



# Courier

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Conrad Weiser Area School District

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## National Merit Program Recognizes Students



Seniors Gabe Reber and Alex Potcovaru have earned honors in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. Gabe was named a Commended Student, and Alex gained finalist status. Alex will continue in the competition for more scholarship opportunities. Congratulations to two of Weiser's finest!

## CW West Holds Wellness Fair



High school agriculture students pose with CW West students following their session which answered the question "Where does food come from?" Students looked at whole foods (soy beans, corn, wheat, etc) and how they appear in the foods people eat. The CW West wellness committee organized a hybrid health fair where students moved from station to station learning about a variety of health and wellness topics. Other topics included bike safety, geocaching, diabetes education, healthy eating, and dental health.

## Smokin' Motors to Compete at States



Smokin' Motors team members Ingrid Rumbaugh and Austin Frownfelter show middle school student observers a video of their robotics competition.

Smokin' Motors, the Conrad Weiser High School Robotics team, continues to excel in its third year of existence. In November the team won first place in the Southeastern PA Regional Qualifying Tournament. They bested 19 other teams from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. They also were honored for the "Winning Alliance Captain."

Smokin' Motors has also won second place in the "Inspire" category for three years. The Inspire Award is the highest

award given by the First Tech Challenge (FTC) to a role model team. In December the team placed second out of 36 teams from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland in the Eastern PA Regional Qualifying Tournament. They earned a place to compete in the Maryland State championship that will be held at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in February and in the Pennsylvania State championship in March. Congratulations!

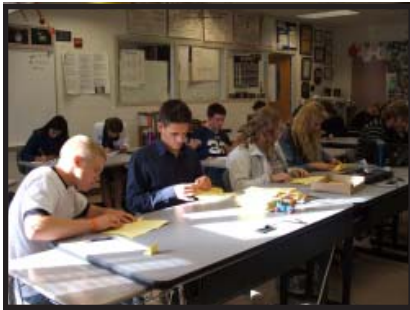
## Grease is the Word!

The musical *Grease* will be featured at the high school this spring! Travel back in time with us to 1959, as we go to Rydell High School with The Burger Palace Boys and The Pink Ladies! The show includes great music and dancing of the sock-hop era, including some of the most-loved songs from the movie version. With a cast of more than 60, the show is full of energy, laughter, and memories of teen years for all. Cast members include Becca Snyder as Sandy, Connor Dautrich as Danny, Megan Bright as Rizzo, and Alex Potcovaru as Kenickie.

Rounding out The Pink Ladies are Kirsten Lebo, Morgan Keener, and Liz Hawley. The Burger Palace Boys include Tyler Ravert, Phillip Weiser, and Grayson Ziegler. Other featured cast members include Michael Confalone, Nick Schmoyer, Rosalie Brunner, Cassidy Franco, Makayla Lagerman, Justin Cox, Kayla Aulenbach, and Gabe Reber.

**Showtimes:** Friday, April 11 at 7:30pm, Saturday April 12 at 2pm, and Saturday April 12 at 7:30pm. Tickets go on sale Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to the public. \$10 each  
610-693-8599 ext 6654 or  
c\_kirkhoff@conradweiser.org

## High School Students Help Local Libraries with Recycling Focus



Members of the Algorithmics Club at the high school fold envelopes (made from 30% post-consumer recycled paper) to be used as pencil holders for America Recycles Day on November 15.

High school students spent some time to help the Robesonia, Womelsdorf, and Wernersville libraries with an activity they undertook for America Recycles Day. The libraries distributed envelopes with three pencils in them: one made from recycled U.S. currency, one made from recycled denim, and one made from recycled newsprint. The pencils were given to kids who kept a calendar of all of their recycling activities over the previous month.

## High School Departments Collaborate on Day of the Dead



High school students pose with gravestones at the annual Day of the Dead celebration on November 1. The art, culinary science, anatomy and physiology, Spanish, German, business, and global studies classes collaborated to honor this Latin American tradition.

## National Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twenty-nine juniors and seniors who have earned a 3.5 average, assumed leadership positions inside or outside of school, provided service to others, and are of solid character were inducted into the CW High School Chapter's National Honor Society.

	<u>Returning Members</u>	
Megan Bright- <i>President</i>	Madeline Daschbach	Jessica Duncan
Taylor Epler	Brian Fitzpatrick- <i>Treasurer</i>	David Gerhart
Anastasia Goudy	Benjamin Harakel	Alena La- <i>Secretary</i>
Kirsten Lebo- <i>Vice President</i>	Andrew Meglathery	David Nelson
Lindsay Palm	Alex Potcovaru	Brandon Raihl
Tyler Ravert	Ingrid Rumbaugh	Aaron Sadowski
Jenna Sattazahn	Courtney White	Rebecca Wright

<u>2013 Inductees</u>		
Troy Abell	Kayla Aulenbach	Mitchell Boyer
Reese Buckholz	Connor Dautrich	Carl Doughman
Aarika Ferko	Austin Frownfelter	Madison Goudy
Anthony Gresoi	Elizabeth Hawley	Christina Kohler
Makayla Lagerman	Cheyenne Miller	Tyler Moore
Hannah Racis	Kristin Racis	Leah Ruth
Austin Schneck	Austin Schubert	Rebecca Snyder
Brandon Wagner	Taylor Wagner	William Wagner III
Zachary Wagner	Lemuel Wansley III	Matthew Werner

## Community Members Invited to Nominate Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni Program seeks to recognize CW graduates who have proven – through their lifetime achievements – to be a source of pride for the Conrad Weiser community, as well as a source of inspiration to its students.

The nominee should have distinguished himself or herself in a field or profession and earned recognition at a regional, national, or international level.

Please submit name of nominee, date of graduation from CW, and a list of career accomplishments to Dr. Betsy Adams, CW High School, 44 Big Spring Rd., Robesonia, PA 19551.

## CW Education Foundation Awards Grants to Teachers



First grade teachers Louise Houtz, Molly Balthaser, Melissa Bowser, Shannon Gray, and Melissa Reider were awarded a grant from the Education Foundation for a trip to the Reading Public Museum and Planetarium for their students. For more information on the Education Foundation, check out [conradweiser.org](http://conradweiser.org)!

## Ceremony Recognizes Distinguished Alumni



Mary Jane Fogal Ferrell  
Class of 1956

Mary Jane Fogal Ferrell is a nurse educator who has developed programs for educating nurses in Ghana, New Mexico, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ferrell served as a nurse/missionary in Ghana for three years and at a mission school in New Mexico for four years, teaching residents to become nurses. From 1975-1980 she headed a project in New Mexico to articulate nursing education.

After working at the University of New Mexico while completing her doctorate in adult education, Dr. Ferrell spent a year as Chairperson of the Department of Nursing at the University of Albuquerque. She moved to El Paso, Texas and was the Director of Continuing Education at the College of Nursing and Allied Health at the University of Texas at El Paso. In 1990, Mrs. Ferrell returned to Pennsylvania and was Director, Nursing Staff Development, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Assistant Dean for Continuing Education, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania. After retiring in 1995 she has continued as a consultant in Nursing Education.

Dr. Ferrell served as President of the New Mexico Nurses Association for two years and as Chairperson of the American Nurses Association Council of Continuing Education and Staff Development. She received an Honorary Award from the New Mexico Nurses Association in 1978 and received a Legend of Nursing Award from New Mexico in 2004. She was also named Delaware Nurse of the Year in 1998.

Mary Jane Fogal Ferrell graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1956. She received her nursing degree in 1959 at Lankenau School of Nursing; her BSN from Wilkes; her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania; and her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.



Robert R. Gerhart  
Class of 1937

Mr. Robert "Bob" Gerhart is an entrepreneur, newspaperman, public relations executive and politician.

Mr. Gerhart was a journalist for The Reading Times for ten years; editor of a weekly labor newspaper, The New Era, for almost thirty years; and did public relations for AAA, including producing its publication *On the Road* for fifty-six years.

Bob created his own public relations firm, Roberts & Company, in the early 1940's and serviced prominent businesses and labor unions in the Reading area, as well as candidates for local and state political office. He also was public relations director for the City of Reading. Bob served as a vice president of the International Labor Press Association for 10 years.

Bob embarked on his own political career serving as State Representative for one term (1966-1968) and one term as State Senator from 1968 to 1972. In the Senate he was elected Secretary of the Democratic Caucus. He was appointed by Gov. Milton J. Shapp as executive director of the State Public School Building Authority and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Facilities Authority for eight years. In the latter position, Bob was credited with salvaging Point Park College (now University) in Pittsburgh from bankruptcy. He received honorary doctorates from Point Park College and Albright College.

As a multi-tasker, Bob owned the Diamond Beach Resort at Wildwood, New Jersey for 20 years. He built the Tahiti Motel and owned Crest Tavern, plus three dance clubs—Playpen, Oasis, and Cheers. He also built a club in Naples, Florida and owned two more entertainment centers in New York state. He is co-owner of Sierra Grille, a restaurant in Jacksonville, Florida.

Bob created Suburban Cable TV Co. in 1967, bringing cable to communities around Reading. He later expanded his company and eventually sold it to a subsidiary of Time-Life, Inc. In addition he was a co-founder of Birdsboro Blacktop Co.

Robert Gerhart graduated from Robesonia High School in 1937 and Albright College in 1941. In 2004 he and his wife donated 1.5 million dollars to Albright College to endow a faculty chair in communications.



## CW East Students Honor Veterans



Almost 100 local veterans responded to the invitation sent out to join CW East for Veteran's Day. Students, faculty and staff paid tribute to the sacrifices these heroes have made for the country.

## High School Students Salute Veterans with Music



Mr. Sean Hackett, high school vocal music teacher, joins a small contingent of high school band students in paying tribute to local veterans as they made a stop at the high school on Veteran's Day. The high school social studies club organizes a program to honor veterans each year as they make their way down 422 from Wernersville to Womelsdorf.

### Conrad Weiser Area School Board

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Published for citizens of the Conrad Weiser Area School District. Submit news of school or community interest to the *Courier* at the above address. Include your name and phone number for verification purposes. Timely articles will be used as space allows.

**January 2014**

## Employee of the Month Composes and Records Song



*Steven Long*

Mr. Steven Long was honored by the school board for working with a group of educators from CW East on Expectations for students. Not only did he help to write these expectations, but he also wrote and recorded a song to go with them and help students to remember them. Mr. Long even led a group of faculty members in song during the Veteran's Day assembly. His musical expertise has definitely added an extra dimension to the school climate!

## Zombie Run Held at High School



High school physical education classes held a Zombie Run for Halloween as a way to combine fitness with fun. Check out one of the zombies in the upper left corner of this photo!

## Help With PSAT Results

High school juniors and their parents are invited to log onto [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/quickstart.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/quickstart.html) for help in interpreting the results of their PSATs. The board supports students financially in this venture because of the feedback and instruction this test offers to students. Take advantage of this great resource.