

The year was marked by changes and great success as South Fayette Middle School students started the year in the newly renovated building. While students and staff got used to the changes in their physical surroundings, academically their achievements have brought great pride to our District.



The Fifth Grade Class of 2004-2005 proudly poses with the 5th grade teaching team and District administrators to commemorate their outstanding performance on the PSSA Exam. The students ranked First in the State of Pennsylvania in Math, and First in Allegheny County in both Reading and Math. A banner to commemorate their tremendous accomplishment has been hung outside the Middle School.

In October, Middle School students took part in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's History Bowl. **Jessica Barton, Andrea Berdusco, Anna Boyer, Ben Dobies, Tyler Manion, Aditya Muralidharan, Brett Ley, Adam Benton, Cameron Carlock, Alex Speidel, Jennifer Williams, Emily Bishop, Tyler Houy, and Maura Vitelli** represented South Fayette. The competition was held at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, and students competed in teams while visiting exhibits such as the Smithsonian Wing, the Campbell Gallery, the Lewis and Clark Exhibit, and the new September 11th Exhibit.

Eighth grader **Skylar Sigman** was the winner of the Scottish Rite Essay Contest. Only one winner was selected from the entire 8th grade class. The 8th grade Language Arts students wrote essays as a response to reading the novel, *The Outsiders*, which focused on the theme of redefining family. Skylar's essay, entitled "What My Family Means to Me" earned her a \$50 savings bond. This event was hosted by the Scottish Rite Masons and attended by many middle schools from Pittsburgh and the surrounding area.

On Wednesday, November 10, 2004, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit hosted its annual Calcu-Solve Competition for 7th and 8th graders. Twenty-six teams of students worked furiously to solve the very challenging advanced algebra, geometry, and logic problems in the nine-round competition, which included both team problems and individual rounds. Our South Fayette participants were: **Alex Aul, Keelen Collins, Tim Dwyer, Hilary Ford, Gary Fleisner, Dillon Haviland, Ben Long, Kent Nixon, Marcus Sherer, Joe Vollmer, Amanda Walasik, and Kara Werkmeister.** On Friday, November 19, 2004, the following students participated in the 5th and 6th grade Calcu-Solve Bowl at Duquesne University: **Jessica Barton, Adam Benton, Ben Dobies,**

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Eyan George, Jason Hirsch, Eric Myers, Ashton Seward, and Jonathan Walasik. This activity, hosted by Boyce Middle School, consisted of ten problems, two of which were team rounds. Students pushed themselves to find solutions to probability, percent, fractions, basic algebra, and geometry queries.

On January 12, 2005, students from many local school districts came together to match wits at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's annual Science Bowl, hosted by the Carnegie Science Center. Teams of four students competed in four rounds that challenged their scientific knowledge and creativity: Drop It (capsules were built to keep eggs from breaking when dropped one story), Skyscrapers, Sink or Float, and a Titanic Scavenger Hunt (done with assistance from the new exhibit). Representing South Fayette Middle School at the event were: **Cassidy Toole, Jessica Barton, Mallory Vetter, Katie Boehmer, Christine Bearman, Aditya Muralidharan, Kevin Hitlan, Eyan George, Stephanie Boehmer, Trent Kulus, Lauren Sekelik, Jennifer Welch, Alex Speidel, Adam Benton, and Sayanti Saha.**

South Fayette teachers are always finding new and inventive ways to excite their students about learning. Earlier this year, Middle School Art teacher **Mrs. Diane Lally** teamed up with foreign language teachers **Mrs. Elizabeth Ross** and **Mrs. Linda Twedt** to take 20 students from the National Junior Art Honor Society and the 7th and 8th grade German and French classes to the Carnegie Museum of Art to see the 54th Carnegie International Exhibit featuring contemporary art from all over the world. Last fall, Lally attended a symposium on Arts Literacy and learned of a grant that would provide this trip for her students. The grant also provides for in-school visits by the Museum staff for additional collaboration in arts education. A docent from the museum toured the students in three small groups for the hour-long tour. At the conclusion, the students were asked to write a journal reflection of the event.

The crowning achievement for the 2004-2005 school year in the South Fayette Middle School took place on Saturday, June 4, when the Middle School was honored in front of thousands of people at the annual Gene Kelly Awards at the Benedum Theatre. South Fayette Middle School was selected "the BEST" from elementary, middle and high schools in Allegheny County for their demonstration of creativity, innovation and effectiveness in providing arts education in their school. The "**Charles Gray Award for Special Achievement in Arts Education**" is presented annually, and its purpose is to recognize special achievement in arts education and to encourage arts integration throughout the school curriculum. The award includes \$3,000 which is given to South Fayette Middle School to enhance their Arts program. Additionally, professionals from Pittsburgh's CLO will visit South Fayette Middle School for a day and work with both staff and students.



(Above) Student practice the Orff instruments in music class.
(Below) The Middle School performance of "Honk" told the story of the ugly duckling.

