

# RED RAIDER



magazine

## 2016 WINTER ISSUE

- Wrestling Room Dedication
- Bellefonte READS
- Drug Awareness Seminar



## BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



A Message from

# Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger

Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are more than halfway through the 2015-2016 school year. Hopefully, this letter finds you and your family well and staying warm this winter.

It has been a milder winter compared to last year, but in the recent month, the cold and snowy winter season seems to have shown itself again. Many times, people question how the decision is made to delay or cancel school. I will try to briefly explain the process. When there is impending weather, I work with our transportation office to monitor the movement of the storms that are predicted. A conference call with the other Superintendents in the County is held to discuss the weather and traffic conditions. All of the districts utilize multiple websites, weather agencies, PennDOT connections, and at times, input from township personnel regarding road conditions to determine if road conditions are safe for travel. When the decision is made whether to begin school on time, to delay the start of school, or to

cancel school, a SchoolMessenger® call, email and SMS or text is sent to approximately 4,000 contacts to let them know the district's decision for that day. Cancellations are also posted on radio and television stations. The district's transportation office works with our contracted bus companies to alert them of the decision. When making these decisions, our primary goal is the safety and welfare of our students and staff members.

Please remember to check your BellefonteAreaSchoolDistrictcalendars for PSSA and Keystone testing dates. Please note that March 24, 2016, is now a school day. March 28, 2016, remains a weather make-up day for our students and staff. Additional make-up days will be added to end of the year if necessary.

Bellefonte Area High School earned the distinction of being placed on the College Board's 6th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. This honor is achieved by increasing access to AP® course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning

scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. I am proud and grateful for the hard work and dedication by our administration and staff who continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for our students.

Many great things are happening in our district. As a reminder, check your calendars and the district website for all of the events that are taking place this spring.

Punxsutawney Phil assures us that it will be an early spring. Let's hope the groundhog is correct and warm weather is headed our way soon!

Warm regards,

*Dr. Cheryl A. Potteiger*  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bellefonte Area School District

## Bellefonte Board of School Directors

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## 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 3005.

Cover Photo: Andrew H: Weigold

## 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 3009
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
Web Site.....	www.basd.net

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the school year. It has been an amazing year so far. There are so many athletic, fine art, academic, and club achievements from your children that we all are very proud. One unique honor given to BAHS in December was being named to the 6th Annual AP Honor Roll. This is a national honor as BAHS is 1 out of 425 schools across the United States and Canada to receive this award.

Along with this point of pride, we are also delighted to highlight is our Community Outreach efforts. This year so far, our students, faculty, and staff have given and shared so much with our community.

- A partnership with Pleasant Gap Elementary, BAHS Safety Committee, and Football Program to offer a Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program
- Student Council, Fine Arts, and Key

Club offering activities with residents of Centre Crest

- Numerous fundraising efforts to support local charities
- Specific fundraising efforts for members of our school and community in need
- and our list goes on and on

Our High School is Bellefonte Proud and will continue to support our community that always supports us.

Continued efforts to maintain a welcoming and safe school environment are ongoing and powerful...many thanks to the Friends of Rachel club, GSA, School-Wide committees. and unwavering support of our student body, faculty, and staff to foster a positive school climate. Our school is doing amazing things in and outside of the classroom, and I could not be more proud.



Wishing you a wonderful end to an amazing school year,

Mrs. Jennifer Brown  
Principal  
Bellefonte Area High School

BAHS Key Club has had a very busy first semester! Club members participated in several service projects that benefited local and global initiatives. Some have been done annually for many years while others were new to the group this year. In all, the club has given nearly 200 hours of community service cumulatively in just 4 months!

The school year started off by selling bracelets that benefited a young girl in Guatemala who was unable to go to school without financial support. They provided enough funds to pay for a full semester for Nohelia. Later, the group participated in the United Way Day of Caring and helped the athletic departments at the middle and high schools organize and prepare trophies and materials for the creation of an online trophy case. At the end of October, \$205 was collected and donated to UNICEF to provide

immunizations to mothers and infants in third world countries. Some members also wrote thank you letters to veterans. The letters were sent to local vets as well as vets across the nation. In November, a select group of members visited the CPI Child Care Program and promoted literacy to the children at the preschool by reading books to them, giving each child a free book to take home, and providing informational materials to the parents about the importance of early literacy. This is the Key Club International initiative for 2015-2016 school year.

The Key Club then switched focus to the holidays and organized a food drive competition among homerooms and donated nearly 200 individual items to the Faith Centre Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving. Next, Key Club coordinated with the Safety Committee and collected toys for Toys for Tots.

Nearly 20 club members then visited Bellefonte Elementary School and helped at the Holiday Workshop event by being shopping assistants and wrappers.

Overall, the first semester was very busy and full of wonderful service projects. In the coming months, they will be participating in more daycare visits to promote early literacy, helping out with Bellefonte READS, attending the District Convention, making personalized non-slip socks and craft bags for local hospitalized children, sending care packages to soldiers for Easter, collecting and donating money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and running a booth at the Operation Military Child event. Each year, the club members demonstrate exactly what Key Club is all about: service, leadership, character building, caring, and inclusiveness.



Key Club visited CPI Head Start program and spent some time with the students reading to them. We then did a craft with the students before giving them each a book to take home with them.



## HIGH SCHOOL

# Coach Glenn Smith Wrestling Room Dedication



The coaching profession is one of the most noble and far-reaching in building many honorable life characteristics. Coaches can be enormously influential in the lives of their student-athletes that not only last a few years, but a lifetime. One of those characteristics many coaches instill in their student-athletes is goal setting and working extremely hard to achieve those goals. For a group of wrestlers, they used these life lessons to finally complete the goal of honoring a coach who had such a large impact on their lives. These wrestlers, who were on Coach Smith's first team, saw this vision become a reality on December 8, 2016. Led by committee members Sam Markle, Dave Adams, Phil Sieg, and Don Hess (who was a team captain under Coach Smith), the wrestling room at the Bellefonte Area High School was officially named for legendary coach Glenn B. Smith.

Coach Glenn B. Smith started Bellefonte's first wrestling program, which turned into being of the most successful in the school, the region, and around the state of Pennsylvania. Coach Smith's dual record was 52-7-1 in six years of leading the program. In addition to establishing a dominant dual meet team, Coach Smith would coach four PIAA champs (Tom Riglin, Joe Masullo, Tom Musser, and Dave Adams). For many of these student-athletes, Coach Smith was like a father figure. Coach Smith was a dedicated coach, teacher, and mentor who not only developed wrestlers but also inspired future leaders and taught many life lessons that stayed with his student-athletes.

On December 8th, 2015, the 2015-2016 Varsity Wrestling team opened the season with rival Philipsburg-Osceola. Prior to the start of the dual meet, many alumni had the opportunity to visit their alma mater and honor Coach

Smith. High School Vice-Principal Mike Fedisson and retired BASD employee Patti Hillard shared information with Bellefonte grads from many decades as they toured the high school. For some alum, this visit was their first since they graduated. At the conclusion of the tour, many gathered in the library to share stories about the many great years they experienced at BAHS. At the conclusion of the Jr. High dual meet (Bellefonte defeated P-O 42-40) and prior to the start of the varsity dual meet, there was an official dedication ceremony held to recognize the naming of the wrestling room for Coach Glenn B. Smith. Among the speakers at the ceremony were current varsity head coach Mike Maney, Dave Adams (who wrestled for Smith), Ron Pifer (who won two state titles at Bellefonte), Galen Dreibelbis (a former State College wrestler who talked about the awe in which Smith was held by opposing team), and Coach Smith's daughter, Carol Lee.

After the dedication ceremony, the varsity wrestling team went on to defeat Philipsburg-Osceola 46-15. To conclude the evening, there was a social held in the high school cafeteria where former and current wrestlers, coaches, fans, parents, and supporters shared stories of past and present about the wrestling program started almost seventy years ago.

What is a test of a great coach? One marker is that when they leave, others will carry on the program's success. Beginning in 1946 under Coach Glenn B. Smith's leadership, many student-athletes have graduated from the wrestling program and Bellefonte Area High School, continuing on to lead extraordinary lives. As a result, when student-athletes enter the Glenn B. Smith Wrestling Room, they are continuing the legacy established by Coach Smith.



## HIGH SCHOOL

# Showing Support: French Class in Action

On the evening of November 13, 2015, a series of coordinated terrorist attacks occurred in Paris and its northern suburb, Saint-Denis. Beginning at 9:20 pm, three suicide bombers struck near the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, followed by suicide bombings and mass shootings at cafés, restaurants, and a concert hall in Paris.

It was a sad and terrible day in the world, and the Bellefonte Area High School French students jumped into action to show their support for their French counterparts.

The students spent two days discussing the events, creating sympathy cards for French middle school students, and translating an article from French into English about the attacks. The cards (and lots of Hershey's Kisses) were sent to a middle school in Montpellier, France. We named the gesture "Kisses and Cards from America," and our care package was very well received!

Here is a picture of the care package's safe arrival captured by the French Middle School's English teacher, Anne Roman.



## OUR CHINESE SCHOLARS

by Mikalya Corrigan, BAHS Junior

Just a few years ago, Bellefonte Area School District integrated a Chinese curriculum into its language department. Since then, it has become a key component in many students' language education over the course of the years.

This year, the district had the opportunity to have its Chinese program taught by teachers, Ms. Cheng Fan and Ms. Jun Ma, who were actually born in China and speak Chinese as their first language.

Before they began teaching at Bellefonte, they both received a major in education.

Ms. Fan teaches Chinese at Bellefonte Elementary and the high school. Ms. Ma teaches at the middle school. Both teachers have claimed to enjoy their time here in the district and credit this to other faculty members.

Bellefonte is a beautiful and friendly town. I really like the architecture style

here. Since I came here, I have received a lot of help from Dr. Michelle, my mentor teachers Amy [Sten] and Victoria [Butch], and my co-workers. They helped me a lot and I really appreciate it. It makes me feel

that I'm not that far away from home and BAMS is another big family," Ms. Ma said.

Over the last couple months, Ms. Fan has experienced a similar climate in the high school.

"I really like this place. People in here are really nice and help me a lot. The assistant superintendent, Dr. Michelle Saylor, and my mentor, Ms. Butch, really care about what we are doing, wants us to be successful, and gives me and the other Chinese teacher, Ms. Ma, a lot of help and support. We really appreciate their patience and kindness and my department, the world language department fellows, Mrs. McCamley, Mrs. Zimdahl-McManus, and Ms. Shrubbs are super nice. Both teachers are looking forward to the rest of the year and plan on embracing the new experiences the United States has to offer.



## Prayer Breakfast

The Bellefonte High School Student Prayer group held their annual breakfast on January 26 before school in Mrs. Jackson's room. The students brought various breakfast items and enjoyed the opportunity to relax and socialize. All students were invited. Therefore, it gave the group the opportunity to get to know some new faces. As usual, the breakfast was delicious and there was more than enough to go around. About 40 students attended along with several teachers.



## HIGH SCHOOL

Fifty Bellefonte Area High School art and video production students were given the opportunity to visit New York City on Friday, January 29th, to tour NBC Studios and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The students and chaperons left the high school at 4:45 a.m. and arrived in NYC around 9:30 a.m.

During the NBC Studios tour, students were shown the various studios of the Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon, Studio 6B that airs Saturday Night Live, along with the NBC Nightly News studio that stars Lester Holt. Students also viewed the behind the scenes area of the control rooms, along with the audio, graphics, and the lighting rooms. To end the tour, the students were able to put on a "live" skit of the Tonight Show, where students were able to be anchors, cameramen, and control room producers.

At the MET tour, students were shown around the museum and given probing questions that made them think about the artwork and sculptures. The MET contains numerous departments that hold artifacts from across the world and through the ages. It was an eye opening experience to learn about the history and to professionally think about the artists' point of view when creating the paintings and sculptures. Overall, the experience is one that those students will remember for years to come.



## World Language Week, 2016

**Bonjour! Hola! Ni hao!**

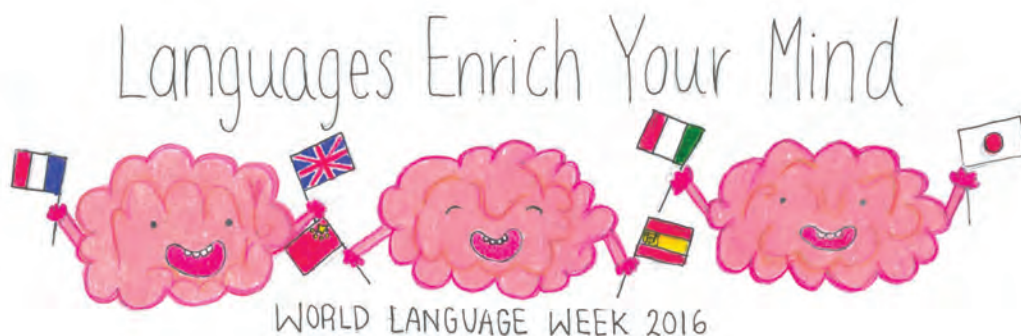
The World Language Department at the High School is very excited to celebrate World Language Week, March 7th-13th.

The inspiration for BAHS's very own week to celebrate language learning is thanks to Los Angeles City College's National Foreign Language Week. National Foreign Language Week was inaugurated in the Spring of 1957 after it was discovered that such a week had never been officially celebrated in the United States as a whole. The National Council of Alpha Mu Gamma began to formulate plans to make the United States aware of the need for, and importance of, world language study through the celebration of a week long event.

BAHS is proud to support and celebrate this week - a week that we like to call, World Language Week. In honor of the celebration, students will be answering "worldly" trivia questions from the morning announcements, wearing student designed t-shirts, and, in addition to their language classes, will be learning a "surprise language" for a few moments of class during the week. We hope you can join in the celebration!

Au revoir, Adios, and Zài jiàn

The Bellefonte Area High School World Language Department is pleased to announce the World Language Week t-shirt design winner: Senior - Leah Yates. **Congratulations, Leah!**





## Bellefonte FBLA Makes “Connections” Through Competition!

The Bellefonte chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, once again, has shown what you can accomplish when you put forth hard work and determination and allow the FBLA organization to help you “Connect” what you enjoy to intense competition.

This year, Bellefonte FBLA has spent countless hours representing the district through community service, competition, and workshops in order to show how our students care and can achieve greatness when given the opportunity.

To begin the year, FBLA held their 5th annual 5k in order to raise money for the local chapter of the AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention). Due to the efforts of our students, FBLA continues to be an important team in the help to remove the stigma from suicide and raise money for research efforts in the world of mental health.

Beyond local charities, FBLA has put effort into raising money for the Ronald McDonald Foundation, this year’s PA FBLA state project, and the March of Dimes. Due to donating baskets to be raffled, purchasing t-shirts, and our annual “Jar Wars” competition, our chapter has been able to raise over \$500 toward this year’s state project. In order to raise money for the March of Dimes, FBLA will be holding its annual Powder Puff game at the end of the school year at Rogers’ Stadium. More details about this end-of-the-year battle to be announced later!

Lastly, our students have represented us well through our local and state workshops and competitions. At the regional workshop, our Battle of Chapters team was able to bring home the first place plaque yet again! Also, with the competitive events at regional conference, our group of 29 members chose events that best represent who they are and the abilities they have developed throughout the years. Due to their hard work,

many of the students below qualified to represent Bellefonte at the state competition in Hershey this April. From there, if students qualify, they will be given the opportunity to compete at the national level in Atlanta in June!

Please congratulate the following students for their excellent efforts:

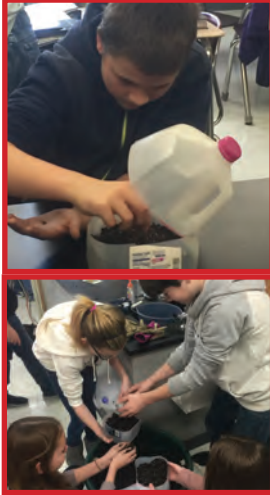
**Accounting I:** Emily Sinclair, first place (state eligible)  
**Agribusiness:** Kayla Kimble, first place (state eligible); Ethan Corman, fourth place; Mckenzie Catalano, fifth place  
**Business Calculations:** Jenna Catalano, third place (state eligible); Emma Ferguson, sixth place  
**Business Communications:** Kurtis Brungard, fifth place  
**Business Law:** Tanner Shade, third place (state eligible); Mackenzie Swearingen, eighth place  
**Cyber Security:** Stephen Giacobbe, second place (state eligible); Brandon Snook, third place (state eligible)  
**Healthcare Administration:** Courtney Crable, second place (state eligible)  
**Impromptu Speaking:** Patricia Jenkins, first place (state eligible)  
**Introduction to Business:** Alexis Crissinger, second place (state eligible); Gabbie Pighetti, third place (state eligible)  
**Job Interview:** Mikayla Corrigan, second place  
**Marketing:** Caleb Putnam and Austin Smith, third place  
**Public Speaking I:** Halle Mitchell, first place (state eligible)  
**Public Speaking II:** Marisa Cameron, second place  
 Sports and Entertainment Management: Jesse McCartney and Jake Morelli, second place

Also, Marisa Cameron was elected to the position of Region 14 Secretary which allows her to be state eligible as well!

And, at the state-level, Sadie Woodring entered the Electronic Career Portfolio event. Also, Madison Marucci, Emma Bannach, and Kristen Crable entered the Website Development event.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL



The 7th grade White Team is learning how to garden! With the help of the Penn State Master Gardeners, Miss D'Ambrosia's class spent the first weeks of fall planting a native pollinator garden in our courtyard, including milkweeds, mints, and asters. Lucky for us, last year's students thoughtfully designed, engineered and built the raised garden beds so we were ready to plant. As winter hit, we started thinking ahead to spring and had an idea...let's start growing our seeds now! Called winter seed sowing, we created a mini-greenhouse using recycled gallon milk jugs and planted various native seeds. Because they are native to our area, they are used to the cold temperatures so will begin to germinate. As the weather warms up, hopefully, we will have some young plants to add to our garden, as well as help Miss Crisan's class get their garden started. We are all curious to see what kind of insects and other animals we may be able to attract to our courtyard environment. Pollinators are very important to our ecosystem so any chance we can get to help them out is a chance we will take!



### Health Classes at the Middle School

Recently, Mrs. Johnson's and Mr. Walter's 8th grade health classes learned about the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. An important topic that goes along with these units is CPR. According to the 2014 CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) database (the 2015 data has not been released yet), the national save rate (someone who doesn't receive CPR immediately) is only 10.3%. Regionally, we are at a 9% save rate. When someone who needs CPR doesn't receive it within the first 4-6 minutes, he/she could suffer from brain damage or even death. By educating our students on how to administer hands-only CPR, we are hoping to increase the save rates in our communities. So many people are afraid to perform CPR because of multiple reasons. With this training, our students have learned enough and will, hopefully, feel comfortable to do what they need to do in an emergency situation. Mr. Tim Nilson, from the Seven Mountain EMS Counsel, was our trainer. He did an excellent job educating our students. If you are interested in learning CPR, please contact your local American Red Cross or EMS Agency.



In an effort to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and alcohol, the students in health class competed in an Anti-Tobacco/Alcohol poster campaign. Out of approximately 100 entries, the winner was Nick McConnell with his message of "Don't be like the birds, stay low, not high." Congratulations Nick! Elle Macafee received 2nd place, and Colby Lohr received 3rd place. Thanks to all of the students for their hard work and creativity in creating their posters!





# MIDDLE SCHOOL



## County Band and Choir Festival

Select students from the 7th and 8th grade BAMS Band and BAMS Choir had a great time participating in this year's county festival! This festival involves some of our most hard-working, motivated students from Bellefonte, Bald Eagle, State College, Penns Valley, and Philipsburg- Osceola school districts. This year's festival was held at Penns Valley on November 16th and 17th. At the conclusion of rehearsals on November 17th, students performed an evening concert showcasing what they learned at the festival. The photo is of all of the BAMS Band participants. Congratulations to all participating students on a job well done!



## Another Successful "drama-filled" Year



The BAMS Drama Troupe #89161 had another successful "drama-filled" year. Work began on these productions in fall of 2015, and we were able to put on two productions in January of 2016. They were:

A *Charlie Brown Christmas* is a perennial favorite, and the BAMS drama club brought to life those characters that we have come to know and love. It should be noted that the television special that inspired the play celebrated its 50th anniversary; evidence of its timeless appeal to audiences young and old alike.

*The Sleigh Team* is a fun and whimsical comedy that features many iconic holiday characters that kept the audience in stitches. Evoking a loose parody of the 80's television series, *The A-Team*, Frosty, Rudolph, Santa Claus, and Jack Frost are hired to help old Ebenezer Scrooge find a little Christmas spirit.

## FUN TO RUN



Cross country runners are judged on individual times and teams by a points-scoring method. Men and women compete in cross country, which usually takes place during autumn and winter, and can include weather conditions of rain, sleet, snow or hail, and a wide range of temperatures. We had most of these conditions this fall, and are very proud. Cross country running is a sport in which teams and individuals run a race on open-air courses over natural terrain. In Middle School, the course is usually about 2 miles long and may include surfaces of grass and earth, with runners passing through woodlands and open country. This can include hills, flat ground, and sometimes gravel road. Cross country is both an individual and a team sport. We are very proud of the runners. They did very well and improved their times throughout the season!

*"If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your path"*

The Chain Reaction Club at Bellefonte Area Middle School held a food, book, and coat drive from December 11-21 at the school. Each morning, club members would stand at both entrances of the school and collect donations from students. Thanks to the generosity of our BAMS community, 465 non-perishable food items, 13 cartons of books, and 120 coats were collected!

Food donations were taken by the students and BAMS principal, Mrs. Garman, to the Faith Center Food Bank. Coats and books were taken to the Buffalo Run United Methodist Church for their Saturday free coat give-a-way. When people come to get a coat for themselves or their children, they were invited to take a free book as well.

The Chain Reaction Club will be holding another food drive in February to help restock the food bank.

The Chain Reaction Club is a group of students who meet every Wednesday morning before school to plan and conduct acts of appreciation and kindness for our school community as well as our Bellefonte area community.





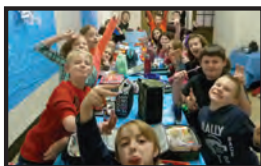
## BELLEFONTE ELEMENTARY

### SPECIAL MORNINGS

The Bellefonte Elementary PTO sponsored two new special events in recent months: "Muffins with Mom" and "Donuts with Dad." Held a half hour before school started, moms (in October) and then dads (in December) joined their kids for a special morning of breakfast treats and conversation. Placed on the tables were conversation starters with questions for parents and kids to discuss with one another. For example: "What is the one thing you'd like to learn how to do and why?", "What are five things you wish I knew about you?", "Would you rather be an eagle or a lion?", "Who would you like to meet?", and "If you could change one thing about yourself, what would you change?" Students and their parents had a great time connecting with one another on their special morning out. What a great way to start the day!



### PTO News



The students at Bellefonte Elementary have a new incentive for bringing in Box Tops for Education this year. Themed award parties have been planned for the top collecting class in each grade by the PTO. These quarterly parties are held over the lunch period and the kids get to enjoy their lunch in a party space with decorations, music and cupcakes for dessert. January's party theme was "a Blizzard of Box Tops" and our winning rooms were: Mrs. Proctor (K), Miss Macklem (1), Mrs. Filipowicz (2), Mrs. Litten (3), Mr. Treweek (4), and Mr. Mudry (5)! The PTO would like to thank parents for taking the time to collect Box Tops for Education with their children. With your help, they have already been able to raise over \$1500 this year! The funds collected help the PTO to contribute field trips, supplementary classroom materials, holiday activities, and much more to the students at Bellefonte Elementary.



### Chat with an Elf

Mrs. Wilson's 2nd grade classroom continued their collaborative Holiday writing exchange with ITS employees at Penn State. Students are assigned an elf that they write back and forth with throughout a 4 week time period. They shared about their likes and dislikes about almost every topic, shared their wish list, and LOVED asking the elves questions. They were thrilled to receive their responses and couldn't wait to write back. There is always a little bit of sadness when they realize the last letter has been received, and they are done asking questions and receiving those long-awaited answers!

This year was particularly exciting because each student made a list of a few small items they really wanted (scarf, race car, Shopkin eraser, etc.) and the elves sent them back exactly what they wished for! Joe Nasal from Penn State shared that he was amazed with the sincerity of the children's messages and enthralled with their creativity. This exercise has become an important part of his holiday season. Mark Katsouras all stated how much he enjoyed the elf exchange and that he benefited as much, if not more, than the kids.

### Greensylvania!



Bellefonte Elementary is happy to announce that we were able to purchase 3 water filling stations for our school. With the money that we were awarded from placing in the Greensylvania Recycling Competitions and grants from the Bellefonte Education Foundation and Center County (Chapter Pennsylvania) Association of School Retirees, we were able to purchase two more. Our generous and supportive PTO purchased the third water filling station for our school. We are excited to have the water filling stations and to educate our children on the importance of recycling bottles. As of today, we have eliminated the use of over 4000 plastic bottles.





## *Bellefonte community rallies around the book, 1 Am Malala*

On Thursday, January 21st, the Bellefonte READS Committee hosted the kickoff of its “One Book, One Bellefonte” event. Community members stopped by the high school library to select one of the various Malala books available for all ages. The library was packed all night long, and by the end of the evening, 250 books were handed out to guests! The books were provided for free thanks to generous grants from the State College Branch of the AAUW and Thrivent Financial.

In addition to receiving a free Malala book, community members participated in activities to learn about Malala’s country and culture. Guests enjoyed sampling Pakistani food, viewed images from Malala’s homeland in the Swat Valley, and played a variety of games popular in Pakistan, such as Parcheesi and Sticks. Additionally, the Bellefonte Women’s Club was on hand to share information about the Little Free Libraries in our area.

As a follow-up to the kickoff event, the Bellefonte READS Committee will be hosting several community book chats. Check out the following link for more information:

<http://bit.ly/20xGNHH>

Additionally, mark your calendars for the 2nd annual Community Literacy Night on Wednesday, March 23rd! It will be held from 6-8 pm at Bellefonte Area High School.





## “Imagine, Plan, Create, Ask, Improve”



Students in Mrs. Kipp's science classes have been learning about different types of engineers and the “Engineering Design Process – Imagine, Plan, Create, Ask, Improve.” Students gathered into groups to collaborate on designing the tallest free-standing structure involving spaghetti noodles, tape, string, and a marshmallow on top. Students had fun as they became engineers and worked as a team.



Students working on Stream Tables in our new science unit-Land & Water. They are Investigating Streams and looking at Erosion and Deposition.



In November, Benner staff helped make Mr. Vancas' participation in the 2015-2016 Book It! Principal Challenge a success. This yearly challenge is designed to help provide examples of literacy to students. While we weren't the winner of this Nationwide challenge, we consider ourselves winners for surprising the students by dressing like favorite book characters for the day. Fly Guy, a.k.a. Mr. Vancas, cruised the halls on a chopper style bike for the day and stopped by each classroom to read aloud a favorite book.

## The Kindness Challenge

Mrs. Montgomery's First Grade Class participated in a 12-Day Kindness Challenge during the Holiday Season. Every day, the students had a task to complete. The tasks included cards to residents at Centre Crest, gifts for staff members in our building, bird feeders, hot chocolate to those on morning duty, and many others. With each task, the students learned the importance of giving and realized the true meaning of the Season!







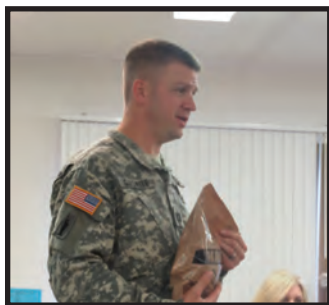
## MARION - WALKER

# Marion-Walker Salutes Veterans

Marion-Walker Elementary School celebrated Veterans Day and honored all veterans on November 10th. The school conducted an ALL DAY program for the students to learn about Veterans and other military life through rotations to various stations. Local guest speakers and parents, who are Veterans representing various branches of the military, directed each station.

The students loved tasting foods at the MRE (meals ready to eat) station with Mr. Keith Guiswite from the US Army Reserves and BAMS teacher. They exercised and learned how the military keeps fit with Mrs. Beth Ashe at the PT station and learned about the history of the Marines. In the flag station, they learned about flag etiquette and the proper way to respect and take care of the American flag. Mrs. Carol Clarke-Baney from the American Legion even gave each student a flag to keep. Mr. Joe Horvath from the Boalsburg Military museum came dressed as a World War 1 Doughboy and talked about helmets through the last century. In the Military Vehicles station, Mr. Bryan Eyer and Mr. Josh Englert of the US Army Reserves showed a Humvee which the kids got to explore and sit in. Mr. Bill English and Mr. Billy English of the US Marine Corp presented a Deuce truck and a cannon, as well. A video of the history of Veterans Day and a book about the military was shared at the Veterans Day History station. Mr. Adam Kuhlman, Mr. Randall Forsythe, Mrs. Shattannah Forsythe, and Mrs. Betty Glass shared their military experiences in the US Army and US Air Force as guest speakers. Students also wrote letters and drew pictures to send to US Veterans overseas and at the Walter Reed VA hospital.

The day ended with the whole school in the auditorium to watch videos and sing songs to thank our guests and to thank all veterans for their service to our country. All the students, teachers, and staff had a wonderful day learning about the military and honoring our Veterans.



## TO CHOCOLATE OR NOT CHOCOLATE?-- THAT IS THE QUESTION!

Fifth grade students in Mrs. DeFonzo's class grappled with this very idea!

Through research, students discovered many interesting statistics in support of, or against, drinking chocolate milk. Upon analyzing this information, they made an informed decision on whether or not they personally believed chocolate milk should be served in the Marion-Walker cafeteria. Once the students determined their positions, they presented very well-written essays to Mrs. Yontosh containing arguments in favor or against the beverage.

The project lead to a debate where students engaged in expressing their views in a formal debate structure. Students spent considerable time preparing and then ultimately participated in a successful event!

Much was learned throughout this process--research, writing structure, citations, data collection, analysis, and public presentation (just to name a few). In addition to this, students can now make an informed decision on whether or not chocolate milk will be a regular staple within their own diets!



## MARION - WALKER

### *And the Chocolate Debate continues...*

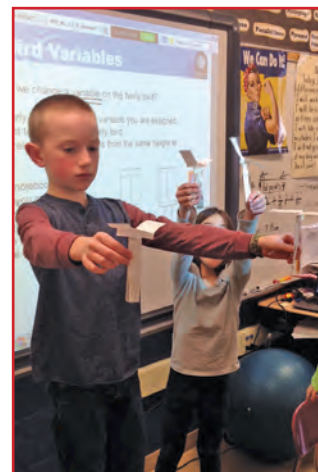
Mr. Harchak's fifth grade English Language Arts Class presented arguments for and against serving chocolate milk at Marion-Walker Elementary via an oral debate. Students provided opinion and rebuttal as they attempted to persuade third grade students of the merits of drinking the beverage or not. Mrs. Carroll's, Mrs. Kowalczyk's and Mr. Cipro's students were captivated by the process as they were about to embark upon argumentative writing very soon in their own classrooms. Ultimately, the fifth grade students challenged its audience to decide which debate team posed the most convincing argument. Third graders were asked to exit the event by way of the "in favor of chocolate milk" doorway or the "not in favor of chocolate milk" doorway. Votes were counted and students used the feedback as a learning tool. Once again students, were charged with making an informed decision on beverage choice based upon their research.



### *Twirly Birds at Marion-Walker*



The third grade classes at Marion-Walker Elementary are all about "winging it." Recently in science classes, the students were investigating how things move and how different forces change the movement of objects. In one of the lessons, the students made twirly birds (flying spinners) and investigated the variables that are part of the interaction between the flying spinner, the force of gravity, and the air. The students designed a standard twirly bird and then made another twirly bird with different variables to see how its flight compared to the standard one. The students completed the investigation in the classroom first and then outside to see if the change in air would also make a difference. This is one of the many investigation the students have been completing as a part of their Motion and Matter Unit.



### Marion-Walker Kids-to-Kids Coins of Caring Campaign

Marion-Walker students targeted the food backpack program as their cause for collecting coins this year. More than \$2300 was presented to Howard Long, CEO of the Bellefonte YMCA, to support filling backpacks with food for kids to take home over the weekends. In a culminating assembly, Mr. Long spoke to students about the program and how much the funding would help to support it. Congratulations to Marion-Walker students!

In addition to raising money for the backpack program, Marion-Walker students contributed more than 500 Hershey bars throughout the months of November and December. The bars were placed in food backpacks as an extra treat for kids prior to the holiday break. The efforts of the students offered a nice surprise to those receiving backpacks.





## Jump Rope for Heart

In early November, all 2nd – 5th grade students at Benner and Pleasant Gap Elementary Schools participated in the Jump Rope for Heart. This nation-wide program, which is sponsored by the American Heart Association, helps children learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health. In addition, they had the opportunity to raise money for a great cause.

Before the event, students practiced and learned new jump rope skills during Physical Education to get them ready for the big event. During the event, students worked together to continuously keep their teams' jump ropes moving for 35 minutes. They got to have fun exercising while demonstrating their jump rope skills, and showing how they can work together as a team.

The students worked even harder raising money for the American Heart Association. Together, students at Benner and Pleasant Gap Elementary Schools raised over \$9,200! In eight years of participating in the Jump Rope for Heart, both schools have combined to raise nearly \$67,000! These funds support vital heart and stroke research, as well as educational programs. In addition, because of the kids' hard work in raising that amount, each school will receive a certificate toward the purchase of new Physical Education equipment.

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



For the past three years, Mr. Todd Summers, a second grade teacher at Pleasant Gap Elementary, has challenged his class to raise \$1,000 or more for the school's annual Jump Rope For Heart Fundraiser. The event raises money for the American Heart Association and gives the students a chance to jump rope together for a great cause. For the second year in a row, his class has met his challenge. This year, they were the top fundraising class in the school, raising \$1,345. Because his class succeeded in meeting his challenge, Mr. Summers had to bleach and dye his hair red. The top money raiser for the

school, John Servant, is a student in Mr. Summers' class. He raised \$525.00 for the cause! Mr. Summers is extremely proud of the hard work put forth by his students and helping others.



## CENTRAL OFFICE

### 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 Nov. 9, 2015, Regular Board Meeting. Employees were nominated by their coworkers in their respective district buildings.



#### Professional Staff Recipients:

Emily Hooper  
Leah Markert  
Heather Nyquist  
Eric Cyone  
Christopher Cipro  
Michelle (Micki) Krape

Bellefonte Area High School  
Bellefonte Area Middle School  
Bellefonte Elementary School  
Benner Elementary School  
Marion-Walker Elementary School  
Pleasant Gap Elementary School

#### Support Staff Recipients:

Carrie Lee  
Heather Auman  
Jill Catalano  
SuLainne Watson  
Christine Mann  
Brent Winder  
Leslie Elder

Bellefonte Area High School  
Bellefonte Area Middle School  
Bellefonte Elementary School  
Benner Elementary School  
Marion-Walker Elementary School  
Pleasant Gap Elementary School  
Bellefonte Area School District

## ALICE Training

The Bellefonte Area School District hosted the ALICE Training Institute's Active Shooter Response Training:



While organized initially to train school staff, the training was opened to the public. There were 40 people in attendance from across a wide variety of professions that included police and sheriff's departments, hospitals, nursing homes, national park service, and other school entities from across PA and neighboring states.



The training involves learning statistics and other information about active shooter situations and how ALICE empowers staff and students to respond in more proactive ways. On the afternoon of the first day, the 40 participants will experience live scenario drills that simulate active shooter scenes using an airsoft gun and trainees practice the ALICE responses: **A--Alert L--Lockdown I--Inform C--Counter E--Evacuate**

This training allowed the BASD to have a trainer in every building to help sustain the teacher/staff training that has happened since last summer. The district held a series of evening parent Information nights about the ALICE model in January and student training will begin in February.



## TECHNOLOGY

### BASD Students Participate in Hour of Code



Students across Bellefonte Area School District learned the basics of computer coding during December through participation in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is a global initiative designed to provide students with an introduction to computer coding. The goal is to show students that anyone can learn the basics of coding and to encourage students to consider careers in computer science. Through coding, students learn problem-solving skills, logical thinking, and creativity. Coding also introduces students to skills that offer many promising employment opportunities. Students in over 180 countries participated in coding activities through games with themes from Star Wars, Minecraft, and Frozen.

At the elementary level, computer/business information technology teacher, Miss Julie Henry, introduced all students in kindergarten through fifth grade to coding activities. We were pleased to have the Centre Daily Times visit Mrs. Cheryl DeCusati's kindergarten class at Marion-Walker. At Pleasant Gap, WTAJ joined Mrs. Shea Hazel's kindergarten class, and WJAC paid a visit to Mrs. Melissa O'Shell's first grade class.

Students at Bellefonte Area Middle School and Bellefonte Area High School have opportunities to learn coding through STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) classes and in computer/information technology classes. Students also have the option to take computer programming classes as electives at BAHS. BAHS business teacher, Mr. Andrew Weigold, included coding activities in all of his classes during the Hour of Code week.

Give it a try! Go to [code.org](http://code.org) and select LEARN, Hour of Code. Games and activities for kindergarten and first grade students can be found at [www.tynker.com](http://www.tynker.com) through the HOUR OF CODE link.

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The Bellefonte Area Education Support Personnel Association (BAESPA) recently held their yearly fundraiser. Proceeds from the sandwich sale held last year allowed the members to make contributions to our local community. The contribution to the Faith United Methodist Church helped provided Christmas dinners to over 800 individuals. The Undines Fire Company also received a donation to recognize and support their outstanding work and dedication to keeping our community safe. BAESPA members enjoy helping out our community and are very grateful for their support. Thank you all for your continued support and thank you to everyone that participated in the fundraiser.





## Thank You Very Much!

During the dark days of winter, we would like to pause and spotlight two people that have given their time and energy to our school district, George and Liz Stone. Last year, the school district recognized Liz for her dedication and her continued support to our volunteer program. She works many hours to ensure that we have volunteers in our schools and classroom. Along with other administrative members, she developed a Volunteer Handbook and database of volunteers. Last spring, the district recognized her for her gift of time and talent.

This past November, George Stone ended his 15 years of service to the Bellefonte Area School District as a school board member. It takes a special person to volunteer to serve on Board of School Directors, whether that person is elected or appointed. There is much more to the job than appears on the surface.

Board members must work with district employees to ensure that programs are funded and employees and community members are heard. Surely, this is no easy task in this era of fiscal uncertainty and education reform. Boards are often torn on deciding which program can survive and which can be expanded and added. In addition, board members need to uphold confidentiality in sensitive situations. Our members may face public scrutiny over a decision or a student discipline matter. The board knows details that cannot legally be divulged. In such cases, the board is "between a rock and a hard place" and an easy target for criticism.

During a school board meeting with George, he was asked why do you want to serve? He simply said, "I just want to be part of a team providing the best education for the kids." The reward comes from hearing kids sing in the holiday concert and handing diplomas to graduating seniors.

The Bellefonte Area School District recognizes the hard work, effort, and dedication of George and Liz.

We express our gratitude and thanks to both of them, as well as to all of our Board of School Directors and volunteers who give selflessly to our district.



### DRUG AWARENESS & PREVENTION

#### Drug Awareness Seminar

**Who:** Parents, Teachers, and all Interested Community Members

**When:** Saturday, March 19, 2016  
\*\*Snow Date- Saturday, April 9, 2016\*\*

**Where:** Bellefonte Area High School  
(Enter through the Theatre Entrance)

**Time:** 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

**Agenda:**

- Risks, Red Flags and Protective Factors- Presented by Denise McCann
- Drug Identification- Presented by State Trooper Jeffrey Petucci of the Hollidaysburg Barracks
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)- Presented by Mrs. Shirley Burzynski
- School Wide Positive Behavior Support- Presented by Mrs. Shirley Burzynski
- Addiction and Treatment- Presented by Karlene Shugars
- Recovery and Life Experience- Presented by Katie Hugo

A special thank you and recognition to  
Alison Turley of the Youth Service Agency and  
Cathy Arbogast of the Centre County Drug and Alcohol Agency

**To register:** Please sign in online @ [www.basd.net](http://www.basd.net) or  
Call the school at 814-355-4833 Ext. 8550

**ACT 48 credits will be awarded to all teachers in attendance**





## Sweet Gift of Caring

Becky and Annie Lucas, seniors at BAHS, along with brothers Austin and Cody Allison, wanted to support their good friend, senior Devon Anderson, in his battle with cancer. They decided to raise money by selling gourmet lollipops. The Bellefonte Student Prayer Group agreed to help with the sale, which was sponsored by Mrs. Ruth Jackson, a FCS Teacher at BAHS. Within several weeks, approximately \$2,150 was raised through sales and donations! The money was presented to Devon on Christmas Eve, along with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus!



## A "Light" before Christmas



A smaller than usual group of spirited runners/walkers/canines used the window of opportunity (aka break in the rain) to take to the streets of Bellefonte to enjoy the Holiday Lights. We stopped at the Santa House, but he was not there! I guess he was looking over the naughty/nice list again! All made it back to the high school to enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies before heading home!



## Gingerbread Houses

The gingerbread houses were created by Ruth Jackson's Home Design class. Students worked in groups of three or four to brainstorm ideas for their gingerbread house. They included architectural features based on homes they were studying. The basic house was gingerbread, and the added features were made of graham crackers. It was a great way to get their creative juices flowing and to practice using the terms they had learned.



## SIX SENIORS SIGN TO CONTINUE THEIR PLAYING TIME

In two ceremonies, six athletes have signed and committed to extending both their academic and athletic careers on the college level. In the Fall, Dom Masullo and Kyler Mellot signed their way into college and on the diamond. Both gentlemen will be pitching for their respective college of choice - Dom going to Morehead State and Kyler to Clarion. In the second signing, the following seniors made their choice known: Jessica Book - Grove City - soccer and basketball; Morgan Brooks - Penn College - soccer; Olivia Spratt - IUP - track and field, and Bryce Steiner - Mansfield - track and field. Congrats to these students and all of our Senior Athletes.







# Bellefonte

## Area School District

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### ***BASD Kindergarten Registration***

Please call the school to schedule your child's kindergarten registration. The child must be 5 years of age before September 1, 2016.

<b><u>Bellefonte Elementary School</u></b> 814-355-5519  April 4, 2016 12 pm to 6:30 pm  May 20, 2016 8:30 am to 2:20 pm	<b><u>Marion-Walker Elementary School</u></b> 814-357-2425  April 4, 2016 12:20 pm to 7:20 pm  May 18, 2016 8:30 am to 2:50 pm
<b><u>Benner Elementary School</u></b> 814-355-2812  April 7, 2016 3:30 to 7:15 pm  May 11, 2016 TBA	<b><u>Pleasant Gap Elementary</u></b> 814-359-2739  April 14, 2016 3 to 8 pm  May 19, 2016 3 to 8 pm

Advertise in the *Red Raider Magazine*, the official newsletter of the Bellefonte Area School District, with a readership of 10,000.  
Contact Pam Vaiana for more details at 814-355-4814 x 3008 or email: [pvaiana@basd.net](mailto:pvaiana@basd.net)