, empower the community to stand against bias and bullying, and send the message that all students belong at NA. North Allegheny Intermediate High School students also took the pledge to make NAI a No Place for Hate school on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Throughout the day, students visited the Main Office to sign the pledge and commit to making NAI an inclusive and kind building.

North Allegheny Students Dominate at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition

On Sunday, February 2, 2020, fourteen high school students participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Regional Fair at Duquesne University. During the fair, students presented results from their experiments that they have been working on since the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. All fourteen competitors walked away with special awards and ten students placed first. Students who placed first have the opportunity to move on to the state PJAS competition at Penn State University from May 17-19, 2020. Congratulations and best of luck at the state competition in May!
Hosack Students Form New Friendships

Students in 5th grade at Hosack Elementary have started to build new friendships through the Best Buddies Organization. Students volunteer their time during recess to hang out with their Hosack peers who have IDD (intellectual and development disabilities). During this time, students participate side-by-side in activities such as games, crafts, SMARTBoard activities, and more.

The goal of Best Buddies is to introduce students that may have differences to each other through a mutually enriching experience where a diverse group of friends can meet new people, participate in group activities, and build a more inclusive school culture. North Allegheny looks forward to watching these friendships blossom and grow as spring arrives!

Bradford Woods Students Have Fun During Glow Run

In conjunction with the school’s PFA, Bradford Woods Elementary hosted a Glow Run fundraising event on Thursday, January 30, 2020, during the school day.

Students had the opportunity to participate in fun, glow-themed activities while raising money for STEAM programs at BWE. In total, over $10,000 was raised to benefit students.

Check out the recap video from the event here.

Marshall Elementary Hosts Diversity Dress-Up Day

In conjunction with the District’s Diversity Expression Contest, Marshall Elementary hosted a Diversity Dress-Up Day on Thursday, January 30, 2020. Students celebrated by wearing clothing that represents their cultural heritage. The initiative is a great way to celebrate the many diverse individuals that make up the North Allegheny community!
Sixth grade students at Ingomar Middle School partook in World Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Math and Reading teacher Megan McGrath asked students to read for 20 minutes aloud at home that week to celebrate, and requested photos from parents/guardians as well to share on social media and encourage others to participate.

Peebles Elementary hosted its annual Diversity Day on Friday, November 1, 2019. Students and staff had the opportunity to learn about the differences and amazing abilities of others in the world around us.

Speakers for the day included NA’s Vision Impairment teacher, representatives from the HOPE Network, and the Friendship Circle.

On Friday, January 10, 2020, eighth-grade students at Carson Middle School attended a viewing of the new Mister Rogers movie, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.

Upon returning to CMS in the afternoon, students attended an assembly to hear Mr. Bill Isler speak. Mr. Isler is the former president and CEO of the Fred Rogers Company and also had a role in the Mister Rogers movie. He talked about his experience with the Fred Rogers Company, touched on Fred Rogers’ goals and motivations, and shared information on the history of Mister Rogers in the media.
Marshall Middle School Hosts Longest Table Event

On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, Marshall Middle School hosted its inaugural “The Longest Table” event, a cultural potluck dinner featuring cuisine from all over the globe.

Over 200 students, staff, and community members attended to share their cultural background all while eating amazing food at a long table. This unique event is a great way to learn from one another and promote diversity throughout the District.

North Allegheny Elementary Schools “Jump for the Hills”

Throughout the month of February, North Allegheny’s Elementary schools are Jumping for the Hills! The annual jump rope fundraiser now benefits North Hills Community Outreach, a local non-profit organization.

North Hills Community Outreach offers over 20 free services to low-income individuals and families in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Services include; Food Pantry, Case Management, Sharing Projects (Holiday Toys, Coats, Thanksgiving Meals), Services for Seniors, Budgeting Skills, Free Legal Consultations, Free Tax Preparation, Utility and Emergency Assistance, Education Assistance, Employment Services, and Transportation Assistance. Last year, NHCO provided over 30,000 services to over 3,600 families and individuals. These families and individuals are our neighbors, coworkers, classmates of our children, and could one day be us if we are met with a crisis.

By giving students the opportunity to fundraise for something that directly impacts their community will not only help them feel as if they are contributing but will allow them to learn about the needs of those around them. Education will reduce stigma, and help normalize the use of services like those of North Hills Community Outreach. Your students will be learning about North Hills Community Outreach in their Health and Physical Education class. For additional details on Jump for the Hills, visit nhco.org/jumpforthehills.
Scholastic Art Awards 2020 - Pittsburgh Region

Did you know that the Scholastic Art Awards are the nation's longest-running recognition program for 7-12 graders? Approximately 90,000 works were recognized at the regional level this year including many students from North Allegheny. NASD students will be recognized for their achievements during an awards ceremony on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at CCAC's North Gymnasium. Additionally, students' works will be on view and open to the public from February 7-22 during CCAC North's operating hours. Join us in congratulating the winners below:

North Allegheny Intermediate
- Shreya Chalapalli: Honorable Mention, Fire and Ice; Silver Key, The Louvre
- Kaitlin Chou: Honorable Mention, Icelandic Adventures
- Jessica Daninhirscl: Silver Key, Bubbly; Silver Key, Rust in the Wind; Gold Key, Shoot for the Moon
- Emily Gierczynski: Honorable Mention, The Vessel; Gold Key, Voices
- Gaby Jacobs – Alarcon: Gold Key, J.; Gold Key, Placidity
- Owen Jin: Silver Key, Warm Embrace; Silver Key, On the Rise; Gold Key, Wonderful News
- Katherine Ou: Silver Key, Lakeside
- Benjamin Pizon: Honorable Mention, The Great Sand Dunes; Honorable Mention, Middle of the Atlantic; Honorable Mention, Under 16th Street; Silver Key, World Trade Center to Heaven
- Samantha Podnar: Gold Key, Spike
- Gloria Wang: Gold Key, Seys Walker; Gold Key, Paper Girl; Honorable Mention, Absolute Clownery; Honorable Mention, A Tiger
- Claire Zheng: Gold Key, Before Dawn; Gold Key, Demolition; Honorable Mention, Smothered; Honorable Mention, cracks in the universe; Honorable Mention, Stranger; Honorable Mention, Asylum

North Allegheny Senior High
- Coco DelVecchio: Honorable Mention, Too Late; Honorable Mention, Spiraling; Silver Key, A Bruised Home; Silver Key, Imprint; Silver Key, Solar System; Silver Key, Walking a Tight Rope; Gold Key, Tin Boy
- Holly Dougherty: Honorable Mention, Hands at the Piano; Honorable Mention, A Reflection of Music
- Nishka Edlabadkar: Honorable Mention, Winter Mornings at Home; Honorable Mention, People Watching; Silver Key, Graduation Night Reflections
- Sydney Frencho: Honorable Mention, Under the Bridge; Honorable Mention, Drowning
- Grace Gao: Silver Key, Through Thick and Thin; Silver Key, Thoughtlessness; Gold Key, Grow Into It
- Réka Götz: Silver Key, Convergence; Silver Key, College Admission; Gold Key, 251 Spring Street; Gold Key, Alexanderplatz; Gold Key, Mesekártya: Playing Cards; Gold Key, Sanctuary; Honorable Mention, Selloth
- Meghan Hendricks: Silver Key, Multiple Reflections
- Jean Kim: Gold Key, Twin Door; Gold Key, Mirror on the Wall; Gold Key, Finished Chore; Silver Key, Blank
- Divya Komandoo: Honorable Mention, Portuguese Man-of-War
- Almira Kusuma: Silver Key, Ascension; Silver Key, Soepardi; Honorable Mention, Sunny Shades
- Alon Leshem: Honorable, Mark

North Allegheny Senior High (cont.)
- Eleanor Martin: Silver Key, Lighthouse; Silver Key, Pebbles; Silver Key, Letchworth State Park; Gold Key, Mackinac Bridge
- Zehra Mehdi: Honorable Mention, LIFELESS; Honorable Mention, Creatures of the Desert; Honorable Mention, Scrappile-Home
- Jefferson Mei: Honorable Mention, Spaceball
- Erica Negrini: Honorable Mention, Emotional Rollercoaster
- Faith Nguyen: Gold Key and American Visions Nominee, My Blood Bleed Gold
- Meg Rees: Honorable Mention, Emotional Rollercoaster
- Skylar Rodgers: Honorable Mention, Spirit Animal
- Brooke Schmitz: Gold Key, For the Love of Food
- Hannah Spellman: Silver Key, day at the park
- Rachel Tian: Honorable Mention, Flying Through Four Seasons; Silver Key, The Orange Carton; Silver Key, Dreaming Back to the Orient; Silver Key, Cyberbullying and Kids: Down
- Megan Wilson: Silver Key, London Calling 7; Honorable Mention, London Calling
- Hanson Wu: Honorable Mention, Eat More Veggies; Silver Key, PBJ Pack
- Christina Zhou: Silver Key, Human and Phone; Silver Key, Accident; Gold Key, Playing Time with Sister; Gold Key, In the Mirror; Gold Key, Duplicity; Gold Key, Peace; Honorable Mention, Last Chance; Honorable Mention, Maturing; Honorable Mention, Summer Time
Hour of Code NASH

The annual Hour of Code was held at NASH on Friday, December 13, 2019. Students participated in a variety of activities throughout the day including: sticker design challenge, 3D print design challenge, binary bracelets, robot painting, cyber security simulation, and more. This unique learning opportunity opens up new avenues for students to learn about computer science and the technology available in today’s society. For additional information about this unique day, check out the article on The Uproar.

NA Foundation Hosts Distinguished Alumni Gala

Nine North Allegheny alumni were honored on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the North Allegheny Foundation’s Distinguished Alumni Gala. The annual event was held at the DoubleTree Cranberry, and recognized graduates from North Allegheny High School who have excelled in the arts, business, community service, education, government, law, medicine, science, and 40 and under. Click here to learn more about the awardees.

A Taste of North Allegheny

The North Allegheny Foundation will host the annual “A Taste of North Allegheny” event on Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Regional Learning Alliance. For additional information and to purchase tickets, click the button below.
Ingomar Elementary Health and Physical Education Teacher Dean Boronyak was named the Health and Physical Education Teacher of the Year at the annual Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance, Inc. (PSAHPERD) convention December 5-6 in Lancaster, PA.

Mr. Boronyak began his career with North Allegheny in 2008 teaching K-5th grades. Before joining North Allegheny, Dean taught K-6 grades in the Seneca Valley School District as well as graduate classes at Gannon University. Mr. Boronyak earned his B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Slippery Rock University and his M.Ed. from Gannon University in Curriculum and Instruction.

The curriculum at North Allegheny focuses on educating the whole child and teaching the community to be well for life and Mr. Boronyak has been pivotal in creating and implementing an exemplary curriculum that focuses on 4 Wellness Pillars: Physical Fitness, Nutrition, Social & Emotional Learning, and Physical Literacy. Mr. Boronyak has presented at both the state and national levels on Making an Impact with Social and Emotional Learning, Brain Energizers, Incorporation Health Concepts and Increasing Moderate to Vigorous Physical Activity Time.

“I’m proud to be a part of the North Allegheny School District where I feel that so many of my colleagues could have received the award and I would not be the teacher that I am today without the NA team,” shared Mr. Boronyak.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Hosts Spring Open House Event

A.W. Beattie will host its Spring Open House on the evening of Thursday, March 5, 2020. Prospective students and families may join enrolled students, teachers, and alumni for a night of fun. Culinary Arts and Pastry Arts students will provide food, Cosmetology students will organize a fashion show, and many more opportunities will be provided to guests to learn more about A.W. Beattie Career Center. Visit A.W. Beattie Career Center’s website to learn more.

NAI Spring Play - Clue, On Stage
February 20 and 21 at 7:00 p.m.
February 22 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Tickets available at the door

High School Spring Musical - Titanic, The Musical
March 4-7 at 7:00 p.m.
March 8 at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets available online