

# April newsletter

## Tennyson Keafer: #1 in the Nation!

Tennyson Keafer is a seventh grader at Conemaugh Township who is already taking her love for her sport to the next level. She is an equestrian who is involved in two different organizations for her sport. The first is called the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), and the second is called the Youth Equestrian Development Association (YEDA). Tennyson has earned to honor of being named number one in the nation for the emerald division in her sport.

Tennyson and her horse named Zara (When I'm Sweet) have accomplished many things throughout her eight years of being an equestrian. Zara is a quarter horse who currently is being raised in Erie, so Tennyson and her family make at least one trip there a week to have practice with her. As stated before, Tennyson is ranked number one in the nation for her division. She was able to accomplish this through the YEDA organization. In this specific competition, you are asked to draw a random horse and then you are asked to ride that horse without knowing anything about it. She was placed in the emerald division due to her age.

Tennyson's favorite thing about her sport is the people and the showing in general. When asked what she would tell someone who was looking to pursue the sport of equestrianism, she said, "I would tell them that it takes a lot of time and effort, but it is definitely worth it in the end." Congrats on all of your accomplishments, Tennyson! Conemaugh Township is proud of you!



# Heritage Conference Results

This March, Conemaugh Township sent teams to compete in several academic competitions within the Heritage Conference. Conemaugh Township took part in the math, science, speech, and current events competitions. On Wednesday, March 12th, Northern Cambria hosted the speech competition and Homer-Center hosted the current events competition. Competing for the speech team was Hayden Zilch, Karly Brenchak, Emily Purdy, and Colbi Hunsberger. The speech team came 9th at the competition. Representing Conemaugh Township for the current events competition was Jacob Bartis, Emmy Allison, Gracyn Bittner, and Jaeden Holsopple. The current events team came in 5th at the competition. On Thursday, March 13th, Cambria Heights held the science competition. The team consisted of Lilly Oakes, Ellie Hunsberger, Jema Calasara, Addison Lasure, and Danika Black. The team came in 6th at the competition. On Friday, March 14th, Marion Center hosted the math competition. Representing Conemaugh Township was Brennan Lohr, Johnny Bihun, Greta Mock, Anna Hunsberger, and Isaac March. The team came in 2nd at the competition. "We came in a very close second. It was a really cool opportunity and we ended up getting a perfect score on the trigonometry section which was cool. Overall, it was really fun," says Anna Hunsberger, a sophomore member of the math team. Each team was successful in making sure Conemaugh Township was well-represented. The Heritage Academic Competition is a really cool way to show off what you know and represent your school. Thanks to all of our competitors for being great representatives of the school!

## Scholastic Quiz

- 2nd Place Team: Noah Nagy, Elle Mowery, Zolina Bittner, Evelyn Mock
  - These 7th and 8th graders are experienced Squiz participants, having previously participated in the Central Western Quiz League Series at Westmont Hilltop High School in the fall. These 4 have come such a long way since they first started in Fall 2023. A little shy their first time around at this, unsure whether to buzz in and hesitant to take risks. Now, they are buzzing in answers quickly and confidently, scoring lots of points and earning second place in the Somerset tournament!
  - Noah Nagy has been a stellar Scholastic Quiz member, correctly answered 40 questions, earning 375 of his team's 745 points throughout the day.
- 4th Place Team: Isaac Levadnuk, Ben Chapple, Jude Panetti, Hazel DeSantis
  - The second middle school team for Conemaugh Township was comprised of 6th and 7th graders new to the game this year, and this was their first time competing. They completed a very impressive run for their first time competing, earning 4th place in the Somerset tournament. Ben Chapple was a force to be reckoned with – as a 6th grader, he answered 32 questions correctly for his team, earning earning 305 of his team's 505 points.
- Our High School took 5th place: Lily Mohrbacker, Greta Mock, Anna Hunsberger, Daniel Turley, Isaac Marsh, Wesley Mock.
  - With much harder questions, the high school team still mustered an impressive 330 points throughout the day. Isaac Marsh earned 160 of those points.

Scholastic Quiz coach Jakeb Rising chaperoned the event with Jodi Forgas. Both are very proud of our CT students, impressed with their performance and sportsmanship. Mr. Rising looks forward to leading the team again in their last competition of the year on Monday, April 28th – the 30-20-10 Virtual Competition hosted by Long Island Quiz Bowl Alliance." Impressive work, Scholastic Team!

# What's Happening in the Tribe?

## Semi-Formal

On April 25, 2025, Conemaugh Township will be holding its annual semi-formal. This dance is open to students in grades 7-9. Throughout the night, there will be dancing, music, and snacks available. This event was made possible by Mrs. Sanderson and the Junior High Student Council. The council members include President Leah Kordell, Vice President Gemma Studer, Secretary Molly Hunsberger, and Treasurer Abram Mayak. When asked about why CT has this dance Mrs. Sanderson states, "We have this dance to give students the chance to have fun. It's during the PSSA testing week so it gives them time to de-stress with their friends."



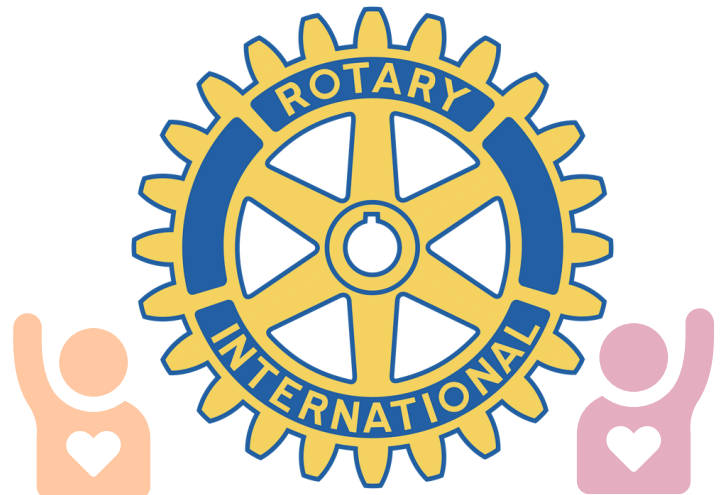
## SADD CLUB

On March 13th, the SADD club joined together at Conemaugh Township Elementary school to help with Reading Night. Reading Night is a fun-filled event where students have the opportunity to go to the elementary school and participate in many different activities. Some of these activities include a book fair, games, and crafts. The SADD club had their own room where they taught and helped students create their own Hawaiian leis. Towards the end of this month, the SADD club will be holding some activities for students participating in the PSSAs. In order to destress, they will be making stress balls using rice and flour. Jema Calasara, the co-head of the Mental Health committee states, "Last year during finals week we made stress balls for finals week. It was a great way for us to destress, and gave us an opportunity to focus our energy in different ways."



## Rotary Club

Rotary Interact will be busy in the month of April. Starting off the month, members of Rotary will be making care packages for healthcare workers to show our community's gratitude for all of their hard work. On April 21st, they will be updating the garden behind the school with spring flowers in honor of Earth Day. Nearing the end of the month, members will be traveling to Laurel View Village to aid in spring clean up around the facility. Although it is a busy time for those in Rotary, it is also very exciting. Julia Thomas says, "We are very excited to continue with our spring service projects. We are also planning and preparing for SHOFCO so it is a very exciting time."





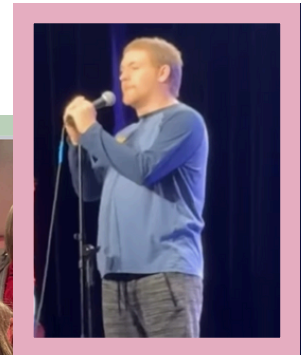
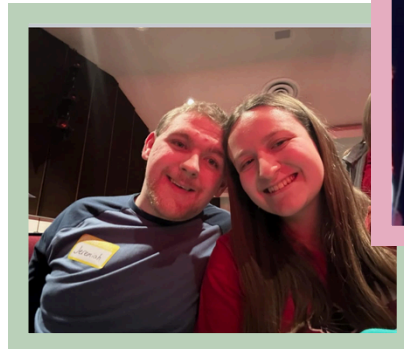
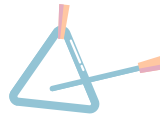
# Creativity in CT

## PMEA Band Fest + PMEA All States

On Friday, April 4, Conemaugh Township High School will be hosting the annual PMEA Band Fest. This event is open for students in 6th grade in multiple counties in PA. This year, 168 students will be joining Conemaugh Township in an all-day event. They will have the opportunity to practice with a guest conductor during the day, followed by an evening performance that friends and family can attend to witness all of the hard work they have put in. The following week, two CT students will be traveling to Kalahari Convention Center to participate in the PMEA All-State Wind Ensemble. These students are Daniel Turley playing the clarinet and Evan Massimo-Grimes playing the tuba. Both of these students have gone through extensive auditions and practices to achieve this. Throughout this process, they have had the guidance of Conemaugh Township's band director, Mrs. Catherine Grove. Good luck to all of our musicians!

## Adapted Music

Conemaugh Township is teaching its 4th year of Adapted Music. This class is led by CT's band director Mrs. Grove and two of her students, Julia Thomas and Emily Purdy. Adapted Music is offered to the students of the LifeSkills Classes which are taught by Mrs. Kopp and Mrs. Garman. In this class, students learn about different kinds of music and learn how to play many kinds of instruments. These instruments include boom whackers, the recorder, hand bells, and percussion instruments. They will be performing for Laurel View Village.



## Spring Jazz

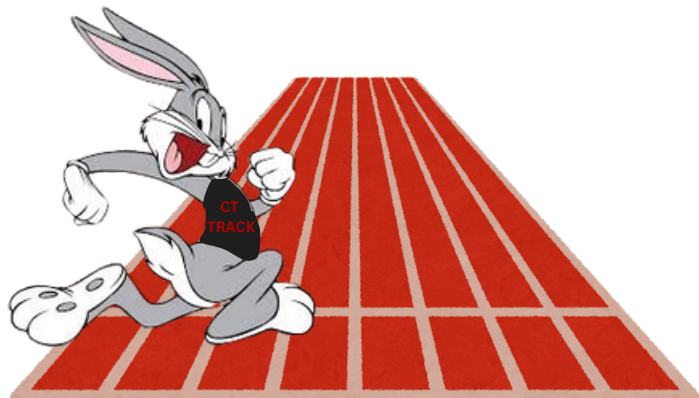
Springtime is almost in full swing this year! That means that Conemaugh Township's Jazz Band is hard at work, practicing for their spring concert. Led by Mrs. Grove, students in grades 7-12 will be participating in this concert. Jazz band includes trumpets, trombones, saxophones, piano, and percussion. Each year they have a setlist that Mrs. Grove finalizes over the school year. This year's setlist includes the songs "Birdland," "Impact Zone," "If I Don't Have You," "Oye Como Va," "On Broadway," "Just The Two Of Us," "Chameleon," and "Swing Swing Swung." They will be performing at nursing homes this month and next month, following their concert on April 22nd. Conner Hawkins says, "It is a more fun facet of the band. There is more flexibility and a less strict version. We constantly feature people, which is a nice addition we have."



# CT Sports

## Baseball

The Conemaugh Township varsity baseball team experienced great success last year, and they hope to continue on that legacy. The new head coach Tim Doyle will be coaching alongside Jeff Pryor, Steve Parker, Matthew Phillippi, Dillon Boyer, and Barry Thomas. The team is excited to start their upcoming season in hopes of continuing the legacy that last year's team left behind. The team has their first scrimmage on Tuesday, March 11 and they will start the regular season games on Tuesday, March 18. Coach Doyle said, "I believe our season will go extremely well. We have a perfect combination of young talent and senior leadership. Our players have been working extremely hard in the offseason, and we are predicting a successful season."



## Track

The Conemaugh Township varsity track and field team is gearing up for an exciting season, with a strong mix of experienced seniors and talented underclassmen ready to make an impact. The team has many talented sprinters, distance runners, and other field event specialists. Our varsity track's determined coaching staff has made sure the students get the practice and the motivation that keeps them going on throughout the season. Their first and only home meet is April 2nd. The team is excited to bring home the wins and make memories while doing it.

## Softball

The Conemaugh Township girls varsity softball team has been working hard all year to have a successful season. Their coaches include Brittany Risch (head coach), Steve Risch, and Stephanie Sharbaugh. The team started official practices the week of March 2nd and have their season opener at home against Purchase Line on March 25. Senior Jema Calasara stated, "We have some new faces this season and are excited to see how it goes. We are hoping to keep a positive attitude and accomplish some great things this year." The team is working hard at practices to get better every day and have a successful season. The varsity team is excited for their upcoming season and is looking forward to accomplishing many things.



# Our Good Little Eggs

## Middle School Students of the Month



"Beau Maurer is kind to all students. He is also an excellent student with a very nice personality."

"Tagir Valeev is a hardworking student who has a quiet humor. Tagir is a diligent student who strives for success!"



"Chance Weaver is a personable student who is very polite and friendly. Chance has a pleasant demeanor!"

## Senior High Students of the Month

"Charlotte Worst is always sweet and caring. She is considerate of others and her positive personality is contagious."



"Greyson Studer is very hardworking and a leader in the classroom. He is always kind, helpful, and very friendly at all times."



"Addison Miller has done an excellent job with Chem with Friends, Bocce ball, and is willing to help out with projects in 118. She is a great person and has a huge heart."

"Madeline Costigan has been an immense help organizing the items in the CT Boutique. She has always been polite and has a great work ethic."





# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Jennifer Custer

For eight years, Mrs. Jennifer Custer has been blessing our community with her intelligence, kindness, and love for teaching. Mrs. Custer has been a part of this community for most of her life, graduating from Richland High School in 2006. Knowing that she had a talent for teaching, she attended Shippensburg to receive a degree in Social Studies Education. Following this, she attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) to obtain a Master's Degree in English.

Mrs. Custer's love for Johnstown runs deep. After graduating from IUP, Mrs. Custer taught at Lenape Comprehensive Vocational School in Kittanning, PA for three and a half years. Although she enjoyed her time in Kittanning, she missed the community of Johnstown. She decided to move back with her husband of nine years, Mitch, a music teacher at Forest Hills. Here, they settled down and started a lovely family of four with their two children, Lila and Henry.

Mrs. Custer has been one of Conemaugh Township's Social Studies teachers for eight years. For each of those years, she has created long-lasting relationships and impressions on students and staff. Aside from teaching, Mrs. Custer enjoys a variety of things. She is very involved in the life of Johnstown and is a large advocate for making it a better place. She is also a part of Conemaugh Township's Musical Department where she handles finances and expenses.

Throughout her career here at Conemaugh Township, she has not only taught students but also supported them and guided them through their high school careers. When asked why she loves teaching, Mrs. Custer says, "My favorite part about teaching at CT is the community. I loved it so much that I ended up building a house and moving here. I work with great people and I teach great people."



"Mrs. Custer is not only an excellent teacher, but also an amazing friend. Her passion for teaching is evident and she genuinely cares about both her students and the subject she teaches. She is extremely knowledgeable in her field and is an incredibly hard worker. These traits make her an irreplaceable member of our school community."

Mrs. Shaina Sanderson



"Mrs. Custer is so knowledgeable and we learn so much from her classes. She challenges you and pushes you academically, but you really do get so much out of her classes. She's easy to talk to and is very relatable." – Jordyn Snyder

"Mrs. Custer is one of the best teachers Conemaugh Township has and we are so lucky to have her. She cares deeply for each of her students and is always doing things to help others succeed. Mrs. Custer is always there to lend a helping hand or a listening ear and is so kind and understanding. She is the definition of what an amazing teacher is and I can't imagine school without her." – Julia Thomas





## UPCOMING EVENTS

4 - 4 | ACT 80 DAY

4 - 17 | ONE HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

4 - 18 / 21 | EASTER BREAK

