

Sunday, December 18, 2016 » MORE AT FACEBOOK.COM/MLMEDIANEWS AND TWITTER.COM/MLMEDIANEWS

**BRYN MAWR
SKIN & CANCER
INSTITUTE**

DERMATOLOGY

MAIN LINE STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Brendan McGinn, Holy Child School at Rosemont



By Bruce Adams
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Brendan McGinn is the 8th grade class representative for Student Council. He also is a member of Students on Action, a volunteer leadership group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders that meets with the Associate Head of School once or twice a month to discuss topics of interest to students. McGinn has been a member of the school's Tech Support Squad, which provides technical assistance to students and teachers at the school, since its founding two years ago. He also participates in the school's Robotics team.

you've provided technical assistance on as a member of the Tech Support Squad.

A: With minor issues on your Chromebook, or on the projectors, Tech Support Squad members have been trained on how to fix the problems and deal with them--especially with WIFI connection issues, or a computer freezing up, and with a projector that's not reacting. Several times a year we visit the nuns at The Society of Holy Child Jesus-New Sharon and try to help them with any of their technical difficulties. We try to fix anything they are having problems with and teach the nuns how to fix it themselves too.

Q: Tell us a little about Students in Action, which you've belonged to since sixth grade. What

Q: What has been

EDUCATION

Speaker at Barrack Hebr... surviving the Holocaust dur...

By Susan Schwartz
For 21st Century Media

RADNOR » At 11 years old in 1942 in the small town of Dolhinov, Poland, Jack Chevlin was told by his parents to run, and escape fast! "Run?" Mr. Chevlin asked rhetorically to a group of Jack M. Barrack students and teachers. "Run where? Alone?" This was only the beginning of his agonizing survival story literally right under the Nazis' noses.

The tiny Polish town was only about 10 miles from the border of Russia. Occupied by the Nazis since early 1941, the Jews of Dolhinov were in a ghetto praying for the end of the war but hearing stories of other similar towns being exterminated by the Nazis. Overnight, this young, sheltered boy's life, deeply rooted in religion and tradition from a well-respected family became a maze of danger, unbearable conditions, life threatening obstacles and tremendous faith.

Although Barrack students have a solid sense of the time line and circumstances surrounding the war and the Holocaust, Mr. Chevlin engaged them in meaningful conversation through the eyes of a child survivor. As only a miniscule percentage of children survived the Holocaust (mostly through false papers living with Christian families or hidden like rats in cellars), Mr. Chevlin witnessed every aspect of the horror which is why his perspective is so unique.

Mr. Chevlin was accompanied by his son, Brian Chevlin, who prompted his father with specific



Members of Barrack HEAR Club and Jack Chevlin.

Line; safe, protected, coddled, to suddenly be told to run away without companions or directions. It would be inconceivable and yet, as Nazi soldiers began their final extermination action in May 1942 in the Chevlin's small town, this is precisely what happened.

"People ran around in utter chaos," Mr. Chevlin said. "Parents did not know what to do first. They had been warned by a few friendly Christian neighbors that the Germans were planning mass exterminations. First, there were random killings and humiliations." Mr. Chevlin spoke about a group of women whom he knew was rounded up by the soldiers, forced to undress and dance. Then, those same soldiers "locked them all in a building, doused it with gasoline and set on fire. I saw people, faces I knew lying dead with blood around them." According to a documentary film that was made about the people from Dolhinov, the Nazis did these random killings during the day as they prepared to fight the Russians, sometimes until midnight. It

Q : Tell us a little about Students in Action, which you've belonged to since sixth grade. What have been some of the more interesting recent topics discussed with Students in Action?

A : In our meetings, we talk about what we have on our agenda for the day. Then we leave a period of time to talk about things kids want addressed; so we'll address them with Mrs. Borden. We'll talk about ways we can improve them, and then she can see if the school will allow it. Two topics we have discussed and influenced change in are the homework policy and dress code.

Q : Students in Action also does grade-level service projects. What have been some of the more interesting projects the group has recently performed?

A : We have students nominate charities—whether they are in Students in Action or not—and then we have the kids vote on the charities. Once we know what charities we're doing, we'll have bake sales for them and set up concession stands—all student-run, of course—and we have Dress-Down days so we can support our charities. This year, the 8th grade wanted to support an organization that focused on suicide prevention, so we are supporting the organization Minding Your Mind. Last year, we did the Wounded Warriors Project.

Q : Tell us about a couple of the most interesting projects

Q : What has been your most memorable experience with the Robotics team? What sparked your original interest in Robotics?

A : I've always loved building things and programming things. I love to design things, but I love to make them do things. With Robotics, it's a little bit of both. You can build the robot, and then you get to program the robot, which I love. And you get to use sensors and things like that. I just loved it since I loved Legos. There have been a few memorable things. One was when my friend, who is now up in Connecticut, and I were on the Robotics team. We built this robot that could pick up a ball and throw it into a soccer net. It was a mini soccer net and a mini ball. We also won a championship (in the First Lego League), a few years back.

Q : You're an avid reader. What is your favorite book and why?

A : I love the series by the man who wrote Percy Jackson (Rick Riordan) a Magnus Chase series. (Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard) The books aren't too challenging, but they're still fun to read. I loved the book Hero by Mike Lupica. I read it in 3rd grade, so I don't know how challenging that was, but I loved that book.

(To be selected as Main Line Student of the Week, a student must first be nominated by his or her school.)