

June 2023

TIGER TRIBUNE

NEWS FROM PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Making Memories with Grandparents" Event Draws Record Numbers



The Pawling Elementary School gymnasium hummed with conversation as families worked on crafts and enjoyed potluck-style snacks. All ages enjoyed "Making Memories with Grandparents," an annual event hosted on Friday, May 5, by Pawling Schools' Stone Soup Committee.

Organized by Pawling School District Community Involvement Coordinator Joan Roberts, the event has been running for over 20 years and is a beloved tradition in the Pawling community.

"Making Memories with Grandparents" invites children in the community to join their grandparents for a unique bonding experience at Pawling Elementary School. This year's

activities included cutting and decorating paper doll chains and creating word clouds – pieces of art featuring words that grandparents and grandchildren chose to describe one another.

“The goal is to bring the community into the school district and create an atmosphere where children and adults learn something new together,” said Roberts.

The night wrapped up with a round of musical chairs: a favorite activity that has become a tradition in recent years. The game was set to a playlist of requests that ran the gamut from vintage classics like "Tennessee Waltz" to "La Salsa Vive" and even the song "Peaches" from The Super Mario Bros. Movie.

Clearly the crowd favorite, the game prompted giggles and shouts as everyone danced their way around rows of chairs. The winners received thoughtful prizes: a photo frame inscribed with "Grandkids Make Life Grand" for Joseph Milord, grandfather to third grade student Sean Milord, and a Jenga game for second grader Noah Maucieri.

Though bonding and togetherness is the primary focus, there is a hidden academic piece as well.

“We always try to incorporate an educational element,” Roberts said. “The crafts this year focus on creativity, scissor skills, vocabulary and spelling.”

This aspect was not lost on second-time attendee Frank Valenta, grandfather to a Pawling Elementary first grade student.

“I was looking forward to seeing how her skills and interactions evolved this year,” Valente said. “Plus, I always have a good time when I’m with her!”

Though primarily geared toward elementary-aged students and their families, "Making Memories with Grandparents" is open to the entire community. This year's event saw over 160 attendees – the highest number ever – and Roberts looks forward to even more school and community involvement in the future.

“The kids and grandparents just love enjoying this time together,” said Roberts. “It’s adorable and a very special night. I love it and am proud to be a part of it.”

Special thanks to Joan Roberts’ husband David and son Colin as well as her friend and valued community member Camille Ludington for their time volunteering to make this year’s event a success.



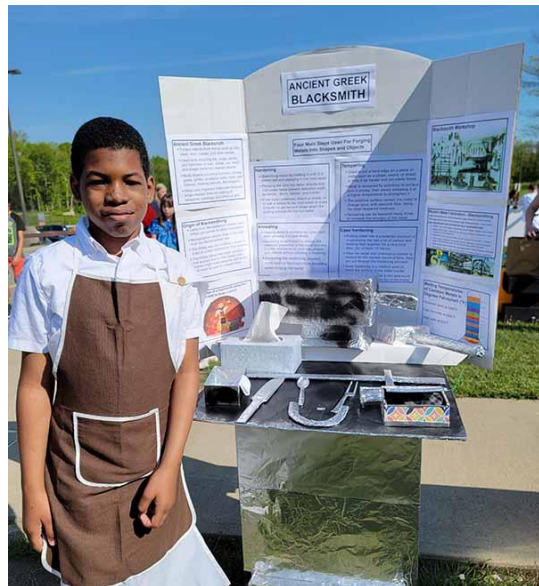
Visitors Charmed by Pawling Middle School's Greek Agora



Pawling Middle School sixth grade students delighted parents, friends, and the school community with presentations at the annual Greek Agora on Friday, May 12.

In ancient Greece, the agora was a bustling marketplace in the heart of the city. Students worked to create their own agora by individually undertaking the study of an occupation or role that would have existed during the time period and developing a presentation about it. Roles ranged from traders and weavers to architects, soldiers, blacksmiths, and even mythological gods and goddesses.

"It's an experiential learning experience that wraps up all of the nuts and bolts of the unit," said Mr. Ackerman, one of Pawling's sixth grade social studies teachers. "They truly get an understanding of what life was like back then in small snippets."



Sixth-graders prepared in class and at home as well as during cross-curricular lessons with school librarian Clair Magnesio, who taught proper research methods. They then developed their findings into presentations, creating costumes, props, and displays to represent a well-researched slice of ancient Greek life.

The sixth grade social studies teachers made the process a memorable learning experience from start to finish; students were even randomly assigned roles via a digital tool playfully referred to as the "Wheel of Death," a method inspired by the three Fates (mythological Greek goddesses who were thought to control a person's destiny). Ackerman explained that his students could turn down their first role and spin the wheel a second time, however, since the three Fates also allowed humans a level of free will.

Donning togas and homemade armor, students displayed their hard work and educated visitors – including friends and family – about their areas of expertise in an outdoor space set up like a marketplace. Teachers evaluated their presentations during the event.



Armor-clad student Scarlett Holland brandished a handmade sword and shield as she presented her work as an ancient Greek soldier.

“It was all fun, but my favorite part was making everything,” she said. “I really like art and wanted to do my best.”

Her mother, Celinda Gomez, explained that the experience became a passion for her daughter, who set up a dedicated workshop in her bedroom to create her materials.

“This event has been a wonderful learning experience for her,” said Gomez. “It gave her an opportunity to express herself and show what she had learned.”

Other exhibits included inspired versions of ancient Greek blacksmith tools, art, pottery, and even an authentically-designed weaving

loom.

Some students truly inhabited their roles. The goddess Athena (also known as sixth-grader Caroline Clark) explained the significance of the owl that Athena kept on her shoulder:

“Well, I’m the goddess of wisdom and the owl is wise, strong, and powerful – like me!”

Special thanks to parent Craig McGrath, who generously donated a number of tri-fold poster boards to the students for this project.

Student Achievements Shine at Pawling High School’s Science Research Symposium



Have you ever thought about the possibility that there may be habitable planets outside our solar system? Maybe you've wondered about new ways to use 3D-printed objects, or wish that you knew more about factors that could lead to dementia.

On Wednesday, May 17 the Pawling school community had the opportunity to gain some insight on these topics – and learn even more – at Pawling High School's ninth annual Science Research Symposium.

Hosted by Pawling High School's SUNY Albany-accredited science research program, the symposium acted as a platform for participating students to present their most recent work. The program is a rigorous three-year elective course that students enter as sophomores with a commitment to continue through senior year.

Students learn about the research process, connect with expert mentors, and choose a topic to investigate. They progressively expand the scope of their research efforts throughout the program while gaining opportunities to share their work at all stages via competitions and events like the symposium.

The event kicked off with a poster session in the high school cafeteria. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors displayed posters and engaged attendees in discussions about their latest research efforts. Following the presentations, the program's four graduating seniors took to the auditorium stage to formally share their work via PowerPoint presentations.

Sophomore Marlene Ruiz's display centering on astronomy, exoplanets, and artificial intelligence seemed to both baffle and fascinate her visitors. Their faces revealed dawning comprehension, however, as she confidently walked them through the subject by answering questions and referring to visual aids on her poster.

Though she is fascinated by astronomy, Ruiz explained that her topic was a departure from her original topic: art therapy.

"Once I started researching it I realized that there isn't much more to be done in that area," she said. "I've always been into astronomy and there was much more to investigate, so it was a good switch."

Senior Samuel Mejorado, whose research centered on the topic of biofuel, agreed that the program opened his eyes to new areas: he came into the program with a desire to investigate coral reef restoration. He credited Science Research Director Gillian Rinaldo – who runs the program and works closely with her students to help them reach their goals – with gently guiding him to a subject he hadn't considered before.

"She's very perceptive about noticing what we might be interested in, even if we start out with something different in mind," said Mejorado. "She paid attention to what I was doing and helped lead me in a direction that I hadn't really considered."

Mejorado will be attending the University of Buffalo this fall and is currently writing a proposal to expand on his work in the college laboratories.

Though Mejorado and many other students in the program plan on an academic career in the sciences, some use the experience as a unique way to explore personal passions and come away with skills that will serve them in the future. Junior Chelsea Hodge plans to study business in college and is confident that her coursework will serve her in the future.

"I'm going to be able to take the social and professional aspects of this work and bring them to new areas when I study business," she said. "Working with a mentor, doing professional research, becoming more confident and independent – I'm getting a lot out of it."

Gillian Rinaldo said that she looks forward to the symposium every year as a way for her students to both practice their presentation skills and show the community what they know. This year she was particularly impressed with the professionalism of their posters.

"They all really took the time to make them teaching tools and not just standalone pieces," said Rinaldo. "I think people noticed and appreciated that."

Among the attendees were mentors, teachers, administrators, parents, friends, and even younger Pawling students. Parent Jean Milord brought along his elementary- and middle school-aged sons in hopes that the symposium might spark an interest in science.

"I want to show them what the sciences can look like and expose them to the resources at Pawling," said Milord. "This event was the perfect chance to broaden their perspective and opportunity if they enjoy what they see."

We look forward to many more years of welcoming students into Pawling's Science Research Program.



Digital Backpack

The **digital backpack** is updated regularly with information from the schools and local community. You can find a link for it under the Parent tab of the homepage. It is also listed on the homepage with the date of the most recent update.

We Are Hiring!

The Pawling Central School District is a great place to work. We have positions open for full-time permanent building substitute teachers, typists and custodial workers. We also have substitute positions open in many other job categories: certified teacher, uncertified teacher, teaching assistant, teacher aide, monitor, bus driver and food service worker. We also have part-time positions open, such as school monitor. Full-time positions earn excellent benefits. As a team of educators, we never doubt that we are making a difference for our community. PCSD offers walk-throughs and orientations for those thinking about working in schools. Our very best employees are often people who live in our community. Diverse and bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply. See the link below to reach our friendly and helpful Human Resources Team.

https://www.pawlingschools.org/human_resources

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