

# TECH TALK

## What's new at Crawford Tech

Welcome to 2024 Crawford Tech! It seems hard to believe it is now 2024. And Crawford Tech certainly closed out 2023 with a banging busy schedule. During the week of 12-11 through 12-15 Crawford Tech hosted the annual 6th grade tours. This year we welcomed a total of 11 local 6th grade elementary schools. Nothing quite compares to planting those seeds early in potential future Tech students! You could practically see the students' brains lighting up with enthusiasm as they were given a demonstration by students from each of our 16 shops. Crawford Tech students did an amazing job with tours as they answered questions and helped the 6th graders navigate from shop to shop. It was definitely a tight schedule, but our Tech students and faculty pulled it off. Thank you to all who helped with the 2023 6th grade tours.

December was also full of holiday cheer and festivities. If any school knows how to "deck the halls" it is Crawford Tech. From Christmas themed inflatables throughout our building to the annual Christmas tree and door decorating contests, Crawford Tech definitely stands out! This year Crawford Tech added a giant 16 foot tree to our Christmas Tree display. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Shearer, Mr. DiMucci and Mr. Quindardo for taking the time to assemble this gigantic tree. Also special thanks to the afternoon Diesel students who helped decorate the tree: Logan Shaw, Joshua Thomas, Raya Schlosser, Riley Powell and Jared Freeze. **WELCOME BACK FROM BREAK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## Skills USA and NTHS at Crawford Tech

Our National Tech Honor Society (NTHS) hosted the first ever Twinkle Night at Crawford Tech on December 13 with great success. We had 67 students grades K-4 register for the event and approximately 42 families in attendance. Twinkle Night definitely required a village of NTHS students, faculty and staff working together and volunteering their time to create this magical evening for our community. The amount of positive feedback from the children, families and community was awesome. You can count on Twinkle Night at Tech becoming an annual event! See you next December!

NTHS also sponsors our annual Christmas tree decorating contest. The tree decorating contest was the brain child of our own Mr. Shearer and Mr. DiMucci last year and is one of our shop and student highlights of the year. Each of our shops are challenged with decorating their tree with specific items from their shop and industry. To say our Tech students get creative with power tools, cosmetology and health care supplies; not to mention computer/electrical gadgets and various automotive and culinary devices is an understatement! The 2023 student/shop winners of the Christmas Tree contest are: **Faculty and staff vote--Vet Sciences, Best overall and student vote--Vet Sciences, Charlie Brown Tree--Electrical Occupations. Great job Tech students!** Skills USA sponsors a Christmas door decorating contest among each of our shops. Once again this years winner was **Vet Tech!** (With all those cute animals, how could they lose?) In the tradition of true Holiday spirit, Skills USA randomly selected four families to receive a full Christmas dinner delivered by Mr. and Mrs. Saulsbery on 12-22-23. Lastly, stay tuned for the Skills USA District 10 competition on 1-12-24. Good luck Tech students!



Our Business Manager Jackie and her sons Lucas and Jack with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Twinkle Night!



Mrs. Harry reading a story to the children at Twinkle Night.

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## Staff Spotlight Don Quindardo

Don Quindardo an Instructional Aide for the past 17 years has decided to retire from Crawford Tech. Don was interviewed shortly before Christmas break.

**How did you know it was time to retire?** I had been thinking about it a lot over the summer. When I was recently offered the job as a Public Safety Resource Officer at Allegheny College Police Department, I knew it was time for me to retire from Crawford Tech.

**What plans do you have for your retirement?** I will be working part time at Allegheny College. I also plan to spend more time visiting with my children and grandchildren in Florida and Texas. And I also want to spend more time working on my 1930 Ford Model A, which by the way is still available for the parade every year!

**Who have been your favorite people to work with over the years?** Dan Douglas, John Fuller, Nick Shearer and Ken Saulsbery and all of my fellow aides.

**What would your students and colleagues be surprised to learn about you?** Prior to Crawford Tech I almost became a city police officer. After taking the civil service test I ranked seventh and then I took the civil service test for the city fire department and ranked first so I took that job and worked at Meadville Central Fire Department for 20 years. When I retired from there I came to Crawford Tech.

**Fondest memory?** Having our annual luncheons and Christmas parties.

**Hidden Talent?** Don said he has no hidden talents with a mischievous grin on his face.

**What is the biggest change you have seen during your time at Tech?** The addition of new the new programs; Vet Sciences, HVAC and Sports Medicine.

**What will you miss the most?** My coworkers.

**What did you enjoy most?** My coworkers. I have made great friends here. I have remained good friends with Miles Morton since his retirement.

**If you could pass on any wisdom to your students and colleagues, what would it be?** Every day is a new day. Don't hold grudges.

**HAPPY SEMI-RETIREMENT DON AND BEST OF LUCK! WE WILL MISS YOU!**

## Crawford Tech January Birthdays

**Auto Collision:** Nicholas Craig 1-22, Bradley Harp 1-11, Bradley Philips 1-1.

**Auto Tech:** Katlynn Baer 1-8, Jared Davis 1-6, Michael Lewis 1-1.

**Carpentry:** Samuel Draa 1-18, Logan Henry 1-10

**Computer:** Alex Galt 1-1, Kai Walter 1-7, Will Keller 1-11, Matthew Swanson 1-28, David White 1-17.

**Cooperative Education:** Brock Knetsch 1-18, Jonas LaBruzo 1-29, Mariah Ross 1-28.

**Cosmetology:** Kaylin First 1-29

**Culinary Arts:** Trenton Bowen 1-5, Aleigha Clark 1-26, Samuel Little 1-17.

**Diesel Tech:** Cameron Deeter 1-7, Jared Freeze 1-30, Gage McCarl 1-13, Juan Montes 1-10, Nathan Orr 1-23, Wyatt Schaef 1-22, Logan Shaw, 1-21, Scott Wheeler 1-15, Rhenton Wright 1-19.

**Drafting and Design:** Nick Opsanic 1-4.

**Electrical Occupations:** Kyle Czubek 1-21, Gavin Gerber

1-4, Peyton Brady 1-3, Andrew Proper 1-21, Colby Smith 1-12, Joseph Mascitti 1-6, Diana Robinson 1-21.

**Electronics Tech:** Jacob Graham 12-9.

**Health Occupations:** Emma Blair 1-3, Haylea Thompson 1-10.

**HVAC:** Evan Burchfield 1-23, Doran Hill 1-7, Troy Reynolds 1-11, Hayden Smith 1-17.

**Precision Machining:** Nathan Craig 1-22, Fallyn Lantz 1-22.

**Sports Med:** Anthony Feleppa 1-25, Keegan Hershberger 1-9, Jacoby Thompson 1-28, Daylee Watson 1-17.

**Vet Sciences:** Alivia Coburn 1-8.

**Welding CVMS:** Raedon Covine-Kiser 1-5, Jonathan Thomas 1-20, Bailey Hyden 1-30

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CRAWFORD TECH STUDENTS!!**



Check out Santa and Mrs. Claus with their helping Christmas elves!

## Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

**NTHS officers will be elected in January.**

**Tuesday 1-9-24: Skills USA Meeting at 12:45**

**Friday 1-12-24: Skills USA District 10 Competition in Newcastle, PA. Good Luck Crawford Tech Students!**

**Monday 1-15-24: Martin Luther King Day/No school. YAY!!!!**

**Monday 1-22-24: No school. YAY!!!!**

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## Deep Thoughts With Student Services

Greetings Crawford Tech and welcome to 2024! Who wants to jump right in and discuss New Year's resolutions? Are you trying to lose weight, eat healthier or did you join a gym and are committed to training 3-5 days a week? Resolution statistics are rather grim. 23% of people quit by the end of the first week. A staggering 43% of people opt out by late January and 80% lose motivation and basically give up by mid-February. We've all been there, so this month let's discover how other countries around the world celebrate the new year. If you hope for a year full of travel and adventure, carry an empty suitcase on New Year's Eve like the Columbians. They believe toting an empty suitcase around encourages travel in the year ahead.

Want to get rid of old stuff? Throw it out the window if you live in Johannesburg, South Africa. There, residents toss old appliances and equipment right out the window as a representation of 'out with the old and in with the new.' Sounds fun, but just a bit risky for my taste.

In many Central and South American countries, good luck means wearing special underwear on New Year's Eve. The most popular colors to sport are red to bring love, and yellow to bring wealth. So--maybe orange underwear would accomplish both!

In Estonia they eat like gluttons. The goal on New Year's Eve is to eat seven, nine or twelve meals throughout the day because they believe each to be a lucky number. In Estonia, the more you eat, the more abundant the coming year will be. Sounds like Crawford Tech staff at our Christmas party December 15th--Thanks Jackie!

Lastly, my personal favorite is Denmark. The Danes like to smash old plates and glasses against the doors of family and friends to banish bad spirits. The more broken glass at your doorstep the better! But that's not all. The Danes also collectively climb on chairs and jump off at midnight to literally 'leap' into the new year. Personally, this sounds like more fun than watching the ball drop from my living room.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR CRAWFORD TECH--100 SCHOOL DAYS LEFT!!**

## Just for FUN

**I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT  
I'M WEARING TO THE LIVING  
ROOM NEW YEAR'S EVE.**

**I MIGHT NOT EVEN GO.**

"Last year, I was able to  
keep all of my New Year's  
resolutions... tucked away  
in a journal on my bookshelf."

BOREDPANDA.COM



**Miss Deets, Cosmetology  
Three sons visiting with Santa and Mrs.  
Claus!**



**Mrs. Graff and her son doing crafts at  
Twinkle Night.**



**Mrs. Peterson's daughter working  
hard decorating her cookie.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
CRAWFORD TECH!!**



## The Crawford Tech Family at Twinkle Night 2023



**Tina Cutshall-Craft, CO-OP and  
Diversified Occupations**



**John Brown--Drafting and Design**



**Jennie Donovan, Health Technician and  
her daughter**



**Ken Saulsbery, Recovery Program  
Coordinator**



**Cindy Harry, Instructional Aide**



**Tina Cutshall-Craft's grandsons**



**Dominic DiMucci, Auto Technology**



**Will Sheasley, Electrical Occupations  
two daughters**



**Jill Kish's daughter as Cindy Lou Who, Ken  
and Cindy Saulsbery's son as The Grinch and  
Jackie Dutchcot's son.**



**Ashlee Donovan, Maintenance and Rob  
Kightlinger, Electronics Technology**



**Chef Brown, Culinary Arts  
son and daughter**



**Tiffany Johnston, Technology Coordinator  
son and daughter**



**Lindsay Graff, Veterinary Sciences and  
her son**



**Kristen Deets, Cosmetology Instructor  
three sons**



**Mr. Saulsbery and his newborn grandson.**