



POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER



POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
PIRATES

APRIL 2023

FROM THE CEO...

Spring is here! It is hard to believe how quickly this school year is flying by!

With Spring, comes increased outdoor time. The high school will benefit from a brand-new playground and outdoor fitness area, designed to better serve our older students. Our sports programs will transition into track and field events at Cardinal Mooney's facilities. We are very grateful that they are so willing to share their space! Please look for notices on our meets, so that we can all support our PD Pirates.

Other events this Spring will include Prom for the high school students, and a group of our students will attend the YSU English Festival. Birdfish Brewery in Columbiana will host a free family friendly event on Sunday, April 30 where there will be music, raffles, games and other activities.

The Mahoning Valley Pizza Cook Off returned in person last month for the first time in three years. Thank you to everyone who supported the event by either attending or volunteering. A special thank you goes out to all of the pizzerias who had to overcome increased supply costs and staffing challenges, but still stepped up to support Potential Development!

In closing, April kicked off Autism Awareness month, where we were featured in various news stories in the media and on social media.

We appreciate your ongoing support!
- Paul

Alumni Basketball Game



The annual Varsity vs. Alumni basketball game was held on Saturday, March 11, where the Varsity team topped the Alumni team 40-34. Thirteen alumni participated in this fast-paced game where hundreds cheered on both teams. "This annual game pairing our alumni with our Varsity team was the highlight of the basketball season. Our athletes and pep club planned several surprises and everyone had a great time," said Debra Goshorn, Sports Coordinator.

We are also very excited to report that the coaching staff at Valley Christian has formally invited us to have our Alumni game there every year, and our Pep Club has been asked to perform at a game next year. Way to go!

Pizza Cook-Off for the Win



The 2023 Mahoning Valley Pizza Cook-Off was a huge success! We are delighted to say we welcomed old friends, made many new ones, ate delicious pizza and raised more than \$100,000 for Potential Development.

We are so grateful to everyone who attended, our incredible sponsors, our pizzerias, the dozens of businesses and individuals who provided auction and basket raffle items, Mr. Anthony's and our many volunteers, including Potential Development staff. Even Mother Nature couldn't stop us!



Congratulations to our winners: Best Traditional Pizza, Belleria Pizza – Struthers; Best Gourmet Pizza, Pizza Joe's; Best Non-Red Pizza, St. A's Bistro; Best Brier Hill Pizza, Cocca's Pizza; "People's Choice Award," determined by attendees' votes, Bruno Bros Pizza and the "2023 Mahoning Valley Pizza Cook-Off Maestro di Cucina" for best overall pizza, Cocca's Pizza.

Calendar of Events

May 5: Parent-Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL

May 8-12: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 13: Track Meet at Girard

May 29: Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL

Mark your calendar for High School Graduation on July 7!

Thank you to Panera Bread for Raising Dough for Autism

Our friends at Panera Bread created a new fundraiser to support Potential Development. *Raising Dough for Autism* ran through April 23 at Mahoning Valley Panera restaurants. PD received \$3 from the sale of each of their new toasted baguette sandwiches. Thanks to Covelli Enterprises for continuing their tradition with us!



Samantha Bender from WKBN, Danielle Covelli from Covelli Enterprises and Jodi Harmon from Potential Development enjoyed sampling the new toasted baguettes.



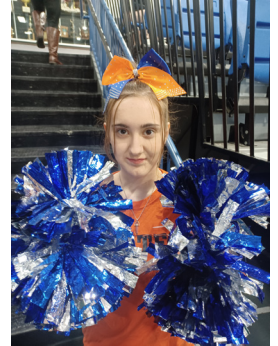
Thanks to our friends at Armstrong who helped us learn more about Earth Day. Greg Rhoton, Community Marketing and Local Programming Manager, brought pots and seeds to our Elementary students for a fun morning of planting.

Student Spotlights

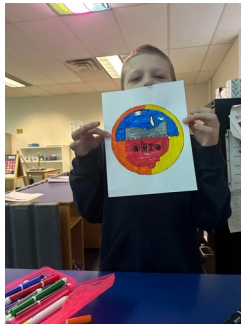


Three cheers to Senior **Malachi Signor**, who won his debut amateur boxing bout on Saturday, April 15 during the Youngstown/Salem Boxing Club's Fight to Unite 4: Fighting for Autism event, featuring 18 different matches. Malachi is a member of the Youngstown/Salem Boxing Club and said, "I'm doing it for my school and my teammates, doing it for the people that I love. My school loves me and they want to see me win the fight, not lose the fight, so they want me to win so I can win that belt."

Sophomore **Marion Stephenson** is involved in many extracurricular activities at the high school and in her community. She participates in E-Sports and Pep Club, and she also takes roller skating lessons. She is in Job's Daughters, a branch of the Masonic lodges, where she holds the State office of Librarian & will be the head of her local Job's Daughters group. Marion was First Runner Up in the Ohio Miss Job's Daughters Pageant in Columbus this month! On June 11, she will become Honored Queen of Bethel #35 of Niles/Girard Ohio. Well done!



Pours For Potential Fundraiser on April 30



Join us on Sunday, April 30, noon-4:00 p.m. for a free family fun afternoon filled with music, raffles, games, food and dessert trucks, and craft beer. Our friends at Birdfish Brewing Co., 140 E. Park Ave., Columbiana, OH 44408, will donate \$1 from every beer poured during the event, plus 100% of the proceeds from desserts sold at De Lisha's Food Truck and 20% of merchandise sales from S&T Engraving will return to Potential Development! The first 100 guests will receive a logo pint glass, courtesy of S&T. We will also display all of the artwork submitted from our Preschool-12th grade students and the winners of the contest will be announced at the event.

Padgett Siblings Encourage Philanthropy



Katie, Lauren and Andrew Padgett recently became a member of the PD 100, a recognition for those with a giving level of \$1,000 or more. The Padgett children earn their own money, decide where to direct it and regularly volunteer at school events. They hope that their gifts of time and treasure will encourage others to give back in a meaningful way. Their recent contribution will be instrumental in the purchase of audiobooks for the Elementary/Middle School Library. We appreciate their generosity and love of giving!