Student Council to the Rescue

Student Council was off to a great start this year! This group of students who plan activities and fun days for the students of our school are continually seeking ideas to serve the school and community. Student Council includes a President, Vice President, Activities Director, Secretary, and a classroom representative for each class from grades 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. We asked the following questions to our Student Council members.

1. How do you like Student Council so far?
2. What discussions are held at the Student Council meetings?

The responses to the interview questions were incredible! The Student Council members told us that they like the positive energy of the group, that they enjoy creating fun days for the school, they have a great time working together, and enjoy being a part of the team. Other statements from the members from Student Council included ideas about how they like hearing all of the amazing ideas from the suggestion boxes in each homeroom, how it gives them the fun feeling emotion, and how it is exciting to try to get the students’ ideas to happen. Overall, all the members from Student Council love the responsibility and enjoy how they are a part of the proud Student Council of South Harrison.

A recent activity sponsored by the Student Council was a community service project for Matchdog Rescue. Matchdog Rescue is an organization to save dogs. They have given South Harrison the chance to donate old/used towels to keep the dogs clean and cozy during the winter season. The total amount donated from South Harrison was 225 towels! Student Council is thrilled to provide all of these towels that were collected and they are already discussing new ideas for the next community service project!

The Student Council Officers
President: Danielle Hennessy
Vice President: Joseph DiFabritiis
Activities Director: Tyler Capra
Secretary: Julianna Jones

6th Grade Class Representatives
6PG: Kaitlyn Urie-West and Luca Bove
6L: Jordan Zimmer
6M: Damiano Paglione

5th Grade Class Representatives
5O: Lana Tropea
5M: Rebecca Small
5S: Ella Starer

4th Grade Class Representatives
4C: Olga Tsoplakis
4T: Hope Jones
4R: Ella Coladonato

Written by: Danielle Hennessy, Sofia Mazzeo, and Lilly Kline
Congratulations to Mrs. Smith who was selected as South Harrison’s Teacher of the Year on March 3, 2019. She is South Harrison’s awesome 5th grade ELA teacher! Mrs. Smith came to our school two years ago. She has already shown that she belongs at South Harrison because of her hard work, compassion, trustworthiness, caring nature, respectfulness, and fairness that she demonstrates in the classroom. She has never given up on her students when they needed a lot of help or if they haven’t been nice to others. She always finds a way to show that she can make her students the best they can ever be, and makes sure that students show effort in their work. In addition, Mrs. Smith shows that she cares about her students by, “making sure I give them enough complements, build a very strong relationship with them, and show all the passion I can about the subject I teach.” For instance, Mrs. Smith teaches students to always try their hardest and to succeed with effort. She has a calming mannerism and her classroom has a great work environment. She always has wonderful things to say about other teachers and her students. When Mrs. Smith was first told that she was named Teacher of the Year, she was “shocked” and “stunned”. She was very happy and had no idea she would see her “family come out and surprise me!”

Mrs. Smith was honored at the Board of Education meeting too! She has also received Teacher of the Year at her previous school! All in all, she deserves two thumbs up for how great of a teacher she has been! Congratulations Mrs. Smith!

Written by: Melaina Caltabiano, Sarah Ostrowski, Lucy Michels & Amelia Morris

Helping at the Holidays

The goal of the South Harrison 2018 Food and Toy Drive was to make the holidays a little brighter for those less fortunate in our community. Students were asked to bring in a variety of foods and they could donate coats and gloves. The food drive started at the beginning of December and went on for approximately three weeks.

Students could donate anything from canned food to boxed cereal however, crackers, pastas, potatoes and grains were items families were encouraged to donate. Students were reminded to check the dates and not bring items that would expire soon.

This year’s Food and Toy Drive has ended but next year you can donate even if this is your last year at South Harrison. You can always pop in next December, even if you no longer attend South Harrison, and donate to the Food and Toy Drive and help your community.

Thanks to Home and School for making this happen!

Written by: Amelia Bloomfield
One of the several clubs offered at South Harrison is the Drama Club. All students are welcome to participate in Drama club as long as they are willing to put in hours of practice, and are able to act and perform in front of a crowd. This club is going to present a mystery performance in April for the whole school. There will be a student performance during school hours and one for the parents at night.

Mrs. Olsen and Ms. Keane are directing the play this year. Mrs. Olsen enjoys watching the young actors and actresses express themselves on stage and bring the play to life. She was very pleased to have Ms. Keane join her this year bringing some new and fresh ideas. Mrs. Olsen has loved all the previous plays the Drama Club performed. She is able to select a play for the club by looking for one that is both funny and relatable to all students. Another criteria for selecting a play is to make sure that many students can be included in the production. Both Ms. Keane and Mrs. Olsen are very proud of how hard the students are working. The play will be performing April 1st for the student body and April 2nd for families in the evening. So come one, come all, to this performance by the Drama Club!

Two other wonderful opportunities to get involved in at South Harrison are the band and chorus. The Advanced Band and Chorus meet before school and work very hard to prepare for upcoming concerts. Their first concert, the Winter Concert, took place in December, and included many different types of songs, including some holiday medleys. The South Harrison students were treated to an amazing afternoon performance. Later that same evening the band and chorus performed again, this time for parents and other community members.

Clay Club is an after-school experience for students that enjoy making or sculpting with clay. Ms. Keene is responsible for supervising this club which includes an intense study of clay. Students get to spend time with the potter’s wheel which is a great experience. Clay Club participants get to make a pinch pot and lid, and clay food. Club participants are selected through a lottery process and 20 students are randomly selected for each session. The club meets on Tuesdays for 8 weeks.

Newspaper Club is an after-school activity that provides students the opportunity to write different articles for the South Harrison school newspaper. Newspaper Club begins with students brainstorming ideas they would want to write about. Mrs. Bram and Mrs. Tranz are the staff editors for The Roadrunner Express. They enjoy working with the 6th grade students and helping them to improve their writing, interviewing, and reporting skills. They try to foster teamwork as student reporters work together on articles. They feel it is important to showcase the variety of events that take place throughout our school year through the eyes of the students. Student reporters especially liked having the ability to select topics of interest on which to report. They encourage others to think about participating in the club when they are in 6th grade.

Written by: Kaitlyn Urie-West & Ethan Brady
The Family Feud Assembly was one of our first assemblies for this school year. One chosen student from each class of South Harrison’s kindergarten through 6th grade participated in the game by naming all the rules and regulations for our school. For the past few years, our principle, Dr. Sannino, selected students from the audience to participate; however this year the teams were pre-selected. This was an unexpected, but exciting change!

The Laser Light Show, sponsored by Home and School, was an assembly that showed how lasers can generate different shapes to create a picture. This year, the laser light show included music and lasers! The laser light show is always a crowd pleaser!

The Fire Prevention Assembly, featuring South Harrison’s volunteer fire fighters, taught everyone how to protect their homes, families, and of course, themselves. “Always check your smoke alarms every 6 months.” They suggested that families check their smoke detectors every time the clocks are turned back (fall) or forward (spring). The fire fighters reminded us that we should all have an evacuation spot to meet if there’s a fire. Overall, the Fire Prevention Assembly was both educational and fun.

Home and School also presented the Science Assembly! Students loved this assembly. They couldn’t stop talking about it for hours afterwards. From what we’ve heard, lots of students went home and told their parents about their amazing experiences learning about science. Many students left with more knowledge about science than when they entered the room. The presenter did a fabulous job and everyone wanted more. Many people wanted to go up to him after the show to talk to him. All in all, the performance was amazing.

South Harrison’s Home and School organization does a great job with sponsoring and scheduling assemblies. They make great choices every year, providing students with educational, interesting, and engaging assemblies. Thank you Home and School for everything that you do for our school!

Every year, the chorus and band members of South Harrison put on a Winter Concert before the holidays. This year’s concert took place on December 11, 2018. The music was selected and choreographed by our accomplished music teacher, Ms. Jennifer Kane. The concert included performers in Chorus and Band from grades 4-6.

Everyone attending could tell that there was a lot of effort put into the performance, hearing the progress made by the musicians. The Winter Concert included the chorus which featured several soloists such as Gia DiFabritiis, Kaitlyn Urie-West, Emma Mazzeo, Rebecca Small, Jordan Zimmer, and Gabriella Lisi

Ms. Kane herself said that it was difficult preparing everything in such a short amount of time between the first lesson and the concert. Usually, students in chorus and band have between five and seven practices before their debut, not an easy task. Overall, the concert turned out beautifully and was enjoyed by all.

Written by: Jordan Zimmer, Kaitlyn Urie-West, and Gabriella Lisi
It was that time of year to spread holiday cheer, Winter Wonderland was finally here! Children and their classmates could shop for their family and close friends. South Harrison welcomed everyone that attends the school to have a blast shopping with volunteers from Home and School. It’s a memory that students will look back fondly from their memorable years at South Harrison.

Winter Wonderland was an awesome and exciting week for students. To begin with, a lot of students enjoyed the great inflatables and creative decorations. Home and School was able to transform the gymnasium into a winter wonderland. They really went all out to make the environment festive which helped to put everyone into the holiday shopping spirit.

All who shopped loved the variety of items from which they could choose as gifts for their loved ones. There were many new and unique items this year, appropriate for young and old.

Many, many thanks to Home and School for another successful event (like every year) at Winter Wonderland. South Harrison staff and students especially would like to thank the Winter Wonderland coordinator and her elf helpers.

Written by: Melaina Caltabiano, Sarah Ostrowski, Lucy Michels and Amelia Morris