

THE ROHISTAT

The latest Rockwood news, views and announcements

NEWS & FEATURES

Musical

School Events

Spring Sports

Editorials

FFA

Community Events

Creative Corner



BACK TO THE 80'S

This year's spring musical "Back to the 80's" was held on Friday, March 8th, and Saturday, March 9th in the high school auditorium. The show consisted of wonderful singing, high-energy dance numbers, and some great acting skills from our Rockwood students. The audience was entertained with classic and iconic songs like: "Never Gonna Give You Up", "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun", and many others. The performance was a great success. Congratulations to the cast and crew!



By: Mariam Poghosyan

Rockwood Events

Junior Class Holocaust Trip

By: Natalie Gary

On March 1st, the Junior class visited the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Before visiting the museum, the juniors visited other memorials; they saw the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. Upon entering the museum, each visitor was given a booklet. These booklets each contained a different story of a victim of the Holocaust. The group started on the top floor of the museum, which covered the start of World War II and the rise of Adolf Hitler. The next floor explained the discrimination of Jewish individuals leading to the Holocaust. The final floor of the tour showed stories of people's lives after the Holocaust and exhibits including artifacts recovered from concentration camps. The experience ended with a few moments of silence in The Hall of Remembrance. The chaperones for this year's D.C. field trip were Mr. Formica, Mr. Wagner, Mrs. Langley-Burkhardt, and Ms. Mitchell.

Special Olympics

By: Josh Wagner

This year over 30 Rockwood students volunteered to help at the Special Olympics. More than 300 athletes, coaches, and volunteers participated in the games held at Seven Springs. The event kicked off on February 13th with the much anticipated lighting of the Olympic cauldron. Events included Snowshoeing and several levels of Alpine Slalom. Some Rockwood students assisted with setting up awards inside, while others helped outside to cheer on the athletes during their events. The Special Olympics were a great success, and students look forward to returning next year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27th: Early Dismissal

April 2nd: Return from Spring Break

April 25th: Spring Band Concert

April 27th: Prom

May 7th: Chorus Concert

ROCKWOOD SPORTS

VARSITY SOFTBALL

By: Adeline Barkman

With spring approaching soon, softball here at Rockwood is beginning to start up. Mandatory practice for all spring sports begins March 4, but the girls have been getting an early start on the season with open gyms. The roster will consist of many returning players but also some incoming freshmen who are projected to be a crucial asset to the team. The girls will be coached once again by Chad Lytle, Shanda Pletcher, and Gregory King. Additionally, Brooke Snyder will be leading the way as the Rockwood softball team's lone senior. This new season and the ICC will also bring more challenges and tougher competition for the Lady Rockets. The girls will come face-to-face with one of those teams right off the bat during their first game of the season against last year's state champions, Everett. Regardless, they have a promising season ahead of them and good things to come as long as they continue to work hard and stay focused. Be sure to wish our Lady Rockets 'good luck' and don't forget to come support them!



TRACK AND FIELD

By: Hannah Galway

This year the Rockwood Track team is doing a co-op with Meyersdale Senior High School. There are 10 Rockwood students on this year's roster, including two seniors: Dustin Dran and Alexa Lintz. The girl's team also includes Audrey Marko, Lauryn Jones and Freddie Sutton. The Junior High Track team consists of 5 students: Tyler Johnson, Luke Kleinert, Coltin McClure, Phoenix Roberts and Makiia Walker. There are 14 track meets scheduled for this season, kicking off with Southern Fulton on March 22nd. Be sure to wish all of the athletes luck as they begin their season!

VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL

By: Aaron Show

The varsity baseball team is coached by Steve Barto who has been coaching the team for many years. The seniors on the team are Aaron Show, Hunter Whipkey, Josh Wagner, and Roger Wilson. Since December, the team has been working out with the brand-new equipment in the weight room for off-season exercise. This is the first year the baseball team has used this facility and they hope it will show on the field during the season. More recently, the team also started open gyms. Two nights a week, the team gets together to practice batting, fielding, and baserunning. New this year is the movement of Rockwood sports to the Inter-County Conference (ICC), instead of the Western Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (WPAC) in previous years. This new conference will bring new, tougher teams in the future. Additionally, the team will have to travel further than before for away games. The team had their first scrimmage against Greater Johnstown on March 12 and opened their season with a home game against North Star the following week. The team hopes to perform well during the regular season to qualify for playoffs.

FEATURED EDITORIAL

Groundhog's Day 2024

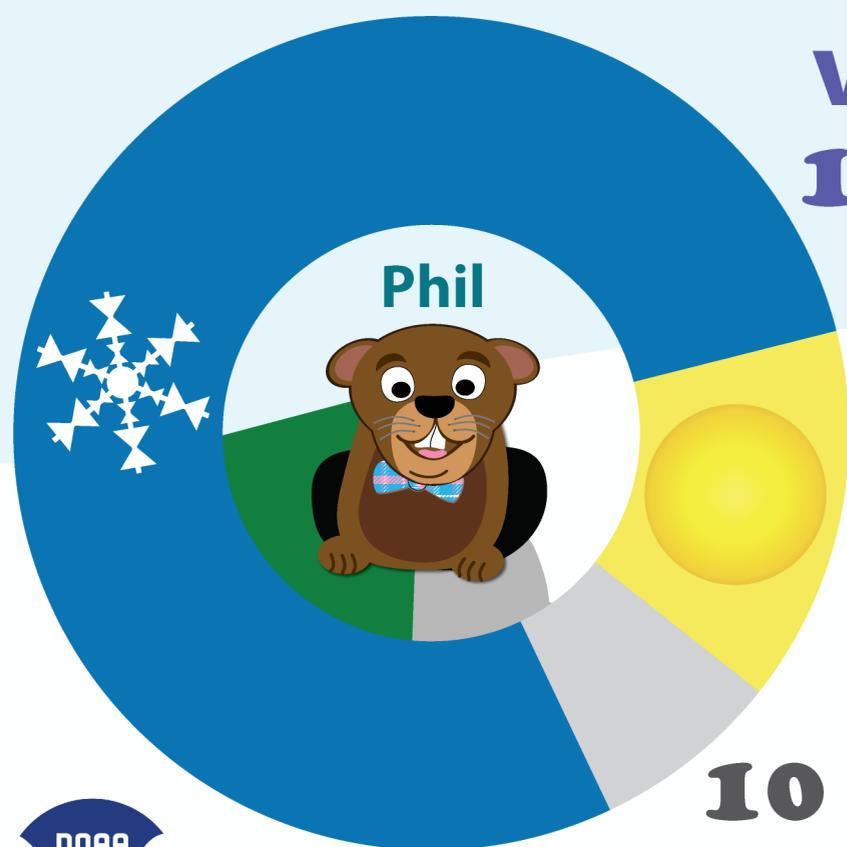
By: Emma Pletcher

On February 2nd, 2024, the annual Groundhog Day celebration was held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It is a tradition for Phil to come out every year at the same time. The tradition is based upon whether or not Phil sees his shadow, and what that will mean for the weather forecast. This year Phil didn't see his shadow, so an early spring is predicted.



We are still experiencing winter weather even though spring is on its way. It's not very reliable that we are listening to a groundhog to determine what the weather is going to be like in six weeks. The area that we all live in is very unpredictable because one day it can be snowing and the next day it is sunny out. Therefore, we all know that the groundhog is not a true statement of what the weather will be, so we should all just enjoy the tradition and festivities that surround the holiday.

Phil's predictions since 1887



More Winter
shadow
107 times

Early Spring
no shadow
20 times

no record
10 times



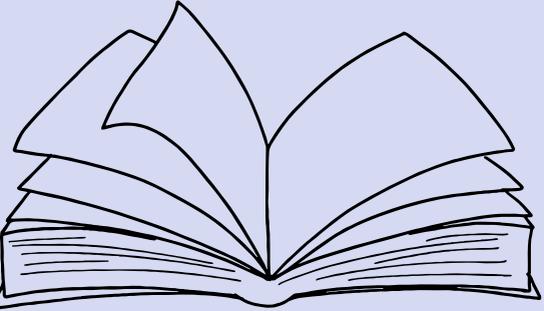
Punxsutawney Phil vs. the U.S. National Temperature

Year	SHADOW	TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES		DID PHIL GET IT RIGHT?
		February	March	
2023	✓	☀️	❄️	✗
2022	✓	❄️	☀️	✗
2021	✓	❄️	☀️	✗
2020	✗	☀️	☀️	✓
2019	✗	❄️	❄️	✗
2018	✓	☀️	☀️	✗
2017	✓	☀️	☀️	✗
2016	✗	☀️	☀️	✓
2015	✓	❄️	☀️	✗
2014	✓	❄️	❄️	✓

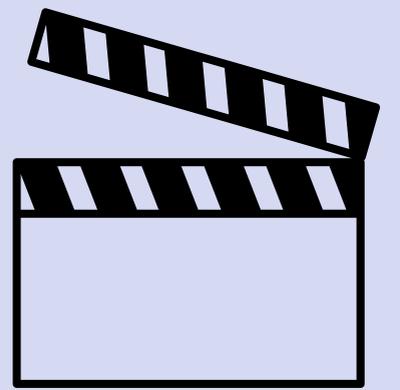
❄️ Below ❄️ Slightly Below ☀️ Slightly Above ☀️ Above

30% In the past 10 years, Phil has been **RIGHT 30%** of the time.

Source: www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/



Book vs. Movie: The Giver



By: Chloe Weaver & Julianne Barto

The Giver, by Lois Lowry, was originally a book that was later made into a movie. The main character, Jonas, is nervous about his upcoming Ceremony of Twelve. In his society, every person is assigned a job or role in the community when they turn 12 years old. Everything is in the control of the elders of the community, who announce each person's role at the ceremony. Jonas is assigned a special role and receives special training from The Giver. The Giver's job is to hold all of the memories of the pains and pleasures of life.

In the book, Jonas and his friends are twelve years old. However, in the movie the actors look closer to eighteen years old. There is also a difference in the roles they are assigned. In the book, Fiona was assigned to take care of the elderly people instead of taking care of babies like she did in the movie. Asher is assigned to be a recreation director in the book, but in the movie, he is assigned to be a pilot, adding to the action of the film.

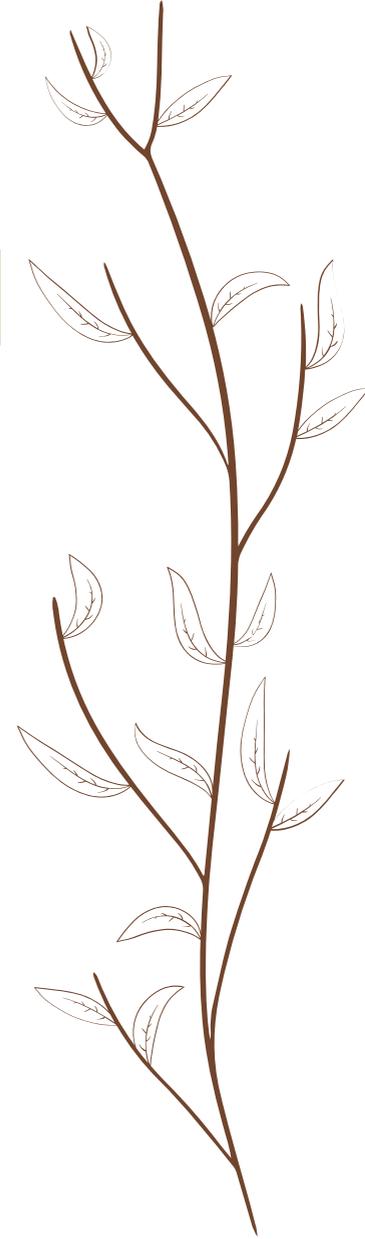
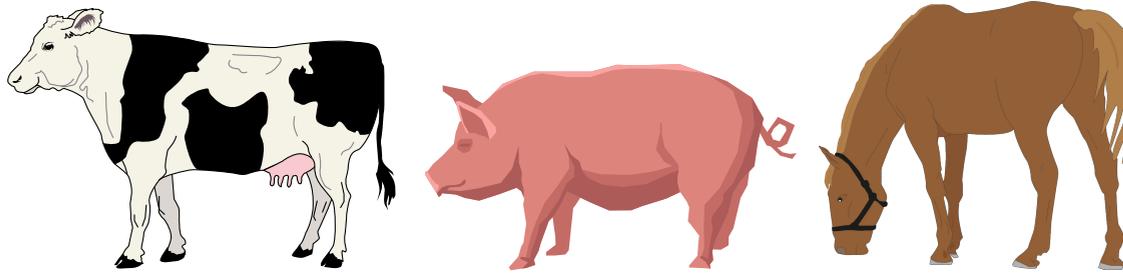
The timeline in the movie goes much quicker than in the book. For example, a baby named Gabe grows older throughout the book. However, in the movie, Gabe is always a baby. Also, the book has release ceremonies that are private and only for the elders. However, in the movie, the release ceremonies are public. One of the biggest differences in the movie is not mentioning the Giver's daughter's release, causing the memories to be released.

We both enjoyed the movie, however, we would prefer the book. Some of the key details were left out of the movie, and not highlighted like they were in the book. The book allows readers to paint a picture; instead of watching the movie and only being able to imagine one thing.



WHAT'S NEW WITH AG?

By: Elizabeth Haer



In February, the FFA club celebrated National FFA Week with Spirit Week, the Ag Olympics, and provided breakfast for the Rockwood staff. In the upcoming months, FFA will be having guest speakers for Envirothon, including the Elk Alliance, Officer Cable from the Fish and Boat Commission, and Officer Whitherright from the Game Commission. FFA will also be building new fish structures for the Quemahoning Dam as a community service project. As spring approaches, students are preparing for the Somerset County Public Speaking Contest.

TRIP TO THE FISH HATCHERY

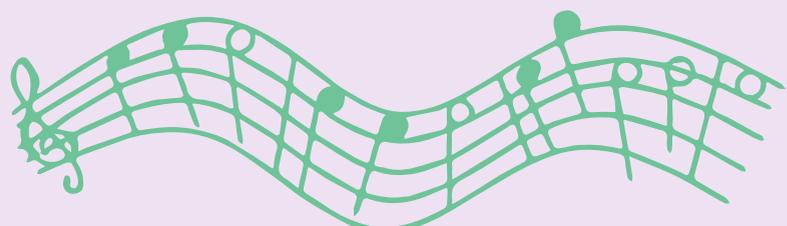
On March 4th, 2024, the Rockwood FFA visited the Reynoldsdale Fish Hatchery. While there, students learned about the process of producing fish. The hatchery has multiple raceways with different aged fish. They produce their eggs and grow them in incubators. The hatchery has Rainbow, Golden, Brown, and Brook Trout. Then, FFA stopped at Shawnee State Park for the afternoon, where they got to watch the local fisherman catch bass. After a fun day, the FFA students returned to Rockwood.



DISTRICT CHORUS

BY: EMILY HUTCHINSON

The PMEA District 6 Chorus Festival was held January 24th-26th, 2024 at Westmont Hilltop High School. Students from surrounding counties were invited to participate. To qualify, students had to compete in auditions, which were held in October at Cambria Heights School District. Students were required to sing the piece "Agnus Dei," acapella, in front of a panel of judges. Out of all the participants, only 22 were selected from each vocal part. From our school, 3 students were selected. The students who participated included Jordan Pyle (Soprano 1), Journey Escontrias (Alto 1), and Emily Hutchison (Alto 2). This three-day festival was filled with many exciting activities, but most importantly singing. The first day consisted of auditions for the Region III Chorus Festival. Although our students did not qualify to move forward, they still had a wonderful time during the festival. They stayed together at a hotel, along with the many other students from the area. The Guest Choral Director, Corey Everly, created an exciting learning environment for all the students involved. The final concert was held on Friday, January 26th.



ROCKWOOD BAND

By: Tyler Stahl

Two of Rockwood's band students, Chloe Streczywilk and Tyler Stahl, attended the District Band festival from January 10 to 12 at Greater Johnstown High School. The guest conductor was Dr. Zach Cheever, who is the marching band director at IUP. Tyler advanced to Regionals, which was held at Bald Eagle High School from February 22-24.

Rockwood's spring band concert will be held on April 25. The Senior High's performance will consist include "Schindler's List," an arrangement from the film, which will feature Devin McCauley as the trumpet soloist. Chloe Streczywilk will also be performing a flute solo with Miss Hostetter providing piano accompaniment.

The spring concert will be a bittersweet experience for seniors Jocelyn Kreger, Chloe Streczywilk, and Josh Wagner, as this will be their last performance at Rockwood.



Community Involvement: The Maple Festival

By: Brooke Snyder

The Maple Festival in Meyersdale holds a Maple Queen Contest every year to highlight accomplished and talented young ladies within Somerset County. This year, the pageant will be held on Saturday, April 6th from 7-10 in the evening at Meyersdale High School. 10 young ladies from the Rockwood, Berlin, Somerset, and Meyersdale school districts will be competing for the title of Queen Maple LXXVII. On pageant day, each contestant will be scored by a panel of judges on a personal interview, promenade, talent, and on-stage questions.

On Sunday, February 11th, the contestants traveled to Meyersdale for mock interviews. This was the perfect opportunity for the contestants to practice their interview skills and receive beneficial feedback on areas for improvement. The interviews were 7 minutes in length and consisted of questions varying in topics from the maple industry, the festival itself, and information pertaining to the individual contestant. These interviews were the first real step towards preparing for the upcoming pageant.

On Saturday, February 24th, the annual Tree Tapping Ceremony was held, hosted at the Hillegas Sugar Camp in Fairhope. The ceremony is held every year to mark the beginning of the maple season. Each contestant introduced themselves to the general public for the very first time and received their princess sashes which were presented by Queen Maple LXXVI, Laura Boyce.

At the ceremony, the Hillegas family provided refreshments and various maple products to sample, including maple ice cream, maple hot chocolate, and other sweets. The afternoon was filled with the sweet scent of maple syrup.



THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ELMA THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH

By: Shelby Shipley



Elma also known by her native name Élmayųjey'eh died 14,000 years ago, at the age of 20. She died in what should have been the healthiest years of her life. She died in Alaska after wandering away from Canada's Yukon Territory where she was born.

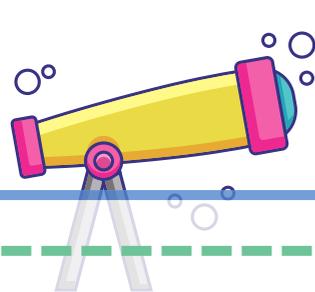
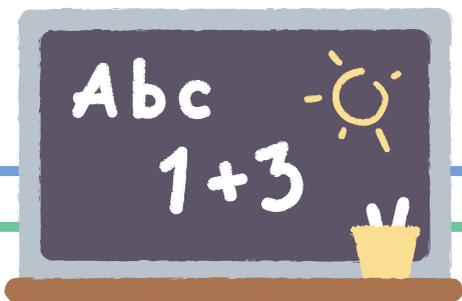
Thanks to a group of scientists at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, there is now a reconstruction of Elma's life. Audrey Rowe and her colleagues took clues from Elma's tusk along with a computer program to simulate a potential walking path to map out her journey.

This team of researchers also studied her death, coming to the theory that Elma was murdered. Alaska had not previously made the connection to Elma being killed because archaeologists have never found evidence of a Woolly Mammoth being killed in Alaska. They have however found evidence of the killing of Woolly Mammoths in Eurasia, Siberia, and elsewhere in the Americas.

As far as scientists can tell, Mammoths became extinct in mainland Alaska 12,000 years ago. This evidence led to scientists questioning what exactly made these majestic creatures go extinct. They narrowed it down to two options, they could have gone extinct due to the changing climate, or they could have been hunted to the point of extinction.

To find out more about Elma's life, Rowe started with the end. She knew that Elma's tusks were discovered at a site called Swan Point. Swan Point is a knoll above Shaw Creek Flats north of Delta Junction and south of Fairbanks. In the same vicinity were several forested sand dunes that were used as campsites by the ancient people who lived there. Rowe and her colleagues discovered more mammoth bones, tusk, and teeth at eight sites in Alaska and the Yukon, many of these remains near Swan Point suggesting that the people living there purposely camped out near the location that the mammoths would live in. Scientists were able to determine that Elma died in late summer or fall. Through DNA testing Rowe and her team discovered that these remains belonged to Mammoths in Elma's family, suggesting that they were all killed together by the ancient people that lived there.

Using radiocarbon dating and the tusks' annual growth rings allowed the scientist to discover the biography of Elma's life. They learned that Elma preferred to stay in higher elevations as she never went below 1,300 feet in her lifetime. The grasses and change in climate are what pushed her to higher elevations. Rowe also said that Elma would have avoided swamps since larger animals had a harder time crossing through the swamps.



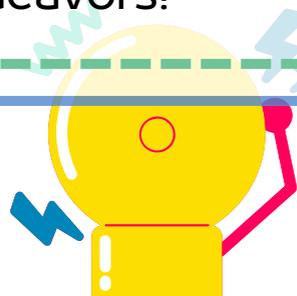
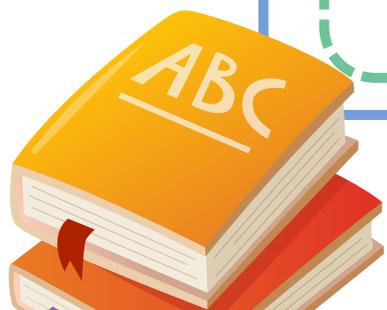
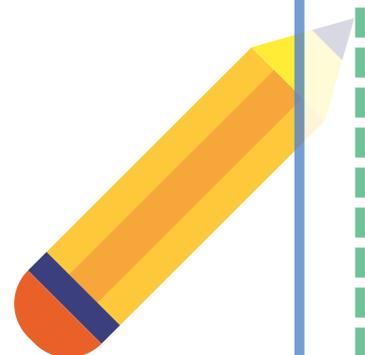
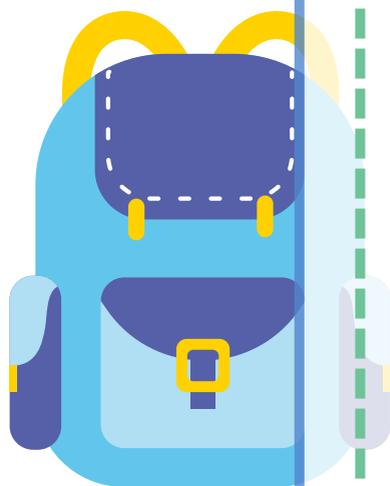
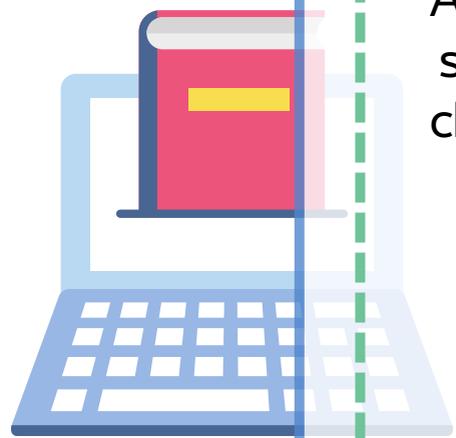
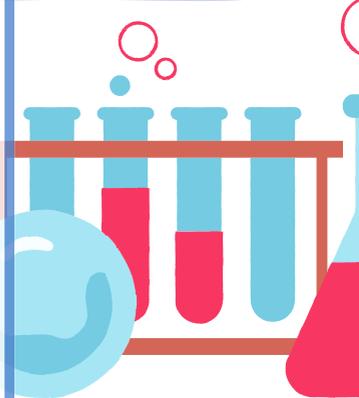
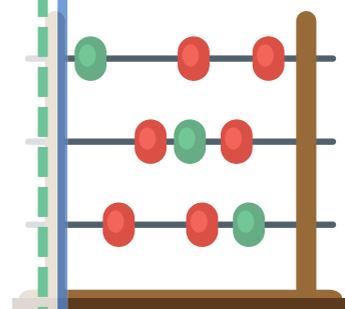
Student Teacher: Mr. Blubaugh
By: Jake Barkman

A short time after Christmas break, Rockwood gained a new student teacher! Mr. Blubaugh helped teach in Mr. Wagner's classes, and also learned from the students how to grow his skills as a teacher.

When students were first introduced to Mr. Blubaugh, he immediately caught everyone's attention as he spoke on topics with great confidence. Mr. Blubaugh is currently studying at Penn West in California. When asked what drove him to teach at Rockwood he explained that it was very cost-efficient, and coming back to an area close to home was a good option for him to work towards becoming a teacher in the future, while also saving money in the process. Mr. Blubaugh covered several different topics in Mr. Wagner's usual classes including a lesson for the senior class on how a bill becomes a law, and the freshman lesson on Ethiopia and the "Lost Boys."

Over the short period that Mr. Blubaugh helped teach here at Rockwood, his skills grew as he became more comfortable with the class and the process of teaching a group. When asked about the challenges he came across while teaching the courses, Mr. Blubaugh stated, "I haven't really had any issues, everyone's been great, and it's just a very good teaching environment."

Though the Rockwood students greatly enjoyed Mr. Blubaugh's presence in the classroom, his time at Rockwood came to an end at the beginning of March. He plans to start teaching in a school outside of Pittsburgh when his studies are completed, and everyone at Rockwood wishes him good luck in his future endeavors!



CREATIVE CORNER

By: Delaney Gould

An Inverted Midnight

Steam rising in the valley
As the sun bores down on it
With a new unrelenting fervor
As if it has not seen this all before
As if it is born anew

Still frolicking amongst the cosmos
Unburdened and free
To pursue the delights of life
An enigmatic series of events
As to which there seems no end

Going about the Earth
Looking upon it with weary eyes
A semblance of the past is found
In the schoolyards and playgrounds
Of suburban neighborhoods
Cosmically irrelevant and yet known
To that of a centerpiece in the universe's greatest game

A celestial superpower born of helium and hydrogen
Being untouchable by the common hand
And yet it is wrenched apart at the sight
The sight of what could have been
And what will never be
Yearning for that which is unattainable

CREATIVE CORNER

By: Delaney Gould

Children run laughing and giggling
Under a watchful afternoon sun
In a distant meadow
With dandelions a golden yellow
Staining freshly pressed shirts and pants

Staining the sun's eyes with molten tears
Coveting what it cannot have
For time has yet to slow down
And the Earth has yet to stop turning
In an endless dance of envy and joy

As day relinquishes itself to night
The moon comes gliding over the horizon
Embracing the star in its incandescence
Giving creation to an inverted midnight
An obscurity in the celestial sky
Shining down a certain apricity
In which there is no telling
Where the sun begins
And where the moon ends

