

RED RAIDER

Bellefonte Area School District

Magazine – 2013 Fall Edition

Back to School

In This Issue

- 1 High School
- 6 Middle School
- 9 Elementary



Bellefonte Board of School Directors

Mrs. Becky Rock, President

Mr. Jeff Steiner, Vice President

Mr. Charles Aikens

Mrs. Hope Boylston

Mr. Keith Hamilton

Ms. Jenna Moorehead

Mr. Robert Lumley-Sapanski

Mr. Richard W. Steele

Mr. George Stone

Dr. Cheryl Potteiger, 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 Affairs	Ext 3015
Assistant Superintendent	Ext 3005
Director of Special Education	Ext 3021
Business Office	Ext 3001
Director of Physical Plant	Ext 3006
Director of Food Service	Ext 3010
Director of Transportation	Ext 3015
Bellefonte Elementary	355-5519
Benner Elementary	355-2812
Marion-Walker Elementary	357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary	359-2739
Bellefonte Middle School	355-5466
Bellefonte High School	355-4833
B.A.S.D. Action Line	353-2413
Web Site	www.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.

Welcome Back from Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger



Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year.

Bellefonte Area School District has incredible students and staff members that continue to rise to new heights of excellence.

Last year, the Bellefonte Area School District was very busy working on the development of our Kindergarten through 12th grade Mathematics curriculum. This year is the first year of implementing that curriculum. The Common Core edition

of Everyday Mathematics© was chosen as the resource for our Kindergarten through 5th grade, Connected Math (CMP3) © was chosen as the resource for our 6th through 8th grade and Discovery Math© was chosen as the 9th through twelfth grade source for Mathematics.

The teaching and administrative staff are working extremely hard to ensure that we provide all of our students with a comprehensive curriculum that best meets their needs.

This year, with the help of Dr. Michelle Saylor, our new assistant superintendent, our staff is working diligently to rewrite the Kindergarten through 12th grade Science curriculum. Each year we will revisit each of our curricular areas, Kindergarten through 12th grade, to ensure that we are addressing the Common Core State Standards.

As a district, we are committed to customer service for all of our visitors, students, staff and community members. Each time you visit a school or office in our district, you will be sent a link to our customer service satisfaction survey. Please help us continue to improve our customer service by taking the time to provide us with valuable feedback.

As a district, we are looking forward to another busy but productive year. We will continue to use our SchoolMessenger© System to keep our lines of communication open with everyone in the community.

As always, I want to take the time to thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure a quality education for all of our students.

Right: The Bellefonte Area School District Magazine received an Honorable Mention award in the 2013 PSBA Educational Publications Contest. Out of 10 contestants, Four contestants received an Honorable Mention award, while no top prize was given. The BASD Publications Committee looks forward to continuing to produce an award-winning magazine.



Bellefonte Area High School

BAHS has Progressive Start to Year



“We are excited about the new ideas and initiatives that we can offer to our students this year.”



The BAHS faculty, staff, and administration welcome students and staff back to a new school year.

We had a very busy summer and Fall and are working on many new projects for this school year.

Over the past two years, we have been working to rewrite curriculum in various subject areas. This year will be our second year using the SpringBoard series for English. Last year, our Math department also revised the curriculum and is in its first year of implementation in 2013-2014. As we move through our current school year, the science department will begin its process of examining curriculum.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is another new initiative we are bringing to BAHS this year. Teachers underwent training this past summer to prepare to incorporate PLTW, which focuses heavily on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math applications.

Furthermore, we are offering Mandarin Chinese as a language this year. The course is being taught by one of two Chinese scholars; the other Chinese scholar is teaching at the elementary and middle levels.

We are also continuing to encourage positive behaviors and interactions amongst our students. Early this September, students took part in an assembly called Rachel's Challenge. The program was started by the family of Rachel Scott, one of the first victims in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Rachel's message focuses on taking the time to inspire at least one act of kindness in others each day.

Students were able to participate in this presentation, and about 100 students were able to become part of the Friends for Rachel club. This club of students and staff members meets weekly to work on projects to fulfill Rachel's Challenge within our school.

Another addition this school year is the implementation of a mentoring program. Each teacher and administrator works with a group of ten to twelve students. We meet on a monthly basis to encourage building positive relationships and interactions. Teachers and administrators take time to review student grades and suggest academic supports if needed.

We are excited about the new ideas and initiatives that we can offer to our students this year. We look forward to working with you as we strive to carry on our vision of Inspiring Today's Learners for Tomorrow's Challenges at BAHS.



SWPBS at the High School



At the end of last year, students were nominated by High School faculty and staff for their leadership in the school.

Of those students, 22 were selected to serve on the high school SWPBS student team.

The new student team met several times over the summer to create a plan for the year and discuss how the program could grow in year two. They decided to kick off the year with a series of videos to show the RAIDERS rules to all students.

Over 7 days, students and staff watched the videos in homeroom then participated in a short activity. On the eighth day of school, all students attended the presentation for Rachel's Challenge.

Rachel's Challenge has brought many new and exciting ideas into our school that help promote kindness and compassion to classmates.

Another new goal for the team this year was the introduction of a jersey swap. All football players were asked to give their alternate jersey to a teacher in the school who has impacted them during their time at the high school. These many new projects have the high school ready to take on the next phase of our SWPBS adventure.

Accepting the Challenge

By Maddy Kauffman, BAHS Senior and newspaper staff member

On September 12, BAHS and BAMS students and staff accepted Rachel's Challenge. The BAHS auditorium was filled with the entire student body as the School Wide Positive Behavior Team introduced speaker Peter DeAnello to tell the story of Rachel Joy Scott.

Seventeen year-old Rachel Joy Scott was the first of 12 students shot in the 1999 Columbine High School shooting, which became the worst school shooting in America. On April 20, 1999, Rachel sat outside eating her lunch on one of the first warm spring days. She would be the first person shot and killed by one of the shooters.



One week after her funeral, her family found an essay from her English class entitled "My Ethics, my Codes of Life," challenging her readers to start a chain reaction. Rachel lived a life of kindness and dreamed to one day touch the hearts of others. In her essay, she posed five challenges: look for the best in others, dream big and write the story of your life, choose positive influences, speak with

kindness, and tell the ones you love how much you love them.

Rachel targeted three groups within her challenge: those with special needs, new students, and students being picked on. She believed that if one person would exhibit kindness you could start a chain reaction.

The student body was silent and teary eyed as Pete told the story of a young girl influenced by Anne Frank and Dr. Martin Luther King. Even though her life tragically ended, she continues to touch the hearts of millions of people through Rachel's Challenge.

"It was a huge eye opener and definitely something I will always remember," said senior Madison Stewart.

Following the presentation, a group of around 100 preselected students went to the Friends of Rachel Club, where they were challenged to open up and talk about their experiences and how the presentation affected them. Throughout the year these same students will be meeting and finding ways to sustain the program's challenges throughout the student body for the rest of the year.

Students at BAMS have also started a similar club in response to learning about Rachel's Challenge.

"What keeps this sustainable is the friends of Rachel Club. People have no idea what is possible. I encourage everyone to join and continue the chain reaction," said Peter.

After this training, Peter talked about how Rachel's brother, Craig, came to his talent agency - this is how he learned the story of Rachel. Peter



sold his business to help spread Rachel's story.

"I have two young children and I want them to be proud of their dad and see the impact such a story can make," said Peter.

The presentation was also given to the seventh and eighth grade students from the middle school in the afternoon. Then at 7 p.m. a community presentation was given to community members aged sixth grade and older.

Jersey Swap Unites Teachers and Students



This fall the BAHS football players were asked to participate in a new initiative as a part of the district's SWPBS program. The Jersey Swap program encourages each member of the football team to give his jersey to a teacher who has positively impacted his high school experience. The Swap

days occur on football game Fridays, both home and away.

Miss Crosson, an English Teacher at the high school, suggested the idea to the School Wide Committee at the end of last year. She knew of other schools that benefited from a Jersey Swap and thought that it would be a great way to boost school spirit.

Crosson said, "at BAHS, this program has given the players a chance to recognize the faculty who do great work in the classroom while also allowing teachers to show their support for the kids."

The high school teachers and staff have truly enjoyed wearing the jerseys.

Each Friday, the halls are filled with teachers asking each other about their jerseys, explaining what position they will take on the field during the, and commenting on the excitement for that evening's game.

Mrs. Fegert reflected on her involvement in the initiative.

"I had opportunity to participate in the Jersey Swap during the first week of school when one of my former students, Nick Leiter, asked me to wear his jersey. He gave me a note explaining how I helped him improve his writing abilities and said that he would be "honored" if I wore his jersey. I was flattered by the sentiment and proudly wore #7 that Friday."

The Jersey Swap has been a welcome addition to the high school environment. It has boosted school spirit, facilitated positive conversations between students and teachers, and given teachers the chance to know how influential they are in the lives of their students. Here at the high school, we are all excited to see this program's growth and continuation in the future.

Theatre Department Announces 2013-14 Season

The Bellefonte Area High School Theatre Department is excited to announce the 2013-14 season production schedule. Continuing last year's successful productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and the musical, *South Pacific*, the department is excited and eager to get this year underway.

The fall production will feature the classic play, *The Miracle Worker*.

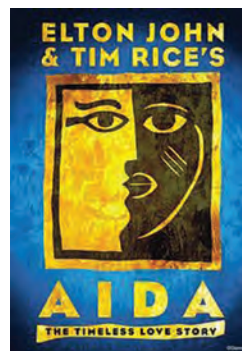
Immortalized on stage and screen by Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke, this classic tells the story of Annie Sullivan and her student, blind and mute Helen Keller. *The Miracle Worker* dramatizes the volatile relationship between the lonely teacher and her charge. Trapped in a secret, silent world, unable to communicate, Helen is violent, spoiled, almost sub-human and treated by her family as such. Only Annie realizes that there is a mind and spirit waiting to be rescued from the dark, tortured silence. With

scenes of intense physical and emotional dynamism, Annie's success with Helen finally comes with the utterance of a single, glorious word: "water." (Synopsis from Samuel French)

The production will run on Thursday, November 7; Friday, November 8; and Saturday, November 9 each night at 7:00PM in the Bellefonte Area High School Theatre. Tickets will be on sale beginning in mid-October and will be available at the door. Ticket prices will be \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$3 for children under 12.

The spring musical production will feature the 5-time Tony Award-winning rock opera, *AIDA*, with music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice.

A classic love triangle: Aida, a Nubian princess, is captured by an Egyptian captain, Radames. He soon falls in love with her and saves her from a life of hard labor and instead gives her



as a handmaiden to the Egyptian princess Amneris, his future bride. Set against a backdrop of loyalty, betrayal, and forbidden love, *Aida* is the story of three people who are forced to make difficult choices that will alter history forever. (Synopsis from Stage Agent)

The musical production will run on Thursday, April 24; Friday, April 25; and Saturday, April 26 at 7:00PM with an additional matinee on Saturday at 2:00PM in the Bellefonte Area High School Theatre.

The BAHS Theatre Department is run by Mr. Luke Skerpon and Mr. Shaun McMurtrie. Volunteers are always being utilized within the program to help with production creation and assistance.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the BAHS Theatre Department is encouraged to contact Volunteer Coordinator Liz Stone at lstone@basd.net.

CPI One of Many Choices



One of the many unique aspects of BAHS offers for students is the opportunity to choose to attend the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Technology.

For years, BAHS students have had attended CPI to pursue real-world training, professional certificates, and

unique coursework that compliments post-secondary programs.

As CPI states:

"A good education is the foundation for career success. A certificate from the Central PA Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) is an excellent first step toward higher education, a better career, greater career satisfaction, and long-term professional achievement.

"Deciding to attend CPI is the first step — a BIG step — in the development of a long and rewarding career. B

"By enrolling in one of the 19 program areas at CPI, students learn the skills that will be needed for jobs that are currently in demand. CPI students

are ready to continue on to college, technical school or enter their career field immediately after graduation.

"By offering a wide range of study areas, CPI is sure to have a program that's right for you. Visit CPI at www.cpi.edu to learn more about our 19 program areas as well as to read bios and interesting facts about our instructors."

Some quick facts about CPI:

- In the decade ahead, the number of 4-year college graduates will far exceed job opportunities.
- Technical workers are the fastest-growing and economically most promising segments of the labor force.



- The largest number and fastest growing group of jobs among technical workers can be trained for at the 2-year associate level.

If you are a BAHS students and would like to learn more about CPI, talk to your guidance counselor to learn more about this choice.

**Source: Getting Real: Helping Teens Find Their Future, Kenneth Gray, 2000.*



Yearbook Club is Underway

At the beginning of this school year students participated in group discussions and an icebreaker activity to get to know each other and Mr. Weigold.

The students all enjoyed it and will continue to form and do different activities throughout the year. The yearbook club is also gearing up for what hopes to be the best book yet.

Safety First

By Sarah Menna, junior, staff member of the BHS Red and White newspaper

Drivers Education students at Bellefonte High School will be able to get first-hand experience of the dangers of distracted driving.

For the past two years, Drivers Education teacher Mr. Mike Wilson has been working with the district to find funding to purchase a golf cart for the students to drive. The district responded with financial support.

"We're very thankful," said Mr. Wilson.

The golf cart, purchased from Jake's Carts in Lewistown, will offer students a safe way to learn about texting while driving and DUIs. For two days during each nine week marking period, Officers Brower and Danneker will be taking students through an obstacle course.

The first day, students will be equipped with fatal vision goggles

so they can see first-handedly the dangers of driving under the influence. The second day, students will drive through the course while texting.

Mr. Wilson aims to not only use the cart to impact students, but also the community.

"My hope is to raise awareness among new drivers in the community and I would like to see the program grow to involve community events and safety fairs," Mr. Wilson said.

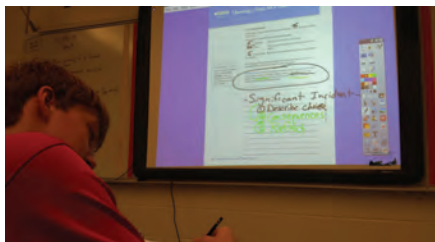


**Mrs. G's
and Mr. R.'s
Kids went
fishing
this past
June.**



Bellefonte Area Middle School

BAMS Students Embrace Mrs. Garman



Hello students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members of the Bellefonte Area School District!

My name is Sommer Garman and I am proudly serving as the new Principal at BAMS. I started working in the district last year as one of the Vice-Principals at the Bellefonte Area High School. After spending over a year now with BASD, I know and believe that it is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this district.

Prior to coming to work with Bellefonte, I was with the Huntingdon Area School District. I served as the Assistant Middle School Principal for several years and also as the Director of the Alternative Education Program for several years. I also taught in various settings in Pittsburgh, from public schools to private entities.

The middle school philosophy is something that I strongly support.

This is such an important time in a student's life and it is an incredible responsibility to play a role in a student's middle school career. I believe in providing a strong teaming atmosphere to help the students transition from elementary to high school. I believe that school is a place where students should feel like they have a voice, they are being challenged, they will be safe, and yes, even have fun.

During the time that I have been with this district, it is easy to see that the staff, school board, and administration truly care about their students and their education and take great pride in providing the best learning environment for everyone. I look forward to spending many years with the Bellefonte Area School District and with the staff and students at BAMS.

“The middle school philosophy is something that I strongly support. “

SWPBS at Bellefonte Area Middle School

School-Wide Positive Behavior Support is back at Bellefonte Area Middle School and it is better than ever.

BAMS is already a SWPBS banner school that has been recognized at the state level many times. This year, the SWPBS committee continues to sharpen its focus, looking for new ways to innovate this very important program.



BAMS students and staff will enjoy quarterly events this year, designed for one purpose: to celebrate school. The quarterly events include a pep rally and Halloween dress up day, holiday celebrations in December,



coordinating a lip dub, and the always popular School-Wide celebration at the end of the year.

In addition to quarterly events, the Moon program is still in place. The moon program is designed to enable students and staff to be recognized for supporting positivity at BAMS. This program has been in place for a number of years and continues to be effective.

Finally, Amazing Raider awards are underway at BAMS. These awards are designed to recognize staff for their hard work and dedication to their roles at the middle school. A staff survey is sent out once a month, then the three staff members with the most votes are recognized.

Get ready for a great year at BAMS.

Officer Brower Speaks to BAMS

BASD School Resource Officer Jason Brower speaks to BAMS students this Fall. Officer Brower does dozens of presentations to BASD students each year to promote safety, healthy living, and good decision-making.



BAMS Students Learn Chinese

by: Rachel Pollock, BAMS student

This school year, BAMS got a new member to our large family.

From the other side of the world, Miss Shi Qiu (Tchew) came to us, and is happily teaching her students Chinese, her native language.

Ms. Qiu grew up in the small city of Chenade, which is located near the capitol, Beijing. There, Ms. Qiu attended elementary and middle school. She went far from home to complete her mandatory education. Six hours away from her hometown, in the city of Shi Jia zhuang, she completed high school.

Qiu is now taking online classes to get her Master's Degree at Wuhan University, located in Wuhan, China.

Qiu gave her description of her home country, "China is large, with lots of people and tall buildings, not



like Bellefonte. Lots of pluralism. But China has good food, too."

Ms. Qiu first came here to the U.S. as a volunteer for one year due to a program between Wuhan University and the University of Pittsburgh. She loved the opportunity, as she wants to know more about the world in which she lives.

Her travels showed her just how different two places can be. While her hometown was bustling, and full of people, to her, "Bellefonte is beautiful, especially the buildings. And there aren't as many people."

New places always bring new challenges. Some of her challenges were the amount of new things to learn, such as the American school system. Ms. Qiu has many classes, so at times, she's very tired. But, she loves her job. Her only vex is how far Weis is from her home, since she has to take the bus.

Everyone can probably remember the first few phrases of foreign languages they learned. Qiu shared hers with us, and these include hello, thank you, and sorry. Simple, yes. But everyone has to start somewhere.

As for teaching, Ms. Qiu teaches Chinese, because that's her nationality. And I'm sure all of her students can understand, since Ms. Qiu uses a lot of English to explain things.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

When Ms. Qiu was asked what stands out to her about Bellefonte, she claimed that Bellefonte's beautiful with the Victorian houses, not like the ten to twenty story buildings of Chenade. She also said that she loves the history of our small town.

Now I hope all of us got to know Shi Qiu a bit better, and can welcome her to our community.

Think Outside the Beaker

Restek, Science U, and BAMS have partnered to offer a free four week STEM workshop for students in grades six through eight. BAMS students are participating in four workshops:

- Use It or Lose It (Biology)
- A Student's Guide to the Universe (Physic and Astronomy)
- This is Not Connect the Dots Anymore (Math)
- Molecule Mysteries (Chemistry)

The sessions occur at Penn State, with transportation provided to and from BAMS.



Sixth grade students in Mrs. Spotts' science class have been demonstrating traits of scientists as part of their Nature of Science unit.

In several of the activities, students begin to appreciate the importance of



measuring and recording accurately to allow for duplication of results. In one lab, groups investigate with real ingredients as variables to modify three trials in an attempt to make the "best" salad dressing.

The activity concludes with the making of a larger batch of salad dressing to share on delicious salads. In another lab, students mix chemicals (H₂O and food coloring). If the measurements are carefully followed, the mixtures will result in a rainbow display.

The series of labs prepare students for a year of polite argumentation, as groups present "claims" based upon the most convincing evidence and reasoning.

BAMS Band is Back

Allissa McCloskey, BAMS Band Publicist

The Middle School Marching Band is back.

Students performing in Marching Band are obviously students who love to make music. The percussionists tap their drum sticks eager to play, and the woodwind players feverously move their keys.

All these students love the sound of music and are very good at making it. As they march, keeping in time with their feet, the music has a distinctive football game flavor. All of the different instruments come together to make one beautiful piece.

The Middle School Marching Band rehearses every Thursday after school in September and October. This year, they will be performing in various parades and at various football games.

The Marching Band performed at the Homecoming Parade on Thursday, October 10th and stayed to play some pep tunes at the Bon Fire that



will follow at the High School. They also performed in the Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 20th in downtown Bellefonte.

During the last two Thursdays in October, the Middle School Marching Band pleyed some pep tunes to cheer on the Middle School Football team at their two last home games of the season.

They are very excited to be able to support such a wonderful team.

Bellefonte Area Elementary Schools

Benner Elementary

Mr. Kris Vancas Welcomes Students and Staff Back to Benner



Students and staff at Benner Elementary School are off and running into a new school year.

This is the second year of the building's School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program. At Benner the program is called the "Bear Necessities" and students work hard to earn Bear Paws for exhibiting positive behaviors.

Many exciting events are planned to support this program throughout the year.

This year is also the second year of the All Pro Dad and iMOM Morning Breakfast programs that are held once a month. These mornings provide a great time for students and their parents to join other Benner students and their parents for breakfast. There is a character education topic for each breakfast and plenty of time for parents and their children to share some quality time with one another.

A major goal of the building this year is to increase the number of parent and community volunteers that come into the building to help each day. In partnership with the Benner Elementary PTA, a campaign is underway to match qualified volunteers with classrooms and students who could benefit from their assistance.

Please contact BASD Volunteer Coordinator Liz Stone at lstone@basd.net if you are interested in volunteering.

Finally, with the help of Reading Specialist, Rebecca Roos, this year will be full of numerous special reading events in the building. The hope is to encourage students to read more, develop a love of books, and become stronger readers and students.

It will be an exciting and busy year at Benner Elementary. Drop by to see what we are doing or check us out on the website.

SWPBS at Benner

Benner Elementary kicked off their 2nd year of School-wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) with an assembly on the first day of school.

During the assembly school wide rules, Benner Bear Necessities, were introduced and reviewed with

a Jeopardy game led by school counselor, Mrs. Albert. The assembly concluded with staff and students singing "Benner is a Good Time."

In addition to the assembly on the first day, all classroom teachers taught "hot spot" lessons to their students. Hot spots include cafeteria, hallway, bathroom, assembly, and recess. Mr.



Vancas reserved a bus for a day and taught all students bus rules. Lessons will be retaught throughout the school year as reminders to students of expected behaviors.

Benner students receive Bear Paw slips for showing the Benner Bear Necessities throughout the day. Students can earn Bear Paw slips from all personnel at Benner Elementary. Special Bear Paws can be earned from cafeteria personnel and during recess. Students love earning Bear Paws at recess because a Recess Star Bear Paw equals special recognition from Mr. Vancas or Mrs. Albert.

In addition, students sign the Recess Star poster located on Mr. Vancas' office door. Each Bear Paw slip has three copies. The first copy goes into classroom based drawings, the second copy goes into grade level drawing that takes place every other week, and the third copy gets sent home. The number of Bear Paws earned by each student is tracked by Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Albert.

At Benner we take time out to celebrate how hard all of our students work to model the Bear Necessities. Students who earn 5 or more Bear Paw slips throughout the 9 weeks are invited to Quarterly School-wide

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Celebrations planned by the SWPBIS committee and classroom teachers. The first celebration is being planned for November 1, 2013 and will be a Fall Carnival.

In addition, we have partnered up with Penn State to present each student receiving 5 or more Bear Paws with Lions List Basketball tickets to see the Nittany Lions or Lady Lions play.

Good Citizenship Pervades Benner



The current Lead21 theme in first grade emphasizes being a good citizen. Students went with parents and teachers to volunteer at Centre Crest as the residents played Bingo.



Mrs. Packard's class engages in a mental Math activity. In this particular activity, students worked with sums in the hundred thousandths place.



Members of the High School Band and Orchestra demonstrate their instruments for 4th and 5th graders at all four elementary schools to recruit new instrumental students.

Benner Teachers Love Their Volunteers

The Benner Elementary teachers are always seeking ways to get parents more involved. What better way to get involved than to volunteer in the classroom?

Here are some examples of how the wonderful parents of Benner Elementary are already helping out:

Kelly Uchneat (pictured) volunteers her time twice a week during the entire school year as she helps students with reading fluency and comprehension. Kelly has made such a difference to the students' lives by doing this over the years.

Bethany Eicholz is a parent who visits our school weekly to assist teachers

in laminating, cutting, and other prep work. Bethany donates her time so that the students have supplies ready quickly, and so the school environment is at its best.

Tiffany Aikey and Keriann Allen are two PTA parents who regularly take pictures of all school events so that the students are able to keep memories of fun and interesting lessons and activities throughout the school year.

Keri O'Shea, Cindy Horner, Jen Harris, and Christin Bishop are also regular volunteers who have worked with students and staff at least once or twice a month.

Lastly, the PTA can be seen in our building throughout the year as they collect Box-tops labels and Campbell's

Soup labels to earn funds for educational material for our students. If you or your family members are able to collect these labels for our school, our wonderful PTA will put these labels to good use for the education of our children.

If you are a part-time working parent or perhaps you are a retired member of the community that is free during the school day, please contact BASD Volunteer Coordinator Liz Stone lstone@basd.net. You can also access the forms at <http://www.basd.net/domain/84>.

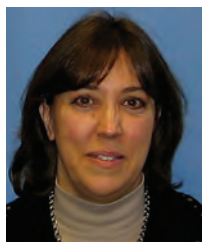
Ms. Packard and other teachers would love to utilize such volunteers so that the students are continuing to get the most out of their education with the support of its community members.



Third graders at Benner Elementary are excited to read to their new kindergarten buddies. After three years of being read to, it is now their turn to model reading to a young student. The class says they really enjoy making new friends laugh and smile through books.

Bellefonte Elementary

Mrs. Krisch reports That Activities Abound at Bellefonte Elementary



Bellefonte Elementary School got off to an early start when Kindergarten students and their teachers participated in the August Kindergarten Camp.

This two day event helps to give Kindergarten students a sneak preview of what school will be like and lets them meet their teachers before having to enter school officially in September with all of the other students.

As school got started for the year, students were taught the School-wide Rules and participated in stations to learn what these rules looked like in various locations around the school.

Kindergarten students learned how to get lunch in the cafeteria and find their buses after school. We had our first fire and lockdown drills and back-to-school night. Fourth and Fifth graders had an assembly to learn about the band and orchestra program and are already learning and practicing their new instruments if they chose to join the program. Everyone enjoyed the PTO back-to-school Ice Cream Social and look forward to the upcoming Run for Fun and other PTO sponsored activities.

As I walk around the classrooms, students are hard at work and engaged in the educational activities. I look forward to upcoming special events such as Fire Prevention Week, as well as a Safety Assembly and a Veteran's Day celebration. Each day brings excitement and we look forward to the upcoming year.





SWPBS at Bellefonte Elementary School

The Bellefonte Elementary School-Wide Positive Behavior Support team would like to welcome everyone back to the new school year.

The SWPBS team is looking forward to another great school year.

Throughout the year the Boomerang Program will benefit students of our school to help teach and reinforce the



proper behaviors that help students be successful in and out of the classroom.

The SWPBS team helps coordinate and promote four main events throughout the school year. As we have for several years, we are looking forward to the Million Penny Drive that will be held during the month of December.

To kick off the year, Bellefonte Elementary hosted its Run For The FunD event on October 16th and



October 17th, 2013. Run For The FunD is an event where students get to compete in running and overcoming obstacles to help raise money for the Bellefonte PTO. This will be a great event.

The SWPBS team wishes everyone a safe and happy school year. To help students be successful, the SWBPS Team wants to remind students that they should always remember to: Be Respectful, Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Here, and Be Ready.

Competent Learner Model Makes a Positive Impact

New and exciting changes are being made in within the district's self-contained special education classrooms.

This year, the district has partnered with Tucci Learning Solutions, Inc. to implement the Competent Learner Model (CLM) in the High School Life Skills class as well as the Bellefonte Elementary Autistic Support class.

The foundation of CLM resides in building students' skills in seven repertoires: talker, listener, observer, participator, problem solver, reader, and writer. Teachers, support staff, and related service providers have worked diligently to adopt new teaching strategies and to mold their classrooms into environments that tailor independence. After just a few



weeks, both classrooms are off to an amazing start.

To learn more about the CLM project, please visit www.tuccionline.com.

The following staff members are recognized as participants in the CLM project:

- **Instructional Coach** - Erin Cernuska
- **Teachers** - Mary Gorzelnik, Ashley Sterbank, Holly Williams
- **Paraprofessionals** - Carla Daughenbaugh, Terri Fedor, Cindy Harter, Lora Kemp, Bridget Taylor
- **Speech Therapists** – Bibiana Polak, Pam Scott
- **Physical Therapist** – Amy Flick
- **Occupational Therapists** – Valerie Miceli, Cindy Mowen

CLM staff members would like to thank Dr. Potteiger, Dr. Saylor, Dr. MacFalls, and building administrators for introducing this project and for their continued support with implementation.

Marion Walker Elementary

Marion-Walker is Buzzing Along



We are off and running!

A very fast summer has come to a close. This year we will continue to develop and support our new English Language Arts program, *LEAD 21*. We have found that our students are responding well to the new programming. We will also be writing Science curriculum throughout the school year.

Our first weeks of school are dedicated to administering beginning of the year assessments. These assessments in both Language Arts and Mathematics will provide teachers with valuable information so that they can determine where they will begin instruction with students.

Staffing at Marion-Walker holds few changes for this school year. We welcome Ms. Jayme Zimmerman as our new elementary band instructor. Mrs. Katy Haagen has transferred from kindergarten to second grade. Mrs. Holly Williams will be providing autistic and emotional support at Marion-Walker and Pleasant Gap Elementary schools on an itinerant basis. Mrs. Jen Zahuranec has accepted an elementary literacy coaching position. She will support all elementary buildings. Ms. Jenna Cole has joined the Marion-Walker support staff as a classroom aide in third grade. Mrs. Mary Sampsel and Ms. Amy Faulkner will serve as personal care aides and Ms. Pattie Guay will be providing speech services for Mrs. Christina Peterson while she is on leave.

Marion-Walker's *buzzzzzzzz* continues to grow. Our school-wide positive behavior rules were taught to the students during the first week of school. Our rules, Be kind-Be safe-Be respectful-Be here, and Be ready, keep students thinking about positive behavior. We teach lessons and have signs and posters throughout the building to help students remember expected behavior. Already students have earned Hive Five slips when caught following rules. The children look forward to the recognition, and special privilege rewards for demonstrating positive behaviors.

Once again, I invite you to volunteer. Our schools and our students benefit tremendously from your talents and skills. We are looking forward to a successful school year!



SWPBS at Marion-Walker

School Wide Positive Behavior Support is alive and well at Marion-Walker Elementary School.

On September 13, 2013 Marion Walker Elementary had a visit from the Penn State Lady Lion Basketball Team to help support SWPBS.

Coach Fred Chmiel and players Sierra Moore and Infiniti Alston came to Marion Walker to talk about the importance of starting the school year with the right attitude. They also spoke to the students about being kind, respectful, and safe with one another in and out of school. Coach Chmiel started the program by pumping up the crowd with a game of "Do as I say, not as I do." In addition, Coach Chmiel also read to the students the story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf.

Coach Chmiel and the players also played a game with several students. The students were to empty a tube of toothpaste onto a plate as fast as possible. Another group of students then had to try and put the toothpaste back into the tube. The students quickly realized this was a nearly impossible task. Coach Chmiel used this reference to reinforce to the crowd that many times when we say harmful or hurtful things to others, we have a very hard time taking those words back.

The students of Marion Walker had a great time with the coaches and

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

players from Penn State. Marion Walker Elementary says thank you and good luck to the PSU Lady Lions.

On Sept. 20th, Mr. Harchak's class at Marion-Walker had a special guest that gave a presentation on the culture of Kazakhstan.

Bill Shuey, a graduate of Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh, recently completed a Fullbright Scholarship teaching English and American culture in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. Mr. Shuey discussed the similarities and differences between Kazakh culture and American culture.

The students learned many things including traditional foods, customs, and even a popular Kazakh dance. The students had a great time and made many connections to the unit theme they are studying in language arts, which is how people across cultures achieve common ground.



Pleasant Gap Elementary

Pleasant Gap is Off to a Great Start



Wow. We had an incredible first day of school.

It's been great to have our students back. We look forward to another outstanding and successful year for everyone at Pleasant Gap Elementary School.

We'd like to take this opportunity to review some safety and procedural reminders, to introduce some new staff and to offer our appreciation for all of the support we get from parents and families in the PGE school community.

First, this year visitors to our school may quickly notice some of the additional precautions that have been put in place by the Bellefonte Area School District in order to better ensure the safety of our students.

At Pleasant Gap, we have reconfigured our office and entrance areas.

Mrs. Shirey's office area is now located directly inside the front doors. Visitors will need to "buzz in" to gain access through the exterior doors and then will need to have permission to go through the locked, interior doors. All visitors to our school will be asked to show a driver's license or photo ID. The licenses will be run through the School Gate Guardian system.

The start time and end time of school remain the same this year. School begins at 8:20 AM and ends at 2:45 PM. Students who arrive after 8:20 AM will be considered tardy. And, if your child comes to school after 8:20 AM, please come into the school to sign your child in. Those students who leave before 2:45 PM will be considered absent for the appropriate portion of the school day.

Pleasant Gap is a wonderful school family and community because we have such special students, parents, and families. Once again, thank you for all you do to support your child and Pleasant Gap Elementary School.

We sincerely appreciate it.





SWPBS at Pleasant Gap

The School Wide Positive Behavior (SWPBIS) team at Pleasant Gap Elementary is excited to have another great year promoting safe, kind, respectful and responsible behavior at school.

The students are continuing to work towards earning “headlines” throughout the year for showing positive behavior. Pleasant Gap Elementary will have bi-weekly headline drawings to reward students for their successes in school. The SWPBIS team will also continue rewarding staff on a monthly basis for their SWPBIS program support. A big thank you is extended to our PTO for supporting our program and helping the team with staff incentives.

An exciting update to the Pleasant Gap SWPBIS program is our new classroom data collection process. When students earn headlines from Pleasant Gap staff, they will individually mark it down on their color coded classroom poster. At the end of each month, teachers will send their monthly classroom data to the SWPBIS team for program

analysis. This is an excellent way for the SWPBIS team to determine school strengths and areas where improvement and growth are needed.

The SWPBIS team will use this data to continue to update/modify the current program. It also serves as

a motivational tool for students as students independently keep track of their own positive behaviors.

Overall, Pleasant Gap Elementary is ready for another year of promoting positivity and encouraging students to be the best learners they can be.

Coach Visits Pleasant Gap

On Friday, October 4th, Penn State Men’s Basketball Coach Patrick Chambers visited the Pleasant Gap Elementary School. He spoke to the students about the school wide positive behavior plan that the school is continuing to implement this school year.

Coach Chambers first started with talking to the students about the “Golden Rule”, to treat others how you want to be treated. He then spoke to the students about the four school wide rules and how important they are.

Coach Chambers ended with speaking to the students about gratitude.

“You should not only be thankful for what you have today, but every day,” said Coach Chambers.

The Pleasant Gap Elementary School would like to thank Coach Chambers for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Pleasant Gap Elementary, and want to wish him a great upcoming season.



Central Office

Employee Recognition System

**Saluting Every BASD Employee
Courteous – Caring – Considerate –
Cooperative
Helpful – Service Beyond
Expectations – Accommodating
Bellefonte Area School District**

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 May 14, 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:

Robert Irwin
Bellefonte Area High School
Kimberly Sharp
Bellefonte Area Middle School
Douglas Bates
Bellefonte Elementary School
Jennifer Zahuranec
Benner Elementary School
Matthew Burrows
Marion-Walker Elementary School
Elizabeth Whitehead
Pleasant Gap Elementary School

Support Staff Recipients:

Bonnie Gephart
Bellefonte Area High School
Anna Murphy
Bellefonte Area Middle School
Renee Clouse
Bellefonte Elementary School
Debbie Caldwell
Benner Elementary School
Mary Sampsel
Marion-Walker Elementary School
Amy Allison
Pleasant Gap Elementary School

Front row (left to right): Anna Murphy, Debbie Caldwell, Jennifer Zahuranec, Renee Clouse, Matthew Burrows

Back row (left to right): Douglas Bates, Bonnie Gephart, Robert Irwin, Elizabeth Whitehead, Amy Allison, Kimberly Sharp

Photo insert: Mary Sampsel

Bellefonte Education Foundation Gives Grants and Thanks to the Teachers

This year, the Bellefonte Education Foundation has an extra special reason to give thanks. That reason: the teachers of Bellefonte Area School District.

Why, you may ask?

The teachers of the district came together and decided that it would be a huge benefit for the students of the district if they donated part of their "dress down" donation to the organization.

Each Friday, the teachers of the district are provided an opportunity to not only dress in jeans, but to also give back to the community. The money collected is then split between the BEF and another charity chosen



at each building. The donations provided give opportunities for the foundation to provide more in teacher grant money for classroom project use or to put more funding into the senior scholarships that are awarded at the end of every school year.

Does this story inspire you to donate? Do you want the opportunity to help our students succeed?

If so, please access the Bellefonte Education Foundation website through the Bellefonte Area School District webpage. Go to www.basd.net, click "Our District," and click on the "Bellefonte Foundation" link under the "B" section. You can donate through the web site.

One of the above mentioned benefits of the donations is the Teacher Grant Program. This program provides opportunities to the teachers of the district to implement a project or lesson into the curriculum, that they may not be able to do otherwise, in order to expand the education of our students. The grants help to cover the cost of the supplies needed by the teacher. Because of this unique offering by the foundation, each year multiple teachers, at all levels, take advantage of the grants in order to

encourage our students to go the extra mile in their education.

At the end of the year, each teacher who received a grant is asked to put together a display to be shown at the annual BEF Benefits dinner fundraiser. This dinner, which is open to the public, gives the teachers a chance to show how the grant has been used in the classroom and the benefits received by their students.

If you are interested in attending this year's dinner, which will be held this spring, contact the foundation through the website mentioned above.

Thank you, again, to our teachers, and have a great school year.

Gifted Education in BASD

Many things are happening in Gifted Education at BASD.

The elementary gifted support students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are excited about their first project for the 2013-2014 school year.

Students are studying and learning about the beloved children's author Gary Paulsen. They are also in the midst of completing a web quest to acquire more information about Paulsen and are simultaneously reading and discussing Paulsen's most famous novel, *Hatchet*.

The students will then choose their own favorite Gary Paulsen novels to read and will be completing an independent study project. Students are also continuing to investigate current events utilizing the website Tween Tribune. The students especially enjoy looking at the newest photo updates and taking the daily quizzes.

Students at Bellefonte Elementary are also continuing to study new words

and complete weekly vocabulary activities including the challenge of decorating a wall with newly learned words. Students are also partaking in literature circle groups and are relishing the hilarious novel, *How to Eat Fried Worms*.

The 4th grade students at PG elementary school are busy learning about how schools in Japan and South Africa differ from schools in the United States. Students were fortunate enough to have Mrs. Tammie Burnaford, our principal, as a guest speaker in our classroom to share about her personal experiences in South Africa. Students especially enjoyed seeing Mrs. Burnaford's numerous pictures and Mrs. Burnaford's giant ostrich egg. The students culminating activity will be to create a PowerPoint Presentation to share what they have learned with their peers.

The Third graders at Benner Elementary school are working on a special inquiry project about changes. This group has chosen to focus their presentation on the numerous phases of change that we go through in a lifetime. They are currently in the process of creating memory bags to illustrate their ideas. The students will be then sharing their presentations with their peers.

Students and staff are looking forward to spending an exciting year together filled with many new adventures!

Gifted education has always been a part of BASD's proud tradition of education.

Gifted students have been identified as having outstanding intellectual and creative ability which would result in specially designed programs and support services that would be provided through an identified student's regular education.



Bellefonte
Area School District

318 North Allegheny St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-4814

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Permit No. 181

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Breakfast takes on a new look at BAHS and BAMS!



Introduced last year and continuing this year is breakfast service from breakfast carts at the High School and Middle School.

We continue to offer breakfast in the cafeterias before school starts each morning, but for students who want to hang out with friends before school in the lobby at the High School or in front of the gym at the Middle School, this "breakfast on wheels" option is a perfect choice.

Students who qualify for free lunch also qualify for free breakfast. Those students who qualify for reduced lunches, pay \$.30 for reduced breakfast. And for those students who pay full price for lunch, breakfast is only \$1.00.

Studies have shown that students who eat breakfast have improved concentration and performance in the classroom.

Have a great school year.

We're on the Web! **www.basd.net**