

# HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Volume 1, Issue 4 CASD Social Studies Department

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## Department Teacher Spotlight:

### **Mr. Pham – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Cultures & Geography Lamberton Middle School**

Mr. Pham has taught in the district for 25 years. He is a Carlisle graduate and feels very blessed to have a job in the district. His family fled from Laos in 1979 due to the spread of communism and arrived to Carlisle in 1980. He states he had fabulous teachers in the Carlisle Area School District that worked with him to learn the English language and the American culture. Mr. Pham says that being a teacher in the district is his way of giving back to the supportive community.

Mr. Pham received his undergraduate degree from Shippensburg University. He has an Elementary Certification with a minor in reading and Secondary Social

Studies Certification from 7-9. His favorite thing about teaching 7th graders is he gets to inspire and promote diversity in the world we live in. Mr. Pham's favorite thing about teaching world cultures and geography is he gets to encourage students to appreciate their own culture in addition to learning about other cultures in the community and the world. Helping students to understand the differences, showing respect, and embracing the rich cultures around is very rewarding to Mr. Pham. He makes Pham-delicious egg rolls, and he is the youngest of 9 kids. A fun fact is that he has more shoes than his wife and three kids. If Mr. Pham could be any superhero, it would have to be Superman, because he helps everyone when they are in need. Mr. Pham says that growing up as a kid, his first superhero shirt was Superman, and it was his favorite cartoon to watch in the morning before going to school.



### **Mr. Sheeder – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade World Cultures & Geography Wilson Middle School**

Mr. Sheeder has been a teacher for five years now – three years in Utah and two years here in Pennsylvania. He received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University. Mr. Sheeder says his favorite thing about teaching 6<sup>th</sup> graders is he loves how they are young enough to still be excited and willing to put

themselves out there to learn but becoming mature enough to discuss more serious topics. His favorite item about teaching world cultures and geography is getting to teach a wide variety of subjects and topics based on country's different cultures. Two fun facts about Mr. Sheeder – he can whistle at 104 decibels and he loves playing football and soccer, reading fantasy and science fiction, watching movies and barbecuing. Students would be surprised to learn that Mr. Sheeder's worst grade he ever received in school was in a middle school social studies class (for the record, he was sick for three weeks straight!). If he could be any superhero, he would be Superman – because he's the best! (Seems like there is a theme this month with all our Superman fans.)



## Congratulations to Students

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars holds local, regional, state and national competitions for various grades. Middle school students have the Patriot's Penn Essay and high school students have the Voice of Democracy audio essay. Each type of entry revolves around a certain theme or question each year. We were pleased to learn in late December that the following students placed at the local level and will now advance to the regional competition.



### **This year's themes were:**

Middle School – "My Pledge to Veterans"

High School – "Why is the Veteran Important?"

### **VFW Post 477 Voice of Democracy Winners (Carlisle):**

1<sup>st</sup> - Alyssa L. Watson (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

2<sup>nd</sup> - Eva Ball (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

### **VFW Post 7343 Voice of Democracy Winners (Mount Holly):**

1<sup>st</sup> – Aditi Patel (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

### **VFW Post 477 Patriot's Pen Winners (Carlisle):**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Ingrid N. Stottlemeyer (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

## Department Happenings: What's Going On in Our S.S. Classrooms?

### Lamberton MS/ 7W Entrepreneurs

After learning about economics in social studies, Mr. Pham's 7W students had an opportunity to be entrepreneurs.

Each class raised between \$20 and \$30 for supplies. The goal was to recover the cost of the expense and make lots of profit. The students brainstormed and creatively came up with products that they thought would sell the best. Core 1 sold Beads in a Bottle, Core 2 sold Hot Chocolate, Core 3 sold Bead Jewelry, and Core 4 sold Super Sticky Stickers.



The prices ranged from 50¢ to \$2.00. Students also made posters that they hung up around the school and made daily announcements to promote their sales.

**All four classes combined brought in an impressive amount of \$415.** The four classes agreed to donate all the money they made to Project Share to support families in our community.



### USAWC African American Essay Contest

The United States Army War College (USAWC) is sponsoring an essay writing contest, open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from local public and private schools. Each essay should focus on the contributions and history of African Americans as they apply to the 2023 theme **"Inspiring Change."** Students may base their essays on a variety of areas pertaining to "Inspiring Change" that includes, but is not limited to: people,

social movements and its importance, initiatives/boycotts that made positive changes within the Black community, and current day social perspectives as it pertains to resisting inequality. Students interested in participating should see their grade-level social studies teacher for additional details or click [HERE](#) to access a more detailed description on the website.

### National History Day at CASD

The local History Day competition is only a month away – **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>!** A reminder to all students that the final application for their project is due to Mr. Wagner **by Friday, January 6.** The application can be found on our district website NHD page located [HERE](#).

**NOTE:** We are still looking for judges that would be willing to assist in helping with the NHD Local History Day program. Each year requires about 50+ volunteers to help evaluate projects. No history background is necessary, just a love for learning something new about history! And new judges are paired with experienced ones and an easy-to-use scoring rubric is provided in advance. If interested in being a judge, please contact Mr. Kevin Wagner at [wagnerk@carliseschools.org](mailto:wagnerk@carliseschools.org) or (717) 240-6800 x26132. Thank you!



### Important January Dates in History

January is named after the Roman god Janus. He had two faces so he could see the future and the past. He was also the god of doors.

- 1/1/1892 – Ellis Island opens as immigration gateway
- 1/3/1959 – Alaska becomes the 49<sup>th</sup> state in the Union
- 1/5/1933 – Works begins on the Golden Gate Bridge
- 1/10/1944 – GI Bill signed into law
- 1/14/1981 – Iran hostage crisis ends
- 1/15/1943 – Pentagon is completed in D.C.
- 1/16/1991 – Operation Desert Storm begins in Iraq
- 1/19/1983 – Apple introduces first personal computer
- 1/23/1922 – Insulin is first used
- 1/25/1933 – First minimum wage set at 35 cents/hour
- 1/28/1986 – Challenger explodes just after takeoff
- 1/30/1968 – The Tet Offensive begins in Vietnam