

BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018 SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

RED RAIDER

m a g a z i n e



In This Issue:

Graduation
Mini-Thon
BAMS in Space
Global Education

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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 Superintendent Michelle Saylor at 355-4814, Ext. 3005.

Correction

Pleasant Gap Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Pamela Grimminger's last name was spelled wrong in the 2017-18 Fall/Winter issue of Red Raider magazine.

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Thank you for your service 2017-18 retirees

Patricia Correll	Kindergarten teacher	30 years of service
Cheryl DeCusati	Kindergarten teacher	25 years of service
Barbara Duck	Van driver	20 years of service
Karen Fye	Lead cook	17 years of service
Stetphanie Grieb	High school teacher	24 years of service
Suzanne Krebs	Para-educator	17 years of service
Mary Miltenberger	Sixth-grade teacher	17 years of service
Anna Murphy	Para-educator	20 years of service
Diane Silvis	Elementary orchestra teacher	25 years of service
Donna Smith	Eighth-grade teacher	33 years of service
Karen Truesdale	School nurse	18 years of service
Jay Zimmerman	High school music teacher	36 years of service
Susan Zimmerman	Elementary music teacher	36 years of service



Leaders to Learn from

Superintendent Michelle Saylor was named by Education Week as one of their 2018 Leaders to Learn from — an annual recognition by the publication to honor educators and education advocates with dedication and passion for their work.

According to the editors of Education Week, the publication puts out a public nomination bid and sought nominations from school administrators, education reporters, experts in secondary education and more. Reporters from Education Week then “identified leaders who are making a mark within the topical areas they cover,” according to a column from the editors.

In an article called, “Small town schools chief bridges cultures through language learning,” written by Stephen Sawchuk for Education Week, Saylor was recognized for her leadership in what’s called Global Education, by helping implement more language options in more grades at the Bellefonte Area School District — something Saylor said helps in the understanding of different cultures and in building empathy.



Photo: Courtesy of Doyle Maurer for Education Week. Reprinted with permission

A graduation message

By Mike Fedisson, principal

Every summer, we welcome a new class of students to Bellefonte Area High School during our New Student Orientation Night. Inevitably, at some point in the evening, we tell the students and parents that the next four years will fly by, and before anyone realizes it, the time for graduation will be here.

True to form, this year has come and gone, and another group of students have passed through our halls to become the 134th graduating class at Bellefonte. Yet, it is too simple to say that they have merely passed through the halls. They have worked hard in the classroom, contributed thousands of hours of community service to the Bellefonte community and beyond, rebuilt programs, won championships and earned countless awards. More importantly, the members of the Class of 2018 have touched the lives of their friends and teachers; they have positively affected the staff and our community and have given us a great deal of pride in our school and our youth.

The Class of 2018 has experienced many traditions this year and started a few of their own. Certainly, they shined during our awards ceremonies and commencement and carry on new traditions such as the Senior Walk, where students visit their elementary schools in cap and gown. They have painted ceiling tiles with special messages that will brighten our halls. It's no surprise that this group selected three of their teachers to speak at commencement – again, showing the strength of the bond among them.

Each graduating class is unique; each shares its own set of experiences and memories and leaves its own mark on our school and our hearts. We will cherish the Class of 2018 for all of the joyful thoughts they have left with us. We wish them all the best for continued success and happiness in the next journey of their lives.



Number of graduates 196

Valedictorian

Cassandra Vogel

Grade percentage: 100.6101

Millersville University, marketing

Salutatorian

Lindsay Knupp

Grade percentage: 100.3066

Bucknell University, math



A message from the grads



"Just apply yourself. Take advantage of the clubs and sports you have here. This is going to be the only chance you have to participate in sports for free."

Jacob Frey, Penn State



"I was in (the) Senior Institute (class) this year and my favorite teachers were Ms. Lloyd and Ms. Fry. They were very helpful and gave us helpful advice and they taught us very valuable life lessons."

Bree McDaniel, Clarion



"What I'm going to miss the most is just walking around the halls with my friends, (and) hanging out in the parking lot after school and before school, and being with my friends."

Robby Ford, Penn State



"Study hard and actually work toward your goals because they can really help in the end with where you want to go to college or what you want to do in the future."

Drew Nixdorf, Clarion



"I'll be attending Lock Haven University next year and majoring in communication, and I hope to later become a film video editor for the next big movie you're going to go see in theaters."

Ryan Houser



"My favorite memory was doing softball in my freshman year; the other part of it was just being able to spend prom and all the other school activities with my best friends."

Megan Deitrich, Penn College of Tech



Life skills café

Life Skills Café reopened its doors as a coffee shop and was a huge success, according to high school Life Skills Support program teacher Rachael Davis.

The initiative held annually with students allowed Miranda Fleck, Ashley Harter, Micah Heckathorne and Adam Marchini to use on-the-job skills one would see at a professional café. Davis said each student was assigned a job based on the abilities and skills students developed during the past few years.

Fleck was a barista who added the flavoring to coffees. She had to know what size was ordered to determine how many pumps of flavoring to add in each cup. Marchini was the barista who selected the correct coffee cup size, as requested per order slip; filled the cup with coffee; and then returned it to the customer.

“Each job is modified and adapted to better suit those individuals and to ensure their success. We had to completely rethink the café from the previous year to better suit the abilities of the students we (had) this year.”

Rachael Davis, teacher

Harter was the cashier who took customer order slips, totaled their bill and then gave them change, if necessary. Her phrase, “no, thank you,” with a quick pause after the “no” and a heavy emphasis on the “thank you,” was a hit with the customers. Heckathorne, called the class’s “social butterfly,” was the greeter who used his Augmentative and Alternative Communication device to greet customers and direct them to fill out order forms that would go to Harter upon entering the classroom.

Earlier in the school year, a menu was sent to high school faculty and staff interested in ordering a meal and to help support the program. Those interested filled out their order forms and presented it to the students upon arrival to the café.

Students prepared sausage, egg and cheese English muffin breakfast sandwiches; cinnamon coffee cake; and blueberry muffins. The café had more than 30 customers and made more than \$100, which goes toward future field trips where students use the money to pay for items needed in the café.

“The café requires planning, budgeting, grocery shopping, cooking and baking skills, as well as strong communication skills,” Davis said. “This whole process is a great way to target these various skills, and the students really enjoy doing it.”

The students also participate in grocery shopping. They were given individualized grocery lists with items they are responsible for purchasing — some had a list that included specific brands, sizes and prices. Others, Davis said, had a grocery list that required them to find items based on pictures.

All students also followed proper hygiene protocols such as wearing hair nets, gloves and aprons. The students also practiced independent living skills such as cleaning table tops and dishes, washing hands and ensuring their clothes were clean.



Mr. Bellefonte 2018



Five former Bellefonte Area High School students proved that just about anyone is eligible to participate in a beauty pageant. Jack Badger, Brian Doyle, Matthew Fultz, Noah Nadolsky and Max Theuer participated in the annual Mr. Bellefonte 2018 competition.

The now graduated Max Theuer was named Mr. Bellefonte; classmate Jack Badger was runner-up.

It might have been just for bragging rights, but student council adviser Arianna Gouzouasis said the goal was to entertain the audience, while helping support student council that organized the school's mini-Thon held in March.

Mr. Bellefonte is a competition which any senior male student can compete in to be crowned the title. It included categories such as casual wear, lip sync, talent, formal wear and a final question component. The participants, Gouzouasis said, were required to pick their own songs, write their own bios and invite an escort to be on stage with them for the formal wear portion of the night.

Four teachers also acted as judges who followed a scoring rubric to decide the winner.

"This group of boys (were) absolutely hysterical and love to be in the spotlight," Gouzouasis said.

The audience was also encouraged to vote on a set of superlatives. Theuer was voted "best hair" and "best smile."



Q&A with Max Theuer

Question: What was it like on stage?

Answer: It's a lot less intimidating than you think because you look out there and you think it's going to be intimidating but all your friends are laughing and can see how smiley they are. The lights are kind of hot and bright in your face, but it's not bad.

Q: Did you have a favorite part about the competition?

A: I think it was awesome the personalities of the guys that we had. I'm friends with all of them, and they're all outgoing and funny. So backstage, you're just behind the curtain and hear everyone cracking up, and it's so fun to sit back there with your friends and laughing with your other friend on stage doing something.

Q: What tips do you have for guys who want to do this in the future?

A: I say just do it. People are intimidated when you go out there, but you have fun. That's all I did. I just tried to have fun. I looked out, and I saw all my friends laughing and all I think of it is like I'm talking to my friends. I'm up there and have a mic in my face, and I'm not pretending I'm great or anything, but it's fun to just do it. Be yourself; go out there. ... You don't even have to be that funny of a guy. Just go out there knowing your friends are out there supporting you with your family, and go out and have a good time.



Organ and Tissue Donation



Students who participated in last school year's OTDA program at Bellefonte Area High School worked hard throughout the year to help bring awareness about organ and tissue donation. In March, 21 students and three chaperones visited the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts and attended a live presentation of a laparoscopic gastric sleeve surgery that took place at Penn State Health's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

English teacher Jennifer Walter said attendees learned about the medical staff involved, surgical process and tools used to perform the surgery. During the surgery, Bellefonte Area students were also encouraged to ask questions to the head surgeon who answered in real time as the surgery took place.

"It was extremely interesting and informative for everyone," Walter said.

After the surgery, students spent time at the museum before heading to the Gift of Life Family House in Philadelphia — a place where individuals and their families live while waiting for, and recovering from, organ transplants. Staff at each facility gave tours and explained what they do and how they help individuals and families with a variety of needs before, during and after transplant surgery.

Before the trip, a collection drive was held to gather paper goods, which were then donated to the home during the visit. One was held earlier in the year at the boys' basketball game against Tyrone Area. Guest speaker Bill Council spoke during halftime of the game about his experience with organ donation. A few years ago, Council was the recipient of a partial liver that helped save his life. There was also an information booth and a drive to collect paper and cleaning goods to donate to the home.

The trip and educational outreach program was made possible by a \$5,000 Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness grant awarded to the high school for the second time.

"What we are to do with the grant is help spread awareness for the need of organ donation mainly through class curriculum," said former school nurse Karen Truesdale.

According to information from Donate Life PA, 4.6 million people in the commonwealth have signed up to be organ and tissue donors, but more than 8,000 Pennsylvanians are still waiting for organ and tissue transplants.



Dairy Princess Gretchen Little



Bellefonte Area High School senior Gretchen Little takes her roles as Centre County Dairy Princess and First Alternate State Dairy Princess seriously. In fact, she said they're more like having "jobs," which allow her to act as the voice for those in the dairy industry.

"Farmers don't have time to go out and talk to the public so we are the (spokeswomen)," she said. "We go out and talk to the community and consumers about their concerns with the dairy industry and products, and with any questions they have, we're there to answer and educate."

Little, now a senior, grew up in Walker Township on her family's first generation dairy farm. Sparking a love and appreciation for the industry, she decided to run for the county title in April 2017 after turning 16. Her one-year reign began in June 2017. Being named the Centre County Dairy Princess also made her eligible to run for the state title, which she placed second at against 27 contestants. Her state term ends in September.

Now, Little, along with state Dairy Princess Yvonne Longenecker, of Blair County, and fellow alternate Casandra Blickley, of Chester County, travel across the commonwealth with a mission to promote the dairy industry.

"I'm doing something and out there hopefully making a difference. I'm really proud of what I've done."

Gretchen Little

Little said she attends state, regional and local agriculture events; spent 10 days in January at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg participating in interactive dairy stations and educational workshops; and from Feb. 2-4, was a guest at the three-day Junior Holstein Association convention in Lancaster where she helped lead a workshop on social media.

When asked what advice she has for others wanting to run for the same titles, she enthusiastically said, "Do it!" "It's a lot of work, but all worth it," Little said. "It's a fantastic experience, and you really learn important life lessons like communication and public speaking and how to present myself in a positive light, and I think it's a positive program that teaches young men and women really positive things."

Though she isn't allowed to run for a second consecutive time, Little said her position has led her to rewarding experiences.

"To me, that's the most rewarding thing — that the farmers are so grateful for what we're doing and bringing back positive influences on the dairy industry," she said.



From Puerto Rico to Bellefonte

If you ask Wilner and Wilmarys Torres what their favorite things are about Bellefonte Area High School, they'll likely say the cafeteria and school lunches. They also gave a shout out to many teachers and students who helped them transition to a new school.

The brother-sister duo moved to Bellefonte in November from the hurricane-ravished Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico — a decision made by their mother so the siblings could continue their education.

"Some people lost everything," Wilmarys said. "We didn't have school for a couple months, so my mom decided it was best for us to come here with family and continue studying because she wanted us to have a better education. If we were to stay there, we had the possibility of not going on. ... It was possible at my old school that I would not be able to pass to 10th grade, and so she wanted him (Wilner) to graduate and me to pass."

But never having transferred to a new school, let alone one in the United States where they're encouraged to speak English more regularly, came with nerves — yet subsequently a surprisingly smooth adjustment.

"At first I was nervous about changing schools because this is not something we have done before, but everyone has been helpful," Wilner said. "I wasn't sure what to expect, but it's been OK."

His sister added with enthusiasm, "The adjustment was

really good. We met a lot of good people who would approach us and show us where class was, and they would take time to explain and help us." She even said her math teacher went out of his way to translate some of the information to Spanish.

And when asked what their favorite thing is about BAHS, they both said the cafeteria food.

"The cafeteria is better, the food is amazing and I love the pizza," Wilmarys said. "We didn't have that at our old school, so getting it here every day is awesome."

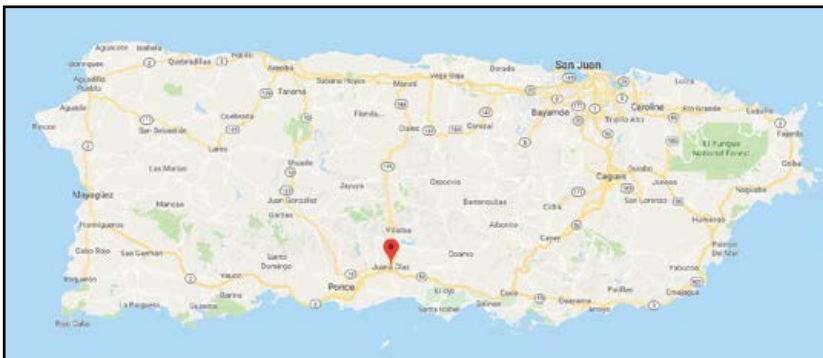
They also took the time to acknowledge teachers who helped make the academic process an easy one.

On the other hand, the hardest part, they explained, was adjusting to the winters. Their hometown of Juana Diaz is on the tropical side of Puerto Rico that averages an annual temperature of about 80 degrees. The average high, according to Weatherbase, is about 90 degrees, while the lows are just less than 70 degrees.

"We never seen snow before; it's not like this in the tropics, so when we got here we were getting sick all the time because it was hard to adjust to the cold weather," Wilmarys said with a laugh.

Their hometown is slowly rebuilding, they said, and the decision to stay in the Bellefonte area may be long-term.

"My dad said we likely will wait to go back until after I graduate," Wilmarys said. "They want me to stay at one school. I think it's a good thing."



BELLEFONTE
1,714 miles

Boston Invitational Model United Nations Conference

Bellefonte Area High School's Model UN team returned from a competition in Boston that left them shining after competing against more than 1,300 students from around the world including those from schools in China, Mexico and Uzbekistan.

Teacher Ed Fitzgerald said the group of more than 30 students was eligible to participate in the event after a team application was accepted. Students then held a series of fundraising events to help support the trip.

"It was a wonderful trip and excellent experience," Fitzgerald said.

The Boston Invitational Model United Nations Conference, or BosMUN, is a three-day simulation of the United Nations for high school students hosted by Boston University, according to the organization's website. BosMUN XVII was held at Boston Park Plaza in the city's Back Bay neighborhood.

Competition highlights:

- Alex Hunzicker received Best Delegate for his portrayal of Marcus Crassus in the Roman Senate;
- Max Theuer received Outstanding Delegate for his portrayal of Pompey in the Roman Senate;
- Brian Feldman received Best Delegate for his portrayal of a Lord in his Ad-Hoc committee;
- Jack Badger received Verbal Commendation for his work as Colombia in the Pan-American committee;
- Halle Mitchell received an honorable mention for her work as Dominican Republic in the Pan American committee.

Fitzgerald said the Pan-Am committee was conducted in English and Spanish.

The trip also included a tour of Harvard University with former BAHS teachers Stacey Nath and Shaun McMurtrie.



Bellefonte Area mini-Thon

Many Bellefonte Area High School students made luminary bags with personalized messages explaining “why they Thon,” said graduate Gabbie Pighetti, former mini-Thon fundraising student chairwoman. Those bags were then set up near the entrance of the high school during mini-Thon on the night of March 23 with lights in them to symbolize the significance the event represents.

The school hosted its second annual mini-Thon modeled after Penn State’s IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, which annually raises money for the Four Diamonds fund at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. The fund helps families of children diagnosed with cancer.

While student organizers said the planning process was “crazy,” it was all worth it.

“One of the major aspects of it comes in the form of school unity,” said graduate Eddie Fitzgerald, former student council president. “A lot of pride goes into it, and students want to come together for a good cause.”

Preparations began in the fall by members of student council and included a series of fundraisers that helped raise money for the Four Diamonds fund and to help offset the cost it would take to make mini-Thon a reality. About 200 students participated in this year’s event and helped raise more than \$4,700.

It even included live entertainment from local rapper Meechi Blanco; State College-based band Velveeta; and a student-run band called, Sauce. Teacher Allison Kyte also donated about 10 inches of her hair to a charity that makes wigs for kids.





"I Thon just because 1) it's a great cause and 2) because there's so many people (who) deserve so much more in the world and I just want to give them a chance to experience it."

Why I Thon



"I Thon because it's a great cause."

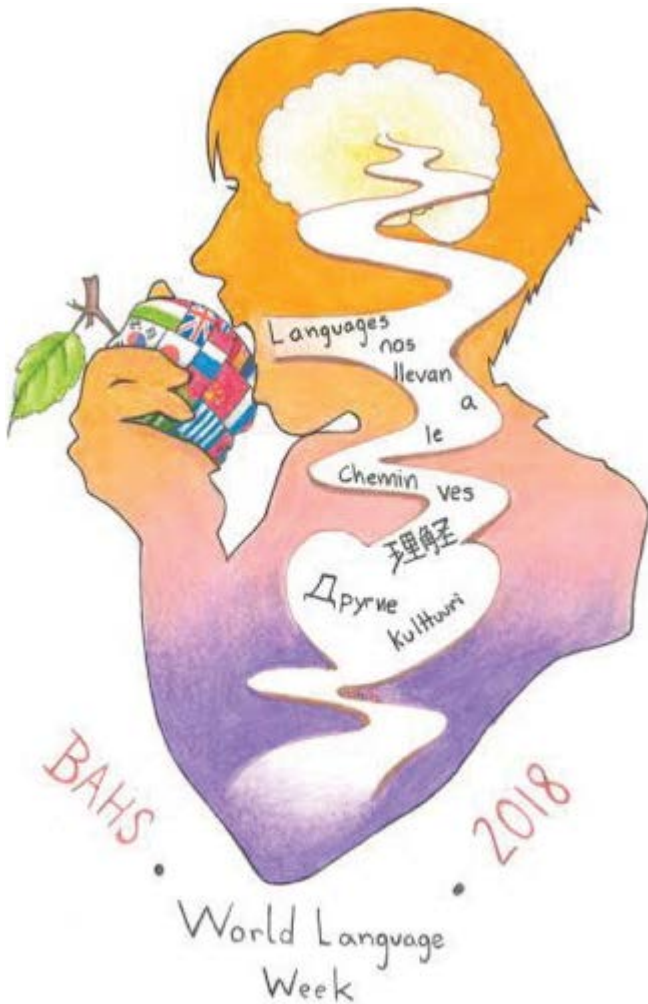


"I Thon to keep the hope."



"I Thon in hopes that every kid has the chance to dance someday."

World Languages Week



If you saw the morning announcements at Bellefonte Area High School during February, then you may have learned something new in a variety of languages including Arabic, Italian, Polish and Portuguese. That's because students in Spanish Honor Society spent most of the month promoting Discover Languages Month.

That month of celebration led right into World Languages Week, also known as National Foreign Language Week, held in March. This is the fifth year the languages department participated in the national celebration, which allowed students in Chinese, French and Spanish classes to learn about a different language other than what's offered at the school.

This year, they chose Swedish because a student teacher's father is from Sweden, and she's familiar with the language. The classes even tried numerous Swedish meals.

High school Spanish teacher Emily Zimdahl-McManus said a student created an image that was put on T-shirts ordered to help celebrate World Languages Week. Dustin Waltz was the designer of the image that incorporated this year's national theme, "Languages lead us on a path to understanding other cultures."

Waltz, a recent graduate, has also taken the three languages the high school offers.

In March, students in Spanish Honor Society also spent the day learning more about the Hispanic culture. They attended a performance of "Ché Malambo" at Penn State. The show consists of an all-male Argentinian dance ensemble. Students then finished the day with lunch at Rey Azteca in College Township where students interacted with servers and other restaurant personnel who spoke Spanish.



Submitted information about the fieldtrips, written by junior Evan McMullen, can be found on the district's website, www.basd.net/Page/13597.

State Legislative Leadership Conference

Bellefonte Area FFA members attended the State Legislative Leadership Conference during March 18-20 in Harrisburg where they had the chance to learn about some politics and also help give back to the community.

FFA adviser Myken Poorman said the first day was spent learning about the legislative process, how bills are made and passed, and more. The second day was dedicated to community service at Hershey Gardens where mulch was put down and other preparations were made for the spring. The last day began with a legislative breakfast, which included senators, congressmen and women, and other leaders. That was followed by a tour of the State Capitol Building.

Students involved were Mitchell Holden, Lynnsey Kauffman, Gretchen Little, Logan Simpson and Ryan Smith.

FFA, formerly Future Farmers of America, but now just goes by its acronym, is a youth leadership organization that promotes agriculture education



Letters of intent signing



Four Bellefonte Area student athletes signed their letters of intent April 23 committing to play a sport in college.

They are Adam Armstrong, who will play baseball at Penn State DuBois; Nicholas Ross Baney, who will play lacrosse at Marywood University; Matt Fultz, who will play lacrosse at Gwynedd Mercy University; and Alana Masullo, who will play soccer at Penn State Altoona.

Phoebe Rowland, Jessica Sidwell semifinalists on Artsonia

Bellefonte Area High School art students Phoebe Rowland and Jessica Sidwell were in the running for Artist of the Week recognitions by Artsonia, an online student art museum.

Visual Arts teacher Erin Welsh said her class used the art-sharing website last school year as a way for families and friends to view student artwork and provide students with a digital portfolio.

Each week, website representatives select 12 works of art per category that are put in the running for the honor.

Rowland's piece was selected as a semifinalist — a cut paper collage portrait. Sidwell's work, also in the running, was an acrylic painting of a house.



Slay the Dragon

Bellefonte Area High School students are defending champions of the annual Slay the Dragon competition – a Jeopardy-style drug and alcohol competition through the Centre County Youth Service Bureau. This year's event was held at the Nittany Mall.

The team, made of students Bella Corman, Regan Roan, Jaelyn Smith and Alex Spicer, competed against five other teams and won three consecutive games to bring the trophy back to Bellefonte.

"They worked hard since the beginning of January to research and memorize (more than) 130 drug and alcohol facts," secondary math coach and team adviser Melissa Duckworth said. "They dealt with many changes this year in the competition, but were able to take away the crown."

Other schools to compete were Bald Eagle Area Middle and High School, Centre Learning Community Charter School, Mount Nittany Middle School and State College Area High School.

According to the Centre County YSB website, the game is "meant to provide students, advisers and parents with correct and accurate information about the dangers of drugs and alcohol."



Local Olympian



A Bellefonte Area High School class was able to meet a former Olympian who now lives locally.

Olympian Greg Fredericks, who is also a Penn State graduate and track and field athlete, visited and spoke with the World Cultures classes, and shared his experience and knowledge of Olympic history.

"He was part of the 1980 US Olympic team, which was boycotted because of politics at the time," teacher Matthew Maris said.

Another Bellefonte Area teacher, Kim Gasper, was able to help facilitate Fredericks' visit. She said she met Fredericks through the Nittany Valley Running Club and Special Olympics and added that he often helps with community events such as Herbie's Home "Town Loop."

Lauren Yeager, finalist in Photographer's Forum



Among 12,000 photo submissions to Photographer's Forum magazine, Bellefonte Area graduate Lauren Yeager was a finalist whose photo will be featured in the publication.

BAMS in Space

After more than a year in the making, the BAMS in Space program was made a reality. Bellefonte Area Middle School was just one of 13 schools in the country to be able to speak in live-time with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. It's a program brought to the school through ARISS – Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

The goal of ARISS is to promote STEM subjects such as science, technology, engineering and math, and encourage student participation to help prepare for the event.

A handful of middle school students had the chance to ask astronaut Scott Tingle about life on the International Space Station, through amateur radio contact with equipment set up at the middle school by a group of community ham radio operators including Jon Guizar and Ellwood Brem – two men who helped spearhead the program.

Their equipment setup first had to undergo a “proof of performance” test shortly before the main event, to make sure all equipment worked. During the test, users were successfully able to track the space station, and intercept the radio conversation among Tingle and a group of students at a school in North Carolina. The data was submitted to NASA.

Leading up to the BAMS in Space event, students in teacher Jordan Eccher's class also worked to help build the base of the antenna that was installed on the roof of the middle school building. Other students participated in space-related curriculum in science class and art projects to create a T-shirt logo for the event.

Principal Sommer Garman said BAMS in Space-related curriculum also continued after the event, which included earth and space studies in sixth-grade science classes, and follow-up conversations about the event at all grade levels.

The event started with a welcome ceremony, followed by a question and answer session with a panel of experts: Jason Nicholls, of AccuWeather; Chris Palma, associate teaching professor of astronomy at Penn State; and Bill Syrett, associate teaching professor of meteorology at Penn State.

“It was really exciting,” student Davis Corman said. “I was really looking forward to this and just hear an astronaut because he's so many miles away from us in space so it's very unlikely to connect with him. ... We were able to hear the astronaut, which to me was cool (because) the moment his voice came on it was like, ‘wow this is actually happening’”

Classmate Cecilia Mazzacco was one of the few able to speak to Tingle. She said she asked if he noticed behavioral changes while in space and if he had any coping mechanisms to handle that, which Tingle replied that though it is very calm in space, the biggest difference is the environment, which astronauts are prepared for.

According to individuals who digitally contacted the district, some heard the radio communication among BAMS and Tingle in areas such as Arizona, North Carolina and Virginia, and at least as far as Modena, Italy. Members from AstronautiCAST, a live podcast from Italy, contacted the district to say they heard the communication all the way from their location in Europe.

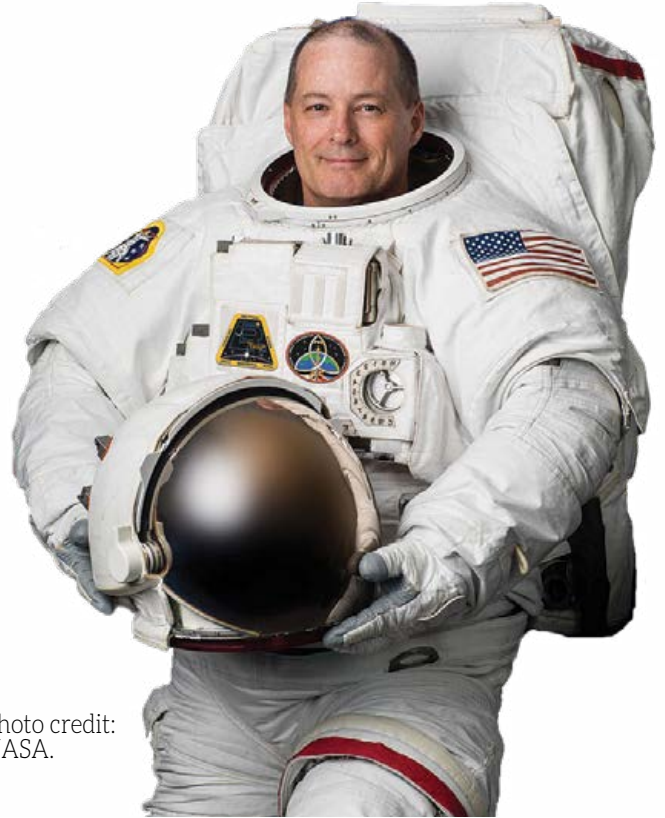


Photo credit: NASA.



THE WIZARD of OZ



Photo Credit: Drew Frank of Meadowlane Photography.

More than 70 Bellefonte Area Middle School students performed in a production of "The Wizard of Oz," held in the Bellefonte Area Middle School auditorium. BAMS drama adviser Jessica Brown said the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students began preparing for the show since the beginning of the school year, and included some students who never before performed on stage.

"These students (did) a phenomenal job with this production," she said.



Special Olympics

The Life Skills Support and CLM classes at Bellefonte Area Middle School participated in the annual Centre County Special Olympics Geri Ryan Track Meet on April 19 at Penn State's Multisport Facility. Elementary students also participated in this year's Special Olympics event.

Teacher Jeff Rager said students and coaches worked with athletes during tutorial time before they partook in events such as the 25-, 50-, 100- and 200-meter runs, the standing long jump and softball throw. The class also ran in the 4x100 relay. Each student participated in three events and won medals or ribbons for their efforts.

Middle school students who participated were Chase Bailey, Zayne Bailey, Eden Guizar, Devin Heckman, Nathan Jewell, Amber Keith, Kellan Luibil, Zoey Nichols, Dori Russo, Kenny Russo and Alexa Steiner.

Henrietta Lacks cells

Students and teachers proved that two seemingly different subjects like language arts and science can, in fact, be connected. During a class project, a group of Bellefonte Area middle and high school students and teachers connected the two subjects by reading a book that related to the same cells obtained in teacher Drew Eddinger's biology class.

Ed Fitzgerald, Advanced Placement government teacher and middle and high school gifted instructor, said he and seventh-grade language arts teacher Keith Guiswite created a "literature circle" on the novel, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." The book

discusses the social, political and scientific topics about a woman, Henrietta Lacks, whose cells were taken without her permission, and then reproduced.

They then partnered with Eddinger and her freshman biology class to work with Lacks's cells for a science experiment including making cell slides.

Eddinger said that two days before the lab, students made the microscope slides with the chromosomes. All lab materials were provided by the Science in Motion program through Juniata College, including the HeLa cells, which they ordered from CellServ.



Roots of Life

Roots of Life performed in late March at Benner Elementary School. That was the fourth time the State College Area School District-based performing arts ensemble has performed at the school. The mission was to educate about civil rights and social justice through performance.



Benner science fair



Fifth-grade students at Benner Elementary School worked throughout March and April with teacher Laura Covone and student teacher Taylor Yurek on a new science unit that allowed them to learn and implement the steps of the scientific process and then create a presentation at a science fair.

Covone said it started with picking a topic from about 200 ideas, designing and going through with an experiment, and wrapping it up by putting together their presentations. This, she added, lead into the “big day” at the science fair held earlier this month.

“Here the students not only got to display their presentations for their classmates and parents, but also with the teachers and students in kindergarten to fourth (grades),” Covone said. “Students, throughout this project, not only learned the steps of the scientific process, but helpful life skills, too.”

Projects included testing what types of ice cream melted the fastest and what liquids stained a shirt the worst. They learned how to present their findings and also how to adapt their communication skills based on who they interacted with, Covone said.

“The kids absolutely loved this project and were beyond excited to think about other scientific questions they could answer using the process they learned,” Covone said.

Snow Day Challenge

When district administrators call for a snow day, one of the first things on the mind of Benner Elementary School Principal Kris Vancas is how to get students engaged in the learning process when they're not actually in school.

When the district called for its second snow day of the school year, Vancas took to social media and posted a video asking students to have fun on the day off but also to pick up a book and read.

"Pick up anything," he said in the video. "Read a book to yourself; read a book to your cat or dog; read a book to a family member. ... Just spend some time reading."

Students who came in the next day and told Vancas about the books they read received a special bear paw ticket that went into an end-of-day drawing for prizes. Those student winners were Luke Hockenberry, Emma Kaliszewski and Grayson Zinobile.

"They spend the majority of their time outside of school, and we can use some of this time to encourage a love of reading by making it fun, which will hopefully promote reading habits that will last a lifetime," Vancas said.



Carton 2 Garden contest

Students at Benner Elementary School participated in an activity to help promote its school garden – all while tapping into their creativity. They created a display of the Benner Bear Town for the Carton 2 Garden contest.

The national program was established to help students find a passion for their school's gardens by transforming empty cartons into potting containers. Designs were put in the running to win up to \$5,000.

Second-grade teacher Lata Anantheswaran said milk cartons were saved after breakfast and lunch. Two community volunteers then helped students plant flower seeds in the carton, and the students took care of them in their

classrooms by making sure the seeds had enough hydration and sunlight.

Teachers helped students with the planning and executing to create the town

display that they named the Benner Bear Town.

"Students used an art class to brainstorm, created their part of the town and decided to work individually or collaboratively to make their piece of Benner Bear Town," Anantheswaran said. "They used tempera paint or paper to add color and theme to their cartons. Some students chose to create houses, apartment buildings or pieces of a landscape."

Other features of the garden town included fire stations, coffee shops, stores, farms complete with animals and more. It was then planted at the garden behind the school building.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Outer space broadcasts



Bellefonte Elementary School students in Lauren Whitman's fourth-grade class teamed up during April and May with elementary technology teacher Julie Henry on a collaborative project to create outer space newscasts.

Students were required to research a space-related topic, create a script and then film and edit their videos that were finalized in the middle of May. Students have been filming with Henry in front of a green screen purchased for the school by the PTO.

For students Elizabeth Stack and classmate Eli Rushton, they joined forces to report on black holes.

"It's a lot of fun, and we (worked) good together," Elizabeth said.

The two added that they also felt more like legitimate reporters when using microphones.

Once the videos were filmed, Henry said students then learned how to edit the videos, add music and transitions, and help turn their broadcast into reality with a creative background using software called WeVideo.

Lip Sync and Variety Benefit Show

More than 50 Bellefonte Elementary School students put their nerves aside to participate in the 24th annual Lip Sync and Variety Benefit Show, which annually helps raise funds and other donations for the FaithCentre food bank. This year, more than 710 canned food items were collected.



Guest reader



Children's author Stephen Kozan and illustrator Tony Mauffair visited Marion-Walker Elementary School. They spoke to students about what being a writer is all about. The guests also met with classes and had lunch with some older students.

Tissue box collection



The Pleasant Gap Elementary School PTO held a collection drive that encouraged people to donate tissue boxes to the school. Classes also competed in a friendly competition — whichever grade level collected the most received a cookie and milk party. Principal Duffy Besch said more than 620 boxes were collected.

Bellefonte Reads



Bellefonte Area School District has a goal to connect the community, and it's done through a reading campaign called Bellefonte Reads. Created more than four years ago by middle school Vice Principal Jackie Wynkoop, the program allows community members to stop by Bellefonte Area High School to receive a free book that correlates with an annual theme.

According to the district's literacy coach and eighth-grade language arts teacher Brenda Rogers, the event provides a "solid foundation" for literacy.

"Bellefonte Reads is an initiative to promote the love of reading," she said. "The idea is that members in a community read the same book, thus having a commonality to the community and discussions. The group tries to pick different levels of books to encourage the love of reading at all ages."

A book distribution night was held Feb. 15 and allowed community members to pick up a free copy of the selected books. A literacy night followed on March 15, which included a free pizza dinner, literacy activities and games for kids, a book fair, basket raffle and more.

The theme for the 2018 Bellefonte Reads event was "overcoming challenges" and books selected fit this theme.

"The committee noticed this common message and felt this (was) something that all students and families (could) relate to," Rogers said. "While the challenges people face differ — we all have something in our lives — nobody has a perfect life, no matter what it might look like from the outside. The main characters in all of the books take on the challenge and use it to make a difference."

Books chosen were, "The Hate U Give" for high schoolers and adults; "The One and Only Ivan" for intermediate readers; and "Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla" for preschool and early elementary school students.

"The Hate U Give," by Angie Thomas, follows the life of a teenage girl drawn to activism after she witnesses the police shooting of her unarmed friend.

"The One and Only Ivan," by Katherine Applegate is a children's novel written in the first-person view of a gorilla named Ivan that was held in captivity along with a group of other animals.

"Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla," also by Katherine Applegate tells the true story of Ivan, a captured gorilla.

In total, more than 430 books were purchased with help through donations from the community.



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Football preparation

By Coaches Shanon Manning and Bob Sealy

Just two months after winning the District 6 Class AAAA football title, the Red Raiders were back at it working toward the 2018 season. Workouts began in early January with the players hitting the weight room three days a week. An average of 40 players dug in and began workouts including weight training, speed and agility training, and core exercises.

"We realize how special last season was and we are trying to continue the momentum with workouts," Head Coach Shanon Manning said. "We try to hit as many phases as we can to make our athletes bigger, stronger and faster. The players did a great job of creating and continuing a culture. The older players led and the younger players fell in line."

Quarterback workouts were held Sundays in February and March, and more speed workouts were done in March and April. The spring routine continued in preparation for the Central Pennsylvania Football Coaches Association combine.

"We try to give the players a taste of what college coaches are looking for," Manning said. "We do some testing before we go to the combine."

Summer workouts began the week after graduation. The team has a camp, seven-on-seven workouts and morning workouts scheduled throughout the summer, which are three days a week for eight weeks.

PIAA-required heat acclimation drills will begin in early August and fall practice begins the second week of that month. The first home game for the Raiders is against Jersey Shore on Aug. 24.



Summer Cleaning

by Lead Custodian Jim Shaffer

The custodians are tasked with getting the district facilities and grounds ready for another school year. The work involved is very physical and time-consuming. Usually, we have a very tight schedule to get everything done, but Bellefonte Area is fortunate to have a group of hardworking and experienced custodians to accomplish this. They also take a lot of pride in their work. To us, there is no greater satisfaction than seeing results and to have teachers, students or a member of the public say, "great job."

Our work starts with cleaning all classrooms, offices, the cafeteria, bathrooms and the food service area. We clean the furniture and pull it out. We clean walls, lights, windows, floors and anything else that needs cleaning. I always say we, "clean from top to bottom and everything in between." After the rooms are ready, we put all furniture back. When all rooms are done, we then start to clean the hallways from top to bottom and everywhere in between. The hardest thing to do in the hallways and rooms is applying the floor finish and having it come out just right. It is a really great feeling to look at the shiny floors in the hallways and classrooms.

Other responsibilities include the gymnasium, which is usually the most time-consuming part. It takes three or four days just to get it ready for floor refinishing — and refinishing the floor is another two or three days to complete. This one area really reflects the effort put forth in the schools. There is nothing that looks better than a freshly-done gym. Grounds are usually done by our grounds person, but we are sometimes tasked with filling in. We do have to keep the grounds free of litter and debris that may accumulate with summer storms.

There also are other things that happen in the summer. Supplies and material come in for us to unload. Meeting and building usage takes place that we have to plan our work around. Sometimes the weather plays a part in our work, especially humid days. Equipment sometimes breaks down and needs to be repaired, but through it all, the custodians weather the storm and keep on trucking.

The Bellefonte Area School District custodians are hard workers and dedicated to making sure all schools are ready — not just in the summer months, but throughout the year. That is our contribution to the education process. When we see the students receive their diplomas, we know that we did our part in helping with that success.



Global education

A Bellefonte Area High School teacher had an opportunity that few get – the chance to further the educational platform while on a trip to Morocco.

This came for English teacher Ashlie Crosson, who was approved last year as one of 76 teachers nationwide selected for the Department of State's Teachers for Global Classroom yearlong fellowship. She applied to the program more than a year ago, with a letter of recommendation from Superintendent Michelle Saylor, and was accepted last summer.

Crosson, who's been with the district since 2012, said the program required her to take a 10-week intensive online course implemented by the International Research and Exchanges board. She was then asked to reflect on how what she learned fits into her class and the Bellefonte Area School District. The course, Crosson said, was similar to a graduate-level class, and taken among other teachers involved in the program. Its mission was to help provide a foundation for implementing global education initiatives into teacher classrooms.

In February, she headed to Washington D.C. for a two-day symposium, accompanied by high school Principal Mike Fedisson and other fellows, to create research questions and collaborate on ideas with others heading to the same country. That was followed by a 16-day field experience in a foreign country.



In a time zone that's five hours ahead of Bellefonte, Crosson explains her TGC experience that took her to Morocco.

I taught in Africa. I don't know how many other American teachers can cross that off their bucket list, but I can. This year I have been involved in a Teachers for Global Classrooms fellowship and through this opportunity, I spent two weeks in Morocco with a dozen other educators.

Before Morocco, I had been to 12 foreign countries, so I wasn't worried about homesickness or culture shock. I should have been because 1) Africa isn't Europe and TGC isn't a vacation. From religion to lodging to restrooms, each day presented an unfamiliar cultural perspective; and 2) teaching is different than being a tourist, and being in the classroom made me quickly miss my students.

How did I hit my Moroccan curve balls? The student part was easy: I made a teacher Instagram account and within minutes my kids were following. The cultural adjustments took considerably more grit. For the second week, I was stationed in Taza with a gifted teacher from North Carolina. Taza, set at the base of the Atlas Mountains, isn't a tourist town – it felt like we were the only Americans in the city, and the environment was cold and stark compared to the coastal sunshine we had experienced in Rabat, Morocco's capital. It was extra hard because we were only in pairs rather than with our large group. We did all we could think to do at the time – we leaned into our discomfort. With a wonderful host and some perseverance, we made Taza our temporary home, and its people became our forever friends.

It's no surprise Morocco impacted my perspective. While there, I was somehow simultaneously proud and humbled – proud of how incredible our district is; proud



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

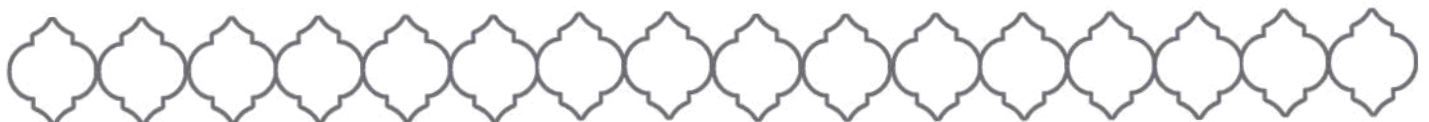
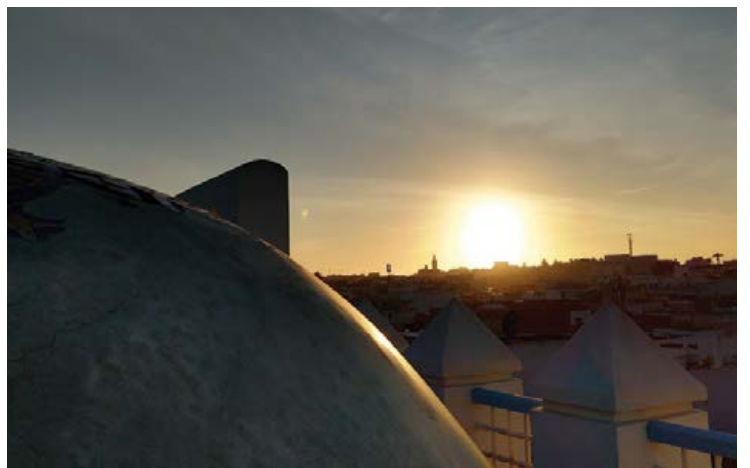
Morocco



of the opportunities we give our students. At the same time, I was humbled by how much Moroccan teachers can do with so little and by how sincerely their culture shows gratitude and respect. While Morocco may learn from us about educational innovation, Americans could stand to learn from Moroccans about what it really means to be grateful for privileges and how to show kindness to strangers.

I think, now, the hardest part of my trip ending is simply that it's over. The food was great, but best part of the trip was interacting with all these bright-eyed, eager, ambitious funny, talented, curious students, and it saddened me to say goodbye just as I was starting to get to know them.

Despite my bittersweet farewell, I'm beyond excited for the opportunities ahead of me. TGC has active alumni and offers grants available to make global competencies a prominent part of our schools. It's been a lot of work this year, but the rewards have been tenfold. TGC has taught me an invaluable personal and professional lesson: while taking risks may lead us down uncertain roads, adventure starts at the end of your comfort zone.



Jay Zimmerman recipient of PMEA Citation of Excellence award

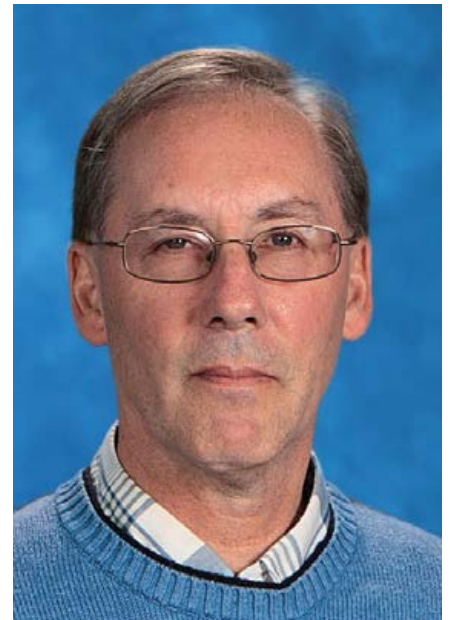
If you ask some of the now-retired band Director Jay Zimmerman's students, they'll likely say the longtime Bellefonte Area teacher has had a positive impact on their lives – perhaps so much so that senior Andrew Sharp even said it's partially attributed to Zimmerman that he plans to pursue a degree in education.

"When talking about Mr. Zimmerman, he's one of those very rare teachers who dedicates most, if not all, of (his) time to his students and the fine arts program," Sharp said. "All in all, I really just want to say thank you to Mr. Z for showing me what music can do by making (me) a better person."

Zimmerman was the recipient of the 2018 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Citation of Excellence in Teaching Award for District 4. The award was presented April 21 at the Lancaster Marriott & Convention Center during the 2018 PMEA Annual In-service Conference Awards Breakfast.

"I was honored to be named as the recipient of this award," Zimmerman said. "This award is not just an acknowledgement of my teaching. It is also recognition of the overall music program here at Bellefonte (Area) and the efforts of all of the music staff who contribute to the success of our ensembles."

The PMEA Citation of Excellence award recognizes music educators who have made "lasting contributions in their area of teaching." It's presented to those music educators on a four-year rotation among elementary, middle school, high school and college levels.



Pennies for Peace, Peace Leader Awards



Photo provided by Pennies for Peace

Bellefonte Area Middle School was selected to receive the 2018 Peace Leader Awards for its effort in helping raise funds for Pennies for Peace – a global organization through the Central Asia Institute that encourages students in the United States to raise money to support educational projects in other countries.

The Peace Leader Awards recognize students from around the country who have committed to a cause and have therefore made a difference in the lives of others.

Members of the student council helped lead the student body in the Pennies for Peace challenge. The school hosted a drive that collected \$292.56, in addition to \$1,000 raised from the Snow Flake Dance, guidance clerk Kim Van Buskirk said.

In an official letter to BAMS from CAI Development and Outreach Manager Janell Arneson, she said, "We are delighted that for the past two years, students at Bellefonte Middle School have joined us in your own Pennies for Peace campaign to bring cultural and philanthropic education to your school. ... During their time with Pennies for Peace, your students have broadened their cultural horizons and come to understand their own capacity as philanthropists to impact the world by becoming active participants in a global community dedicated to peace."

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