

## JROTC AIR FORCE CADETS CONTINUE TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Students in the high school's JROTC Air Force Program participated in many events recently that displayed their humanitarian efforts supporting our community. The students donated \$500 (which was raised at a recent Car and Aircraft Show) to the Air Commando Associations Hometown Helping Heroes program. This program supports wounded and killed Air Force Special Operations troops and their families. The students supported Veterans Day activities by performing Color Guard duties at four separate events as well as marching in the Fayette County Veterans Day Parade in Masontown along with the high school marching band. Additionally, they competed in the Southwest PA JROTC Marksmanship Postal League and placed 1st overall with Cadet Morgan Cooley taking Top Shot honors for her team. The team completed a near-sweep by taking 12 of 16 individual medals. Congratulations JROTC!

## HATFIELD ELEMENTARY TEACHER SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

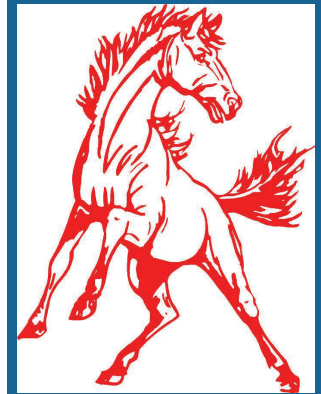
Mrs. Karen Chrise, 4th grade teacher, was nominated and selected to participate in the national conference ECET2, which stands for Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers. The goal of ECET2 is to celebrate effective teachers and to build a strong network of teacher leaders working together to elevate the practice and profession. The conference will feature workshops focused on teacher leadership development and teaching practice. She will travel to San Diego, California in January. She is only the second teacher ever selected from Laurel Highlands. Mr. Justin Ward, 5th grade teacher, was nominated and selected last year. Congratulations Mrs. Chrise!



## LOOK FOR THE DISTRICT'S NEW APP MORE INFORMATION TO COME

## EX-PRISONER OF WAR, MR. BENJAMIN PORTARO SPEAKS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ex-Prisoner of War, Mr. Benjamin Portaro, traveled to Laurel Highlands High School to speak with Laurel Highland's students in Mr. Mike Smith's classes as well as Col. Jones JROTC classes in November. Mr. Portaro shared his many experiences with the students providing a thorough and informative explanation of the events during World War II, in which students had been learning in class. Ben was taken prisoner of war with 10 other men and survived horrible conditions until he and a friend, Bob Knoph, escaped. Mr. Portaro had survived the unimaginable! Ben was discharged from the Army October 13, 1945. He received many medals for his brave service to our country including the Bronze Star. Many years later Bob surprised Ben with a phone call. He had found Ben's number in the Ex-POW Bulletin. They were reunited in Virginia with a very emotional reunion. His service to our country is greatly appreciated as well as the opportunity to share his knowledge with our students.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND STUDENTS

Alison Hartsek, Landon Higinbotham, and Jordan Saghy were all selected to perform with The Great American Marching Band in the 89<sup>th</sup> Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Students are selected based on their written applications as well as submitted auditions on DVD or CD's. The opportunity is open to students from over 14,000 high schools across the United States. Last year Jordan Saghy and Tess Vanik were selected. It is an honor to have been selected and the students continue to demonstrate their many talents and skills. Congratulations!

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QUALITY education"*

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