

BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Red Raider m a g a z i n e

2017 SPRING ISSUE



Congratulations Class of 2017



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Cover Photo: Andrew Weigold

How to Reach Us

Administration Building	
All Numbers.....	355-4814
Superintendent's Office.....	Ext 3005
Director of Fiscal Affairs.....	Ext 3015
Assistant Superintendent.....	Ext 3004
Director of Human Resources	Ext 3002
Director of Special Education.....	Ext 3021
Business Office.....	Ext 3001
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Bellefonte Elementary.....	355-5519
Benner Elementary	Ext 3006
Marion-Walker Elementary.....	357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary	359-2739
Bellefonte Middle School.....	355-5466
Bellefonte High School.....	355-4833
BeLA	Ext. 3053
Web Site.....	www.basd.net

A Message from

Dr. Michelle Saylor



Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent

these changes will effectively serve our students, staff, and community and positively enhance the dynamics of each building. Please join us in welcoming everyone to their new positions and into your school communities.

With the end of the current school year it is time to look forward to 2017-18. Next year you will notice several changes across our district. Beginning with personnel, Bellefonte Elementary School, Marion Walker Elementary School, the Middle School, and the High School will all have new principals. Each of our new principals bring with them experience, a love and passion for our students, and a deep understanding of our community. In Bellefonte Elementary, we welcome Mrs. Jennifer Brown. Mrs. Brown served our district previously as our high school principal. At Marion Walker, we welcome Mrs. Karen Krisch. Mrs. Krisch served our district most recently as the principal at Bellefonte Elementary. At the high school, Mr. Michael Fedisson will now take over the reins. Mr. Fedisson moves into this position from the assistant high school principal position. Joining Mr. Fedisson and Mr. Park at the high school is Mrs. Rebecca Michaels. Mrs. Michaels previously served our district as the middle school assistant principal. In addition to these transfers, we would also like to welcome Mrs. Pam Vaiana to the position of Dean of Students at Bellefonte Elementary. Mrs. Vaiana served as the principal of St. John's elementary school prior to coming to Bellefonte Area School District where she has been our Director of Grants and Development.

In addition to the mentioned changes with our school administration, we will be hiring a new assistant principal at the middle school as well as a full time athletic director. Bellefonte Elementary and Marion Walker will each welcome an additional kindergarten teacher and our high school will implement a new autism support classroom to benefit those students who are moving up from our middle school. We are confident that

Beyond personnel we will implement a new instructional system, Fountas and Pinnell, for English Language Arts at the elementary level. The Fountas and Pinnell Classroom System is a comprehensive balanced literacy approach that will benefit all students. This system will be fully implemented in grades k-2 for 2017-18 and be phased in for grades 3-5 over the next two school years.

At the elementary level, we will continue to investigate intervention programs for mathematics. Our students will also be looking forward to harvesting the vegetables from their school gardens. All buildings continue to explore new ideas and strategies that will enhance existing programs and create even more engaging learning environments for our students.

We will be 1:1 with our laptop computers in 2017-18. Our incoming kindergarten students, 5th grade students, and 9th grade students will receive new laptops that they will keep for several years. Other students will receive current laptops for their use until they move into either 5th or 9th grade at which time they will receive a new laptop for use. At the high school level, students will be able to take their laptops home with them in the evening. Please look for more information at the beginning of the school year that will outline student expectations for technology use and care of their laptops.

The MIS department will be performing a major upgrade of the district data center. The current technology has served the district for nearly 20 years. The upgrades will provide increased network speed and capacity as well as the latest technology in internet safety and security. All of the high school networking equipment will be

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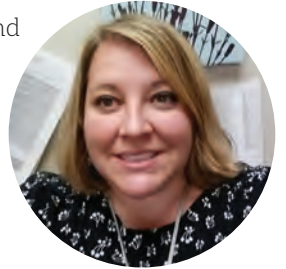
High School

Dear Seniors:

The last four years have been wonderful. It has been an honor and a privilege to get to know you and to work alongside each of you. You are leaders, entrepreneurs, risk takers, visionaries, movers and shakers. You have left a mark on our hallways and our hearts. The sky is the limit and you will no doubt achieve great things. Don't forget BAHS on your way to the top...we are incredibly proud of you and your achievements. Enjoy life, your journey, and all that it brings.

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Jennifer Brown
Principal, BAHS





A Carnival full of Probability!

When you are at a carnival, do you ever run the probability of winning the game? Do you calculate how much you could expect to win when you play the game vs. how much it will cost you to play? You expect the concessionaire to have the odds in their favor - they do want to make a profit, of course.

Mrs. Besch, in her probability and statistics class at the High School, taught her class of juniors and seniors how to calculate the probability of random events. They learned how to calculate the expected value and standard deviation of those random events. For a final project of the year, teams of two created carnival games where they needed to create the rules of the game and decide how to set up the prizes so that they would make a profit at their game. Having a "BIG" prize was something to draw people in to play their game, yet too many "BIG" prizes could bankrupt them. The students had a carnival game day where the other teams went around and played the games and the groups kept track of their winnings as their classmates played on with their Monopoly money.

Students then analyzed the results comparing how their "contestants" performed against the calculated expected winnings to see if they would be successful as a carnival concessionaire. The students had a fun class playing the others' games and were invested in the game because they were able to create the game on their own with their own rules. Maybe now when they go to the Grange Fair, they will think about Mrs. Besch's Probability and Statistics class and see if they can outsmart the gamemakers. Good luck, Statisticians!



High School

POWDER PUFF



FBLA held their annual Powderpuff Football game Friday, May 19, 2017, at Rogers Stadium. The event was a huge success raising over \$1,100 for the March of Dimes. The girls and coaches spent a lot of time preparing for the the event making this a well-played and close game. The cheerleaders constant support of the teams, their ability to captivate the crowd, and their non-stop entertainment definitely added to the afternoon! Thank you to all who came out to enjoy the event and especially to those that participated and showed their Red Raider pride!



“MARAVILLOSO”

On March 23rd, the Spanish Honor Society had its 2017 induction for the new members of the 2017-2018 school year. These students had to work very hard for their invitation to induction, with requirements including stellar grades in Spanish, an honor roll GPA, and an application essay. Twenty new members joined the club on this night. These students included freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. The students were Emily Harris, Brandon Snook, Takara Strouse, Alison Spratt, Victoria Abbott, Natalie Book, Shaun Carey, Mackenzie Ebeling, Maya Fulton, CJ Funk, Abby Harper, Aaron Little, Katie Mussett, Maya O'Shea, Keeli Pighetti, Olivia Reiter, Chelsea Robson, Alina Watson, Elizabeth Hargrove, and Evan McMullen. While there are many Spanish students at the Bellefonte Area High School, the society

inducted the best of these students for their upcoming school year. In addition to the requirements, before the induction, students had to learn the Pledge of Allegiance and the initiation Promise in Spanish, which shows the dedication these students have to the language. Overall, the induction was a huge success. We were fortunate to have all the inductees and their families attend, as well as members of the supporting administration staff. The BAHS Spanish Honor Society is excited for its new members to see what is in store for the upcoming school year!



LIFE SKILLS CLASS



The Bellefonte High School life skills students have been very active this year. The students have created a "Cafe" to serve lunches of "home made" delicious foods every month to teachers. The money earned was used to go swimming at the YMCA and do other activities.

The student's have learned about the CATA bus system and have been riding the buses . They now can ride to work and other places they would like to go.

Several students have job shadowing work throughout the community at such places as the recycling center, Centre Crest, Faith Center, the high school library and cafeteria, and Restek to name a few.

The students had the opportunity to participate in three life skill dances at Penns Valley, Bald Eagle, and Bellefonte. Our students also attended the prom.



Recently the students went to The Special Olympics Jeri Ryan Track Meet at Penn State. Bellefonte proudly brought home nine gold medals, seven silver medals, one bronze medal and four ribbons. It was a wonderful event.

Kent's Fest, a "Hollywood Themed" talent show put on by Lock Haven University, was held in April. The Bellefonte Student's skit was called the "Bell-E- Wood Wok of Fame" and was a great success and fun.

Bald Eagle School District hosted a Life Skills Field Day in May. The Students got to jump in bounce houses, play field hockey, basketball, bowl, throw balls, get wet in the sprinkler, eat snow-cones, and so much more.

Thanks to Mrs. Rachel Davis for all her hard work, and the success of the class.



The **Senior Institute** Class raised a little over \$8,000 this year for Kathy Drysdale who is battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma for the second time. The students held a charity dinner to conclude their year-long fundraising efforts at Faith United Methodist Church on Friday, May 12. The class is led by English teacher Mrs. Jessica Lloyd and art teacher Miss Heather Fry.

High School



Where in the world are BAHS students?

This spring, BAHS redefined what a classroom looks like with educational field trips in and out of state (and country)! Here are some of the amazing adventures the high schoolers experienced as part of their coursework this semester!

Top row: FBIA volunteered at the BES holiday store; Science & Lit visited Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water; tech & ag ed students went to the Penn State Agriculture Center; AP Language & AP Literature research at the Penn State library. **Left column:** The Class of 2017 saw the sights in Chicago, Illinois; social studies classes paid tribute at the Flight 93 memorial and Antietam battlefield; AP Human Geo did fieldwork in Downtown Bellefonte. **Right column:** Foreign Language ventured to NYC for some cultural immersion; the Organ Donation Awareness group visited the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia; Model UN hopped the border to compete at the University of Toronto, Canada; students enrolled in the Roaring 20s got their Gatsby on in Newport, Rhode Island.

The students and staff would like to thank the School Board and administration for their support of these learning endeavors. Thank you!

The Spikes & Ike the Spike, along with Mt. Nittany Health, visited BAMS for an assembly to promote the importance of proper nutrition and exercise.



Special Olympics

The BAMS Life Skill Support and CLM classrooms competed at the Geri Ryan Track Meet on Thursday, April 20, 2017. The athletic competition was held at the Penn State Multi-Sports Complex. Student coaches worked with athletes during tutorial time to get the students ready for the competition. The students participated in the 25 meter run, 50 meter run, standing long jump, and softball throw. The class also ran the 4x100 relay. Each student participated in three events. All of the students won medals or ribbons for their effort.

Students that participated: Kevin Wright, Chase Bailey, Kenny Russo, Zayne Bailey, Rheya Lot, Zoey Nichols, Quinton Reed, Sam McElhinny, and Alexa Steiner.

A special thanks to the student coaches: Mia Johnson, Bella Corman, Kaitlyn Berkey, Lia Miner, Leigha Schrader, Ty Butler, Austin Melius, Max Rogers, J.D. Besch, Devan Cox, Bobby Marsh, and Gavin Fravel.



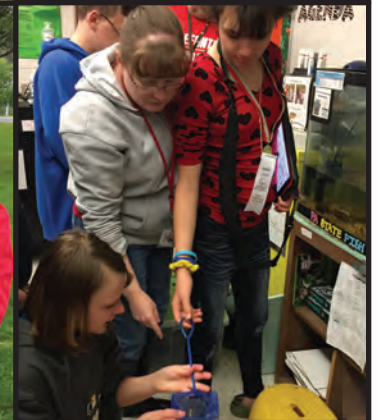
Middle School



Anya, dog in training of School Resource Officer Luse, visits BAMS Physical Education classes as part of her training.

BROOK TROUT RELEASE!

After spending six months watching our brook trout grow from eggs to fingerlings, Miss D'Ambrosia's 7th grade science students and Mr. Rager's class made a special trip to release the brook trout into Bald Eagle Creek. We took a detour to the Bellefonte Hatchery at Fisherman's Paradise and got to see the behind the scenes tour of how they grow fish to stock streams throughout the state. We were able to feed some massive trout! We packed up our fish into aerator buckets and headed out to the stream. Using our knowledge of macroinvertebrates learned in lab, we tested to make sure the water was safe for our fish and then released 172 Brook Trout into the local waters. That's a new class record!! Some other fun creatures found included other trout species, giant hellgrammites, and a big wolf spider!! Was a great day out at the stream enjoying our local habitat. Thank you to Spring Creek Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission!



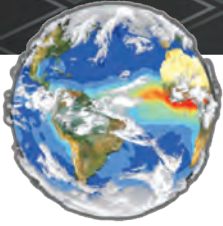


On April 24-26, the fourth and fifth grade students of Bellefonte Elementary were given the opportunity to have a small introduction to kayaking with experienced kayaker, Mr. Dave Kurtz. Over the three-day period, over 120 students were given the opportunity to get into a kayak and paddle down Sunnyside Paddling Park. After the introduction, the students who participated in the activity continued to show their excitement and were eager to continue practicing the sport, some even discussing how they wanted to come back that evening for another lesson. In the days following, several students followed through and have since started kayaking with Mr. Kurtz. The entire activity was made possible with the help of several teachers from the elementary school including Erin Cernuska, Rebecca Hitchings, Michael Laskowski, Lauren Whitman, Heather Bathurst, Principal Karen Krisch, and parent volunteer Christine Dermota. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of Mr. Kurtz and several experienced kayakers who helped to ensure student safety in the water. Thanks to everyone involved, the participating students may begin their adventure in a nontraditional sport and help create a more active community.

The Autistic Support class at Bellefonte Elementary participates in experiential learning activities outside the classroom in order to expose students to various social situations. Their first trip was to the Nittany Mall where students toured the Finatics Aquarium & Pet Center and practiced ordering lunch from the menu at Garfield's restaurant. Next, they joined with other special education classes across the county in the Geri Ryan Track Meet for the school-aged Special Olympics event. The class enjoyed listening and participating in song and dance performances at Lock Haven University for Kent's Fest. Their last trip of the school year was meeting some equine friends at Rising Hope therapeutic riding center.

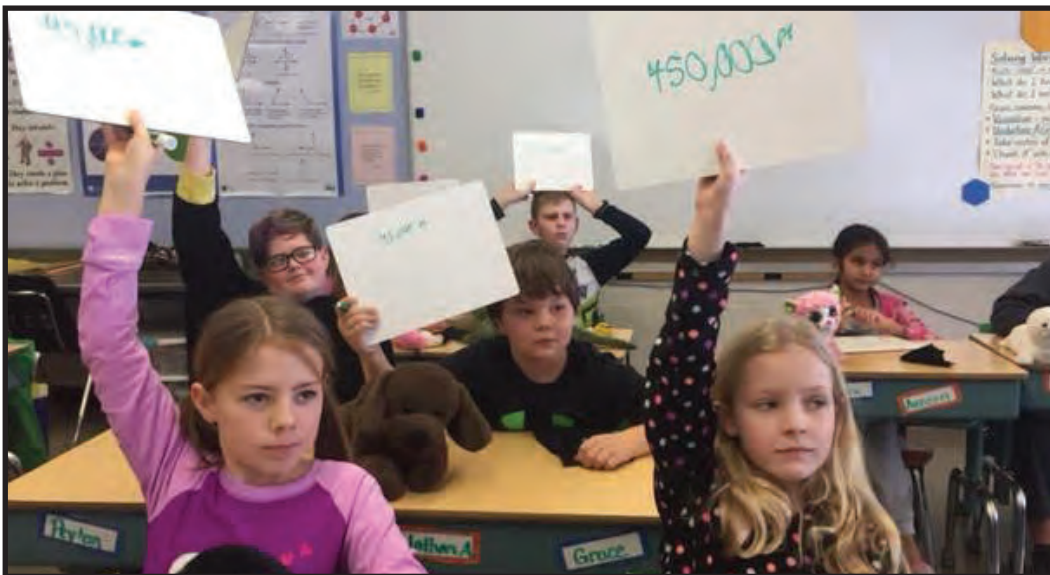


Benner Elementary



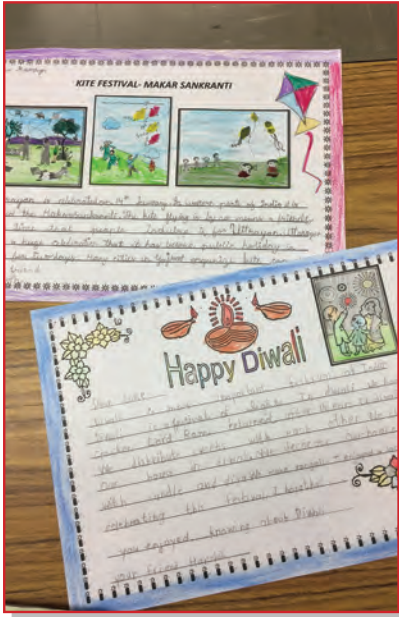
Learning About the Climate

Mrs. Kipp's students enjoyed a science class unit that was all about weather and climate. The kids conducted experiments simulating how the sun heats bodies of water and earth thus affecting the overall climate of a region. They then learned about cold and warm fronts and how weather patterns impact the weather and sometimes lead to violent storms, such as hurricanes and tornadoes. They also studied more about the water cycle and how cloud formation could indicate that the day's weather would be rainy and sometimes severe storms were on the way. They ended their unit by studying different types of clouds, such as cirrus clouds, stratus clouds, cumulus clouds, and cumulonimbus clouds, to name a few. Students enjoyed demonstrating what they learned about clouds by completing a poster project in which they used cotton balls and markers to show each type of cloud, which they labeled and wrote descriptions. After completing the unit, the kids were eager to step outside for recess to point to the sky and tell Mrs. Kipp what clouds they noticed and what the predicted weather would be. Some shared that they also do this with their families at home. Now the kids feel knowledgeable about what the weather forecasters mean when they talk about weather patterns and what will come in the days ahead.



Students in Mrs. Kipp's class are proudly sharing their math answers after being given a number in meters and converting it to millimeters. After the class wrote their numbers, they then practiced reading their 6 digit answers to a partner with place value accuracy.

Box Full of Letters!



Mrs. Anantheswaran's second grade students were pen pals with second grade students from K.D.Ambani Vidyamandir in Jamnagar, India. The students exchanged letters about their cultural holidays, festivals, and events. Students from India wrote about Diwali (Festival of Lights) and the Kite Festival (end of winter). Our students wrote about Halloween and Thanksgiving. This experience was very enjoyable and educational for all the students!



Benner Elementary students have their own school garden now! A \$500 garden grant from Tractor Supply, generous donations from local businesses, high school students from Agricultural Science department, parents, and community volunteers helped with this project. All grade levels have their own bed. They planted lettuce, spinach, radishes, and a few other crops in late April. We are hoping to taste the first produce before school is out. We are very fortunate to have some Benner families take care of our garden during the summer. Huge thanks to everyone who helped with our garden!



Marion-Walker Elementary



Whatever the Weather!

Mr. Jason Nicholls visited Mr. Harchak's fourth grade science classes in May to talk about meteorology and weather. His timing was perfect since it was a few days after the powerful storm that cancelled school and left many without power. Mr. Nicholls is a senior meteorologist at AccuWeather in State College and is also the manager of international forecasting. Fourth grade students at Marion-Walker had just finished a unit on weather and climate studying topics that included wind, tornadoes, hurricanes, weather fronts, as well as clouds and earth's atmosphere. The students really enjoyed hearing about meteorology from an experienced meteorologist, and it was the perfect ending to a great unit. Thank you, Mr. Nicholls!



Marion-Walker has been raising money for several months for the Four Diamonds Foundation to help kids with cancer. They raised \$5,375.41. During the Mini-Thon, the students made cards for the kids, ran a relay for them, made luminarie bags, decorated cookies, and got their pictures taken in a photo booth. The last hour and half of the school day was spent dancing, doing the limbo, and having fun outside.



- continued from front inside cover -

replaced and new wiring run to support the new technology. Benner Elementary will receive new networking equipment and will be the first building to receive an upgrade in wireless support. All of the upgrades will be funded through the eRate program.

In our High School we will add the following classes to our College in High School options: US History 2 (History 601 University of Pittsburgh), AP Statistics (Stat 200 University of Pittsburgh), AP US History (History 600 and 601 University of Pittsburgh), US History 1 (US History 600 University of Pittsburgh), and MOS/Advanced Computer Applications (Intro to Computers: SCS110 Seton Hill).

In Bellefonte Middle School you will notice for next year the implementation of the Get More Math resource, a full year of Project Lead the Way (pre-engineering) for 25 8th grade students, and a full year of art for 25 8th grade students. We will also be incorporating our Career and College Ready 339 initiative.

In our Buildings and Grounds department, we will be rolling out a new mobile application that will streamline operations with regard to tracking and completing work orders. In Human Resources, we will begin utilizing a new provider, Kelly Services, for our substitute personnel so we can better serve our staff and students.

From a safety perspective, we've done a lot to ensure a safe environment for our students and staff over the last several years - both through programming and facility upgrades. For 2017-18, we will place additional exterior cameras at the middle school, Rogers Stadium, the baseball field, and the student parking lot. We will continue to work toward upgrading facilities with ADA compliance.

In addition to creating greater efficiency and providing more productive learning and working environments these changes will also save our district money as each of the changes not only brings resources to the table but is also more cost effective.

In food services we have a few changes that will enable your children greater access to our summer lunch program. The YMCA of Centre County free summer lunch program (open to all school age children and younger) will now have four summer locations within our district. The summer sites are: Bellefonte Elementary (12:00-1:00 PM), Pleasant Gap Elementary (12:00-1:00 PM), Beaver Farms Apartments (12:00-1:00 PM), and Governors Gate Apartments (12:00-1:00 PM). For more information please contact your elementary school office or property office.

Please look for a summer mailing with free and reduced applications and menus coming in July/August. Meal prices for next year are: Breakfast - \$1.00 (k-12) and lunch - \$2.30 elementary and \$2.65 middle and high school.

We wish you a happy, safe summer filled with friends and family. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we welcome you back in August.

Michelle Saylor, Ed.D.

The Marion-Walker Art Show was held on May 3rd. Mrs. Amy Shoemaker organized the event which was held along with a Library Book Fair. Band and orchestra students played music during the event.



Pleasant Gap Elementary

Mrs. G's class at Pleasant Gap Elementary has been very busy this spring. On April 20, we participated in the Geri Ryan Track Meet. The students enjoyed running, jumping, throwing, and competing in this fantastic event. On April 28, we went to Kent's Fest at Lock Haven University. The theme this year was "Hollywood" and we performed a dance to "I Like to Move It" from Madagascar. Our class won the "Cutest Costumes" award.

We haven't slowed down in May. On May 3, we joined Mr. Rager's class from BAMS to enjoy an Altoona Curve baseball game. On May 19, we were invited by Bald Eagle Area School District to participate in Spring Fest. We had a lot of fun taking advantage of the bounce house, basketball hoop, water station, and Mr. Miller's Tropical Sno. Lunch was at Brother's Pizza in Wingate and then we headed down to Bald Eagle State Park for the afternoon. On May 24, we joined up with other classes in the district to go fishing at the Lamar Federal Fish Hatchery. We had a lot of fun learning how to cast a rod and catching the fish. The picnic lunch and time to play at Porter Park was a wonderful ending to a great day!

A big thank you to the Pleasant Gap PTO for providing us with our field trip shirts and everyone else who had sponsored or helped us out with our field trips!



Grade five had a day visiting the Bellefonte Area Middle School and participating in team building activities.



MATH AND SUCCESS ADD UP

The Elementary District 24 Challenge Tournament was held at Pleasant Gap Elementary. Students were represented by all elementary schools and had to qualify to attend. Up to eight students participated from each 4th and 5th grade class from each building. We had approximately 64 elementary students participating, and there were 17 high school students who proctored the tournament. Miss Melissa Duckworth, high school math coach, helped to coordinate the high school student volunteers.

Students participated in four rounds at 20 minutes each to earn the highest point score for their building. At the end of the tournament, only the top four students from each 4th and 5th grade (per elementary building) qualified to participate in the Regional 24 Challenge Tournament in Clearfield on May 11th. The planning and organization were done in collaboration with Pat Zimmerman, Elementary Math Intervention Specialist.

24 Challenge Tournament (Regional Level)

Winners advanced to our District Tournament held on April 21st at Pleasant Gap Elementary. This culminated in students participating in the Regional Challenge in Clearfield. Students had fun competing and are already looking forward to next year's competitions.

Braedyn Kormanic, Bellefonte Elementary - 4th/5th Grade Champion participated in the State 24 Competition June 14th in Harrisburg, PA

Micah Weaver, Pleasant Gap Elementary - Silver Medal

Bronze:

Tyson Wingert, Brady Miller, Caleb Auman, Paige Thomas, Bailey Hoff, Grady Garrison, Keith Eicholtz, and Braden Bickle



TECHNOLOGY



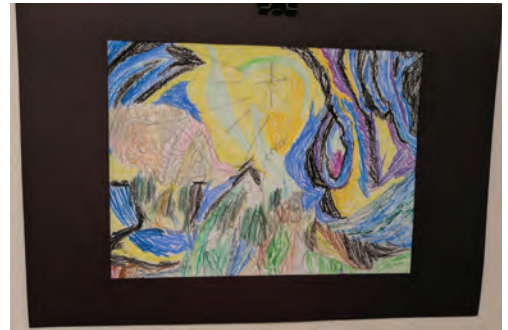
Two teams of students from Marion-Walker Elementary School attended the PAECT Student Technology Showcase on May 8, 2017, at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg. This was sponsored by the PA Association for Educational Communication and Technology. The annual event provides a way for students to share some of the ways in which technology is used for learning in classrooms across the Commonwealth. The students were accompanied by Miss Julie Henry and Mr. Arlin Roth. The students presented projects that they developed as part of Miss Henry's technology classes.



The Graduation and Promotion Ceremony for the Red Raider Preschool was well attended on May 3! The children sang and danced to their favorite songs and received their first diploma.



Fine Arts



As the school year draws to a close, the artwork that the students worked on throughout the year was displayed at art shows in each of the elementary schools as well as a 6-12th grade art show at the High School. Students worked hard and put their heart and soul into their projects under the direction and guidance of their teachers.



On Friday, May 26th, the BAMS Music Department attended an adjudication at Hershey Park. The orchestra and choir received a score of excellent and the band received a score of good. Students performed for professional adjudicators in the morning and then spent the afternoon and evening at the Park. It was a very successful trip and fun day!



GRADE FIVE CHORUS FEST

Susan Zimmerman and Daniel Bergman took select students on the 5th grade Chorus Fest trip. The 12 students rehearsed all day and performed a concert in the evening.



Memories

Red Raider





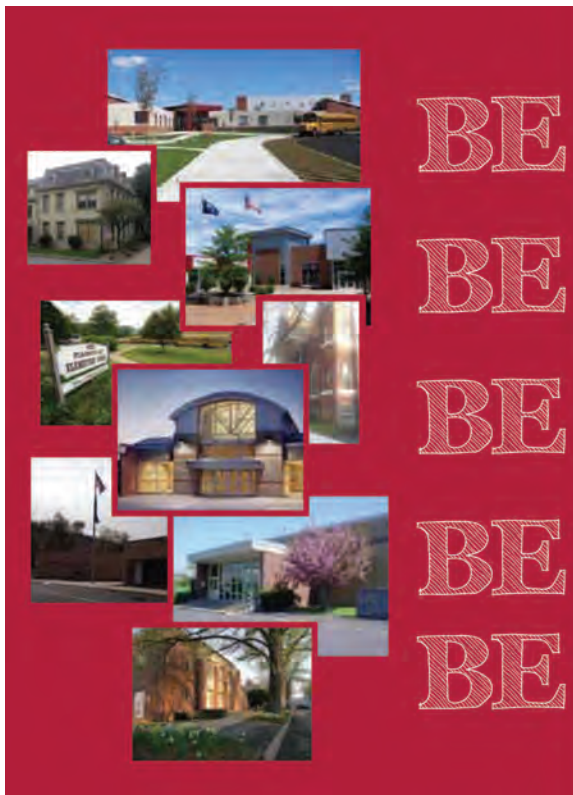
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Contact Pam Vaiana for more details at 814-355-4814 x 3008 or email: pvaiana@basd.net

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