

POTTSTOWN PRIDE

ACADEMICS AND ACTIVITIES
PARTNERS FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE



FALL 2017

Our Mission: *Prepare each student, by name, for success at every level.*

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT POINTS OF PRIDE FALL 2017

Student activities are an integral part of our educational program. Co-curricular programs are not only a way for students to have fun, but also a valuable educational tool. Activities provide an opportunity for all students to participate and help build community recognition and identity. Co-curricular activities are designed to instill school pride and teach life-long lessons. They support the academic mission of the school district and promote citizenship and sportsmanship. The activities program is a testing ground for the physical and emotional development of our young people.

IT IS BETTER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TRY TO REPAIR ADULTS.

For more information about Pottstown School District, visit our website at www.PottstownSchools.org or call 610-323-6274.

Pottstown School District is proud of its past and confident of its future.

Go to <http://www.pottstownschoools.org/AlumniPages.aspx> and then click on any of the highlighted years. The yearbooks provide an engaging narrative into the proud history of Pottstown. One can go as far back as 1914 to see the interest and fashion of the day. Pottstown School District may be one of a few districts in the country to provide this unique feature as a way of sharing community pride in our schools. Pottstown High School has over 19,000 graduates who have gone on to distinguish themselves in every field of endeavor and given us reason to say *Proud to be from Pottstown*. It is an honor to share this look back to younger days with our graduates. We are not posting our most recent yearbooks because the High School still has some hard copies for sale. Not every yearbook is posted. The missing years are listed on the website. If anyone is willing to lend us one for scanning, please contact John Armato at 610-323-6271 / 484-256-7491 or jarmato@pottstownk12.org.

We Are Pottstown!!!

Nick Wilson Named Pottstown High School Co-Curricular Student of the Quarter

[Nick Wilson](#), Pottstown High School senior, was named the first ever “Co-Curricular Student of the Quarter” at PHS. You can learn all about his achievements in a [video](#) interview between him and Mr. Steven Anspach, Director of Co-Curricular Activities.



Wilson has earned a 104.8 GPA. He is involved in many athletic and non-athletic activities, including cross country, track and field, jazz, concert, and marching band, pit orchestra for the Pottstown School District musical, National Honors Society, and Student Government.

Several PHS teachers nominated Wilson for this honor. In his nomination, engineering teacher Andy Bachman described Wilson as a “dedicated student-athlete and talented young man. Nick is a leader in the classroom and hallways.”

Wilson describes the importance of “performing on both the field and in the classroom” and believes that his teachers see him as hard-working. He wants to attend college for civil engineering and has already been accepted by three schools.

FOOTBALL

The 2017 Trojan Football team has selected team captains - Jamal Adams, Tom Doyle, Anthony "Moot" Wiggins and Owen Morton. They will provide the leadership that will give us another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."



Congratulations to Head Football Coach Mark Fischer, his coaching staff, and players. In his first year as head coach at Pottstown, Fischer was named Mercury All Area Coach of The Week after the Trojans gained their first win of the season with a 12-6 victory over Methacton. The Trojans' hard work is paying off, look for more wins and more reasons to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."

One of the most important lessons that can be learned from competing in interscholastic sports is the value of good sportsmanship. Tom Doyle, a member of the Pottstown High School Football Team, has demonstrated he has learned his lessons well. He was named the recipient of the Norristown Chapter PIAA Football Officials "Art Andrey Scholarship Award." The award is given to the player who consistently shows ultimate sportsmanship both on and off the field. The athlete is observed showing complete respect for coaches, teammates, his opponents and officials.



“Adam Sabuacak Player of the Game Award”

Adam Sabuacak was a 2001 graduate of Pottstown High School. He earned four varsity letters as a player for the Trojans and after graduation was one of our most loyal fans. Adam passed away in the spring of May 2009 and in his memory each week the high school football team will be naming the "Adam Sabuacak Player of the Game."

Winners for the 2017 Season:

- September 8 – Nehemiah Figueroa
- September 22 – Jamal Adams
- October 6 – Jon Oister
- October 13 – Owen Morton
- November 3 – Jon Oister
- November 23 – Daniel Darden and Timothy Trego



Pictured left to right are: Tim Trego, Daniel Darden, Owen Morton, Jon Oister, Nehemiah Figueroa, and Jamal Adams

The Last Thanksgiving Day Game

Players and coaches of the [Pottstown High School Trojan Football Team](#) gave 11 local families reason to give thanks on Thanksgiving Day. They all donated money to buy the supplies with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving Day meal to help feed less fortunate members of our community. After huddling up at the supermarket they called a play that saw them go through the store and collect all of the food items. Their next play was to sort and make meal packages for each family. They scored a touchdown when they personally delivered the meals to each family.

One Goal - One Team - One Town
More reason to say Proud to be from
Pottstown!



Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference First Team All-Division Frontier- Offense

- Jamal Adams - Receiver

Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Second Team All-Division Frontier- Offense

- Tom Doyle - Lineman

Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Second Team All-Division Frontier- Defense

- Jamal Adams – Back
- Daiwik Phillips – Lineman



Named to The Mercury All Area Second Team - Offense

- Jamal Adams – Wide Receiver

Named to The Mercury All Area Honorable Mention Team – Offense

- Tom Doyle - Lineman

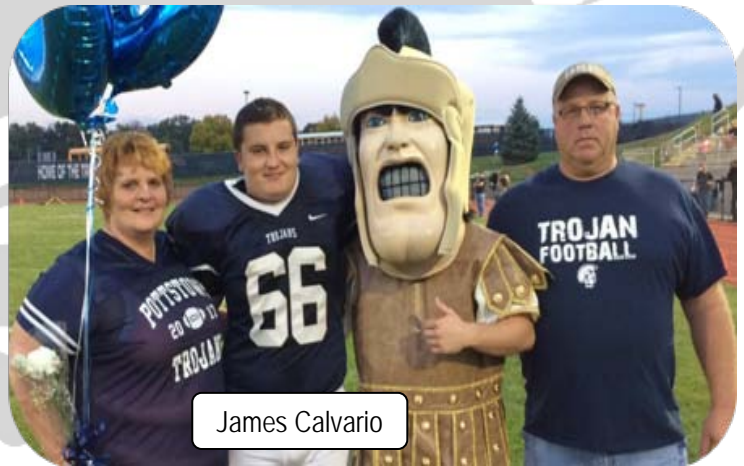
Named to The Mercury All Area Honorable Mention Team – Defense

- Jamal Adams – Defensive Back

Football Players Senior Day Photos:



Jamal Adams



James Calvario



Tyler Carter



Francisco Cuascut



Tom Doyle



Matt Hampton

PRIDE

Football Players Senior Day Photos:



Aubrey King



Clayton Logan



Owen Morton



Avery Nascimento



Tim Trego



Anthony Wiggins

PRIDE

Football Cheerleaders Senior Day Photos:

2017 SENIOR TROJAN CHEERLEADERS



Jaelyn Harsh



Br'Anna Williams



Alize Thompson



Andraya Guy



Emily Jerdon



Aniya M. Jackson-Thorpe



Rachel Martin



GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY

Congrats to the Pottstown High School Girls Field Hockey team on the opening season 2-0 victory over Chichester. Scoring for the Trojans was Onjelay Nixon, with an assist from Elsie Cannell, and Alex DiCampello. Goalie Lillian Stirk had five saves to preserve the shutout. Coaches Scherer and Borusiewicz said, "Our hard work paid off." After the game, some of the team took time to model their new team uniforms.



Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference All Frontier Division First Team

❖ Trinity Miller

Named to The Mercury All Area Honorable Mention Team

❖ Trinity Miller



Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference All Frontier Division Second Team

❖ Da'zah Regusters

Named to The Mercury All Area Honorable Mention Team

❖ Da'zah Regusters



Girls' Field Hockey Senior Day Photo:



Trinity Miller



BOYS' SOCCER

Boys' Soccer Senior Day Photos:



Miguel
Amezquita



Alex
Caballero



Siani Cole



Sam Goff



Kentz
Gustave

Boys' Soccer Senior Day Photos:



Chedid Schedid



Jared Strouse



Emmanuel Toussaint



Kyleef Warren



Isaiah Williams

GIRLS' SOCCER

Congratulations to our Girls Soccer team and coaches Mock and Steffenino on their 4-0 victory over Norristown. Aniya Hoskins lead the offense with 3 goals. Julianna Figueroa scored in the second half to make the score 4-0. There was a strong defensive effort by goalie Emme Wolfel and the entire team. Thanks for giving us another reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."



Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Frontier Division – First Team

❖ Emme Wolfel

Named to The Mercury All Area Second Team

➤ Emme Wolfel



Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Frontier Division – Second Team

❖ Aniya Hoskins

Named to The Mercury All Area Honorable Mention Team

➤ Aniya Hoskins



Head Coach Gary Mock was named The Mercury All Area Coach of The Year. Coach Mock is a model of selfless dedication and loyal service to players, parents, school, and community. He believes in the value of participating in co-curricular activities and the role they play in supporting the academic mission of our school. There are many measures of a good coach, but one of the most important is helping student-athletes develop life skills that lead to adult success. Coach Mock has the respect of his players and peers. Hard work does pay off in more ways than on the scoreboard.

Girls' Soccer - Senior Day Photos:



Daiana Albert



Julia Day



Shanyia Johnson



Ebony Reddick

GIRLS' TENNIS

Congratulations to the entire Girls Tennis Team and Coach Ira Watts on their victory over Norristown. Zoe Wallace won in straight sets 6-0, 6-0. Gianna Epps and Sierra Everett each won their singles matches 6-1, 6-1. The doubles teams of Abigail Parson and Abigail Richter along with Naomi Parson and Hallie Myers prevailed for the Trojan victory.

Congratulations and good luck to Gianna Epps and Sierra Everett. They won their first round match in the Pioneer Athletic Conference Doubles Tennis Championships and qualified to represent Pottstown High School and the PAC in the District I AA Tournament. Play with Trojan Pride!

Named to The Mercury All Area Girls Tennis Singles Honorable Mention Team

- Gianna Epps

Senior Day Photos:



CROSS COUNTRY

Named to The Mercury All Area Boys' Cross Country Honorable Mention Team:

- Michael Baker
- Khalif Burgess
- GianKirk Kimmell
- Martin Metzger
- Nick Wilson



Named to The Mercury All Area Girls' Cross Country Honorable Mention Team:

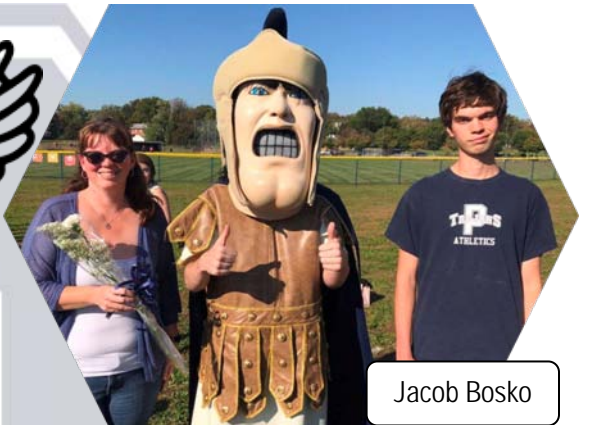
- Hailey Christman
- Claire Fetterman
- Adriana Hayward
- Hannah Shankle
- Winni Weng



Senior Day Cross Country Photos:



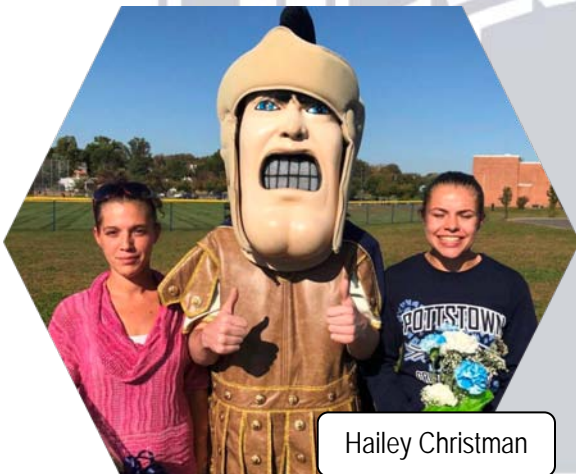
Michael Baker



Jacob Bosko



Khalif Burgess

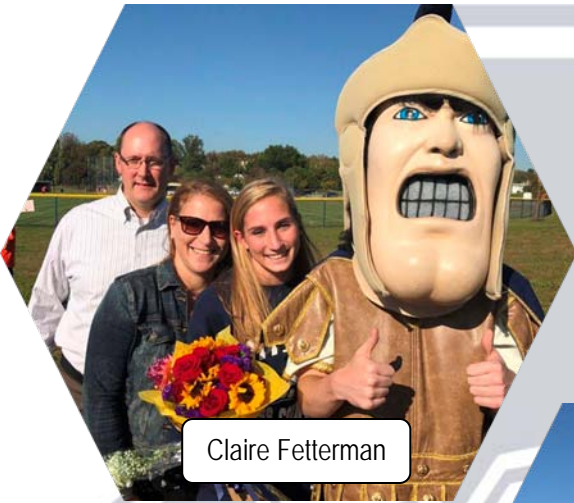


Hailey Christman



Alyssa Dlutz

Senior Day Cross Country Photos:



Claire Fetterman



Shane Langevin



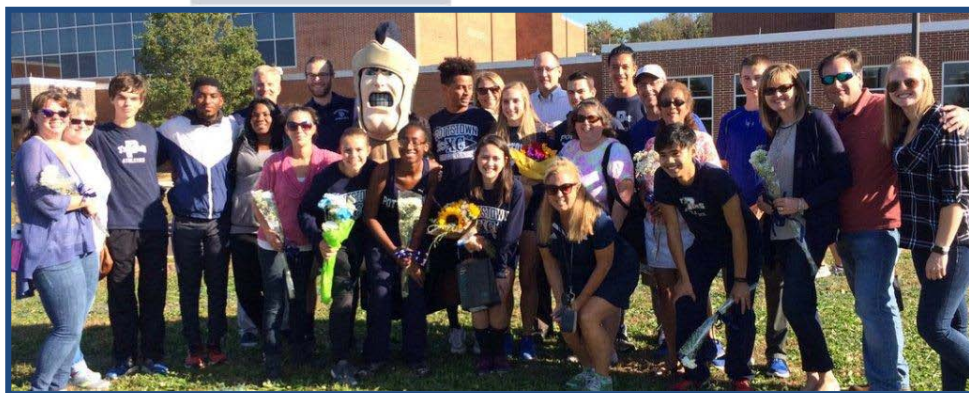
Courteney Parry



Justine Villamar



Nicholas Wilson



PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ALL ACADEMIC TEAM

The value of participation on sports teams goes way beyond developing athletic skills. The Pioneer Athletic Conference demonstrates its commitment to academics and citizenship by recognizing an All-Academic Team and a Citizen Athlete at the end of each season. One athlete from each Fall Sports Team is named to represent their school. Our Fall sports honorees are:

- Girls' Tennis - **Zoe Wallace**
- Boys' Cross Country - **Nicholas Wilson**
- Girls' Cross Country - **Courteney Parry**
- Football - **James Calvario**
- Field Hockey - **Taylor Sundstrom**
- Boys' Soccer - **Jahyre Graves**
- Cheerleading - **Br'Anna Williams**
- Girls' Soccer - **Daiana Albert**



PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FALL CITIZEN ATHLETE AWARD

Jonathan Oister was recognized for his community service and represents the Pottstown School District as the Fall sports Pioneer Athletic Conference Citizen Athlete.



STAFF and DISTRICT AWARDS

Congratulation to Jennifer Groff, you represent PSD teachers and educators everywhere who go the extra mile to do what is necessary to help our students by name be successful at the next level. Many teachers spend their own money to provide school supplies.

On the first day of school, there are always some students who come into Jennifer Groff's second-grade classroom without any school supplies in hand, not even a backpack. Groff, who teaches at Lincoln Elementary in the Pottstown School District, said this is one of the difficulties in today's teaching environment.



"A lot of our families can't afford the things to prepare them (students) for the following year," Groff said, explaining that students often lack organizational supplies, such as binders and pencil pouches.

And the classroom budget the district provides is not enough for Groff to supply her classroom the way she would like, she said, noting that the allotment is less than she spends on a grocery bill for her family of four.

However, Groff is determined to make sure her students have all the materials they need to learn, even if this requires spending her own money. By early August, she already had spent \$120 this summer on supplies such as crayons, scissors and folders for the upcoming school year. She said she'll probably spend between \$700 to \$1,200 total.

"I would do it no matter what as long as my students were prepared," she said.

Many local teachers like Groff have made a habit of reaching into their own wallets to pay for supplies when school funding is lacking.

In Our Schools is a weekly feature spotlighting teachers and administrators educating students in Tri-County schools.

Matthew Moyer, Principal of Rupert Elementary in the Pottstown School District

I grew up in: Pottstown

I now live in: Barto

Family: Wife, Jennifer; daughter, Isabelle, 13; and son, Addison, 11.

Education: Pottstown High School; Shippensburg University; Cabrini College, master's degree in education and principal's certificate.

How I spend my free time: Spending time with family and friends, enjoying my children's sporting events and concerts, playing basketball. Also, outdoor activities like running, camping, any new outdoor adventures. Going to the beach.

Teacher who inspired me: One of the leaders who inspired me is Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana. Dr. Sparagana was a mentor to me as I began my career in Pottstown. He is an outstanding leader, who modeled what it meant to be a servant leader.

As an elementary principal, my goal for students is: My goal is to help prepare students to be successful in life. This means helping them gain the skills they need to pursue their passions in life and become productive citizens. We strive to teach each child the skills they need today to be successful in the future. This requires more than just teaching math and reading. Although they are critical skill areas, we also look to teach our students to be creative thinkers, collaborative problem-solvers and good team players.

Funniest classroom moment: Once a marking period, we visit students at home to recognize them for their achievements. A few years ago on one of our visits, a student's 3-year-old brother became very energized when we pulled up. As we approached the house, he started to jump up and down with excitement. He forgot that he had a bottle of juice in his hand. As he jumped up and down, he sprayed juice all over me.

If I weren't an educator, I'd be: I think it would be a lot of fun to host/co-host a television show. It would be great to interview a variety of different people or host some type of game show. I enjoy interacting with people, and this would provide a great opportunity for this.

You might not know: A few years ago, I went to see the "Live with Kelly" show in New York. There was an opportunity to ask questions, and I was chosen. I was able to be on live television nationwide. A few people even texted me to tell me they just saw me live on television.



Hometown Girl Inspiring Young Minds



Calista Boyer is a Pottstown High School graduate who returned to her hometown, first as a teacher and now as the principal of the same Lincoln Elementary that she attended as a student. Every day she can be found in the hallways and classrooms encouraging students to do their best and to be good citizens. Last spring she received the YWCA Tri-County Area Tribute To Exceptional Women. She was recognized by Bloomsburg University as one of their outstanding alumni. Calista is reason for us all to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

husky notes

PHOTO: READING EAGLE/SANDY YANISK

Inspiring young minds

by TOM MCGUIRE

"I'VE GOT THE BEST JOB EVER," says Calista Boyer, '00. "As principal at the school I once attended, I can't imagine doing anything different with my life or doing this anywhere else."

Boyer inspires 350 students to positive behavior at Lincoln Elementary School in Pottstown. "I encourage them each day to be good citizens. Today, that's a message that needs repeating."

For her dedication, Boyer, the mother of two daughters, received the YWCA Tri-County Area Tribute to Exceptional Women 2017 in April.

A first-generation college student from Pottstown, Boyer never visited Bloomsburg University before arriving for the Act 101 program in the summer of 1995. "I didn't know anything about BU. My 12th-grade literature teacher, Ms. Debbie Demko, was a graduate and suggested I apply."

Accepted into the Act 101 program, Boyer soon ran into the program director, Irv Wright. "Dr. Wright was wonderful in helping me navigate through everything I had to do as a college student that summer." In the classroom, the pre-physical therapy major soon discovered that she didn't like science.

As Boyer contemplated a change of major, she began working at the Campus Child Care Center. "Working with the children and talking with the staff at the center led me to become an education major. I just fell in love with being able to teach children." Though her father's death in her junior year was a setback, the support she received from the daycare center staff kept her going.

After graduation, Boyer landed a substitute teaching position in her hometown school district. She was soon hired full time and eventually, after receiving the necessary certification, was named principal. Her husband, Matthew Boyer, is also a principal in the Pottstown School District.

"I'm part of the community, I see our students around town," Boyer says. "I'm there to help them whenever they have a question. At the start of each year, I tell the students that we both have a job. They are there to learn, and the teachers are there to teach. If everyone does their job, it will be a great year."

"It was an honor to be recognized, but when you love what you do, it's easy to be excited about going to work each day."

Congratulations to Ted Freese for being featured in the Reading Eagle's "In Our Schools" section. Ted is a Pottstown Alum who returned home to live and work in our community. He has made a difference in many lives and is another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."

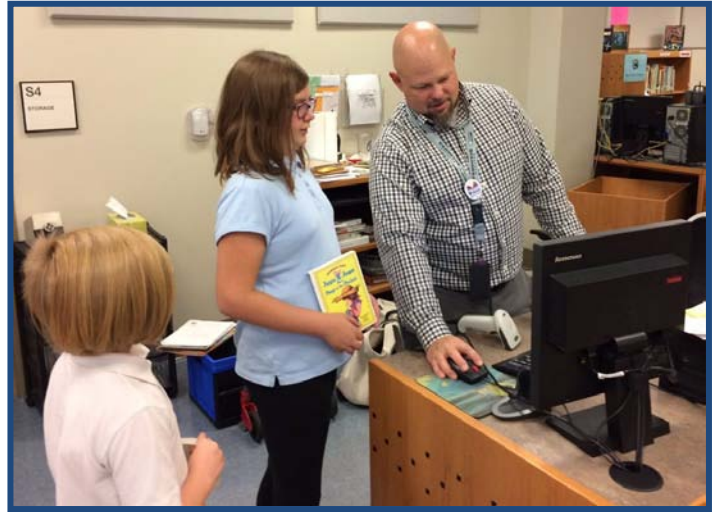
[Ted Freese](#) - Librarian at Lincoln and Rupert elementary schools, Pottstown School District

I grew up in: Pottstown and reside there now.

Family: Wife: Lori; daughter, Lili.

Education: Pottstown High School; East Stroudsburg University, bachelor's degree in elementary education; Kutztown University, master's in library science.

How I spend my free time: I spend free time with my family. We enjoy travel, especially to the beach. We live in a 100-year-old Victorian house, where I spend much time doing handiwork. I also enjoy listening to music, fantasy football and good food.



Teacher who inspired me: Mrs. Sandra Hanson, my elementary librarian, was passionate about books and the importance of the library. When I got older, I could really appreciate the time and effort she put into teaching library skills and the care and thought she put into the collection.

My thoughts on returning to my home district to teach: There are great advantages to teaching in the same district you attended. When I started, the teachers were the same, the buildings were still the same and the administration was the same. Everyone was helpful and welcoming. The greatest advantage was that everything was familiar, the staff, the students and the community.

Funniest classroom moment: I always try to make students aware of the importance of book care. The books are for everyone, and we want them to be available for all to enjoy. I had a student looking at a new book, and without warning, he got sick right on the book. From that point on, if you said you were sick, I immediately sent you to the nurse. A student approached me and asked to go to the nurse. He did not look well. He had already selected his books, and I quickly filled out a pass to the nurse. He made it out of the library, and I saw him set his books down on the floor, bend at the waist and start to get sick. His books were very close, so I yelled to him, "Move your books." He was able to slide them out of harm's way with the side of his foot.



If I weren't an educator, I'd be: A brewmaster at my own gastropub.

You might not know: I powerlifted in college and finished second at PA Teenage States at the 165-pound weight class.

Pottstown Teacher uses Homeowner Initiative to Buy Childhood Home

By Evan Brandt, The Mercury

They say you can't go home again. But Heather Kurtz proved them wrong in late July. Thanks, in part, to a new initiative designed to encourage Pottstown Schools employees to buy homes in the borough, Kurtz not only returned to her childhood home — she bought it. Kurtz's parents are former borough councilman, school board member and borough authority chairman



Ron Downie and his wife Connie. They moved to Florida and their house has been on the market ever since. Their daughter Heather is a longtime second-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. The initiative, first suggested about two years ago by school board member Thomas Hylton, finally went online in April. The Residency Program provides eligible applicants who work for the Pottstown School District, up to \$10,000 in the form of a forgivable loan. The funds can be used for closing costs, down payments, or other expenses directly related to the purchase of property determined to be eligible for the program. The \$10,000 loan will have 20 percent forgiven each year that the homeowner remains an employee of the Pottstown School District and lives in the residence as their primary home. After five years, the loan is completely forgiven. Should the employee move or leave the Pottstown School District, the remaining balance of the loan is then due to be paid back to the Foundation. Shortly after the

announcement of this program, the foundation had two requests for information packets. The number of requests has since grown to six. Kurtz, who applied in May and whose son Connor was one of the youngest members of the Daniel Boone School Board when he was first elected, is the first to close on a home using the program. Kurtz was approved for the loan and purchased her new home in Pottstown at the end of July. According to a news release from the foundation, Kurtz indicated that the process for the application was extremely easy and “she is very happy in her new home in Pottstown.”

A bus tour of Pottstown was part of the Pottstown School District's new teacher in service program. Teachers got to see the buildings they will teach in and some of the many sights in our community that give us reason to say “Proud to be from Pottstown.” We welcome them to our community and look forward to them being part of a Trojan team that makes a difference in the lives of students.



Pottstown Borough Council took time from its Council meeting to show their We Are Pottstown Pride. Trojan Man was an honored guest and recognized by Council with a proclamation for his many community service activities. Trojan Man is the spirit of One Goal One Team One Town. More reason to say “Proud to be from Pottstown.”



When you are a winning photographer like Kerry Kline from Lincoln Elementary you are used to receiving awards for your work. The principals were challenged to a photo contest for the best 1st day picture. A panel of judges selected the entry from Lincoln as best overall. Kerry will be wearing her prize, a “We Are” windbreaker around school. Principal Calista Boyer said, “Kerry captured the joy of walking to school on the first day, and added I am sure we will share the jacket.”



Pottstown elementary and middle schools hosted “Back to School Nights.” Students and parents met teachers and administrators and had time to visit classrooms. Barth Elementary Principal Ryan Oxenford and fourth grader Isiah Perez took some time to sit on the Barth Friendship Bench and talk about their summer adventures. Building friendships and relationships leads to success in the classroom.



FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT EDUCATION

The Foundation for Pottstown Education was awarded a two-year grant totaling \$90,000 from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation.



Congratulations to Barth Elementary First Grade teacher, [Mary Ellen Lamme](#) for being featured in the Reading Eagle's "In Our Schools" section.

Mary Ellen is an outstanding educator who makes a difference in young lives every day. She shares her energy and enthusiasm with students and staff alike.

I grew up in: Elverson and reside there now.

Family: Husband, Randy; son, Randy Jr.; daughters, Dawn and Hope; grandchildren, Nathan, Breanna, Waylon, Park and Auden.

Education: I graduated from Twin Valley High School a long time ago. More than 20 years later, I received my teaching degree at Alvernia University and then my master's in education through Gratz College in Philadelphia.



How I spend my free time: I love to watch "NCIS" and do crossword puzzles in the daily newspaper, but my favorite activity is spending time with my family. Just the other evening, my three oldest grandkids and I had a Lego night putting Lego sets together.

Teacher who inspired me: I had many teachers who inspired me, but my gym teacher, Marcia Johnson, who was also my field hockey coach, always made me feel that she believed in me. While I always had a positive outlook about teachers and education, it was the enjoyment that I experienced being around children when I drove a school bus for 13 years that helped me make the decision to go into teaching.

What I find most meaningful about teaching first-graders: Seeing how much they grow throughout the year. Most come into first grade knowing a few words and leave with the ability to read stories that are several pages long. I also enjoy their excitement about learning new things. With everything that is expected of first-grade students these days, it is easy to forget that they are only 6 and 7 years old. Just the other day, when we were talking about different forms of transportation such as buses, cars and ferries, a student yelled out, "I didn't know fairies were real." It was a great teachable moment for everyone in the class and a reminder that they are only 6 and 7 years old.

Funniest classroom moment: Several years ago, during show and tell, a student pulled his mother's set of dentures out of his pocket to share with the class. As his sharing went on, he pulled out a partial plate of teeth from another pocket. I was happy he only had the two pockets.

If I weren't an educator, I'd be: I can't imagine not teaching and helping students, but if I couldn't be a teacher, I would be a stay-at-home gram. This way, I would be around whenever I was needed to help out.

You might not know: My husband was an excavator in the past, so we do have a backhoe to use for projects. When I want to put mulch all around my house, I fire up the backhoe. It's much easier than a wheelbarrow. Also, when I drove a school bus, I placed ninth in Pennsylvania in a bus driving competition.

ELEMENTARY

Congratulations to the Lincoln Elementary School Reading Olympic Team, sporting their new tee-shirts designed by Gavin Marmer a 4th grade student in Mrs. Mandy Wampole's class, learning to read so they can read to learn.



The third graders in Mrs. Kalena Pippert's class at Rupert Elementary show their respect and pride as they pledge allegiance during the opening of the school day. Third grade classes across the district were asked to submit a patriotic picture. Mrs. Pippert knows a little something about patriotic duty; both she and her husband are veterans of the U.S. Army. As the winning class, they received three boxes of school supplies donated by the employees of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. Matt Moyer, Rupert Principal said, "With young leaders like this our future is bright."



Students at Rupert Elementary were able to show their creativity during a tie-dye project by putting the Art in STEAM education (Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics). Thanks to Erynn Ford, Audra Mascewicz, and Angel Suber for giving us a reason to smile and say "Proud to be from Pottstown."



All of our 4th grade classes were challenged to a contest to see which class could send in the first picture of their class showing "Pottstown Pride." Mrs. Nicole Leh's students at Rupert were the first to respond. Their prize was two boxes of classroom supplies donated by the employees of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. It pays to show your Pottstown Pride!



Check out the [Barth Grandparents Day video](#). Pottstown Proud of our grandparents for supporting the children and our schools. One Goal~One Team~One Town. Together our efforts will be reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown." Keep up the great work Barth.

[Barth's FALL FEST 2017 VIDEO](#)

Facebook, Twitter, email and the school district website are all platforms that we are using to tell the Pottstown story to our community. Congratulations to the buildings that have added video to our message. Here are a few examples:

- [Rupert Reminder](#) - Looking for ways to help your child learn their letters and sounds?
- [Barth](#) had some visitors today - check out the short video.
- Rupert - Check out our [Grandparents' Day Highlight Video](#)
- Teacher Appreciation Day at [PAL Football](#)
- The more we tell our story, the more people will understand and join in when we say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."

Learning digit place value can be boring BUT not when you are in Mrs. Nicole Leh's 4th grade class at Rupert Elementary School. As you will see when you click on the link [STEAM education](#) can be fun and funky.

National Walk to School Day



Students all over the world walked to school during International Walk to School Day. Here in [Pottstown](#), they were walking all over town. About 1,500 students in total from all district school buildings walked to school. The students gathered at pre-determined meeting spots and enjoyed a walk together before the start of the school day.

Rupert Elementary School students show off vegetables and herbs from garden



Eating red cabbage and chard with gluten-free black bean dip, David Volkman, the state's deputy secretary for education, enjoyed a satisfying snack in Pottstown. He wasn't visiting a local health food store or a salad bar - he was eating the healthy snack in a Rupert Elementary School classroom. "It's delicious," Volkman said, tasting the produce grown in the school. "It's so wonderful to be eating this healthy." Volkman stopped by Rupert to celebrate National Farm to School Month and see the school's project to grow fresh vegetables in a Tower Garden, a vertical indoor growing system for vegetables and herbs that can be

used indoors or outside. The project began last year when Rupert was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the state Department of Education to implement farm-to-school healthy activities. Kindergarten teacher Jacinda Bartolucci started the effort to grow vegetables and herbs from the tower in her classroom. Her class put out leafy greens, herb iced tea and the dips for Volkman and other school, state and county officials to taste. Bartolucci showed the group how the children first planted seeds in small containers before moving them into the tower, which enables plants to grow with lights and water. "There are no chemicals here," Bartolucci said. "It's all fresh food." Pottstown Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez said wellness and healthy eating are vital parts of the district's education program. "We want our students to develop healthy eating habits," the superintendent said. "Your palate can change when you are exposed to healthy foods. The students are all enjoying tasting these greens. They do not have any salt or fat." Aiden Ondik, 6, a first-grader, said he loved tasting the vegetables grown on the tower. "They really taste good," he said. Aniya Quill, 9, said she likes helping out with the project. "It's a lot of fun," she said. "We like to eat healthy." Principal Matthew Moyer said the school is emphasizing good nutrition for young people, and he is proud of the students' healthy eating choices. "The tower helps the students understand how to plant seeds and grow healthy food," Moyer said. The school staff bought the Tower Garden from William Sheeler of Boyertown, owner of Senior and Sprouts, a Boyertown-based organization that helps children and seniors grow healthy food. Volkman said he was impressed with the students' project and appreciated the chance to taste the greens. "Delicious," he said, sampling the salad.

Elementary school principals have a long list of duties and it looks like Rupert Principal Matt Moyer has just added filmmaker to the job description. Moyer's entry in the *Pottstown In Focus Short Film Festival* earned a second place award in the category of Music Videos. Click here to see and hear about [What Principals Do On A Snow Day](#). Warning ~ there may even be some dancing.



Thanks to Johnson & Johnson and their engagement team, represented by Michele Tober and Kim Diamond, Ms. Karen Seemann's 2nd grade class at Lincoln Elementary School received some first aid in the way of much needed school supplies.



Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten classes were given pencil bags with hand written notes of encouragement from the manufacturing team employees. This is not the first time Johnson and Johnson employees have supported Lincoln students. In the past, they have raised funds through [DonorsChoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org) for classroom alternative sitting equipment, and funds for school supplies have been raised through bake sales in their office. Engagement team representatives Michele Tober and Kim Diamond said the company wanted to



partner with a school and adopted Lincoln. We want to do our part and play a role in the success of our future leaders. Principal Calista Boyer said developing community partnerships like this are appreciated and much needed. Our schools are underfunded and support like this will help us make up the difference and help give our students the support they need to be successful. Strong community partners like Johnson & Johnson make me say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."



Nicholas Woodley and Matthew Berry, fourth grade students at Lincoln Elementary School, received some veteran instruction on the proper way to fold our country's flag. Mr. Billy Worrell was picking his granddaughter up from school when he noticed the boys, who are members of the school Safety Patrol, trying to fold the flag. As a veteran of the Navy, member of the American Legion Honor Guard at veteran funerals and a Scout Master for thirteen years he was willing and able to pass on the tradition of how to properly fold our country's flag to the next generation of our country's leaders. The citizenship shown by both young and old just another reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown.



As the nation and president debate which actions indicate respect for the American flag and/or veterans, at least one Pottstown area veteran was focusing purely on making sure Pottstown students are taught the proper and respectful way to handle the flag when putting it up



and taking it down the flagpole at Lincoln Elementary School.

Click here to read all about it in Mr. Evan Brandt's [Digital Notebook Blog](#).

This is the time of the year when many reflect on being thankful for the many benefits of life we enjoy. Click on the link to see some of our youngest citizens at [Rupert Elementary School](#) who took time to share why they are thankful.

What are you
Thankful for?

Looks like Mr. Moyer Productions has been at it again. This latest video has a Holiday theme to it done in [Rupert Elementary style](#). Take a minute to relax and see and hear a fun way our students are practicing the 4 C's of STEAM education; Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to the Middle School Dek Hockey team for an outstanding season. This is the third year that the club, under the direction of Coach Ian Lawrence, has played in the Pottstown Parks and Recreation League. Glad to see so many showing their Pottstown Pride. The Blues dek hockey club represented Pottstown well in their third season of existence.



The hockey club at the middle school practiced in the gym during seventh period two days a circle throughout the year. They finished by meeting and scrimmaging against former NHLer and current Hill School coach Chris Bala.

Left to right - standing - Josh Wilson, Jack Hipple, Austin Spence, Matt Deppen, James Ryder (goalie), Cory Spence, former NHLer Chris Bala, Cole Christman, Joshua Shifflette, Stephen Luther, Joel Coccie - missing from picture - Ray Long, Sam Levey, Nathan Harper, Anthony Williams, Adrian Haagen, Nick Ridgway, Gabe Roseo, Jared Long

The Blues team made up of Pottstown Middle School only players competed in Police Athletic League's spring season against six other local teams, going 2-9-1 in 12 games, and scoring 29 goals, more than both previous years. Jack Hipple finished in the top five in league scoring.

Left to right - standing - Cole Christman, Josh Wilson, Ray Long, Joel Coccie, Austin Spence, James Ryder (goalie), Jack Hipple, Jared Long, Sam Levey, Gabe Roseo - kneeling - Cory Spence, Stephen Luther, Nick Ridgway, Josh Shifflette - missing from picture - Adrian Haagen



Blues players volunteered to be coaches at the first ever Sports Carnival over the Fourth of July weekend at Memorial Park. They manned the hockey activity station, and coached dozens of area youngsters.

Left to right - Standing - Sam Levey, Austin Spence, James Ryder, Stephen Luther, Brian Cowie, Jack Hipple, Mr. Lawrence - Missing from picture - Gabe Roseo, Jared Long

Pottstown school students aged 13 to 16 made up the Blues tournament team that played in the Reading Street Hockey Jamboree in August, facing this higher level of competition for the first time. They won 2 shutout games out of 5 total, before being eliminated by a 1 goal loss.

Left to right - standing - Joel Coccie, Austin Spence, Josh Wilson, Matt Deppen, Brian Cowie, Cole Christman, Jeremy Adams, Jack Hipple, Ray Long, Evan DeBlase, Evan Wanish, Darion Miller - kneeling - Jared Long, Tyler Bruton (goalie), Phillip Shiffler



In today's fast paced world it is important to take time to stop and smell the flowers, which is exactly what the members of the Pottstown Middle School Environmental Science Club did. Along with their advisor Ms. Ginger Angelo, 48 students traveled to Longwood Gardens. They toured the garden and participated in the Operation Pollination Program and learned about the parts of a flower and the role of various types of pollinators. Ms. Angelo said the field trip experience brings classroom learning alive for students and is an outstanding way to grow our understanding and appreciation for the environment.



Congratulations to the Pottstown Middle School Football team on an 8-0 undefeated season. In August, when their classmates were enjoying time off from school and summertime activities, they were hard at work in preseason conditioning. Under the guidance of coaches Levert Hughes,

Anthony Wiggins, and Drew Weber they learned that hard work pays off. The young Trojans have a two year record of 16-1 and are ready to prove that their hard work will pay off for the high school team. Thanks for giving us another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown!"



Pottstown Middle School students received some firsthand (and foot) education about the environment. Thirty-five members of the [Environmental Science Club](#), along with their sponsor Ms. Ginger Angelo, explored various ecosystems on a 5 mile hike through Green Lane Park. Students stopped along the trail to make notes about their observations and will use them during classroom discussions. Angelo said, "Taking the classroom to the outdoors brings life to our lessons and helps grow an appreciation for the environment."



HIGH SCHOOL

Pottstown High School Jr. Air Force ROTC Unit PA 951 believes in service to others above self. The 80 cadet unit, under the command of Col. James Porter, lives up to the words every day. During the first four weeks of school cadets have volunteered for over ten projects all of which take place after school hours and on weekends. Everywhere there is a community event that needs assistance ROTC can be found giving a helping hand before, during and after the activity. From providing support to set up and clean up at events like the Library Book Sale, Carousel of Flavor, Airport Community Day, Pet Fair, Harrier Cross Country Invitational, serving as guides at both Pottstown and Pottsgrove High School Open Houses to providing an Honor Guard at athletic events and Veterans Community Day cadets can be found serving the community. During the first month of school the Unit has provided over 750 hours of community service. Pottstown High School ROTC Unit has been recognized nineteen years in a row by the U.S. Air Force with the International Distinguished Unit Award, an award that goes to the top ten percent of the over nine

hundred units worldwide. Col. Porter said, "I am proud of the young men and women of our unit, they are preparing themselves to become the future leaders of our country. What better reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown."



The halls of Pottstown High School were filled with excitement and sweet treats during the Homecoming Spirit Week. Senior Michael Baker shows his joy in the Seniors' hallway, decorated to look like the Candy Land board game.



Pottstown High School student athlete Elsie Cannell shows some of the grit that our student athletes at PHS have. She would not let an injury keep her from taking part in Pottstown CARES Day clean up. Her spirit and pride is reason for us to say Proud to be from Pottstown.

The Automotive Technology Program would like to thank everyone for their support in our clothing/detailing fundraiser. It was an absolute success!!!!



Congratulations to Courteney Parry! Courteney is all smiles because with less than a quarter of the way through her senior year she has already been accepted at Gwynedd Mercy, Chestnut Hill, Rosemont, and Widener. Adding to her holiday cheer is the fact that she has received presidential scholarships from all four schools. Courteney is a member of National Honor Society and runs on the Cross Country and Track teams. She is also learning about civic responsibility as a Student Representative to the Pottstown School Board. No question her hard work is paying off. *Courteney Parry*, another reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown!



Over a hundred and twenty five Pottstown students were up early on a Saturday morning to take part in the Pottstown CARES Day. Many of the students are members of the fall sports teams and along with their coaches and some of the high school teachers and administrators spent the morning cleaning up the streets in the community. Over two hundred bags of trash were collected. Many neighborhood residents came out to thank the students for showing their community service. Seeing all of these young men and women putting service to others above self is good reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown.



At Pottstown High School, students in Mr. Andy Bachman's Engineering class are learning how one project task leads to another.

Hands on! Goggles on? Mask on?



Shane Duncan and Nick Wilson are safely constructing composite materials using textiles as the structure and supersaturated sugar water as the matrix. The students are working on developing their own composite materials that will be used when conducting failure analysis on student made structures. After the testing samples are constructed, students will design and build testing equipment. Mr. Bachman said this project is hands on learning at its best. The students are having fun while at the same time learning about, manufacturing, production, design, and both functional and failure analysis.

The [Pottstown High School Service Club](#), sponsored by Mr. Jordan Thomas, helped thirty families enjoy a holiday meal. The Service Club lived up to its name by organizing a canned food drive in student homerooms during the month of November. Hundreds of items were collected. Club members along with teachers sorted and packaged the goods, which were then delivered to families in need. The importance of community service is learned and practiced by the students and staff of the Pottstown School District.



BAND

The [Pottstown High School Marching Band](#), under the direction of Mr. Michael Vought, took part in the Owen J. Roberts Marching Band Cavalcade. The hundred and twenty plus member band presented a terrific performance as part of the event which showcased ten area school marching bands. At the conclusion of the night, all units joined with the Kutztown University Marching Band for a mass performance of *SHUT UP AND DANCE*. Vought said events like this give our students an opportunity to showcase their talents and to enjoy the performances of other schools. Performing music is a great way to develop the self-discipline that will lead to future success.



Thanks to Pottstown High School Marching Band members Sean Lafferty and Emily Weber, using a go-pro camera mounted on [Emily's tuba](#), you can have a new look at a band performance.





Band and Band Front Senior Day Photos:



2017 TROJAN SENIORS



Alex Caballero
12th Grade
Snare Drum



Alondra Magana
12th Grade
Clarinet



Amaya Stevenson
12th Grade
Percussion



Amber Cassel
12th Grade
Color Guard



Andrew Ecker
12th Grade
Trumpet



Emilie Lineman
12th Grade
Piccolo



Gabe Francis
12th Grade
Drum



Gary Oberholtzer
12th Grade
Guitar



Isaiah Williams
12th Grade
Bass Drum



Jai Jefferson
12th Grade
Color Guard



Julia Day
12th Grade
Saxophone



Kimberly Wilkenson
12th Grade
Vibes



Matthew Zipay
12th Grade
Trombone



Nala Johnson
12th Grade
Marimba



Nick Wilson
12th Grade
Trumpet



Rashell Williams
12th Grade
Drum Major



Julian Weber
12th Grade
Trombone



Sam Goff
12th Grade
Bass Drum



Sean Lafferty
12th Grade
Member of the
Pit Crew

2017 Homecoming Court:

Congratulations to all of the members of this year's Homecoming Court. Julia Day was selected as the 2017 Homecoming Queen and Anthony "Moot" Wiggins as the King.

The court included: Julia Day, Br'anna Williams, Abigail Richter, (Angel Olevera and Nyles Rome returning 2016 Queen and King), Rachel Martin, Daiana Albert, Courteney Parry along with their escorts Isaiah Williams, Michael Baker, Nicholas Wilson, Rielly Dugan, and Gabe Francis. Javon Dill and Anthony Wiggins were not able to be in the picture with the court.



Junior Air Force ROTC at PHS is another reason to say “Proud to be from Pottstown.” Thanks to Mr. Evan Brandt for helping to tell the story in his [Mercury Digital Notebook Blog](#). Click on the link to find out what they have been doing since the start of school.

It takes a lot of hard work, discipline, and teamwork for an 80 cadet military unit to pass inspection in 11 different mission areas. The Pottstown High School Air Force JROTC Unit PA 951, under the command of Col. James Porter, recently underwent an inspection and evaluation from Mr. Rob Atkins, a Regional Director for AFJROTC Headquarters, stationed at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery Alabama. Mr. Atkins conducted a uniform inspection of all cadets. He was then briefed on all of the Unit's community service projects, the Unit's day-to-day operations, and mission successes were evaluated. Atkins spoke to the cadets about the importance of AFJROTC and its goals. An elite 12 cadet marching unit executed the 30 Command Drill Sequence for Mr. Atkins' review. At the end of the day the inspection report read **Exceeds Standards**, reaffirming the reason why the Unit has received the Outstanding Unit Award for twenty consecutive years.



Cadets Tiffany Myers and Danny Egleston were recognized for their efforts with the prestigious Top Performer Award (only earned by the top 2% of cadets in all of JROTC worldwide). After hearing the results of the inspection, Col. Porter said with a big smile on his face, “I could not be happier for our cadets. To see their hard work and dedication recognized by HQ is just pure gold”!





Once again Trojan Man shows his true colors and goes above and beyond on a Saturday morning. Trojan Man (AKA Jimmy O'Donnell) was up before 7 AM to support the Lincoln Elementary School fundraiser at Applebee's.

Then Trojan Man sponsor, David Woodley, and one of the many Trojan Men (AKA Jon-Jon Oister) were off to Douglassville to run in a 5K Color Run to support Girl Scout troop #1797.



Showing their Old School Trojan Tough form, both Trojan Man and Woodley earned first place in their age group while the scouts enjoyed covering them in color. Mr. Woodley, Trojan Man, and the Trojan Nation are all good reasons to say "Proud to be from Pottstown!"



THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS

- Thanks to Tony Betts and all of his friends from Blades Edge Unisex Salon who spent their Sunday giving 130 free “Back to School Haircuts” and also helped to donate hundreds of dollars worth of school supplies to our elementary schools. See and read all about it in Mr. Evan Brandt's Mercury [Digital Notebook Blog](#).



- We are fortunate to live in a community where so many are willing to work together for the good of the community. Thanks to Mr. Evan Brandt's Mercury Digital Notebook Blog for helping to tell our story. [Strong partners make a strong community.](#)
- Long time friend and supporter of Pottstown, Dr. Niraj Patel of Chiropractic and Wellness Center stopped by Lincoln to drop off a number of boxes of supplies and a cash donation. Dr. Patel has been donating to our schools for over twelve years.



- Thanks to our friends at the Pottstown Famous Footwear store for running a summer promotion that gave a customer a \$10 coupon for donating any school supplies. The store staff delivered the donation to the Pottstown School District to help provide students with the tools they need to be successful in school. From left to right, Assistant Manager Stephanie, Store Manager Bob, and Assistant Manager Nick. Bob said, "We are very happy to give a helping hand in building future success for our students." Just another example of strong community partners working to build strong schools and more reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown.



- Thank you to Suburban Karma Guild (SKG) for their donation of \$100 to assist students and families with the purchase of fare paying bus tickets and any other needs that may arise. Suburban Karma Guild, is an anonymous, private local group whose mission is to provide modest financial assistance or material contributions to individuals or organizations within the community. SKG is another reason to say, Proud to be from Pottstown.
- Thanks to Katie Scanlan you can see and hear about the team effort by Pottstown School District, Hill School, Borough of Pottstown, and Montgomery County Community College as they come together for One Goal One Team One Town and show Pottstown [“CARES”](#).

- Thank you to our friends from the Pottstown Community Arts organization, who collected art supplies from attendees of “Haunts On High Street” to donate to PEAK’s PA Pre-K Counts classrooms. Read all about it in [Mr. Evan Brandt's Mercury Digital Notebook Blog](#).

I SPY ART SUPPLIES: From left, Audra Ross from Pottstown Community Arts, Michilea Patterson and Valerie Jackson from PEAK and Amanda Finlaw from the Pottstown School District celebrate the donation of art supplies collected during this year's Haunts on High.



- Thanks to our friends at Books-A-Million for their kind donation of books which will give students hours of joyful reading and thanks to Mr. Evan Brandt's [Digital Notebook Blog](#) for sharing the story. When we have One Goal One Team One Town there is reason to say “Proud to be from Pottstown.”

Laurie Kolka from Pottstown Schools, left, thanks Pottstown alum Heather Sarik, Manager of Books-A-Million.



Superintendent’s Awards

- The Pottstown School District recognized Erika Hornburg-Copper and Tony Betts with Superintendent Awards for their commitment and service to our community.

- ❖ Erika is the Executive Director and co-founder of ArtFusion 19464. Located at 341 Beech St, ArtFusion is a non-profit community art center, whose mission is to provide a solid educational foundation to youth and adults alike.

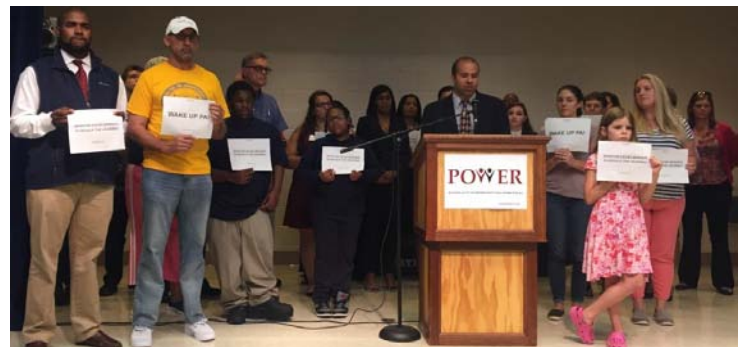


- ❖ Tony Betts is the owner of Blades Edge Unisex Salon, 272 Walnut St. For the past two years Tony and his employees have given free “back to school haircuts” to students and also donated school supplies to the elementary schools.



Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez presented the awards at a School Board meeting and said Erika and Tony exemplify – One Goal, One Team One Town and give us more reason to say, Proud to be from Pottstown.

- Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez, Guidance Counselor Kelly Leibold and High School student Gianna Kimmell joined other community members along with Power, a faith-based advocacy group, to call on our state officials to ["Wake Up Pa"](#) and fairly fund all of our state's public schools.



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI HONOR ROLL

The Pottstown School District inducted its 32nd addition of outstanding alumni into the [Alumni Honor Roll](#).



This year's recipients included:

- **Jim Smale**, a musician from the class of 1952; known as the “Bobby Shantz of the music world,” Smale played trombone and formed a big band and played with the Reading Symphony Orchestra. He died in 2007. A premier trombonist with the U.S. Marine Corps Band, he spent much of his career in music studios in Las Vegas, Miami, Philadelphia and New York. He played with the Glenn Miller touring band and appeared in three movies — “Brewster’s Millions,” “Lenny” and “Star of India.” In 2005, he composed “High Street Blues” as a tribute to Pottstown. (Pictured is Robert Smale, accepting for his late brother.)
- **Terry Ziegler**, a journalist, a businessman, and philanthropist from the class of 1972; Ziegler graduated from Bloomsburg University in 1976 and is the founder and president of Datacap Systems Inc., a developer and manufacturer of integrated electronic systems for the past 34 years. He also spent seven years with Transaction Management Inc., leaving as the executive vice president. Ziegler is also co-founder of the Ziegler Family Foundation, which focuses on financial literacy in school districts and provides support to local charities. He serves on the board of the Bloomsburg University Foundation and endowed the Ziegler Institute for Professional Development, along with several scholarships. Ziegler also endowed the College of Business at Bloomsburg University, now renamed the Ziegler College of Business.
- **Jim Kerr**, a journalist and currently an editor at The Reading Eagle, from the class of 1981. Kerr graduated from Shippensburg University where he was named the sports editor of the student newspaper, a role he also filled at the high school student paper. A former carrier for The Mercury, he received a carrier scholarship and began his newspaper career there in 1987 as a staff writer. He was named city editor in 1995 and in 1998 left to take a copy editor job at The Reading Eagle. He was promoted to metro editor in 2001 and in 2013 was named assignment editor. Kerr has served as a member of the Alumni Honor Roll Committee, a youth coach with the Amity Athletic Club and is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. He has won numerous state level awards from the Pennsylvania News Media Association for his work.
- **Bruce L. Moyer**, an attorney and Washington lobbyist from the class of 1970; Moyer graduated from George Washington Law School in 1977 and held several positions with the U.S. government, including the U.S. International Trade Commission. In the late 1990s, he helped then Vice President Al Gore with his “reinventing government” initiative and served until 2014 as the chairman of the Federal Postal Coalition, an alliance of more than 30 organizations representing the interests of more than five million public servants.

The 40th Annual
Tri County Area Chapter
of the Pennsylvania Sports
Hall of Fame recently honored:

Congratulations to Trojan alumni,
 Chris Gorham, Joe Masleh, and
 Chonn Lacey who were inducted into the
 Tri-County Area Chapter of the
 Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.



- ❖ **Chris Gorham** - A true personification of the term “student athlete” while at Pottstown, carrying a 4.0 grade-point average and membership in the National Honor Society while excelling in football and track. A three-time All-League sprinter and anchor of a 4x400 relay team that won silver medals at states. Played wide receiver and defensive back for the Trojans, recorded all league honors twice as a defensive back. Had eight career interceptions and scored a number of touchdowns on offense; considered Pennsylvania’s second-best defensive back by Super Prep. Went on to the University of Virginia, where he played defensive back his first three seasons before switching to wide receiver his senior year.
- ❖ **Joe Masleh** - A football player at Pottstown, the starting defensive end on the Trojans’ undefeated 1961-62 team. Started a long coaching career in 1985, coaching the St. Pius X High School softball team until 1991 and leading it to a first-ever Pioneer Athletic Conference championship in 1989. Coached Pottstown’s girls’ basketball teams from 1992 to 1999, winning league titles in 1996 and 1997. Went on to coach girls basketball at St. Pius from 1999 to 2010, compiling a 130-68 record in that span while winning the 2005 PAC championship and seven straight District 1 Class AA crowns (2002-09). The Mercury’s Coach of the Year in 1997 and 2005, he also coached a Police Athletic League girls’ team to a national championship in 1995.
- ❖ **Chonn Lacey** - Four-year starter on offense and defense for Pottstown’s football team. In 1996, was first team all-area wide receiver, second team defensive back, team’s Most Valuable Player for team, on defense and special teams. Went to Valley Forge Military Academy for postgraduate year, named team’s MVP. Went on to Temple University, where he played at defensive back as a true freshman and started 40 games. A three-way player his senior year, he started the Blue-Gray All-Star Game, was named Temple’s MVP his senior year. A two-time Big East Defensive Player of the Week, he ranked fourth all-time in tackles (215) and seventh in interceptions (10). After graduating from Temple and being named to Athletic Director’s Honor Roll, had brief stints in the National Football League with the Baltimore Ravens, New Orleans Saints and Seattle Seahawks.

FALLEN TROJANS



The Pottstown School District is proud of the members of its Trojan family and will honor its deceased alumni by recognizing them and their accomplishments in our "Fallen Trojans" section. Anyone wishing to have alumni recognized should provide appropriate information to:



John J. Armato, Director of Community Relations,
230 Beech Street, Pottstown PA 19464 or email jarmato@pottstownk12.org.

- **F. Arnold Markowitz**, was born in Pottstown, PA, he was a son of the late Jacob and Marion (Nimberger) Markowitz. Arnold was a graduate of the Pottstown High School. He worked for 30 years for Howard S. Reeder, Inc. of Miami, FL as a customs broker. (Import/Export Business). In his earlier years, he helped his father in their grocery business in Pottstown – Markowitz and Son. They were known to have instituted the chocolate frozen banana pop as a delight. Arnold was always a person you could count on in a time of need. He remembered anniversaries, birthdays, random historical dates and all stories from prior to his birth to the present day. His mind was sharp, his heart intuitive and his soul generous. He enjoyed walking and reading and connecting with his loved ones. He devoted his life to Hashem and his observance brought him comfort. He loved a good joke and loved to laugh. There was a love so deep in his heart for Pottstown. He always felt that Pottstown was his home and he never abandoned his dream to live the rest of his days in this little town. He was devastated that he could not return to his birthplace as his body was too weak to travel.
- **Milton Edwin Yohn** - Class of 1948 - was the husband of 65 years to Helen Ruth (Gentner) Yohn of Douglassville, PA. Born in Pottstown, PA, he was the son of the late Milton Eagle Yohn and Mary (Schatz) Yohn. He was the owner of the former M.E. Yohn & Son Heating and Air Conditioning of Pottstown and Penn Mobil Distributors Inc. of Collegeville. He developed and operated Collegeville Self Storage in Collegeville, PA. Mr. Yohn was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and was a former council member. He was also a member of the Pottstown Elks Club, United Investment Club, and the Tri-County Dealer's Association. He also owned one of the earliest pager towers, which then became the home of several national cellular carriers. He eventually sold the Homestead, which became Manatawny Village and Upland Square Shopping Center. Following retirement he and his wife traveled the United States and overseas.
- **Barbara A. (Wilson) (Bender) Van Ryn** – Class of 1965 – 86; was a daughter of the late August Wilson and the late Dorothy (Endy) (Wilson) Roth. Barbara was proud to return to Pottstown High School with her son Rick and graduated from Pottstown High School in 1965. She also attended the Lansdale School of Business. She was employed by several different companies in the electronics industry. One, in which she helped prototype and develop the transistor, was Philco, Spring City. She also owned and operated a dog pedigree business. Barbara loved dogs! She owned 16 over her lifetime. She taught Sunday School at St. Peters Lutheran Church in Stowe, was an expert at football, and coached a youth basketball team at The Bethany Center to a championship victory. She also assisted her then husband Richard Bender coaching youth baseball and basketball.



- **Ronald C. Downie** – Class of 1953 – 82; Ronald Cameron Downie died on November 10, 2017, in Nokomis, Florida. He was born on February 6, 1932, in Elmsford, New York, to Scottish immigrants Olive (Piggot) and Alexander Downie. In 1953, he graduated from Pottstown High School and matriculated to Penn State University, where he was a member of the freshman football team. He later attended Ursinus College. On July 22, 1954, he married Dixie L. Shirey in Arlington, Virginia. They had two girls: Bonnie Downie (of Pottstown) and Sherri Downie (of Birdsboro). He later married Constance M. Hall, in Pottstown, on April 22, 1964. They had three children: Heather Kurtz (of Pottstown), Lia Downie (of Nokomis, Fla.), and Ronald Andrew Downie (of Pottstown). They lived for many years on North Evans Street before relocating to Florida in 2016. Growing up, Ron worked with his father and brother building stone walls across southeastern Pennsylvania. He eventually became a manager at Firestone before going into business on his own. He was a partner in many ventures and owned the Pottstown Nursery and the Pine Forge Ski Area. He was the president of both the Pottstown American Business Club (AMBUCS) and the Building Industries Exchange (BIE). Ron was a pillar of the Pottstown community. He served a term on the Pottstown school board and represented ward five on the Pottstown borough council. He served as president of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and as chairman of the Pottstown Borough Authority. Among many other volunteer positions, he was president of the Pottstown Carousel Committee and a member of the committee to celebrate Pottstown's 250th Anniversary. He was Pottstown Elk of the Year and is a member of the Pottstown High School Alumni Honor Roll. In 2015, he was the inaugural grand marshal of the Pottstown Independence Day parade. He was a lifelong writer and regaled anyone who would listen with his poetry. He embraced digital technology and published many of his poems on his blog, The Posted Poet.



- **Jennifer “Jenny” S. (Churach) Rankin** - Class of 1976 - was the wife of Dennis F. Rankin and they were married on June 19, 1993. Jenny had last worked in the Bakery Department at Stauffer's of Kissel Hill-Lititz Store. In 1981, Jenny began her career in baking at the former Schlotzhauer Baking Company on Manor Street, Lancaster. Previously, she had worked at High Food Service, Ltd., the former Bakery at Willow Valley and Michael's Homestyle Breads Bakery, Strasburg. Born May 11, 1958 in Pottstown, she was the daughter of the late Cyril J. and Doris M. (Crater) Churach. Jenny was a 2005 graduate of the Pastry Arts Program at the Pennsylvania School of Culinary Arts-a Division of YTI. Jenny was a member of the Colemanville United Methodist Church, Conestoga, where she was a member of the Worship Team, the Choir, the United Methodist Women, assisted with Vacation Bible School and helped with Power Pack in delivery of meals to needy Penn Manor families. Jenny was also a member of ACE (American Coaster Enthusiasts).



- **Anna E. (Potpinko) Rudzenski**, - Class of 1944 - was born in Pottstown on July 5, 1925 and was the daughter of Andrew and Mary (DeZura) Potpinko. She was married for over 60 years to Joseph Rudzenski who predeceased her in death. She was a lifelong member of St. Peter RC Church in Pottstown and more recently a member of St. Aloysius RC Church Parish. Anna was employed as a telephone operator by the Bell telephone Co. and later as a sales associate with Britts Department Store.

- [Jory G. Schwoyer](#) - Class of 1970 - born in Pottstown, he was the son of the late Grier F. and Miriam (Lebo) Schwoyer. He was the 1972 valedictorian graduate of Spring Garden College. He was the former owner and partner of Northeast Building Systems, where his expertise was the manufacturing of roof, wall, and floor trusses. He enjoyed following his sons and grandchildren in their sports, hobbies and everyday care. He had a love for reading world and local current events, time at his shore property with family and friends, morning walks to bakeries, afternoon beach time, home improvement projects, holidays at his home, and corvettes. Jory had a huge sense of humor and generosity.
 
- [Mary L. \(Sassaman\) Steiner](#) - Class of 1971 - was the loving wife of Robin Steiner, with whom she shared 36 years of marriage. Born in Pottstown, PA, she was the daughter of the late James W. and Mary L. (Heil) Sassaman. She earned an Associate Degree in Art from the Montgomery County Area Community College and was recognized for her art accomplishments and received various awards. She was also a massage therapist and holistic practitioner. Mary was a lover of animals, especially her dog Cooper. She supported various wildlife organizations.
- [Edmund M. Skarbek](#) - Class of 1958 - was born in Pottstown, PA. He was a son of the late Joseph E. Skarbek and the late Florence A. (Sroka) Skarbek. Edmund was a self-employed barber for 56 years. He also sold real estate for Herb Real Estate. He was a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Pottstown, a member of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elk's Lodge #814, Pottstown, was an avid golfer, and member of Spring Hollow Golf Club. He served as a councilman of the sixth ward from 1973-1981, president of council from 1981-1985, and served as Mayor of Pottstown from 1985-1989.
 
- [Eleanor M. \(Sell\) Kline](#) - Class of 1941 - she was the wife of Willard J. Kline with whom she would have shared 70 years of marriage this month. Eleanor was born March 7, 1924 in Pottstown, PA. She was the daughter of the late Earl and Laura (Hartman) Sell. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, and crocheting. Her favorite thing to do was spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- [Michael A. Discuillo](#) - Class of 1988 - was born in Allentown, he was the son of Nicholas Jr. and Edna M. (Zimmerman) Discuillo. Mike truly loved life and the people he associated with. He was an avid golfer.
- [Paul T. Stercula](#) - Class of 1949 - was the husband of Virginia R. (Hoffman) Stercula of Gilbertsville, PA. Born in Pottstown, PA he was the son of the late John and Anna (Lofaj) Stercula. Mr. Stercula was a tool and die maker for the former Doehler-Jarvis corporation of Stowe, PA for 40 years until his retirement in 1993. Paul had served in the U.S. Army during the [Korean Conflict](#). He was a member of St. Aloysius R.C.C.

- **Mary Ann (Mills) Lawrence** - Class of 1943 - was 90, wife of the late William Gordon Lawrence Sr. Born in Pottstown, on August 28, 1927; she was the daughter of the late William Ellis and Roberta Marie (Ray) Mills, and the granddaughter of the prominent local merchant, Ellis Mills. She graduated at age 15 from Pottstown High School in 1943, followed by a year of post graduate work at National Cathedral School in Washington, DC. Mary Ann earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Bryn Mawr College in 1948. She also attended Peirce Business School in Philadelphia. Mary Ann returned to Pottstown to work in the family business – Ellis Mills department store. In 1951, Mary Ann began her social work career at the American Red Cross, serving the Pottstown, Phoenixville, and Norristown areas. In the 1960s, she moved to Family Services of Montgomery County. Then, in the 1970s, she became an assistant nursing home administrator, serving, in order: Morris Manor East in Plymouth Meeting, Leader Nursing Home in Norristown, and Leader Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Pottstown. Later in her career, she assisted her husband in running the Ellis Mills store. After downsizing the High Street location in 1984 and the closing of the North Hanover Street store in 1991, Mary Ann and Bill continued to travel to area nursing homes, where they sold adaptive clothing to elderly patients, through a company called Caring Concepts. In 1973, alongside the Rev. Wilfred Penny, she was instrumental in the founding of the Pottstown Area Seniors Center (now the TriCounty Active Adult Center). Mary Ann subsequently served on its board for several decades. She was also a board member for the Pottstown chapter of the American Red Cross. She served on the board of the Dolphins of Delaware Valley, where she volunteered for 20 years as a visitor to residents in several area nursing homes.



- **Shawn E. Schmidt** – Class of 1991 - was the son of John and Jacque (nee Billman) Schmidt. He was a 1991 graduate of Pottstown High School, where he excelled on the wrestling and football teams. Shawn worked at The Vanguard Group for the past twenty years, most recently as a Project Administrator. Outside of work, he was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and kayaking. He also delighted in playing the guitar. He was a member of the Huxley Gun Club, Inc. and a Social Member of the Valley Forge Fire Company.





ALUMNI



- Richard Lengel** – Class of 1963 – Recently retired after spending 24½ years as the Pottstown Fire Chief. For 15 of those years he was also the Borough Fire Marshall. Lengel also logged 27 years with the Lower Pottsgrove Police Department; 14 of those as its chief. Mr. Lengel’s commitment to our community is unmatched and one of the reasons we say, “Proud to be from Pottstown.”
- Lacee Ecker** – Class of 2005 - Congratulations on being recognized as one of the top bright young business people in Pittsburgh. Lacee Ecker arrived in Pittsburgh in 2005. “I came here as an 18-year-old,” she says. “Pittsburgh has really molded me into the person I am today.” After earning both a bachelor’s degree and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, she took a job as counsel at United States Steel Corp. In 2016, she was hired as an assistant general counsel at American Eagle. At Pitt, she was an active volunteer; she wanted to continue that while working as a lawyer. In addition to other volunteer pursuits, she just marked her four-year anniversary with Little Sister and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. She acknowledges that there are countless worthy causes, but making an impact on one kid’s life is more of a proactive community service than a reactive one. “I really think that volunteering and focusing on kids is important,” Ecker says.
- Congratulations to PHS Alum **Don Davis** who will be competing with his dog “Swagger” in the National Dog Show. Click on the link to read all about it.



ALUMNI CLASS REUNIONS

We are proud of our over 19,400 Pottstown High School graduates who have distinguished themselves by making substantial contributions in all areas of business, professional, military and community life.

They are Trojans forever and give us reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown!"

Members of the Pottstown High School Class of 1967 held their 50th reunion and took a tour of the High School building to share old memories. They saw and heard about the many changes in the building and in education. Classmates all agreed the one thing that has not and will not change is their "We Are Pottstown Pride."



Pottstown High School Class of 1950 met at Sunnybrook Ballroom to celebrate their 67th year reunion. The day was filled with conversation of high school memories and pride in their school. Their reunion after so many years is an example of, once a Trojan always a Trojan. More than a few times they could be heard saying "Proud to be from Pottstown."





We Are Pottstown ...

Stay connected with all of the friends of the Pottstown School District with this exclusive membership. Learn about what is happening with the Foundation for Pottstown Education with the newsletter, stay connected to updates and news through social media, engage in networking and career opportunities at special Pottstown Pride Society events, and much more. Together we will build a better community and continue to provide opportunities for the children of Pottstown School District. Be sure to stay tuned to social media and www.foundationpottstowned.org for the Pottstown Pride Society page as we grow. We would love for you to share your successes along the way to help encourage those who follow you. Together we provide opportunities for children of Pottstown.



Pottstown Pride Society

Yes, I'm Interested in More Info

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Graduate of Pottstown? If so, Class of _____

Employer: _____

Pottstown Interests: _____



WE ARE POTTSTOWN!

Return to: Foundation for Pottstown Education
230 Beech Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Learn more about Pottstown schools – visit www.pottstownschoools.org and register for our FREE email information service.