GIVING BACK

There have been multiple opportunities in the months of November and December for South Park students, faculty and staff to help those in need this holiday season. South Park students, faculty and staff have made the most of those opportunities.

A total of 33 boxes of food were packed and delivered to the Shiloh Food Bank on Tuesday, November 15 following the South Park Middle School Food Drive. Sixth grade Service Club members helped to pack the food before it was delivered. In addition to the food that was donated by South Park Middle School students, faculty and staff, a monetary donation was also made to the Shiloh Food Bank.

The South Park High School Interact Club collected holiday gifts for 270 local children. Most of the gifts were donated by South Park students, faculty, and staff. Interact Club members helped to load the hundreds of wrapped presents onto a school bus and delivered them on Wednesday, November 30 after school.

On Friday, December 2, Interact Club members sent approximately 125 care packages to our troops. The shoeboxes filled with supplies and treats were donated over several weeks and will be given to troops overseas.

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South Park Gives Back

South Park Elementary Center collected more than 100 toys for Toys for Tots. This is the sixth year for the collection which lasts three weeks. All students who donated a toy received a candy cane, and his/her name was put onto the “Nice List.”

The opportunities to give back will continue throughout December. On December 22, South Park Middle School will host its annual Holly Jolly Dodgeball. The money collected will benefit Project Elf.

### Holiday Happenings

The holiday season has arrived. That means it’s time for many fun-filled events for students, families and the South Park community.

You are invited to spend a part of your holiday season supporting South Park School District students during the concerts scheduled throughout the upcoming weeks. All concerts are free, and community members are always welcome!

- **South Park Middle School Band Concert**
  Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the South Park High School Auditorium

- **South Park Middle School Chorus Concert**
  Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the South Park High School Auditorium

- **South Park High School Band & Chorus Concert**
  Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the South Park High School Auditorium

Music programs will also be held at South Park Elementary Center this holiday season. Kindergarten and first grade students will perform on Wednesday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at South Park Elementary Center. Second and third grade students take the stage on Friday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at South Park Elementary Center.

There are also activities planned in every South Park school.

- **Kindergarten Gingerbread House Day**
  December 19

- **First Grade Polar Express Day**
  December 20

- **Fifth Grade Holiday Feast**
  December 20 at 12:40 p.m.

- **Movie Day presented by the PTO**
  December 21

- **South Park Middle School’s Holly Jolly Dodgeball**
  benefiting Project Elf
  December 22

- **Festivus Celebration, a school-wide positive behavior event, at South Park High School**
  December 22

- **Holiday Parties at South Park Elementary Center**
  December 22
South Park High School Teacher and Students Lead Presentation at Project Lead the Way Conference

On Tuesday, November 15, South Park High School teacher Mr. Ryan Siniawski presented the Project Lead the Way digital electronics curriculum and his unique approach to its delivery at the Western Pennsylvania Project Lead the Way State Conference at Montour High School.

Senior students Bret Leydig, Julietta Maffeo and Jake Rattay helped to present the breakout session and teach the example lesson to a group of administrators and instructors from across the state. The students actively fielded questions about the curriculum, shared their experiences from their enrollment in the district’s six-year Project Lead the Way engineering pathway and discussed its influence on their post-secondary education and career choices.

At the conference, Mr. Siniawski won an Afinia 3D printer in the door prize raffle, sponsored by Chevron. The printer will be utilized within his curricular workflow for rapid prototyping and computer-aided design activities.

South Park High School Students Become Reading Buddies

On Wednesday, November 23, South Park High School students visited first grade students in Mrs. Lindsay’s class and second graders in Mrs. Jackovic’s class. The SPHS students read books with the SPEC students and completed several activities with them.

South Park Middle School Students Earn Honorable Mentions in Postcard Contest

The postcards created by Stephany Ochs, Madison Scherer and Delaney Price were honorable mentions in the 2016 Geography Awareness Week postcard contest. Congratulations!

Goodwill Donation Drive Planned at South Park Elementary Center

South Park Elementary Center is partnering with Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania to host a donation drive fundraiser.

By donating your gently-used clothing, shoes, housewares and more, you help South Park Elementary Center.

The donation drive will be held on Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at South Park Elementary Center. Accepted items include books, sports equipment, tools, toys, shoes, musical instruments, linens, cooking accessories, electronics (excluding computers), housewares, handbags, jewelry and clothing. All donated items must be in good and clean condition.

Mr. Casamento and Mrs. Zlokas with representatives from Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania.
Thursday, December 1 was Hot Chocolate Day for Mrs. Cramer’s and Mrs. Lesako’s third grade classes! The special day was a lot more than students enjoying one of their favorite wintertime treats. Hot Chocolate Day crossed lessons from several subjects including science, math and language arts. Third graders studied which kind of cup keeps their hot chocolate the hottest, calculated how many different versions of hot chocolate they could create with various toppings, and wrote as many adjectives as they could that best describe hot chocolate.

First Graders Surpass Reading Challenge

South Park Elementary Center principal Dr. Furman challenged South Park first grade students to read a total of 100 books in a month. Well, the first graders easily surpassed that number. The students read a total of 774 books! Since the first graders met and exceeded the challenge, they got to see Dr. Furman’s dance skills.

Donation Recognized

A representative from St. Clair Hospital visited South Park High School in November to recognize students from the Interact Club. The Interact Club raised $500 in October for St. Clair Hospital’s Breast Care Center as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

FALL FEAST

South Park Elementary Center students welcomed some very special guests to lunch during the week of November 14 for the annual fall feast. Students and their guests enjoyed turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes prepared by the South Park Elementary Center cafeteria staff.
### Winter Sports Schedules (As of Thursday, December 1)

#### Girls' Varsity Basketball
- **Monday, December 12** at Thomas Jefferson 7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 20** vs. Elizabeth Forward 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 22** vs. Derry Area 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 5** at Mt. Pleasant 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, January 9** vs. Yough 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 12** at Southmoreland 7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 16** vs. Keystone Oaks 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 19** at Belle Vernon 6:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, January 21** vs. Upper St. Clair 12:00 noon
- **Monday, January 23** at Derry 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 26** at Belle Vernon 6:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, January 28** vs. South Fayette 12:00 noon
- **Monday, January 30** vs. Mount Pleasant 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 2** at Yough 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, February 6** vs. Southmoreland 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 9** at Keystone Oaks 6:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, February 11** at Ringgold 12:00 noon

#### Boys' Varsity Basketball
- **Tuesday, December 13** at Peters Township 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 15** at Belle Vernon 7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, December 19** vs. Thomas Jefferson 7:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 21** at Seton-La Salle Catholic 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 3** vs. South Fayette 6:00 p.m.
- **Friday, January 6** at Elizabeth Forward 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, January 9** vs. Thomas Jefferson 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, January 13** vs. Uniontown Area 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 17** vs. Seton-La Salle Catholic 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 20** vs. Keystone Oaks 6:00 p.m.
- **Friday, January 27** vs. Waynesburg 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 31** at Serra Catholic 3:45 p.m.

#### 9th Grade Boys' Basketball
- **Friday, December 9** at Bethel Park 3:45 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 20** at Thomas Jefferson 3:45 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 22** at Steel Valley 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 3** vs. Trinity 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 10** vs. West Mifflin 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 17** vs. Brentwood 3:30 p.m.
- **Friday, January 20** vs. Thomas Jefferson 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 23** at Steel Valley 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 26** at Un iontown Area 3:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 30** vs. Trinity 3:30 p.m.
- ** Tuesday, January 31** at Trinity 3:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 2** at West Mifflin 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 7** at Thomas Jefferson 3:45 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 9** at Chartiers Valley 3:45 p.m.

#### Boys' Middle School Basketball
- **Monday, December 12** at Thomas Jefferson 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 20** vs. Elizabeth Forward 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 22** vs. Derry Area 6:00 p.m.
**South Park School District**  
*Strengthening minds. Powering futures.*  
The South Park School District’s mission is to provide an educational atmosphere where all students have opportunities to discover their talents, develop their abilities, and achieve the expectations embedded in our educational program to become responsible and productive members of society.

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**Dates to Remember**

Monday, December 5  
Board of Directors Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the South Park High School cafeteria

Thursday, December 22  
One-Hour Early Dismissal

Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 2  
No School  
Winter Break  
(December 23 is a possible snow make-up day)

Tuesday, January 3  
School Resumes

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**Firefighters Visit Preschool Students at Eagle Ridge Child Development Center**

The preschool students attending the Eagle Ridge Child Development Center at South Park High School recently got a visit from firefighters from the Broughton Volunteer Fire Department. The students learned about fire safety and got an up-close look at one of the fire trucks.

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**South Park High School to Host Career Pathways Seminar**

South Park High School will be hosting an Informational Career Pathways Seminar for South Park High School students and their parents/guardians on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Mr. Bill Flanagan, the Chief Corporate Relations Officer for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

The purpose of the event is to partner with parents and students to develop a post-secondary education/career plan by helping them to become acquainted with the relevancy of high school courses, grades, career objectives and class scheduling. Those attending the seminar will receive information on how students can match their interests to various careers that are in demand. Through their professional accomplishments and personal experiences, experts of diverse occupations will discuss the pathways to achieve one's career objectives. Students will learn whether their career goals can be achieved with on-the-job training, apprenticeships, technical training, an associate degree, a four year degree or more. The South Park High School Guidance Department encourages your attendance at the Career Pathways Seminar to help ensure a successful post-secondary plan for all of our students at South Park High School.

Please RSVP by January 4 by emailing laura.burland@sparksd.org or by calling 412-655-3111, extension 2010.

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**Winter Sports Schedule**

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- **Girls’ Middle School Basketball**  
  Friday, March 3  
  vs. Baldwin  
  3:45 p.m.

- **Middle School Wrestling**  
  Wednesday, December 21  
  at Fort Cherry  
  6:00 p.m.

- **Wednesday, January 4**  
  at South Fayette  
  6:00 p.m.

- **Wednesday, January 11**  
  vs. Moon Area  
  6:00 p.m.

- **Wednesday, February 8**  
  at Jefferson Middle  
  4:00 p.m.

- **Thursday, February 9**  
  at South Allegheny  
  6:00 p.m.

*Schedules subject to change. For the latest South Park schedules, click here.*