



# SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter for Shadyside Local Schools

Spring 2024



## COMMUNITY UPDATE ON FACILITIES

**Dear Community,**



We continue to work with the Sunday Creek Horizons Facility Committee to try to advance Appalachian Accelerated through the Capital Budget this June. If we are successful in our venture it would mean that Shadyside Local Schools would be eligible for state funding sooner.

We have successfully extended the contract with RAZE International for the abatement and demolition of Leona for another year that allows us to keep our 75% state share. If we had not extended the contract to demolish Leona, we would currently only be eligible for 49%. I will continue to update our community as information comes in.

Sincerely,

John Haswell, Superintendent



# NEW JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY DISMISSAL HUGE SUCCESS

A collaborated effort to change the dismissal route at Jefferson Elementary between the school and police department, has proven to be a positive impact for the the families and staff of Jefferson Elementary.

Preschool and kindergarten parents arrive between 2 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. to pick up their children and any older siblings. First and second-grade families arrive no earlier than 2:15 p.m. to pick up their children.

All cars enter the north gate and continue around the back of the school, to the south end doors. There, families are greeted by several staff members to assure the students get to their cars safely.

All bus students are released in the front of the building at 2:10 p.m. There is no parking in front of the building from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

# SHADYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL'S OUTDOORS CLUB EMPOWERS STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Shadyside High School's Outdoors Club, founded by teacher Vince Thornburg, is empowering students to explore the nature around them while also teaching them valuable outdoor skills. With a mission to provide enriching experiences to all students, regardless of their prior outdoor exposure, the club has become a place where students get to experience their local communities.

Thornburg, a passionate advocate for outdoor education, shares his vision for the club: "My goal with starting the group was to give students who normally might not have an opportunity to be in an outside or nature setting a chance to participate in these types of activities and help provide them with the skills they might need for them," said Thornburg.

Every two weeks, the club embarks on local hiking outings, exploring scenic destinations such as Barkcamp State Park, Salt Fork State Park, Oglebay, and Grandview Park. Recent cycling adventures have taken members along trails including St. Clairsville Bike Trail, Moundsville Bike Trail, and Wheeling Heritage Bike Trail. The club recently returned from a spelunking trip at Laurel Caverns, which is a popular pastime where people explore caves.

During club meetings, held either during or after school, students delve into a variety of outdoor skills essential for their adventures. From practicing outdoor cooking to setting up tents and navigating rough terrain, members equip themselves with the knowledge needed for safe and enjoyable outings.

Thornburg emphasizes the club's commitment to year-round activities, with planned outings persevering through all but the most severe weather conditions. Even in winter, students embrace the challenge, tackling things like a six-mile hike in snowy conditions while applying lessons on layering, proper footwear, and terrain navigation. Summer brings additional opportunities for exploration, with the club organizing two annual activities. These



include camping excursions to nearby gems like Barkcamp and Wolfe's Run State Parks, as well as the eagerly anticipated Kayak Float in Bolivar at the end of May, catering to both beginners and experienced paddlers alike.

The Outdoors Club also values hands-on learning, as demonstrated by their involvement a few years ago in botanical surveys led by a former student Thornburg's, who now works at the University of Cincinnati's botanical gardens. Through activities like plant sampling and preservation, students contributed to scientific research while deepening their knowledge of the local plant life.

From humble beginnings with just four members when the club began seven years ago to a thriving community of 12 to 15 participants in recent years, Shadyside High School's Outdoors Club continues to inspire an appreciation for nature and the outdoors among its members.

# SAFETY FIRST: SHADYSIDE SCHOOLS ENHANCES SECURITY MEASURES

For the administration and staff at Shadyside Schools, the safety of students is top priority. "Everyday, we welcome hundreds of students from our community families," said High School Principal John Poilek. "Our goal is to return those students to their homes after a day of education." To uphold that commitment, the district has implemented several major security upgrades across all three of its buildings.

A new universal key fob system was installed allowing staff to use just one device instead of different keys for each door. Electronic sensors were also put in place that will allow first responders like paramedics and police to quickly gain entry in case of an emergency.

Another new safety feature is the purchase of a new emergency radio for the new school board of education office on Central Avenue that connects directly to county dispatch in case of an emergency.

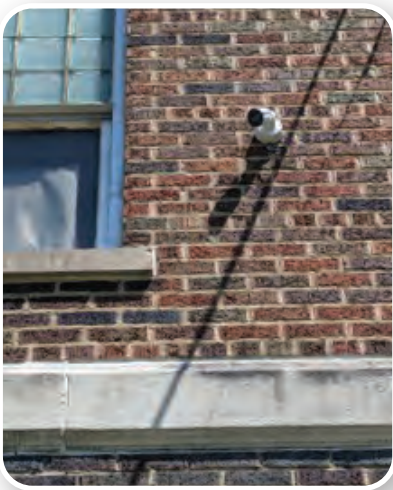
The upgrades also include an overhauled surveillance system with more high-definition cameras providing comprehensive coverage of all areas. The cameras allow an extensive view of the grounds, providing views from multiple angles to show the same location from different vantage points. Existing cameras were also updated with high-definition lenses. The servers which store the images were upgraded to allow for more capacity and to accommodate the new higher resolution images.

Perhaps the largest improvement is a new phone system installed over spring break by Full Service Network. All 105 phones offer direct lines for communication and security lockdowns. "Any room that could possibly be accessible to anyone has a phone," Poilek notes. "In the event of a lockdown, we wanted to be sure that anyone, anywhere, would have access to a phone."

The phone system's mobility is also a major advantage, allowing staff to make calls, check messages, and receive calls through an app on their personal devices. This solves issues with their old public address system that sometimes failed to broadcast properly to all locations. The teachers are participating in ongoing training in the new system.

Funding for these \$277,865 in upgrades came from a safety grant written by the district's School Resource Officer Cindy Wright. "It is important to me, our administration and Board of Education that each student knows that they are in a safe environment here at Shadyside Schools," said Poilek.

All the devices and equipment installed are able to be relocated and reinstalled if the district breaks ground on a new building in the future. "For the time being our students walk these halls. And until we are fortunate enough to move into a new building, we must take care of our students' safety here."



**"Any room that could possibly be accessible to anyone has a phone. In the event of a lockdown, we wanted to be sure that anyone, anywhere, would have access to a phone."**

- John Poilek, Shadyside High School Principal

# SHADYSIDE ENGINEERING COURSE OFFERS MULTITUDE OF HANDS-ON PROJECTS

Students at Shadyside High School have the opportunity to take up to four years of engineering courses which allows them to gain a variety of foundational and upper level engineering skills. The course is different from a typical lecture-style course in that it is project-based. A major goal of the courses is to allow students to encounter several different areas of engineering that they might be interested in pursuing post graduation. The spring semester featured a wide range of projects for students in all four engineering levels.

In Engineering 1, students have been working on electronics, electrical engineering, and introductory robotics. One project the students enjoyed was LEGO Spike Robotics which is a robotics curriculum designed for introducing robotics and simple block programming /coding to students. Over the course of the curriculum, students make between 12-15 robots that are programmed to perform a variety of tasks. "Students are learning about the mechanical aspect of engineering here, but it's also about them experiencing the reality of building something while also creating coding to control the robots at the same time," said Engineering Teacher Vince Thornburg. The year culminates with students building their own steam powered Putt Putt Boats, which introduces them to concepts like hydrodynamics and propulsion.

In Engineering 2, the focus is the use of VEX Robotics with a more intense focus on the mechanical side of robotics and less so on the programming aspects. The VEX robotics system is used for creating more advanced mechanical robots like as opposed to the LEGO blocks in Engineering 1. Students successfully assembled claw bots, scoop bots and mobility bots they use remote controls to operate.

The Engineering 3 course is geared towards programming using a coding language called Python. Students simultaneously learn programming while also learning about electronics. They built small micro cameras and speaker units that can survey a room by collecting visual images and audio files while controlling them via their programming.

The highest level of engineering offered to the students, Engineering 4, has a focus on fundamental physics related to rocketry during the last quarter. Students spend the semester building different types of rockets using different sizes of propellants and collecting data about the launch heights and measuring the force of the propellant engines. "The overarching idea is having the students be able to build something that actually functions," said Thornburg. "It allows the students to get hands-on experience with the materials that go along with the concepts."

The students also have the chance to participate in a variety of outings related to engineering. One group of students participated in Bethany College's Science Day this spring, while two other groups competed in a Technology Student Association (TSA) competition in March which required them to answer written questions as well as to build a robot on site at the event.

On April 18, the students enjoyed an architectural field trip to Fallingwater, which was a house designed by Architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935 located in the Laurel Highlands in Pennsylvania. The students were able to get a firsthand look at the different structural design choices and elements.



# LITTLE TIGERS PRESCHOOL HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT

The Little Tigers Preschool program recently underwent a Step up to Quality review by the Department of Children and Youth and obtained a continuous 5-star award. A 5-star award is the highest award that represents high quality early childhood educational opportunities. The preschool staff works diligently to ensure students receive a high quality preschool experience in order to build a strong educational foundation and ensure kindergarten readiness.

On April 22, the Little Tigers Preschool hosted their first annual community health and wellness event for their current families. There were three agencies in attendance that provided resources

and information to families: Early Intervention in part with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Shadyside Public Library, and Ohio Hills Health Services. There were also two representatives from Bre's Hair with Flair that provided free haircuts for students. There are plans to expand on the event for next year and offer another event in the fall.



# LEONA MIDDLE SCHOOL NOMINATED AS NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL FOR 2024

Every fall when students and staff are preparing to return to the classrooms and start another school year, the United States Department of Education recognizes a select few schools across the country and deems them National Blue Ribbon Schools.

However, the nomination process actually begins nine months prior for the nominated school district. In January 2024, Leona Middle School Principal Kevin Roseberry discovered Leona was one of only 14 schools in Ohio nominated this year in the Exemplary High Performing category, meaning they are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms and validates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for – and attaining – exemplary achievement.

After being notified of the nomination, the real work begins. Teachers, administrators, and board members came together to complete a comprehensive application that required a look at almost every facet of Leona's educational process - from a strictly academic standpoint, to how well the school integrates the community into its activities, to how valued the teachers feel, to how the students are given a voice in their education process. "Everybody jumped in and did their part, and we were able to put

it all together," said Roseberry. "Just like every day of the year, it took a total team effort to complete the nomination application and all the different parts that went along with it."

While the application was submitted in early April, Leona and the Shadyside community won't find out until September if Leona was chosen as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024. "Even if we aren't honored with the award, we are happy to be nominated and I'm proud of our nomination," said Roseberry. "This is my ninth year here and I've always known we were a Blue Ribbon School whether we get the award or not. I see it every day in what our staff does for our school and our students."

This isn't the first time a Shadyside school was nominated. Jefferson Elementary was nominated and honored as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2012.





# SHADYSIDE

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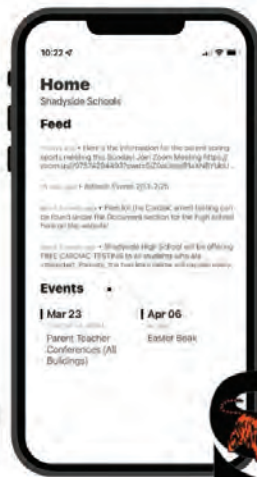
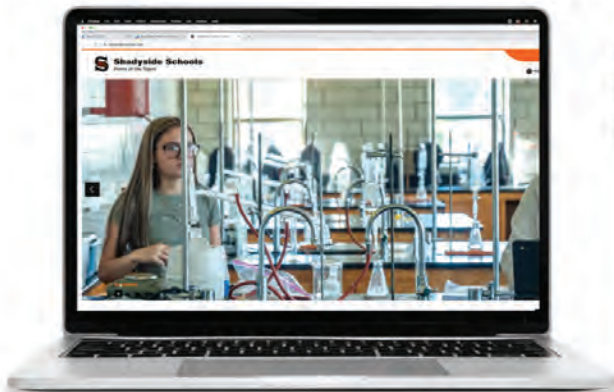
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The SHADYSIDE TIGER TIMES can be found on our District website in a digital format. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please send your request to [ashley.visnic@omeresas.net](mailto:ashley.visnic@omeresas.net).



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