

2013 SPRING EDITION

BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



Red Raider

m a g a z i n e

Focusing on



Students

In This Issue:

Page 8 / High School Graduation

Page 12 / Middle School Graduation

Bellefonte Board of School Directors

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Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michelle Saylor
Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kenneth G. Bean, Jr.
Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Scott C. Etter, Esquire
Solicitor

How to Reach Us

Administration Building

All Numbers.....355-4814
Superintendent's Office.....Ext 3002
Director of Fiscal AffairsExt 3015
Assistant SuperintendentExt 3004
Director of Special Education.....Ext 3021
Business OfficeExt 3001
Director of Physical PlantExt 3006
Director of Food ServiceExt 3010
Director of Transportation.....Ext 3015
Bellefonte Elementary355-5519
Benner Elementary355-2812
Marion-Walker Elementary357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary359-2739
Bellefonte Middle School355-5466
Bellefonte High School.....355-4833
B.A.S.D. Action Line353-2413
Web Sitewww.basd.net

Discrimination Policy

The Bellefonte Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodations, grievance procedure, and designated responsible official for compliance with Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be obtained by contacting Dr. Michelle Saylor, at 355-4814, Ext 3004.

A Message from

Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger

Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent



The 2012-2013 school year has come and gone.

Again, it has been a busy and productive year for everyone. We have accomplished a lot. Here are some of the Bellefonte Area School District highlights from the past year:

- Kindergarten through twelfth grade Mathematics curriculum maps were developed and written.
- Kindergarten through fifth grade will be upgrading to the Common Core edition of the Everyday Math series.
- Sixth through eighth grade will be upgrading their Connected Mathematics series to the third edition. (CMP 3)
- Ninth through twelfth grade adopted the Discovering Mathematics series.
- EITC funding grants allowed for us to provide an after school Math enrichment program.
- Chrome Books are being purchased for the social studies department so all students in ninth through twelfth grade will have access to this technology.
- Through the generosity of the PTA's and PTO's, Promethean Boards will be installed in second and third grade classrooms.
- Grant funding has allowed for the installation of Promethean Boards in all Math classrooms sixth through twelfth grades.
- Our customer service program continues with the addition of our Customer Satisfaction Surveys.
- Our summer school programs continue for middle and high school students.
- Enrichment program opportunities for students in the high school continue this summer.
- The Bellefonte Area School District eLearning Academy continues to grow.
- The School Gate Guardian system will be installed over the summer at each of the buildings.
- The entrance areas of our schools will be renovated to allow for more security.
- A School Safety plan was upgraded and put into place.

These are just some of the many great things that are happening in our school district. As we move forward we will continue to look for ways to make Bellefonte Area School District an even better district for our most valuable asset: our students.

Have a great and relaxing summer!

Regards, Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger

A Message from **Board of School Directors President,** *Becky Rock*



On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate all of this year's graduates and wish them the very best life can give. We are very proud of the young men and women they have become and all the hard work they have accomplished since their first day of school. It is hard to believe where the time has gone. It was truly an honor to share this

special day with all of the graduates and it has been a joy to watch them grow into young adults.

Congratulations to the parents of our graduating seniors. We appreciate your partnership, the value you have placed on education, and the encouragement and support you have given to this class.

Graduation is a time to celebrate what you have accomplished and a time to thank those who helped you make it through all of those years. It has taken the hard work of many people to bring our graduates this far - great teachers, administrators, support staff, coaches, volunteers, parents and our community. Thank you for contributing to the success of our students.

At our board meeting on May 14 our student Board Representatives, Grant Stone and Jacob Mann, were recognized by the school board for their service and dedication. Grant and Jacob served this past year as Student Board Representatives on the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Directors. They attended our board meetings and provided regular updates to the Board

on student activities such as athletic events and extracurricular activities. Thank you for all of your hard work.

At our board meeting on April 23 the school board approved the placement of the stadium/athletic track facilities on the new land parcel purchased by the school district and at our May 28 board meeting the board approved a proposal to begin the infrastructure engineering for the new athletic field complex. The members of the Property and Facilities Steering Committee have been extremely busy and will continue to meet on a regular basis and provide updates at our board meetings.

These are only few of the many things that are happening at our board meetings. The board encourages your participation and engagement in board issues. The school board meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found on the district website and all of our board meetings are recorded and replayed on CNET and can be accessed on the district website.

Have a great summer.

Looking Forward: A Message from *Dr. Michelle Saylor* **Assistant Superintendent**

Opportunity

This time of year we pause to celebrate graduations and transitions to new grade levels. We celebrate our students' accomplishments and recognize their hard work.

However, it is also a time when we need to pause and recognize opportunities.

Bellefonte Area School District is brimming with opportunities for our students to learn, explore, and tackle new challenges. From our rigorous academic programming to extra-curricular options our students have embraced opportunity and they have excelled.

This year, students and their teachers,

who provided many of the opportunities students engaged in, have been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally for their performances, for their athletic prowess, for their academic achievements, and for their hard work and perseverance.

We are so very proud of all of you.

BASD will continue to provide opportunities for our students and encourage them to create their own.

Next year promises to bring more options to the district for our students - from programming (engineering, new AP courses, new world language options, common core aligned curriculum, and more collaborative learning opportunities via technology) to



continued opportunities to engage in the arts, athletics, and world travel.

Let's take a moment to pause and recognize the opportunities we've seized and embrace the success our district has achieved. ■

Project Lead the Way – Pre-Engineering Program: Coming to **BASD** in September of 2013

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year students in our middle school and our high school will have the opportunity to enroll in pre-engineering classes.

Middle school students will be able to participate in Automation Robotics or Design and Modeling (based upon their grade level) and high school students can elect to take Introduction to Engineering Design (IED - first in a series of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) based courses.

Additional pre-engineering courses will be added each year over the next five school years.

Students have the option to take end of course exams that can transfer to college credit.

PLTW curriculum leads the nation in rigorous, in-school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning and we believe the addition of this programming and aligned resources to BASD will provide our students with greater opportunities to gain the skills and critical thinking

strategies to be successful beyond high school in both college and their future careers.

If you are interested in learning more about PLTW you may contact your school's guidance counselor or Dr. Michelle Saylor, Assistant Superintendent, at 814-355-4814 ext. 3004. ■

Chinese 2013-2014 - Host Families Needed

We will be welcoming two Chinese scholars from Wuhan University in southeastern China to Bellefonte Area School District in August of 2013: Qiushi and Xu Ying.

Qiushi is a master degree candidate and is currently working as a Chinese linguistics teacher in China. She also brings with her Chinese artistic skills in paper-cutting and Tai Chi. Xu Ying is a doctoral candidate at Wuhan University and a high school Chinese teacher; she enjoys singing, dancing, and calligraphy.

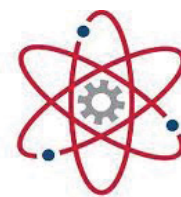
We are excited about the opportunities their visit will bring to the students within our district and to our community as well. We anticipate bringing Chinese language to some of our kindergarten students by way of a pilot early language program, to our middle school and high school students

as an elective addition to our World Language offerings, and to our community by way of after school/evening learning opportunities.

As our scholars are also interested in learning more about American culture and desire to become a part of our Bellefonte community, we are seeking host families. Host families will be responsible for providing basic room and board as well as assisting with occasional transportation needs – just as you would for a foreign exchange student.

It is our hope that in hosting one of our scholars, not only will our scholars benefit but so will the family that has the opportunity to learn about a new culture and new perspectives first hand.

If you are interested in hosting one of our scholars for either the entire school year or even for a quarter or semester, please contact Dr. Michelle Saylor, Assistant Superintendent, at 814-355-4814 ext. 3004 for more information and/or to be considered as a host family. ■



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY
PLTW

A Message from the **Director of the Physical Plant,**

Aaron Barto



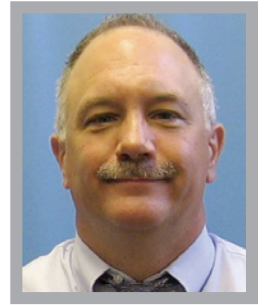
In our ongoing effort to save energy and money, the Board of Education has approved the lighting replacement in the high school auxiliary gymnasium.

The 400 watt metal halide lighting will be replaced with 6 lamp T-8 32 watt high bay florescent light fixture. The light fixtures will be similar to the ones in the main gymnasium in that each fixture will have its own motion sensor, and will operate independently depending on gymnasium usage. The additional advantage is instant-on as compared to the metal halide which has a warm up and cool down period.

This upgrade will allow the Physical Plant Department to be able to reduce the kWh use from roughly 65,952 hours to about 27,360 hours and reduce operating costs for the auxiliary gymnasium from approximately \$4,617.00 per year to \$1,915.00 per year or a savings of \$2,701.00 per year in electricity costs. The return on investment is 1.78 years with a potential ACT 129 utility rebate of \$1,929.00.

The Physical Plant Department is always looking to technological advances in an effort to reduce electricity use, our carbon footprint and realize money savings. ■

A Message from the **Business Manager,** *Ken Bean*



As I am writing this on May 1, 2013, the Board is scheduled to approve the Tentative Final Budget on May 14, 2013, and the Final Budget on June 25, 2013. The District plans to have the budget increases equal to the ACT 1 index of 2.2% and should not be using any of the exceptions as allowed by law.

The Budget is estimated to be \$45,050,000 with approximately 90% of the budget increase coming from debt payments, health insurance, retirement increases and charter school tuition costs. Debt payments are increasing due to scheduled principal payments increasing. The District has refunded (refinanced) several of the bonds over the past few years resulting in savings over \$1,300,000.

The District operates a self-funded health insurance trust. At the beginning of this current fiscal year, most employees switched to a PPO style health plan which has saved the District considerable money. Currently one employee

group is negotiating a new contract and a switch to the PPO health plan is being proposed.

Retirement costs have increased significantly for the District. The State dictates the amount of money the District pays into the retirement system each year. The rate for the current year is 12.36% and the rate for the budget year of 2013-2014 will be 16.93%. These rates are scheduled to continue to increase over the next several years with some estimates being as high as 29%. The Board has set aside funds over the past several years to lessen the impact of this increase on the taxpayer. Currently, the District has \$1,400,000 committed for this purpose.

Charter school costs have also risen sharply over the past few years. The budgeted tuition costs for 2013-2014 fiscal year are \$1,850,000, an increase of \$600,000. Charter schools are often advertised as "free"; the reality is that all taxpayers pay. Charter school tuition cost each taxpayer approximately 4 mills of real estate tax.

A taxpayer who has a house valued at \$150,000 on the tax rolls pays approximately \$300 a year in real estate tax to pay for the charter school tuition.

While a 2.2% tax increase is minimal; it is still a tax increase. The District is constantly reviewing and analyzing ways to reduce costs while maintaining its educational programs. We are proud of the fact that Bellefonte was the only local school district that did not use any exceptions as provided by law which would allow the District to raise taxes above the index. Bellefonte has been approved for these exceptions the last several years but has not used them and therefore has not increased the taxpayer's burden.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (814) 355-4814 or by email at kbean@basd.net. ■

Bellefonte Area Education Association

What Teachers REALLY Do Over the Summer

Summertime is finally here. It's time to kick back and relax... or maybe not.

Teachers across the district have a wide range of plans for the summer months. Many have planned well deserved family vacations to the beach, camping, or visiting family.

A good number of teachers have plans to spend continued time with students or to enhance their education to bring their best to the classroom next school year.

The Top 10 Teacher Summer Plans Are:



- Taking one or more graduate-level courses – working towards a Master's or Doctoral degree
- Presenting at various conferences
- Traveling the globe gathering information to supplement various units
- Teaching Summer Music Camps – at all levels
- Committee Work – Meetings to plan/get organized for next school year
- Attending various trainings or conferences to enhance/enrich current curriculum
- Parent Transition Meetings – IEP meetings, new student orientation, etc.
- Collaborating with other teachers to implement new curriculum
- Revising/Updating current curriculum
- Spending time reorganizing classrooms & getting ready for the new school year

In the words of Henry Ford, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

Have a great summer. See you in September.

K-6 Family Fun Math Night

Our K – 6 Family Fun Math Night was held Thursday, March 7, 2013.

With approximately 475 people in attendance, it was amazing to experience everyone (students, parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, community members, and board members) actively engaged in mathematics.

There was truly a positive buzz in the air.

The event was a huge success and made possible only through the dedication and hard

work of countless people in the district.

We would also like to thank all the local businesses/organizations that supported the event by donating items and/or coupons to give away at the close of the event, including Confer's Jewelers, State College Spikes Booster Club, Pizza Mia, Pure Imagination, Fun Unleashed, Weis Market, Discovery Space, Dotts Hamilton, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company of Everyday Mathematics, and Stella & Dot Sylvest Bethany Underwood. ■



Bellefonte eLearning Academy (BeLA) – Cyber Education for the Bellefonte Area School District

The Bellefonte eLearning Academy (BeLA) provides a form of free public education that students attend from home or from another location outside of a traditional classroom. It is a unique program that combines a strong parent involvement component with a flexible learning environment. Students in grades 6 – 12 that attend BeLA will receive access to high quality digital courses that are aligned with the PA Academic Standards as well as access to high quality teachers who work one-on-one with students to instruct, review assignments, and provide additional support and enrich when needed. Full time BeLA students receive a computer for their use while enrolled as a BeLA student. Here are some commonly asked questions regarding the BeLA program:

What subjects does the Bellefonte eLearning Academy offer?

BeLA students have access to over 250 different courses in the following content areas: Mathematics, Language Arts/English, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, World Languages, Health/Physical Education, Business, and Technology.

Does BeLA issue a High School Diploma?

Students who fulfill all graduation requirements, as mandated by the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Education, will earn a Bellefonte Area School District diploma and may participate in a BAHS graduation ceremony.

Will my child be considered a BASD student?

Students who are enrolled in the Bellefonte eLearning Academy are considered to be students of the Bellefonte Area School District and are entitled to all opportunities that enrollment in the district has to offer.

Can my child participate in extra-curricular activities (band, sports, clubs, fine arts)?

BeLA students are permitted to participate

in all school district activities for which they are entitled. However, eligibility requirements apply to any student involved in extra-curricular activities.

Are students enrolled in the BeLA program required to come "on site" during the school year?

BeLA students are encouraged to report to the BeLA center during office hours so that they can be supported and their progress monitored.

What is the parent or guardian's role?

Involved parents play a vital role in a student's academic success. Parents work closely with their child and BeLA staff to help develop a personalized learning plan. Parents must also assist students with time management and provide essential motivation to work independently. Parents will have access to their child's email account and course account information and can play a major role in keeping students on task and on schedule by reviewing this information together with their child.

How do I enroll my child in the Bellefonte eLearning Academy?

First, your child must be an enrolled student in the Bellefonte Area School District. If your child is not a registered student, schedule a registration appointment with Mrs. Karen Moore at 814-355-4814, extension 3033. If your child is an enrolled student, an appointment must be scheduled with the appropriate grade-level guidance counselor in order to schedule courses. To contact the Middle School Guidance Department call: 814-355-5466. To contact the High School Guidance Department call: 814-355-4833.

Is cyber education right for your child?

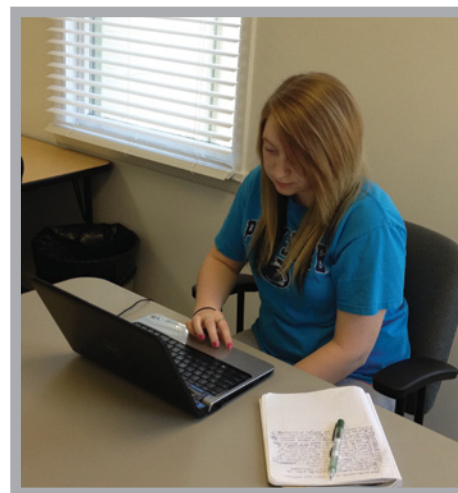
- Do I have a strong commitment to learning and my child's education?
- Does my child have a desire to learn and succeed?

- Will my child thrive by being immersed in an innovative, challenging, and engaging curriculum?
- Am I prepared for my child to commit one-hour of instruction per day per course?
- Can my child actively participate in one-hour of instruction per day per course?
- Is my child capable of managing his/her time and following a schedule?

If you can answer yes to each of the questions above, then BeLA may be appropriate for your educational needs!

Who should I contact for more information about the Bellefonte eLearning Academy?

Contact Dr. Michelle Saylor, Assistant Superintendent, for more information at msaylor@basd.net or at 814-355-4814, extension 3004 or Mrs. Sommer Garman, High School Vice-Principal at sgarman@basd.net or at 814-355-4833, extension 8507. ■



Employee Recognition System

Saluting Every BASD Employee • Courteous – Caring – Considerate – Cooperative
Helpful - Service Beyond Expectations – Accommodating

The Bellefonte Area School District appreciates each employee for contributing to the success of our students. An Employee Recognition System was created to provide an opportunity to recognize employees. The Board of School Directors congratulated the following recipients of the Employee Recognition System award at the March 12, 2013, Regular Board Meeting. Employees were nominated by their coworkers in their respective district buildings.

Excerpts of coworkers' nomination comments included: "...tremendous patience, endless tolerance, and generalized kindness demonstrated through her care and support of students and staff...is extremely kind and caring, and goes out of her way to help both teachers and students...a valuable member of the team...has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help manage some of our more challenging students and always willing to take on tasks...helps out anywhere she is asked and loves the kids as if they were her own...is a very kind and caring person to the students in our school and to the staff, always has great ideas, and is second-to-none in her instruction skills...is in one word...AMAZING!...takes great pride in our kids and our building...is friendly to the staff and always puts his students first...is a valuable team member who is kind and considerate to adults and students alike...works tirelessly and attends and contributes to Child Study team meetings...always says hi and seems to help kids..."

Congratulations!

Professional Staff Recipients:

Elizabeth Dincher	Bellefonte Area High School
Nicole Eckley	Bellefonte Area Middle School
Suzanne Thompson	Bellefonte Elementary School
Rebecca Roos	Benner Elementary School
Nicholas Kelly	Marion-Walker Elementary School
Michelle Krape	Pleasant Gap Elementary School

Support Staff Recipients:

Vicky Confer	Bellefonte Area High School
Marcy Thomas	Bellefonte Area Middle School
Janet Rogers	Bellefonte Elementary School
Jeffrey Coslo	Benner Elementary School
Karen Shawley	Marion-Walker Elementary School
Wendy Bakaj	Pleasant Gap Elementary School



Front row (left to right): Rebecca Roos, Karen Shawley, Michelle Krape, Wendy Bakaj, Marcy Thomas. Back row (left to right): Nicholas Kelly, Elizabeth Dincher, Vicky Confer, Janet Rogers, Nicole Eckley, Suzanne Thompson (Inset) Jeffrey Coslo

Bellefonte Education Foundation

The Bellefonte Education Foundation (BEF) encourages alumni and community members to consider creating a scholarship endowment, either in their own names or in honor or memory of another person. Our school district development office works hand in hand with the BEF instructing interested parties on how to set up a scholarship fund that provides a perpetual source of scholarship funding for students as well as tax advantages for the donor.

Alumni and community members who set up scholarships do so by designating donations or contributions to be given to the scholarship fund. Sometimes families decide to save donations in a separate account in order to fund a scholarship year to year. However, depending on how it is interpreted, that money could be considered income or at the very least, the interest could be taxed.

The BEF holds several scholarships or awards that are funded on a yearly basis. This money is given to the foundation before the scholarships are awarded and the foundation creates the check for the winner. Having the scholarship and the criteria established through the BEF, allows the family to

raise money for this scholarship and also provides a holding place for future donations.

If the family or alumni class receives a substantial amount of money, it might be better to create an endowment. Usually there is a minimum donation amount required to create a scholarship endowment. Since the amount varies among foundations, potential donors should contact Pam Vaiana, Executive Director of the Bellefonte Education Foundation.

When you set up an endowed scholarship fund, the donor can designate criteria (within the bounds of legality) for how the funds will be awarded. Family members frequently designate that funds from their endowments be made available only to students who are majoring in a certain field or have a passion for a certain hobby or interest.

The beauty of scholarship endowments is that the principal amount of the donation becomes a permanent asset for the foundation. The principal is invested, and the interest earned on the principal is what is given to scholarship winners. Once an endowment fund is established at an institution, it will always be there.

Establishing a scholarship in the name of a loved one helps families keep memories alive while helping someone else continue their education. What a beautiful and important legacy. ■



Pictured- on the right, Ron Pifer winner of the 2013 Bellefonte School District's Hall of Fame award. On the left, Dave Provan, retired teacher of Bellefonte School District and board member of the Bellefonte Education Foundation, served as Master of Ceremonies at the annual recognition dinner. Also honored were teachers of the year, Jay Zimmerman, Erin Cernuska and Jennifer Carroll and volunteer of the year, Bethany Eicholtz.

A Message from the Bellefonte Area High School Administrative Team:



It is our pleasure to congratulate the class of 2013.

High school graduation is one of the major milestones in all of our lives. In our culture, it is a right of passage, a way of proving you can finish what you started, and, ultimately, a starting point for what will be our life's work.

In this particular Bellefonte Area High School class of 2013 we have many unique, talented, and innovative students who are undoubtedly destined to achieve great things throughout the remainder of their lives.

Some of those great things will include completing a post-secondary education program, gaining employment in the field of his or her choice, starting and caring for a family, giving back to their community, and otherwise making a positive impact on those with whom they come into contact.

The class of 2013 has writers, scientists, mathematicians, entrepreneurs, musicians, farmers, and a seemingly endless array of talented graduates. It will be a great pleasure to see where these students go and to take account of the lives they pursue. If their lives in any way mirror their accomplishments and personalities during their years at Bellefonte Area School District, the world is in for a treat.

It has been our pleasure to serve you here in Bellefonte. All of the employees in the BASD have cared about you and have worked tirelessly to make sure we are giving you a world class education. Now, it is your time to go out and pursue the next phase of your dreams, whatever that may be.

Our advice to you is to simply do what you need to do to live the life that will lead to your personal happiness and the happiness of those around you. Work hard, take care of your loved ones, give back to your community, and, most importantly, have fun.

Congratulations, class of 2013. You did it.

Sincerely,

The Bellefonte Area High School Administrative Team

Mrs. Jennifer Brown, Principal

Mr. Michael Fedisson, Vice-Principal

Mrs. Sommer Garman, Vice-Principal



Dear Members of the Class of 2013,

Congratulations.

Because of your hard work, you are now the newest graduates of Bellefonte Area High School.

All throughout May and June, you've had the opportunity to participate in a number of senior events intended to recognize your achievements as well as the efforts of those who have supported you along the way.

Hopefully during this time, you had the chance to take a few moments to reflect on all that you have accomplished in the past four years here at BAHS.

You are a diverse, passionate group of students who have grown so much in your time here, and it's been exciting to watch you transition from young freshmen walking through the doors of the high school for the first time, to the successful young adults that walked across the stage accepting your diplomas.

This is an exciting time in your life.

As you make the transition to your postsecondary endeavors, we hope that you will remember the lessons, skills, and values that you learned here at Bellefonte Area High School. Also, we remind you that we are here to guide and support you as you take on the challenges that lay before you.

We wish you success on whatever path you choose.

Finally, we would like to thank you- it has been a privilege to serve as your class advisors these past four years.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Coder and Mrs. Whyte



A Taste of France

By: Matt Feldman, BAHS Student

On February 28, 2013, thirty three French students from Bellefonte Area High School took a field trip to Le Jeune Chef, a French Restaurant in Williamsport.

BAHS French teacher Ms. Linda Misja has taken her students to the restaurant for many years.

The restaurant offers a unique cultural experience for students interested in France and the food that comes from its twenty seven regions. For only \$33, the students received a nine-course dinner, complete with a seafood paté, plump frog's legs, delectable desserts and many other dishes.

Le Jeune Chef is a fine dining restaurant, centered around the Pennsylvania College Of Technology's Culinary Arts Program. It features students from across the state learning the skills required to become a skilled chef.

While eating food prepared by college students may not be high on the list of many fine diners, the meals served at Le Jeune Chef exceed expectations. The meats are roasted to a perfect tenderness, with fine in-house made sauces drizzled throughout the dishes. Each item on the menu is made the day it is served, creating a menu that has become the epitome of freshness.

After the long bus ride from Bellefonte to downtown Williamsport, the students were warmly

greeted by an instructor from the Pennsylvania College of Technology's Culinary Arts program and given a tour of the facility. The students were able to see their dinners being made and were allowed access to the pastry kitchen.

At the end of the tour, the guide showed the students where the new kitchen was being built, complete with over a dozen stoves all centered on an all-encompassing island. She elaborated further on the time and effort needed to create the dishes the students would soon be eating.

From there, the students were led back out into the dining room, where fresh pitchers of water and iced tea were waiting for them. While the iced tea was a bit bitter, a large cup of sugar sweetened the drink.

Soon after taking their seats, the students were treated to a fine display of musicianship. A piano player began playing a mix of classical music along with a bit of modern pop adaptations. The music created a fine atmosphere, perfect for such a dining experience.

As the first few dishes were brought out to the students, eyes began lighting up.

The way the chefs had plated the food was exceptionally beautiful. It was utterly amazing for many of the students to see a simple seafood paté formed into a magnificent work of art.



The most amazing aspect of the dinner for most of the students was the dessert, which included such options as chocolate mousse, warm beignets and apple sorbet.

While for many it was the highlight of the night, dessert was not the end of the experience. The long bus ride home allowed for them to reflect on the night and remember how invaluable such an experience was in their lives.

With their eyes set on the trip slated for next year, the French students disembarked the bus with full stomachs, large smiles and enlightened minds.

As Sophomore Shannon Rose said, "Tasting authentic food from a different culture is something not everyone gets to experience. It was a good, fun time for all who went." ■

Bellefonte Area High School FBLA Represents District at SLC and in Community Walk

By: Stacey Nath, Adviser

The Bellefonte chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, once again, has represented our community and district well at the annual State Leadership Conference and the local AFSP Out of the Darkness Walk. Both events were opportunities for our students to expand their knowledge through competition, workshops, business sessions, and community involvement.

At this year's State Leadership Conference, students traveled to Hershey to compete in a wide-range of events including Business Communications, Parliamentary Procedure, Business Law, General Business, and e-Business. All students performed well, specifically our e-Business team which placed 6th in the state. This team consists of Forrest Gribble, Chandler Ross, and Tom Urban.

Beyond the competitive nature of the conference, students engaged in a diverse array

of workshops, voiced their opinions in state-officer voting, and were inspired by a keynote speaker who motivated the group in opening sessions and workshops. In addition, two of our students, Alexis Franks and Charles Ross, helped to run workshops due to being elected to their position of co-secretaries of our local region. This opportunity allowed our students to truly "Ignite Innovation" through their commitment to this organization.

Before attending the state conference, a group of 14 FBLA and Key Club students chose to participate in the local chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Walk. Students met on a Sunday morning in Friedman Park, State College, to represent our school by walking for a great cause. Due to the hard work of our students, the Bellefonte FBLA chapter has been named as a major donor of this chapter for multiple years in a

row and was able to hand over a donation of \$643 to the representatives. The students had a great time walking and bringing the problem of suicide to the forefront of the community's mind.

FBLA will be hosting a Powder Puff game the evening of May 31, with a June 7 rain date, to raise money for March of Dimes. The game will begin at 6:30 pm at Roger's Stadium. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$3 for senior citizens and students, and children under 5 are free. There will also be refreshments available for sale. Please join us to support our junior and senior girls in a great night of football while raising money for a great cause. If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Nath, adviser, at snath@basd.net.

As always, we continue to be proud of our students and how they represent Bellefonte at all levels. ■

The Mystery of the Blue Bench

Ever since the blue bench appeared in front of the school, many people have questioned why is it blue or what does it stand for? The wait is over and the answers to your questions are here.

It began as an idea to honor veterans throughout the school year. Each school did their own recognition programs and projects. Part of the high school's participation was to remember Lt. Jonas Martin Panik untimely sacrifice during the 9/11 attack.

Mrs. Poorman's Landscaping and Horticulture class teamed up with Mr. Park's Woodworking classes to design an area which would recognize Jonas's service in the U.S. Navy.

Lt. Jonas Martin Panik was not only a graduate of BHS Class of 93, but also the Naval Academy. The Landscape and Horticulture class

chose an area that would be seen by the public and chose foliage to represent our school colors. The addition of the U.S. flag recognizes our pride in our country.

The Woodworking classes chose the Navy blue bench to represent the U.S. Navy. Kip, from Champion Trophies, made a nice plaque that was attached to the bench in honor of Lt. Jonas Martin Panik.

The final touch was the engraved stone. Hull's Well Drilling engraved the stone and donated it for the memorial. The art work on the stone was done by Josh Troup, BHS Class of 1996.



Although our school colors are red and white, there is huge significance behind the blue bench. We hope it serves as a memorial to those who have lost their lives serving in our military and as a reminder of our love and dedication to our country.

Mystery solved.

Mentor Luncheon

Earlier this school year Bellefonte Area High School students met with various members of the community during a luncheon organized at the high school. The goal was to have the members of the community mentor BAHS students. This type of event is part of BASD's ongoing effort to engage the community in educational programming in the schools, which will ultimately benefit students because they will participate in authentic learning experiences.



Pi Day Festivities in High School Math Classes

BAHS Math teacher Mr. Constable's Algebra 2 class brought in circular objects from home and made a class scatter plot to show the correlation between each circle's circumference to its diameter.

Students graphed the scatter plots on their graphing calculators and calculated the line of best fit. The slope of the line (which relates circumference divided by diameter) was an approximation for pi. Moreover, students were also able to see how accurately they measured their circles by seeing how close their quotient of circumference and diameter was to pi.

All of Mr. Constable's classes also created pi-kus, which are very similar to haiku poems. Whereas haikus follow a 5-7-5 syllable structure, pi-kus follow a 3-1-4 syllable structure. He compiled all of the pi-kus into a binder and students will be voting for their favorite pi-kus this month. Some of my favorites include:

**Pi is fine,
But
Pie is better**

**Area of circles
Count
On you, a lot**

**Three point one
Four
One five nine blah**

**Bakery
Or
Class, pi is great**

**The number
Pi
Never ending**

were measured. Dividing the circumference by the diameter provides an estimate of pi. Students realized and discussed why many of the estimates of pi were overestimates. They also went around an object that allowed for more error in the stretch ability of the string. It wasn't as easy to pull it tight around an apple pie as it was to pull it tight on the ruler while measuring the lengths, which caused the overestimate.

Mrs. Ervine's classes spent the day talking about Pi facts and where pi came from. They also spent the class making a paper chain of the numbers of pi. Each color represented a certain digit of pi. Throughout the day the classes were able to make a chain of pi that was 1,004 digits long. The chain reached from one end of the hallway to the other.

Mrs. Besch had students bring in circular objects from apple pie, pizza pie, and other circular objects where the circumference and diameter

Congratulations, Middle School Students.



As the school year winds to an end, the days are filled with all of the special activities such as field trips and awards ceremonies, yearbook deliveries and school-wide jam.

Both the sixth and seventh grades held awards ceremonies where students were recognized for perfect attendance, honor roll, academic excellence in specific content areas, and the Red Raider Award for all around excellence.

The eighth grade teachers once again planned and organized the promotion ceremony for the eighth grade students. This annual event is a highlight for students and their families as was indicated by the overflowing auditorium.

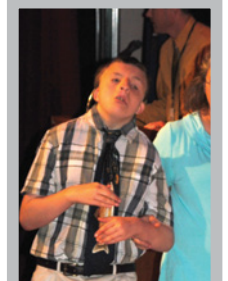
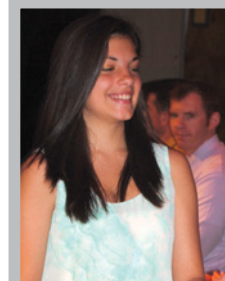
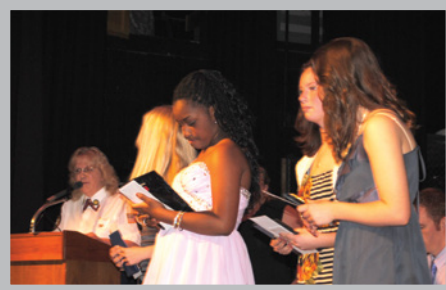
Mr. McManus, the master of ceremonies, made a few remarks about the class of 2017. I also gave a send-off speech wishing each student good luck.

Awards, like the VFW Americanism Essay and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Essay winners, were announced. The top three students for these essays received cash awards. After the students walked the stage to be recognized and their awards and activities were announced, Mrs. Brown, High School Principal welcomed them to the high school for their ninth grade year.

We wish all students a relaxing, safe and fun-filled summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Krisch, Bellefonte Area Middle School Principal



BAMS Special Olympics 2013

The BAMS Life Skills' support class rolled into Geri Ryan Track Meet on Thursday, April 18 2013.

The team competed in athletic competitions at the Penn State Multi-Sports Complex. The students prepared with their coaches during Adaptive Physical Education classes.

The events that the students participated in were the 50 meter run, 100 meter run, 50 meter walk, 100 meter walk, standing long jump, and softball throw. Each student participated in three events. All the students won medals or ribbons for their effort.

Deanna Brungard and Danial Hartman participated in the 50 meter dash, softball throw and standing long jump. Dustin Crater said "I love getting my medals and hanging out with my friends."

The members of the Mr. Rager's BAMS Life Skill Support team were; Deanna Brungard, Eli Byler, Justin Shaffer, Daniel Hartman, Dustin Crater, Mitchell Carr, and Hunter McMurtrie.

The 8th grade volunteer/coaches: Marisa Cameron, Jordan Funk, Chase Gardner, Brien McChesney, and Kendra Wakefield



The class would thank Ms. Neideigh and Mr. Miller for training during Adaptive PE class and the great clapping and cheering sendoff that the staff and students did on the morning of the event. ■

Students Catch the Wind

If you see BAMS students Trey Fishburn, Rees Kelley, or Ryan Bossert, send out a big "congrats" to them.

Together they formed "The Hurricanes" to compete this past Saturday in the 2013 KidWind Challenge state competition.

The boys have been working together for several months to design and construct an efficient model wind turbine. These students tested variables, learned about the transfer of energy, and the uses and functional operation of wind turbines.

Judging criteria was based upon the highest

energy output, turbine design, and presentation of knowledge. Their efforts paid off, as they won 1st place.

Moreover, their turbine produced energy output that was quite literally off the charts and was five times higher than 2nd place.

The group won a trophy and \$175.

Thank you to Mr. Omstead (a veteran of last year's competition), for allowing us to use the workshop and answer all of our questions as we "geared" up for the event!



BAMS Physical Education Students Show Their Pride by Getting Fit

Students in PE class work extremely hard to enhance their fitness level by engaging in a variety of different activities.

We recently participated in a fitness circuit which was an accumulation of various exercises that focus on individual muscle strength, muscle endurance, flexibility, cardio-vascular fitness and body composition.

Experimenting with a variety of fitness activities will hopefully open our student's eyes to fitness and help them to see the importance of exercise.

Fitness activities are limitless, so enjoy the nice weather and find a fitness activity that you and your family can enjoy together.



Bellefonte Middle School Majorettes win Chapter 4 Championship

Congratulations to the Bellefonte Middle School Majorettes for winning 1st place at the Chapter 4 Championships in Williamsport on Sunday, April 28, 2013. Great job girls!!

UNIT MEMBERS:

SIXTH GRADE:

Savannah Mundy
Miranda Whitehead
Abby Osborne
Rose Mellott
Hannah Crafts
Olivia Fisher
Lissi Przybys

SEVENTH GRADE:

Alexis Crissinger
Alexis Rickard

EIGHTH GRADE:

Maddie Castles
Leah Seprish
Lizzy Knepp

A big thank you to the STAFF:

Emily Rickard (Advisor), Arimani Caprio (Twirling Coach), Jay Zimmerman (Band Director), Susan Zimmerman (Assistant Band Director), Andrew Rhoades and Crystal Haagen (props and uniform), Amy Perryman (volunteer).

Intramural Program (Middle School and Elementary)

Throughout the fall and winter months, many 4th- 8th grade boys and girls in the Bellefonte School District took part in the Intramural Program that was provided at the Middle School and all four elementary schools in the district.

Each building provided various opportunities for after-school sports and games to promote student participation in physical activity. These activities included flag football, softball, basketball, floor hockey, throwing games, and tag games at

the elementary level, as well as bowling at the Middle School.

Under the direction of Co-Athletic Director, Deb Moore and Middle School Principal, Karen Krisch, these activities were coordinated by Eric Cyone, the Health and Physical Education teacher at Benner and Pleasant Gap Elementary.

Mr. Cyone, who also provides intramural activities at Pleasant Gap Elementary, would like to thank the following "coaches" who were able

to provide activities at each school during the fall and winter season: Leigh Heeman (Middle School), Jeffrey Mudry and Shane Chapman (Bellefonte Elementary), Mike Mussett, Adam Huggins, and Jennifer Zahuranec (Benner Elementary), and Matt Burrows (Marion-Walker Elementary).

Intramurals are not only a great way to get exercise, but can help students improve or learn new skills while having fun with friends. ■

BAMS Gets \$25,000 from State Farm

Pretty soon people will be walking all over the middle school... and that's a good thing.

Bellefonte Area Middle School recently secured a \$25,000 grant from the State Farm Neighborhood Assist program, a program that provides individuals or organizations an opportunity to win a \$25,000 grant to help with a cause that improves and/or benefits the community.

BAMS Principal Mrs. Krisch submitted the BAMS Walking Trail as the cause: a safe and convenient place for anybody to bike/walk for health and fun.

After thousands of ideas to improve neighborhoods were submitted through the State

Farm website, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board reviewed the submissions and identified the top 200 based on a scoring rubric.

BAMS was selected as one of the top 200 causes by the State Farm Youth Advisory Board for a chance to win \$25,000 for our cause. People were allowed 10 votes per day through April 22. Through daily e-mail reminders, sharing on Facebook, and word of mouth, BAMS continued to accumulate votes on a daily basis.

In the end, BAMS ranked 8th nationally, out of thousands of applicants and hundreds of thousands – if not millions - of votes.

Thanks to everybody for all of your support.

We could not have won this grant without each and every one of you. ■



BAMS students and teachers pose with representatives from State Farm, district administrators, BASD School Board President Becky Rock, BASD School Members Richard Steele and George Stone, State Representative Kerry Benninghoff, Senator Jake Corman, and Field Representative Mike Glazer from Congressman Glenn Thompson's office.

Elementary Schools Give Back to the Community Montage



At Bellefonte Elementary School, students in Mrs. Chapman's kindergarten class enjoy a cookies and milk party. A total of 11 classes won a party by bringing non perishable food items for the food drive hosted by the Bellefonte cafeterias.



Art students at Bellefonte Elementary created this banner for the food drive in their cafeteria. The students very enthusiastic about the idea of giving and worked very hard making sure the event was a success.



Many cases of food were donated by Benner Elementary for the Faith Center food pantry in Bellefonte. BASD schools are always looking for ways to have students give back to the community.

Bellefonte Elementary Students Raise Funds

On Friday, April 12th, students at Bellefonte Elementary School had the opportunity to participate in the 6th Annual Mini-Thon. This two hour dance marathon benefits the Four Diamonds Fund, whose goal is to provide support for patients and families facing the battle against pediatric cancer.

Bellefonte Elementary students put their hearts and souls into helping children and families in need. Through a car wash, pledge sheets, sales of Four Diamonds items, and concessions, our students were able to raise an amazing \$7,386.24.

They should be extremely proud of themselves.

This would not have been made possible without the support of parents, community members, teachers, administration, and most importantly the students.

Kudos to Bellefonte Elementary students for helping Four Diamonds get one step closer to finding a cure for pediatric cancer. Everyone is so proud of you.

Together, we have made difference. ■

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Benner 4th Graders Get a Virtual Tour from Senator Corman

The employees of Bellefonte Area School District are always looking for ways to get parents involved.

After a unit on government, Ms. Packard asked one of the parents of her Benner 4th grade students to give a personal account of what life is like as a government official.

State Senator Jake Corman was more than happy to oblige by visiting his daughter Bella's classroom to give the 4th graders at Benner Elementary facts about Pennsylvania government and history.

During his visit, Senator Corman presented the kids with wonderful pictures to accompany his presentation on Pennsylvania history, the role of government, and a virtual tour of the capitol. He then chose student volunteers to role-play during a mock session of how a bill becomes a law.

After this informative session, Senator Corman took time to answer the students' questions.



Ms. Packard's and Mr. Bolich's 4th graders were so pleased to receive many fun booklets and Pennsylvania treats from Senator Corman after the question and answer session.

Having parents share information about their careers is exactly what Bellefonte School District and the parents of this community are all about. ■

Parent Breakfast Programs Expand at Benner Elementary iMOM Morning Chapter Started

One Friday a month eating breakfast at Benner Elementary School is as popular as a Sunday morning at the Waffle Shop.

Students and their fathers have breakfast together as part of the All Pro Dads breakfast program. This monthly event was so popular that mothers asked for a chance to share a breakfast with their children as well.

The Benner Elementary staff responded by starting the iMOM breakfast program for mothers and children.

The Benner iMOM chapter is one of only two

chapters in the entire state. Both programs are affiliated with Family First, an organization that supports families by providing them with resources and ideas to assist in their daily lives. Moms, Dads, and students have found that breakfast at Benner is a great way to start the day.

Neither of these programs would be possible without the incredible support provided by the entire Benner Elementary Staff.

Staff members volunteer their time by coming in early in the morning to help with the program. Cafeteria workers have breakfast ready by 7:15 for over 100 students and parents. Custodians place

signs in front of the building reminding parents where to park. The building secretary greets everyone at the door, reminds them to sign in, and gives them a visitor's pass. Teachers and aides supervise students normally held in the cafeteria in their classrooms until school is ready to begin.

Finally, 5th grade teacher Laura Covone and 4th grade teacher Steve Bolich both help Mr. Vancas facilitate the programs.

Benner staff members deserve a pat on the back for making sure these programs are successful. ■



Benner Celebrates National Reading Week

Benner Elementary celebrated National Reading Week, February 25, 2013 – March 1, 2013 with daily theme days including Hats off to Dr. Seuss, Wacky Wednesday, Sports Day, Pajama Day, and Read My T-Shirt Day.

Throughout the week, students read at home and with the help of their parents completed nightly reading logs to help the Benner Bears read their way across America.

Benner PTA member, Deb Leonori, tallied the books. Each book read equaled two miles on the United States map, and moved the Benner Bear across America. Each classroom who met their reading goal for the week received a book of their choice for their classroom library.

On Friday, March 1, 2013 the school celebrated National Reading Week and Dr. Seuss's birthday with Family Reading Night, co-sponsored by Benner's Reading Intervention Services and the Benner PTA.

The night included a free pizza dinner, birthday cake for Dr. Seuss, book bingo, and reading based family reading door prizes. Each child in attendance left with at least 1 book and a Dr. Seuss bookmark. ■



All Revved Up



Roller coasters made of foam and marbles, straws and discs, and ramps with cups and pennies could be found in Mrs. Harris's first grade classroom at Benner Elementary while the students were learning about balance and motion in science.

As a culminating project, the students utilized their newfound skills to create a milk carton car. The cars were created during an at home project with some assistance from adults. The afternoon of January 24 was filled with a milk carton derby where the students raced their cars.

Rich discussions were held during the unit to help the students make connections between what they were learning in the classroom and how that knowledge can be applied outside the classroom. ■

Jump Rope for Heart

During February and March, all 2nd – 5th grade students at Benner and Pleasant Gap Elementary Schools participated in the Jump Rope for Heart event.

This nation-wide program, which is sponsored by the American Heart Association, helps children learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health. In addition, they had the opportunity to raise money for a great cause. Both events were coordinated by Mr. Cyone, the schools' Health and Physical Education teacher.

Students worked together in teams of 5-7 to continuously keep their jump ropes moving for 30-40 minutes. They got to have fun exercising while demonstrating how they can work together as a team. All participants were jumping and cheering for their teammates to keep the rope going, as well as helping those who needed encouragement.

The students worked just as hard raising money for the American Heart Association. In their fifth year participating in the Jump Rope for Heart, students at Benner and Pleasant Gap Elementary Schools raised over \$6,700, and over \$33,600 since participating in the program. These funds

will support vital heart and stroke research, as well as educational programs funded by the American Heart Association. In addition, because of the kids' hard work in raising that amount, Mr. Cyone received a \$200 certificate toward the purchase of new Physical Education equipment at each school.

Mr. Cyone wants to thank everyone who helped out and supported the event this year, as well as all the students for making the Jump Rope for Heart a huge success. ■

PG Students Get Greener

On April 2, 2013, HRI, Inc. Cooperative Environmental Coordinator Mary Jo Miller visited Mrs. Jodon's and Mrs. Hendershot's third grade classrooms at Pleasant Gap Elementary School.

Mary Jo Miller based her presentation on how geology relates to an environmental career.

The students just finished learning all about rocks and minerals and now have an understanding of how to use their knowledge in an environmental career. Mary Jo focused her presentation on teaching the students about geology, taking care of the water, the importance of testing PH, and how important it is for everyone to conserve energy.

She included many demonstrations to help the students see the effects of pollutants in our environment. She also emphasized how important it is to make sure we do everything we can to keep are Earth clean and free from pollutants. ■



Chicks at Pleasant Gap

Mrs. Hazel's kindergarten class enjoyed visiting with two two-week chicks in May. ■



Marion Walker Egg Hunt

Marion-Walker held an egg hunt in the spring; however, this wasn't like any other egg hunt.

Students were picked from the SWPBS hive five bin to work as teams representing their classrooms.

Students filled their bags with eggs that were filled with symbols that represented unknown point values. The teams totaled their scores and then in order of their score, selected from a menu of fun rewards for their entire classroom.

Rewards included, classroom karaoke, extra recess, class selected gym activities, bubbles, recess ball for their room, snacks and much more!

■



Honoring Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss week was full of good fun that was funny for Marion Walker students.

From March 1st through March 8th students were picked from the hive five SWPBS slips to participate in a variety of Dr. Seuss inspired activities.

To kick the week off, students were read to by Bellefonte Area High School students and the Cat in the Hat. Throughout the rest of the week, students were picked to dress up silly with their friends and get pictures taken in a Seussian photo booth, eat a Green Eggs and Ham breakfast, dance in their crazy socks on Wacky Wednesday during a lunchtime sock hop, Go Dog Go in a crazy obstacle course, and even receive free books.

The week closed with students and teachers being picked to be part of a Dr. Seuss trivia game.

This game show was hosted by the Cat in The Hat and Vanna Sam I Am (the Seuss version of Vanna White) and resulted in zany antics complete with some teachers being Grinch-ed, Silly Stringed, and receiving prizes of Lorax mustaches. ■





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